

ALASTAIR SAWDAY PUBLISHING SPECIAL PLACES TO STAY PRESS RELEASE

Do you have an office compost heap? Yes
Does your company car run on recycled chip fat? Yes
Were you the first carbon-neutral publisher in the world? Yes
Did you win a Business Commitment to the Environment award? Yes
Did your office score highly in an environmental audit that looked at the energy efficiency of the buildings? No. No? No! (Will it next year? Yes)

Alastair Sawday Publishing will be moving in December to converted barns just outside Bristol. Our move has been largely provoked by a series of environmental audits that gave us low marks for the performance of the buildings we are now in. We want to score highly and 'walk our talk'. The move to Yanley should produce a reduction in office carbon emissions from 26 tonnes a year to just six. The overall environmental performance of the company should also increase as a result of a greater focus on the company's green culture.

Feature Ideas

- Working in a green office - including the ups and downs. Interviews with Alastair and staff can be arranged.
- Creating a green office space. Before and after story - we have excellent photos charting the build and in-depth information on the materials used.
- Why go green at work? Tips from ASP on where to start and how to continue the commitment.
- A profile of Alastair Sawday and the publishing company.
- A yurt, bird-boxes, a tank to collect rainwater for the loos and showers, an office allotment - just a few of the innovations at Alastair Sawday's spanking new eco-offices.

There are some more detailed notes on the project on page two. Please call Sarah Bolton on 01275 464891 or email sarah@sawdays.co.uk for more information, or perhaps you'd like to come and see it for yourself?



The 'green' aspects of the building are:

INSULATION We have gone to great lengths to ensure that very little heat will escape. To that end we have:

* Laid Celotex insulating board 90mm thick immediately under the roof tiles, re-fixing the tiles to the board. Lined the whole of the inside of the building with plastic sheeting to ensure air-tightness.

* Fixed further insulation underneath the roof, between the rafters, sealing any gaps with foam. Built a wall of Celotex insulation supported by a galvanised steel frame right through the building from floor to ceiling apex and away from the main walls. Thus there is no thermal 'bridge' to take heat to the outside. The 'wall' has gone deep into the window reveals, door openings and everywhere there is an outside wall to be insulated.

* Fixed insulated plaster-board over that wall, to add another layer of insulation.

* Laid insulation board on the floor, under the heating coils (see below).

DOORS AND WINDOWS The doors are wooden, double-glazed, beautifully constructed in Norway. Some of the windows too. Old windows have been double-glazed.

HEATING We have installed an Okeven wood-pellet boiler from Austria, in order to be largely fossil-fuel free. The pellets are stored in a specially-built wooden shed in the car-park. Thence they are sucked through a tube under the car-park. The heat - conveyed by water - will go to all corners of the building via an under-floor system. Each office area has its own heating thermostat and there are separate thermostats for the storage rooms and loo areas too.

HOT WATER There are two solar panels on the roof providing heat to the one (massively insulated) cylinder that stores all hot water. The wood-pellet boiler will provide back-up.

LIGHTING We are using task lighting, with some up-lighting, in all the offices. All lighting will be low-energy. We have installed three sun-pipes, polished aluminium tubes that reflect the outside light down to the chosen area of the building - in our case three dark corners which would otherwise need the constant switching on and off of the lighting.

WATER We have installed a 6000-litre tank to collect rainwater from the roofs. This will be pumped back, via an ultra-violet filter, to the lavatories, showers and basins, and into the ornamental pond. Spray taps will be used on all basins.

MATERIALS Although we have made compromises (PVC cabling, some new wood, Celotex insulation rather than wool or recycled paper, concrete for the floor screed), we have sourced non-toxic, recycled or natural materials wherever appropriate.

* We have recycled timber e.g. wood-pallets as wall-panelling. We have used British oak for the timber-frame barn and for the annexe flooring; flooring with non-toxic glues for the meeting room; lime plaster; non-toxic paints.

* For carpeting, we will lease carpet tiles made from the wool of Herdwick sheep. Once natural fibre tiles from India are available, we will then switch to them. We will be a pilot project for Interface, an ecologically aware carpet company, to see how these fibres work in an office.

TRAVEL All office travel is already logged as part of a carbon sequestration programme, and enough money for compensatory tree-planting will be dispatched to India to a tree-planting project. Car-sharing and the use of a car-pool are part of company policy. Interest-free loans are available for bike-buyers and there will be storage and re-charging facilities for an electric bike or two. Parking is limited, anyway, to 18 cars.

MISCELLANY We will install bird-boxes on the buildings and nearby.

The landscaping will involve as much natural material as possible - e.g. old paving slabs taken up from the building, old cobbles retrieved from a nearby barn.

Recycling will be comprehensive - all recyclable materials will be collected.

There will be an office allotment on spare land by the entrance.

GENERAL This company has other environmental policies and processes, such as:

Recycled cooking oil used in one car and LPG in another.

Organic basic provisions in the kitchen and organic food provided by the company at its events.

Encouragement of organic and local food through our Fine Breakfast Scheme.

Encouragement of biking and public transport in our books.

Low-energy printing/paper-making systems for the books.

Thorough use of recycled paper in office.

Use of Triodos Bank for deposit account.

Screened advertisers - rather than 'anyone who pays'.

Composting of all kitchen waste.

A voluntary staff Green Team monitors our environmental performance

Annual environmental audit.

Support for organisations like Tourism Concern

We recently won a Business Commitment to the Environment Award and intend to maintain that commitment at a high level.