

## Destination Bristol

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## **PRESS SHEET – GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE BRISTOL**

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Bristol has been European Green Capital 2015 – the only UK city to hold the title. Here are some of the reasons why it's such a green and sustainable city.

### **Travel**

Bristol has a rich **cycling** heritage and was named as England's first cycling city back in 2008. It's also home to the headquarters of charity **Sustrans**, creators of the National Cycle Network. Indeed, the first ever route to be developed on the Network was the 16-mile Bristol and Bath Railway Path, a traffic-free route that is still one of the most popular routes today. Hopping on a bike is one of the best ways to explore the city like a local. If you arrive in Bristol without two wheels then hire one at **Cycle the City**, an independent bike hire service based at No1 Harbourside café bar on the waterfront. They also lead guided cycle tours. In autumn 2013, First Great Western introduced a Brompton **folding bike hire scheme** for travellers arriving at Bristol Temple Meads railway station. Bristol is the headquarters of **Alastair Sawday's** an independent travel publisher championing environmentally-friendly, sustainable travel and holidays. Alastair is an active part of Bristol's green scene and is current Chair of Bristol's Big Green Week. He stood for parliament as a Green Party candidate, founded Avon Friends of the Earth and was vice-Chair of the Soil Association.

### **Shopping**

Bristol was declared a **Fairtrade City in 2005** and has since become one of the most successful Fair Trade cities in the world. In 2015, Bristol is the host city for the International Fairtrade Conference. **St Nicholas Market** Listed in the 10 best markets in the UK, St Nicks offers visitors the opportunity to sample and buy local products direct from the producers. The Slow Food Market each month offers an eclectic mix of artisan food stalls, special menus, cooking demonstrations and a celebration of all that has been locally produced.

**Harbourside market:** The beautiful harbourside location and a growing suite of stalls including tempting cakes and treats, upcycled clothes, second-hand books and handmade jewellery, make this

a wonderfully popular place for browsing every weekend. The emphasis is on supporting and showcasing local produce, businesses and entrepreneurs. **Bristol Pound:** In 2012, Bristol introduced its own currency, the Bristol Pound, which is accepted at a growing number of outlets around the city. It encourages people to spend their money at local, independent businesses that use local produce, reducing carbon impact by lessening the need to transport products to the city from many miles away.

### **Places to stay**

Many of Bristol's places to stay have achieved awards in the **Green Tourism Business Scheme** – the most established sustainable grading programme in the World. Fern Cottage B&B in Pucklechurch, Mercure Bristol Holland House Hotel and Spa and Radisson Blu, have all achieved the Gold standard. Winford Manor in North Somerset is not only a Gold standard holder, but was named Green Tourism Business Scheme's 'Hotel of the Year' in 2013 for its eco efforts including rainwater harvesting for flushing the toilets, and alternative energy generation. Bristol Marriott Royal Hotel, Mercure Bristol Grand, Hilton Bristol at Bradley Stoke, and Alveston House Hotel are all silver award holders.

**The Greenhouse B&B** in the Southville area of Bristol uses organic, fairtrade and local foods for breakfast, provides organic towels, bedding and toiletries and has bicycle storage for guests. In October 2013, solar panels were fitted on the roof of The Greenhouse to help provide a sustainable energy source for the B&B. It is the only Bristol B&B to accept the Bristol Pound.

### **Attractions**

**At-Bristol science centre;** more than 300 hands-on exhibits make this a stimulating place to visit. It's also one of the most sustainable buildings in the UK with the UK's only phase-change storage tank. At-Bristol has achieved a 20% reduction in energy over 24 months, which won the centre a West of England Carbon Challenge Carbon Champions award in 2011 and 2012, and they continue to work towards further goals across all areas of sustainability. At-Bristol was recently awarded Silver in the South West Tourism Excellence Awards due to sustainable practices. They also have a Gold Green Tourism Award.

**Hydrogenesis:** Bristol is home to one of only three Hydrogen-powered boats in the World. Designed and built by Bristol Hydrogen Boats, a local consortium formed by the directors of Bristol Packet Boat Trips, Number Seven Boat Trips and Auriga Energy, it produces zero emissions meaning it has a significantly smaller impact on the environment than diesel and petrol powered boats. The ferry carries 12 passengers and two crew and is available for private hire.

## Green buildings

**Create Centre** is a vibrant environment centre which hosts a range of events and exhibitions and features a purpose-built Ecohome. Visit Create to explore environmental issues and discover greener choices. **Tobacco Factory** Photovoltaic panels on the south facing slopes of the roof of this theatre, café bar and market space in south Bristol contribute 33 per cent of the theatre's total energy requirements and produce a carbon saving of approximately 10.1 tonnes per year. **Environment Agency** Horizon House, the Bristol home of the Environment Agency, was named Britain's greenest building in 2009, before it was even completed. It achieved the highest ever Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) score for an office in the UK. The building has been designed to allow natural ventilation, has rainwater toilets, solar powered hot water and even a wildflower meadow on the office roof terrace.

## Food and drink

**Bordeaux Quay** is an award-winning restaurant and cookery school on the harbourside. It uses fresh, local and seasonal ingredients and is the UK's first eco-restaurant to achieve a gold rating under the Soil Association's sustainable catering scheme. **Poco** in Stokes Croft was named 'Best Ethical Restaurant' at Observer Food Monthly Awards 2013. The restaurant monitors their waste daily with a view to reducing it and has an aim to be a zero waste restaurant. 90 per cent of their ingredients are British, 10 per cent are imported by non-air methods from the EU and all are seasonal. Most of their vegetables are organic from local community farms in the Bristol area. Tom, Executive Head Chef of Poco, is also founder of Forgotten Feast, a Social Enterprise working on projects throughout the UK to revive cooking heritage and help reduce food waste. **Thali café** is a small home-grown chain of restaurants serving award-winning Indian food in Clifton, Montpelier, Southville, Totterdown and Easton. The seasonal, sustainable and authentic thalis here are incredibly popular and they operate a tiffin takeaway scheme that is waste-free. In 2013 they became the first Indian restaurant group to be awarded a Three Star Sustainability Champion Rating by the Sustainable Restaurant Association (their highest award).

**The Ethicurean** is set in a beautiful Victorian walled garden in the Mendip Hills just outside Bristol and produces exquisite food with boundless creativity but with a complete respect for nature. The restaurant was named winner in The Observer's Best Ethical Restaurant in 2011 and runners up in 2012.

**St Werburghs City Farm** is a green oasis in the heart of Bristol that connects people to food and its origins, the environment and the local community. Food is grown and reared at the farm, used to educate people about where their food comes from and used in the farm café and local community.

**Source café** and food hall in St Nicholas Market is one of the best independent food retailers in Bristol and provides a link between the best local producers and customers, offering strictly seasonal food.

### **Green groups**

**Bristol Green Capital Partnership** is a free membership organisation (funded by Bristol City Council) whose aim is to make Bristol a low carbon city. **Bristol Natural History Consortium** was set up in 2003 to encourage public interest in the natural world. **BBC Natural History Unit** is based in Bristol, working on award-winning programmes like Africa and Frozen Planet. **Centre for Sustainable Energy** helps people and organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors meet the twin challenges of rising energy costs and climate change. **Soil Association** celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> year in 2016 and its headquarters are right here in Bristol.

### **Green events 2016**

Make Sunday Special (**selected Sundays throughout the year**)

BIG Green Week **June**

National Bike Week **June**

Bristol's Biggest Bike Ride **June**

Bristol Bioblitz **June**

Bristol Festival of Nature **June**

Bristol Cycle Festival **July**

Bristol Green Doors **September**

Wildscreen **October**

For more information about where to stay, where to go, what to do and events listings in Bristol, go to [www.visitbristol.co.uk](http://www.visitbristol.co.uk)