



Balmoral Estate Environmental Policy

The Balmoral Estate is the Scottish home of the British Royal Family. The Estate covers some 18,500 hectares.

Balmoral is a working Highland estate. Deer stalking, grouse shooting, forestry and farming are the main land uses. Parts of the Castle, gardens and exhibitions are open to the public from April to July.

The Estate Management is committed to operating the estate in an environmentally sustainable manner.

This is achieved by the following key mechanisms:

1. The Estate is committed to the Green Tourism Business Scheme as a means of **external assessment**.
2. Environmental issues are **regularly considered** and discussed at all staff meetings.
3. **Energy usage** is measured and controlled; for instance the use of low energy light bulbs where possible, thermostatically controlled heating, upgrade of heating systems and boilers, improvement to building insulation.
4. The estate is committed to generating increased amounts of **green hydro power** for supplying the Castle and estate.
5. **Waste is sorted and re-cycled** where possible. Cardboard, glass, plastics, tin, light bulbs, batteries, fridges, freezers are all stockpiled and then taken to an appropriate re-cycle point.
6. We encourage the **careful use of water supplies** and are upgrading some of our private water supply systems.
7. We **educate visitors through our ranger service** on the importance of nature conservation, the management techniques employed by the estate and how the visitor can reduce their own impact on the environment.
8. Our Ranger Service is actively involved with Schools to **educate pupils** on the wildlife, flora and fauna of our area.
9. Balmoral Ranger Service undertakes targeted monitoring and habitat management for many rare and protected species throughout the Estate.
10. We encourage the **use of public transport** by promoting public transport networks on our website
11. We **reduce our paper usage** by using e-mail wherever possible. One example of this is our holiday cottage correspondence which is now 99% e- communications.
12. The gardens at Balmoral are **part organic**, creating their own mulch and keeping the use of pesticides and herbicides to an absolute minimum.
13. The estate invests heavily in the **management of the red deer herd** to ensure that numbers are sustained to a manageable level thus protecting the varied habitat for other species.
14. The estate through its **membership of Wild Scotland** has shown its commitment to ensuring that the activities it undertakes in the landscape do not destroy the very resource which people have come to enjoy.
15. We **purchase locally** and encourage the use of local suppliers wherever possible.