



Sustainability at Denbies Wine Estate 2020

Our Policy

As a working farm and tourist destination located in the Surrey Hills AONB, Denbies Wine Estate and our staff take responsibility for the environment and our surrounding countryside. Denbies Estate houses a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) known in particular for its rare acid grasses. Denbies strives to maintain the balance between both agricultural and visitor centre operations on this diversified site.

Denbies is a unique model in that it supports primary, secondary and tertiary business operations, which in itself means that the growing of the grapes to the bottling and selling of the wine all takes place on one site.

This statement demonstrates how we, as a business, are committed to achieving our goals. :

- Denbies complies with the requirements of environmental legislation and welcome new regulations that genuinely reduce our impact on the environment.
- We work to reduce pollution, emissions and waste.
- We continuously strive to reduce the use of energy, water and other resources we consume.
- We support environmental groups and other charitable companies to not only help our environment but the local community.

Helping the Environment

- Denbies have extended the woodland area by planting 1,600 oak and hazel trees.
- On-going work on the estate is also taking place in conjunction with Natural England and the Forestry Commission to further enhance this unique area in the heart of the Surrey Hills.
- 265 acres of vines are constantly being maintained and Denbies current expansion over the last 24 months, programme has included the planting of 45,000 vines. These particular vines have been selected for their low disease and frost resistance which require less maintenance.
- Denbies work closely with Surrey Wildlife Trust and the reintroduction of beekeeping to the estate is part of our long-term investment in wider countryside issues, including leaving dedicated areas of vineyard to natural wild flower growth.

- Bee keeping has been reintroduced onto the estate, the aim is to scale up to twelve hives over the next three years.
- Denbies utilises recovery sprayers. The recovery sprayer targets the vine leaf, minimising air borne drift and absorption into the soil, thus cutting down by 50% on the amount of spraying within the vineyard.
- Denbies is the first vineyard in the UK to become members of the Bat Conservation Trust. Three bat ‘rocket boxes’ have been installed near the woodland area of the vineyard to encourage pest management, based on research from US vineyards.

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/winemakers-are-building-houses-bats-make-vineyards-greener-180956381/?no-ist>

Reduce Carbon Footprint

- We supply information on public transport links on our website.
- We continue to have strong relationships and offers with local railway links (e.g. southern railway).
- Investment in our website has created easy to use instructions and information to minimise printed material. Visitors are also encouraged to use the website for information.
- The vineyard tractors are experimenting with bio-diesel fuels to measure efficiency and output, bio-diesel burns cleaner than diesel, producing less particulate and fewer sulfur compounds.

Saving Water and Energy

- The water usage within our building is minimised through the use of low-flush toilets, metering and other devices.
- We are also removing low-efficiency lighting throughout the building and replacing them with LED lighting which uses much less electricity and lasts longer.
- Denbies have installed motion sensitive lighting systems.
- We also aim to reduce as much energy as possible by checking our heating systems on a weekly basis against the weather conditions.
- Energy efficient hand dryers have been installed throughout.

Green Work Practices

- Our staff are encouraged to be environmentally friendly through our cycle to work scheme, use of public transportation and car sharing.
- When starting, staff are briefed on our sustainability here at Denbies and asked to voice any opinions or suggestions to their management to improve our Green Work.

- Staff are encouraged to raise awareness and attend quarterly Green Committee focus meetings.
- All staff adhere to considering the environment before printing with the added consideration within internal and external email signatures.
- The marketing team use email as the main means to reach existing customers and new clients, print production has been reduced by 80% in the past 5 years.
- Denbies has joined and been awarded a silver membership status by Greentourism.com, which offers credible, trustworthy, independent guidance to tourism businesses wishing to operate sustainably.

Vineyard/Winery Best practice

- Denbies winery has been audited and awarded a SALSA accreditation, as follows:

THE SALSA STANDARD

The SALSA standard was written by experienced food safety experts to reflect both the legal requirements of producers and the enhanced expectations of 'best practice' of professional food buyers. Approval certification is only granted to suppliers who are able to demonstrate to a SALSA auditor that they are able to produce safe and legal food and are committed to continually meeting the requirements of the SALSA standard.

- Denbies is a member of NRoSO – National Register of spray operators

What is NRoSO?

A central register of sprayer operators using Continuing Professional Development (CPD) as a means of ensuring ongoing training.

- Denbies participates in the National Sprayer Testing Scheme, this a voluntary nationally recognised accreditation
- Denbies is one of the first vineyards in the UK to make use of Using Precision Viticulture (PV) to aid Vineyard Management. By adopting this methodology, Denbies can specifically target the areas of the vineyard that require nutrients etc in order to operate a more efficient approach, reduce spraying together with reduction in costs.
- Biofuel tractors – trial of tractor to measure efficiency and output, bio-diesel burns cleaner than diesel, producing less particulate and fewer sulphur compounds.
- Tow and blow frost protector - in 2015 the vineyard invested in a wind fan which reduces energy consumption as follows:
Benefits of a C49 fan - the Frost Boss C49-4 blade fan provides the greatest coverage for the lowest fuel consumption of any frost fan on the market. It also converts more of the fuel into useful wind and less into turbulence and noise.

Increasing Recycling

- We have our own recycling program to curb our waste to avoid sending anything to landfill and where applicable we will use business waste as compost.

Catering and Retail

- We source and use locally produced food and drink products.
- Staffs dealing with food and food service are fully briefed on the source and characteristics of local food and drink products.
- We source locally produced food, drink, arts, crafts and gifts products for our Gift Shop in order to honour our commitment to sustainable management and support the local community.
- All gift wrapping and carrier bags used within our Gift Shop are 100% recyclable.

Denbies Vineyard Hotel

In September 2019 England's first Vineyard Hotel opened. The hotel is located in the middle of the Denbies' vineyard and offers 17 en-suite rooms with a new restaurant and bar area. Denbies is committed to establish best practice in green-tourism. The architect sought to adopt some of the best measures to achieve carbon neutral status, reducing the impact on the environment and blending the hotel building into the natural surroundings of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the North Downs.

- Solar panel installation -
The overall goal of carbon neutrality is to achieve a zero-carbon footprint and many measures are being put in place to achieve this at the hotel. The building has high level thermal insulation and low energy lighting, meaning minimal heat loss and energy efficiency. Solar panels have been installed to generate power that is stored in Tesla batteries for use throughout the building 24 hours a day. Excess power is put back into the grid therefore reducing the overall power usage in the entire building. Electric car charging points and cycle parking will encourage visitors to use sustainable transport methods.
- Energy saving measures -
Progressive energy-saving measures have been introduced, with low energy LED lighting installed throughout the building, sensor switches and low-flushing toilets. The commitment to sustainable practice is embedded in the ethos of Denbies and is reflected in Denbies' Green Tourism Gold status and Green Business of the Year Award 2016.

Corporate Commitment to Sustainable Issues

- All charity related events incur no room hire.
- We have collection tins for charities at all till points.
- Denbies continue to actively involved and support charities in events to raise awareness e.g. Rainbow Wednesday's for the Rainbow Trust Children's Charity and the Bacchus Marathon for the Princess Alice Hospice. Denbies has supported the MND Association for over 20 years.

Denbies keep abreast of legislation and welcome new regulations that genuinely reduce their impact. Denbies like to support environmental groups and other charitable companies to not only help our environment but the local community.