

Green Hostels Audit Report

REYÐARFJÖRÐUR

Alta ehf

May 2013





AUDIT REPORT: REYÐARFJÖRÐUR HOSTEL

This audit for Reyðarfjörður Hostel was conducted by Alta Consulting in April 2013. The audit report is based on a format from Hosteling International Iceland (HI Iceland).

Since 2003 HI Iceland has included environmental and social aspects in the organization's Quality Standards. All HI Iceland hostels must fulfill the General Quality Standards which include mandatory environmental requirements. Furthermore hostels can apply for a Green Hostel certification ("home-made" additional environmental criteria). The Green Hostel certification is based on environmental requirements set out by HI Iceland, with support from an independent consulting agency which audits the hostels.

Today there are 10 Green hostels certified. Reyðarfjörður hostel has applied for Green Hostel certification. Reyðarfjörður hostel consists of two houses in the same street in Reyðarfjörður in East Iceland; a) Gula húsið (10 rooms) og b) "Kaffihúsið", both accommodation and a restaurant (5 rooms, will be 11 in the summer). The hostel is expanding from 5 to 11 rooms. The expansion is expected to be finished in the middle of summer 2013. Reyðarfjörður Hostel is making an effort to work in a sustainable way by reusing, recycling and offering various local food. In spring 2013 the hostel plans to promote guests to participate in planting trees and plants in the vicinity of the home.

Structure of the report

Each subject is divided into 2 categories according to the HI Iceland system:

- a. Mandatory sustainability requirements that are part of the HI Iceland General Quality Standards which every HI Iceland hostel must fulfil, and
- b. Extra requirements that every hostel interested in obtaining the Green Hostel certification must match in addition to the mandatory requirements*

The 1st column represents the **Criteria**, both in Icelandic and English.

The 2nd column, named **Status** represents the hostel's situation for each point:

✓ = *Fulfilled* ✗ = *Not achieved*

The 3rd column, ALTA Audit Comments: Alta's observations on a visit in April 2013.



1. CONSUMPTION

1.1. Mandatory requirements

	Status	ALTA Audit Comments
<p>1.1.1. Í gestaeldhúsum og í matsölum skal einungis boðið upp á margnota borðbúnað. In the guest kitchens and when making own food there should only be offered reusable tableware.</p>	✓	The hostel is only using reusable tableware.
<p>1.1.2. Við reksturinn skal forðast óþarfa soun á umbúðum með því að velja frekar stærri einingar, t.d. ekki að velja vörur í "smáumbúðum" (s.s. smjör, marmelaði, sykur, sápur). In the management it should be avoided to generate unnecessary waste from packaging by choosing bigger units e.g. not choose products in "retail packaging" (i.e. butter, marmalade, sugar, soaps).</p>	✓	<p>The hostel is making a clear effort to buy in bulks and reduce unnecessary waste from packaging when buying new products.</p> <p>E.g. Buckets from marmalade are reused, the soap containers are refilled. In the visit it was obvious that the manager is inventive and economical.</p>
<p>1.1.3. Velja skal umhverfismerкта rekstrarvöru umfram aðra sem er í boði. Þetta á t.d. við um val á hreingerningurvörum s.s. einnota pappír; klósettpappír og handþurrkum. Environmental friendly products should be chosen rather than other. This applies to selections of e.g. Cleaning products; material and equipments. Disposable paper; toilet paper and hand wipers.</p>	✓	<p>Eco-labelled products: toilet paper, wipes, cleaning products, hand soap.</p> <p>The hostel is encouraged to press its suppliers to offer eco-labelled products.</p>
<p>1.1.4. Gestum eru veittar upplýsingar um gæði íslenska vatnsins um leið og þeir eru hvattir til vatnsdrykkju. Merking til þessa er til hjá Farfuglum. Guests are informed about the quality of the Icelandic water and are generally encouraged to drink water</p>	✓	Information about the Icelandic water is obvious for guests.
<p>1.1.5. Þar sem morgunverður er í boði er vatn á morgunverðarborðinu. If breakfast is available, water is offered.</p>	✓	The hostel offers water at the breakfast table.



1.2.Extra requirements for the Green Hostels

	Status	ALTA Audit Comments
<p>1.2.1. Leitast er við í innkaupum á matvöru og ekstravörum að velja íslenska umhverfisvæna vöru framyfir erlenda, a.m.k. séu 3 vörur sem sýna þetta. Sjá tillögur Farfugla að innkaupalista.</p> <p>When shopping it is preferred e.g. for cooking to buy Icelandic products and shop within the district. At least 3 products should confirm this. See recommendations for HI Hostels.</p>		<p>The hostel is making a clear effort to buy Icelandic products; eggs from free range hens in the neighbourhood, Smoked trout from Mývatn, Icelandic lamb, fish (their own catch), Icelandic vegetable.</p>
<p>1.2.2. Þar sem seldur er morgunverður er boðið upp á a.m.k. þrjár tegundir af heimagerðri/ heimaræktaðri/ lífrænt ræktaðri matvöru á morgunverðarborðinu, s.s. brauð, ávexti, grænmeti og te. Sýnt er fram á þetta með matseðli. Einnig má sjá tillögur Farfugla að innkaupalista.</p> <p>If breakfast is offered, the selection should contain at least three types of homemade/ home-grown /organically grown food products, like bread, fruit, vegetable, tea, etc. This is demonstrated with a menu. See a suggestions to a shopping list for HI Hostels.</p>		<p>The breakfast contains e.g. home-made products: blueberry jam, rhubarb syrup, eggs from the local farm and home made bread during winter.</p> <p>In the menu there is info on all this.</p>






2. REUSING AND RECYCLING

2.1 Mandatory requirements



	Status	ALTA Audit Comments on site
<p>2.1.1. Reynt skal eins og kostur er að versla vistvænt og draga um leið úr sorpmagni með því að:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • velja fjölnota vörur í stað einnota • velja endurunnið eða endurnýtanlegt • flokka úrganginn með því að skila til endurnýtingar öllu sem farvegur er fyrir <p>When shopping an attempt should be made to buy environmental friendly products and by doing that decrease the amount of waste. This can be done by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • choosing reusable products instead of disposable • choose recycled products and ones that can be recycled • sort waste and returning everything that can be recycled to recycling centres 	✓	The hostel is creative in reusing things and sorting waste. E.g. no disposables, furniture and flowers are second hand (beside the beds), reuse of plastic bags from guests, using maize bags for organic waste.
<p>2.1.2. Skýrar leiðbeiningar verða að hanga uppi handa gestum til að fara eftir við flokkun á sorpi. Merkingar fyrir sorpflokkun eru til hjá Farfluglum og viðeigandi merkingar skulu vera þar sem þær gera flokkun augljósa fyrir gesti. Clear instructions must be provided for guests to follow while sorting waste. The signs for waste classification are from Farfluglar and they are properly displayed offering a clear classification for guests.</p>	✓	The hostel has 8 classes of waste, a good overview outlined in a waste board with exact information about the recycling system and clear signs on each waste bin.
<p>2.1.3. Starfsfólki eru kynntar vinnureglur um losun og meðhöndlun á sorpi. Staff is trained about disposal and handling of waste.</p>	✓	Official written document with information on waste (e.g. environmental policy, reuse)
<p>2.1.4. Að minnsta kosti skal flokka eftirfarandi og skila/farga/vinna</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gos- og drykkjarumbúðir sem gefa skilagjald 	✓	The hostel is fulfilling this point.

Green Hostels Audit Report – Reyðarfjörður

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rafhlöður – skilist á bensínstöðvum um allt land Lífrænn úrgangur sem til fellur í eldhúsi og garðúrgangur sem nýtanlegur er flokkaður er frá og nýttur t.d. til moltugerðar eða handa dýrum Lyf skilist í apótekum þar sem þeim er komið í eyðingu <p>At least the following should be sorted and returned/disposed/reused;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soda and drinking cans and bottles can be reimbursed Batteries – returned to Gas stations all over the country Organic waste from the kitchen and garden waste – which can be used for making compost Medicine – returned to pharmacies where they are disposed of 		
<p>2.1.5. Notaðir bæklingar sem safnast frá gestum er haldið til haga svo lengi sem þeir eru heillegir og geta orðið öðrum til gagns. Used brochures collected from visitors are maintained as long as they have full properties and can be useful to others.</p>		<p>Used brochures are collected and offered in the living room.</p>
<p>2.1.6. Gestir eru hvattir til þess að skilja þurrvöru; krydd, og aðra heillega matvöru eftir handa öðrum gestum í gestaeldhúsunum í stað þess að henda. Merkingar til þessa er hægt að fá hjá Farfluglum. Gert er ráð fyrir plássi fyrir sameiginlega matvöru og hirt vel um í þrifum.</p> <p>Guests are encouraged to leave dry goods; spices, and other food products for other guests to use in the guest kitchens instead of throwing it away. Labels for this can be obtained from Farfluglar. It is assumed the space for common food is regularly checked and cleaned.</p>		<p>The hostel has special place, clearly signed, in the kitchen and in the refrigerator.</p>
<p>2.1.7. Bækur og tímarit sem verða eftir er safnað í bókasafn staðarins</p> <p>Reading material that is left behind is gathered for the hostels' library.</p>		<p>The hostel has special place, clearly signed, in the living room.</p>



2.2 Extra requirements for Green Hostels

	Status	ALTA Audit Comments
<p>2.2.1. Hver og einn neðantalinnna sorpflokka (eða sambærilegra) gefur einn punkt ef þeir eru flokkaðir frá og þeim skilað á viðurkenndan hátt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bylgjupappi,• Dagblöð og tímarit,• Fernur utan af drykkjarvörum, mjólk og safa• Spilliefni, þar á meðal; málning, lakk og leysiefni, gas og spritt, lyf, olíufeni <p>Each of the following garbage groups (or other comparables) give one point each if they are divided from other garbage and they are returned properly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cardboard,• Newspaper and magazines• Milk and juice containers• Toxic substances, including paint, varnish and solvent, gas and spirit, oil		<p>The hostel is sorting cartons, plastic, metal, hazardous waste (including medicine and batteries), tetra-pak and paper.</p>
<p>2.2.2. Skiptimarkaður með föt og búnað er í húsinu og/ eða fatnaður og skór er gefinn til Hjálparstofnanna. Merking til að hvetja gesti til að skilja eftir nýtilega hluti er til hjá Farfuglum.</p> <p>Red Cross/Free items basket with clothing is available in the house and/or shoes and clothes are donated to the Red Cross. A label to encourage visitors to leave unnecessary clothes exists in Farfuglar.</p>		<p>Red Cross/Free items closet in the hall. Also: Free to use toiletries basket in common bathrooms.</p>



3. POLLUTION

3.1. Mandatory requirements

	Status	ALTA Audit Comments
<p>3.1.1. Þvottaefni í þvottavélar er notað sparlega og samkvæmt ákveðnum leiðbeiningum; leiðbeiningar til gesta skulu vera við þvottaaðstöðu. Merking til að leiðbeina gestum er til hjá Farfuglum. Starfsfólk skal fá leiðbeiningar um notkun á þvottaefni.</p> <p>Detergent in the washing machine is used sparingly and according to established guidelines; instructions to visitors shall be near the washing machine. A label to guide visitors is available at Farfuglar. Employees should be instructed on the correct use of detergent.</p>		<p>The guests do not have access to the laundry. No washing instructions but a special spoon with a clear mark for a recommended quantity needed for each load.</p>
<p>3.1.2. Við val á efnum við viðhald byggingar og innanstokksmuna, s.s. málningu, gólfefni, er leitast við að nota viðurkennd vistvæn efni á réttan hátt. Haft skal samráð við skrifstofu Farfugla um val á efni.</p> <p>When choosing material to reconstruct buildings and interior, e.g. paint, floor material it is endeavoured to use acknowledged environmental friendly material in the proper way. The office of Borgartun shall be consulted when choosing materials.</p>		<p>The hostel reuses old furniture. Comment: the hostel should aim higher in collaboration with suppliers (and HI Iceland) to use eco-labelled building materials (varnish, paint, floor etc).</p>
<p>3.1.3. Eiturefni/sterk óvistvæn efni má ekki nota til daglegra þrifa eða annarar reglulegrar starfsemi. Starfsfólk fái leiðbeiningar um meðferð og geymslu.</p> <p>Toxins / strong materials may not be used for daily cleaning or other ordinary operations. Employees will receive instructions for handling and storage.</p>		<p>The hostel does not use toxic/strong material in daily cleaning.</p>
<p>3.1.4. Þar sem eru sorptunnur útivið verða þær að rúma það sorp sem til fellur, vera</p>		<p>The hostel is fulfilling this point.</p>



<p>losaðar og þrífnað reglulega. Stubbahús eða rusl fyrir sígarettustubba séu á viðeigandi stöðum.</p> <p>Waste bins must accommodate the waste that is generated, they are checked and cleaned regularly. Appropriate containers for cigarette stubs are in specific places.</p>		
<p>3.1.5. Sorptunnur innanhúss verða að rúma það sopp sem til fellur, vel staðsettar, losaðar reglulega og þrífnað.</p> <p>All garbage bins inside are well located. They shall be emptied and cleaned regularly.</p>	✓	<p>The hostel is fulfilling this point. No plastic bags are used in waste bins. The hostel is now offering a very small bin for general waste (to make it more difficult to not sort the waste).</p>
<p>3.1.6. Reykingar eru með öllu bannaðar innandyra. Merkingar eru til hjá Farfuglum.</p> <p>Smoking is strictly forbidden inside the house. Labels are available at Farfuglar.</p>	✓	<p>Signs which inform the guests are available in the hostel.</p>

3.2. Extra requirements for Green Hostels

<p>3.2.1. Klósettilmsteinn er ekki notaður – nema umhverfisvottaður. Sjá tillögur Farfugla að innkaupalista.</p> <p>If a toilet refresher is used it must be “environmental friendly”. See recommendations for shopping.</p>	✓	<p>The hostel does not use toilet refresher.</p>
<p>3.2.2. Þvottaefni fyrir allt tau, uppþvottalögur og uppþvottaefni í vélar er umhverfisvottað. Sjá tillögur Farfugla að innkaupalista.</p> <p>Washing powder for all clothes, hand washing detergent and dishwashing detergent must be ‘environmental friendly’. See recommendations for shopping.</p>	✓	<p>The hostel uses eco-labelled washing powder* for all clothes, hand washing detergent and dishwashing detergent. *Acclaimed to be eco-labeled by the supplier (The Environment Agency of Iceland is following up). It is important that the hostel ensures with the supplier that the products are eco-labeled.</p>
<p>3.2.3. A.m.k. 80% þeirra hreinlætisvara sem notaðar eru við dagleg þrif á heimilinu eru umhverfisvottaðar vörur, að meðtöldum þvottaefnum. Sjá tillögur Farfugla að innkaupalista.</p> <p>At least 80% of cleaning products used for daily cleaning in the hostel are eco friendly, including detergents. See recommendations</p>	✓	<p>The hostel is fulfilling this point.</p>



for shopping.		
<p>3.2.4. Við öll dagleg þrif er notaður búnaður og klútar sem þarfnast ekki kemískra hreinsiefna. Sjá tillögur Farfugla að innkaupalista.</p> <p>The equipment and clothes used for cleaning do not require chemical cleaning detergents. See recommendations for shopping.</p>		<p>The hostel uses microfiber cloths in their daily cleaning.</p>



4. ENERGY & WATER




4.1. Mandatory requirements

	Status	ALTA Audit Comments
<p>4.1.1. Fylgst er með orkunotkun og notkun á vatni með það fyrir augum að halda yfirsýn og geta t.d. gripið inn í um leið og eitthvað fer úrskeiðis.</p> <p>Keep a log for energy usage and water usage so it is easier to keep an overview and to make it easier to react e.g. as soon if something goes wrong.</p>	✓	The hostel is keeping a log only for energy but not for water since March 2012.
<p>4.1.2. Fylgjast verður vel með pípulögn og ofnakerfi hússins og sjá til þess að ójafnvægi í kerfum og bilanir/leki sé kippt í liðinn hið allra fyrsta.</p> <p>Plumbing and heating systems have to be monitored and made sure that imbalance in the systems and malfunctions/leakage is fixed immediately.</p>	✓	The plumbing and heating system is checked regularly by the owner but no written comments are available.
<p>4.1.3. Skipt er út perum fyrir sparperur þar sem það er hægt. Perustæðum skipt út við viðhald.</p> <p>Regular light bulbs shall be exchanged with economic bulbs wherever that is possible.</p>	✓	The bulbs are exchanged when needed (No stock bulbs were available.)
<p>4.1.4. Öll ný hreinlætistæki skulu valin með tilliti til endingar og orku/vatnssparnaðar og við endurnýjun skal þeim gömlu skipt út fyrir slík.</p> <p>All new sanitary equipments shall be chosen according to their durability and power/water saving and when renewing old equipments they shall be replaced by the above mentioned.</p>	✓	The hostel claims that sanitary equipment are chosen according to durability and water saving.
<p>4.1.5. Gestir eru hvattir til að spara orku með því að slökkva ljós. Merking er til hjá Farfglum.</p> <p>Visitors are encourage to save energy by</p>	✓	The hostel is using a sign to encourage guests to save energy in the common area, not above all switchers.



turning off lights. Labels available from Farfuglar.		
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4.2. Extra requirements for Green Hostels

<p>4.2.1. Slökkt er á ljósum og tækjum eftir vinnu til að spara orku. Nefna skal þrjú dæmi við úttekt.</p> <p>Effort is made to turn off lights and machines/equipments after work to save power. Mention three examples of inventory</p>		<p>TV and the computer in the common area are turned off, equipment are connected to multiple socket outlets which are turned off in evenings.</p>
<p>4.2.2. Sparperur eru notaðar í a.m.k. 40% ljósa í byggingunni</p> <p>Energy saving bulbs are used in at least 40% out of the building</p>		<p>The hostel claims that this point is fulfilled. (The audit did not have any proof of the real ratio of economic bulbs at the hostels.)</p>
<p>4.2.3. Fylgst er með orkunotkun og notkun á vatni með það fyrir augum að halda yfirsýn og geta t.d. gripið inn í um leið og eitthvað fer úrskeiðis. Sýna fram á eftirlit með skráðum mælingum</p> <p>Keep a log for energy usage and water usage so it is easier to keep an overview and to make it easier to react e.g. as soon if something goes wrong. Show these documents</p>		<p>The hostel is keeping a log for energy since March 2012.</p>



5. TRANSPORTATION

5.1. Mandatory requirements

<p>5.1.1. Veittar skulu skriflegar upplýsingar á viðeigandi stöðum um gönguleiðir og áhugaverða staði á svæðinu sem nálgast má fótgangandi/á hjóli.</p> <p>On site, information shall be provided for walking paths and interesting sightings that can be reached either by foot or bicycle.</p>		Printed information is available for guests in a folder, about activities, paths around, cultural info, services etc. The hostel has made their own local map for guests.
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5.2. Extra requirements for Green Hostels

<p>5.1.2. Gestir eru hvattir til samaksturs og þeim hjálpað að skipuleggja það ef möguleiki gefst. T.d. er hægt að benda á síðuna samferda.net og hjálpa gestum að samnýta ferðir.</p> <p>Visitors are encouraged to walk and they are helped to organize their walk. For example you can tell them about samferda.net and help them share trips.</p>		In the common area there is a car-sharing form, the hostel has various info in a folder with walks and trips.
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6. EXTERNAL SURROUNDINGS

6.1. Mandatory requirements

	Status	ALTA Audit Comments
<p>6.1.1. Beina skal gestum og öðrum vegfarendum um lóð og landareign inn á stíga, þannig að hlífa megi frekar jörð og viðkæmum gróðri.</p> <p>Guests and other pedestrians who use the premises shall be directed to paths so the ground and delicate vegetation can be protected.</p>		Guests are encouraged to use organized paths.

6.2. Extra requirements for Green Hostels

<p>6.2.1. Notkun eiturfna, s.s. arfa- og illgresiseyðis er haldið í algjöru lágmarki . Sjá innkaupalista</p> <p>The use of toxins, such as herbicides is kept to a minimum. See shopping list.</p>		The hostel is not using any herbicides.
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7. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

7.1. Mandatory requirements

	Status	ALTA Audit Comments
<p>7.1.1. Umhverfisstefna Farfugla skal hanga uppi í almenningsrými sýnileg gestum og gangandi, á íslensku og ensku. Er til hjá Farfuglum.</p> <p>The Environmental policy should be hung up in public spaces, visible to visitors and guests, in Icelandic and in English. It is from Farfuglar.</p>	✓	The hostel has the HI Iceland environmental policy in both buildings.
<p>7.1.2. Öllu starfsfólki heimilisins er kynnt Umhverfisstefna Farfugla og þær kröfur sem Gæðastaðlarnir gera til rekstursins.</p> <p>The entire staff of the home is presented the Environmental Policy and requirements of Quality standards for the business.</p>	✓	The hostel has official written document with information on the environmental policy, waste etc. which is introduced to the staff.
<p>7.1.3. Kannað er viðhorf gesta með því að nota "your opinion" blöðin. Farið er yfir niðurstöður reglulega og brugðist við því sem þar kemur fram.</p> <p>Check the attitudes of visitors by using "your opinion" papers. Access the results regularly and respond to its effects.</p>	✓	"Your opinion" forms are available; comments are reviewed regularly and responded to.

7.2. Extra requirements for Green Hostels

<p>7.2.1. Til viðbótar við Umhverfisstefnu Farfugla er kynnt sérstök Umhverfisstefna viðkomandi heimilis</p> <p>As a supplement to Farfuglar's environmental policy, guests are presented with a special Environmental policy of the particular hostel in question</p>	✓	The hostel has its own environmental policy which is obvious to the guests, see picture.
<p>7.2.2. Kannað er viðhorf gesta með því að nota 'your opinion' blöðin. Farið er yfir</p>		The hostel regularly checks reviews,



<p>niðurstöður reglulega og brugðist við því sem þar kemur fram. Unnið er úr upplýsingum frá gestum á skipulegan hátt og viðbrögð tekin fram í árlegri greinargerð til Farfugla.</p> <p>Examining attitudes reviews using, your opinion papers'. Crossing results periodically and respond to the material contained. Derived information from visitors in an orderly manner and the response made in the annual report for Farfugla.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>and will from here send summaries to HI (has not done it so until now).</p>
<p>7.2.3. Gestgjafi og/eða starfsfólk á hans vegum hefur sótt námskeið um umhverfismál eða tekið þátt í verkefni <i>Vistvernd í verki</i> á undanförunum tveimur árum. Námskeið er haldið reglulega á vegum Farfugla.</p> <p>Host and / or staff acting on his behalf has attended courses on environmental issues or participated in the project <i>Vistvernd</i> in the last two years. Courses kept regularly by Farfugla.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>The host has attended courses on environmental issues but not participated in <i>Vistvernd</i>.</p>

Pictures from Reyðarfjörður hostel:

