

HELP GJØVIK HOSTEL BECOME A SUSTAINABLE HOSTEL! – Norway

SUMMARY

Project description: Gjøvik Hostel wants to switch to a more sustainable light and water system. The saved funds will be used for more sustainable practices so that Gjøvik Hostel becomes a real sustainable hostel.

Project type: Energy Efficiency, Water

National Association: HI Norway

Project location: Gjøvik Hostel, Gjøvik, Norway

Estimation of number of reduced tonnes of CO₂: 9.756 tonnes of CO₂ per year

Total funds requested: £3,919

Total project cost: £4,719

Annual £ saves and ROI (Return On Investment): Estimated saved funds is £3875GBP. The saved funds will be used for a “green energy” pot in the hostel. This will be used mainly by the Brazilian staff on exchange to have a sustainable fund for green projects throughout the year. The fund will be spent in dialogue with the hostel manager and the Sustainability Coordinator.

Why this project should be funded ahead of others: Gjøvik Hostel is a hostel with great ambitions and many plans for the future. The hostel is part of a large exchange programme with HI Brazil, where we will exchange staff and volunteers to work with sustainability and sustainable travel. That Gjøvik is switching to a more sustainable light and water system would fit very well with the hostel’s ambitions. The saved funds will be used for more sustainable practices so that Gjøvik Hostel becomes a real sustainable hostel. This will be an inspiration and a motivation for the rest of the network, and we believe it will have strong effects on the entire HI Norway network. We need someone to go in forefront, and we believe Gjøvik Hostel is the right place for that to happen. The relatively easy but effective methods chosen here will hopefully serve as inspiration for other hostels – to combine environmentally and economical initiatives.



DETAILED PROJECT INFORMATION

Purpose/objectives of the project activity

Norway gets really dark and cold in the winter. In reaction to this, Norwegians tend to switch on all the lights in their houses, turn up the radiators and take long, warm showers. Now we would love to reduce the carbon footprint of Gjøvik Hostel to a more sustainable one using time sensors for lights and installing water saving shower heads – and inform our staff, guests and local community about the positive effects this will have. We are both aiming at reducing Gjøvik Hostel's carbon footprint and informing guests and the rest of the HI hostels about WHY and HOW this can be done. We have chosen Gjøvik as the hostel will be hosting two HI Brazil staff members for one year who will focus on sustainability. To have a project which is easy to measure, easy to plan and generates revenue for the hostel's «Green Fund» is important to us.

Methodology (How)

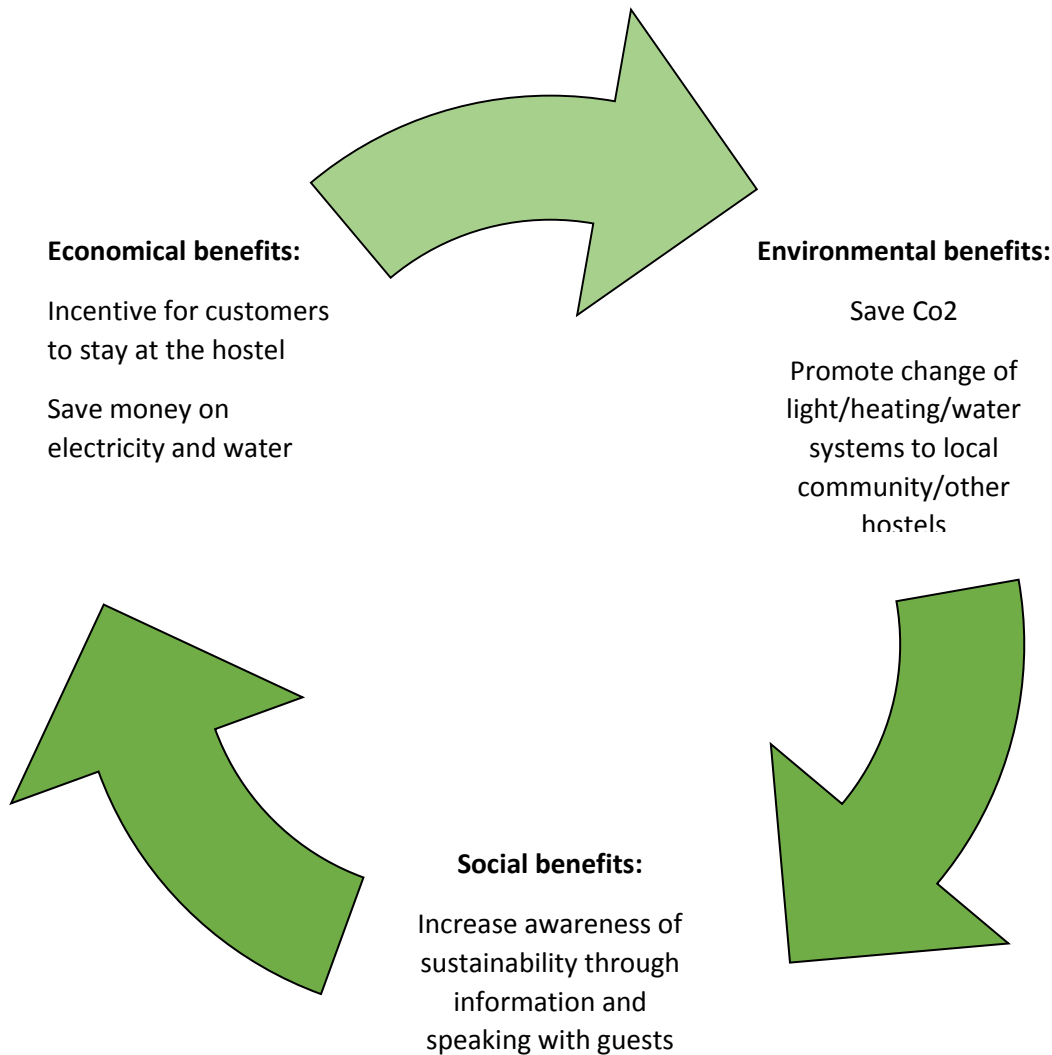
Put simply, we want to change Gjøvik Hostel's energy footprint into a more sustainable one. If selected, this project will be the first big task for our two Brazilian HI Hostel employees that are going to spend one year in Norway focusing on sustainable tourism. The two hostel employees are part of a government funded programme between HI Norway and HI Brazil which is focusing on local and sustainable tourism. We believe this will be a relevant and inspiring first task for them. The participants will be responsible for contact with local companies, authorities and especially spreading the information to the hostel guests. The job of actually installing the timer system and supplying the shower heads will be done by a local Gjøvik company. The Brazilian hostel staff on exchange will also be responsible for informing the rest of the HI Norway network about the results and how to implement such a project in other hostels.

Monitoring plan

We will monitor the effects of this project from the beginning. As a starting point, we have the electricity bills from Gjøvik Hostel in the past year as well as the water spent. We will after the installation of the timers have a great new tool to see where light is actually needed and where not. The shower heads seen in combination with number of overnights to have comparable numbers will also give clear indications on effects both on the environment and the hostel economy.

We want to monitor the environmental effects, the economic effects and possibly also use our quality system – the HIQ system - this autumn to see if there can be effects on accidents or incidents caused by guests or staff not being able to switch on the lights because they do not know where the switch is or if they are carrying too much. This might be an interesting side effect.

➤ Sustainable Development Matrix:



Environmental impacts

We believe that when somebody makes changes in a local community, the “spreading effect” is large: you hear about what your neighbour has done and you want to copy it. The changes we want to make are relatively simple but effective; we therefore strongly believe that other hostels will copy the works of Gjøvik Hostel. The money generated will be used on other sustainable projects which will have even greater environmental impact: we are dreaming of power stations for electric cars, changing the hostel’s old oil burner, have a certain percentage of local products to offer guests at breakfast... but to do this we need money, and electricity and water are easy ways of starting the saving!

Estimations of emission reductions (CO₂e tones)

Light system: According to the Norwegian Energy Authority, ENOVA, having correct lighting systems in buildings is very important. Installing time sensors on lights and having a smart system is an easy way of doing this. The savings of electricity when it comes to light if the system is changed to a «smart» system, is estimated between 10 and 50% according to ENOVA. They state that in a building of 120m², it is normal to use 2500kwh on lighting per year. Gjøvik Hostel is 2500m² with an average of 200000kwh spent on all electricity. If we take into account that 20% of this is electricity for lighting, 40000kwh is spent on lighting. A thought reduction of 20%, and a conversion factor of 0,542 kg CO₂ saved per kwh reduced, makes the calculation: 8000kwh saved X 0,542 = the hostel will save 4336kg of CO₂.

Shower heads: Gjøvik Hostel has 42 showers. They are used often by guests such as students and sports groups. The showers at Gjøvik are not very new and use about 20 liters of water per minute. By switching to water saving shower heads, the reduction is large: new water saving shower heads use between 6 and 10 liters per minute. We are aiming that the new showers will use half the water, so 10 litres rather than 20. Hot water stands for 15-20% of the hostel's electricity usage. If we calculate that 10% comes from showering, a 50% reduction in water use will mean a 5% reduction in the total electricity of the hostel. 200000kwh, as above, X 0,5 = 10000kwh saved X 0,542 = 5420kg of CO₂ saved.

Total CO₂ reduction: 4336kg+5420kg= 9756kg of co₂ saved = 9.756 tonnes of CO₂ saved.

Saved Funds and ROI (Return On Investment)

Estimated money saved on installing shower heads: If each shower is used 8 times a week for 10 minutes each and the difference is 10 liters per minute, the savings will be around 80GBP per shower. For the 42 showers, money saved will be 3360GBP!

Estimated money saved on installing timers on light: 1kwh costs 70 øre, so a reduction of 8000kwh means a saving of 5600 NOK = 515GBP.

Estimated saved funds: 3875GBP.

The saved funds will be used for a “green energy” pot in the hostel. This will be used mainly by the Brazilian staff on exchange to have a sustainable fund for green projects throughout the year. The fund will be spent in dialogue with the hostel manager and the Sustainability Coordinator.

Communication plan

Together with the Sustainability Coordinator and the EVS volunteers at HI Norway's Main Office, Gjøvik Hostel will be part of a bigger «signage project» where the aim is to improve communication to our guests. This means signage in rooms, reception area and online. We are very inspired by the efforts made in HI Iceland and have a clear idea about how to show our efforts to the public. The aim is that every guest that is checking out of the hostel is aware of the sustainability efforts made by the hostel.

Sources:

1. Enok.no/felleskalkf6b9.html?f=sparedusj
2. Www.enova.no
3. Www.enok.no
4. Miljoagentene.no

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