

## GSTC Member Hostelling International Focuses on the Future



Brianda Lopez, HI Sustainability Manager with Caroline White, CEO of YHA England & Wales

When we think of ‘future’, we’re not thinking of 90’s holographic teleporting, Sci-fi style time capsules and cyborg reception staff, though arguably some of these would be great.

Instead, we imagine a hostel which will stand strong for years, decades, even centuries to come, and will inspire a whole generation of travellers to do their bit for sustainable tourism – so that we can carry on exploring our planet for eons into the future.

A big part of this has to do with protecting and preserving the planet, something Hostelling International (HI) has been working on for a long time; in fact we’ve been doing it for more than 100 years. One important project HI has in place is the [HI Sustainability Fund](#).

The HI Sustainability Fund makes steps towards reducing the carbon footprint and taking care of the environment by letting visitors decide on a project to fund for the greener good.

Last year the HI Sustainability Fund 2013 winner and hostel of the future is [YHA Snowdon Pen-Y-Pass](#), set in a breath-taking location at the base of the magnificent Mount Snowdon, Wales.

## What's New at Hostelling International?

Who better to ask than our Sustainability Manager, Brianda, who visited the hostel in mid-September:

### *What changes have been made to [YHA Snowdon Pen-Y-Pass](#)?*

Accommodation at the hostel has been doubled and modernised, with new facilities such as en-suite and private rooms. They have also added:

- A New café and bar open to both residents and the general public, offering hot food and drinks as well as a selection of sandwiches to take away
- A new games room and classroom with AV facilities
- New self-catering kitchen facilities
- Public WCs and showers for day walkers

### *How has the renovation impacted or how will it impact the environment?*

The project will reduce carbon emissions by 92.2 CO<sub>2</sub>e tonnes annually; an amazing 86% reduction. This is the equivalent of emissions from an average car travelling 444,478km.

### *What does going 'carbon neutral' mean exactly?*

Achieving carbon neutrality is our environmental goal within our sustainability strategy. It means that we run a hostel in a much more efficient way, taking into consideration the impact of our activity on the environment. We aim not to affect the environment in any negative way. Using clean energy is a great step to work towards that goal.

## The bigger picture

### *How do you see the [HI Sustainability Fund](#) affecting the future of travel?*

The HI Sustainability Fund (HISF) is a great project that not only encourages our country members to promote sustainability by applying and thinking of ways to improve their environmental performance, but also raises awareness about our commitment to the planet.

It is also a great way to educate and involve our travellers and members as voters. From following their comments when they vote, I can safely say that the 20,000 voters in 2013 totally loved and supported the project.

Finally, let's not forget that in two years we have been able to implement 3 projects helping to reduce the CO2 emission on the hostels, educate guests and reinvest into saving the environment. I can definitely say that the HISF has become a core project for our network.