

products wherever possible. They've also installed separate electric radiators in each room, rather than heating the whole house unnecessarily, and use electricity from renewable sources. Their car runs on a biofuel made from rapeseed oil, and guests who arrive by public transport receive a 10% reduction on their room rate.

Robert is an environmental consultant and lectures on sustainable tourism. He was co-founder of Bath's farmers' market and sets great store by providing guests with locally sourced food. He'll proudly point from the window to show you the proximity of the farm that provides the organic bacon and free-range eggs served at breakfast. You'll also have bread from a nearby bakery, and locally produced milk and honey. Breakfast tea and coffee is from fairtrade sources, and vegetarians are catered for as a matter of course.

● 01225 420105, ecobloomfield.com, £70-£140 per room per night B&B.

Primrose Valley Hotel St Ives

A white-painted Edwardian villa with large windows, the hotel is hidden away in a cul-de-sac a minute's walk from Porthminster Beach. Inside, the building has been given a contemporary makeover by owners Andrew and Sue Biss, who have created sleek and simple interiors that complement the original architecture. There are polished wooden floors (Forest Stewardship Council-approved), funky furnishings and fresh flowers. The small bar serves Italian Illy coffee, Cornish cider, beer and wine.

Despite its air of understated indulgence, Primrose Valley is a hotel with a surprisingly small carbon footprint. Electricity comes from



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renewable sources, light bulbs are low energy and about 60% of all waste is recycled. The owners use eco-friendly cleaning products and provide hand-made Cornish soaps in the bathrooms.

Breakfasts are a real treat, the sausages, eggs, smoked goats cheese, yogurt, butter and milk all produced nearby.

● 01736 794939, primroseonline.co.uk, £85-£145 B&B.

Anna's House County Down

The reed-fringed lake is home to moorhens, swans and herons. In the

garden, with its secret nooks and thick hedges, you feel as if you're miles from anywhere, but Anna's House is just a 20-minute drive from Belfast. The house was originally a two-room cottage, but has been extended over the years into a large, comfortable guesthouse – run by Anna Johnson and her husband, Ken. The latest addition is a living area with huge windows and stunning views. It's cleverly and efficiently heated by a geothermal system. Energy is further conserved by solar panels, which heat the water and low-energy light bulbs; and the family car – a hybrid Prius.

Eventually, the couple hope to have their own wind turbine.

They make a point of serving guests as much local and organic produce as possible. Breakfast is likely to include Anna's home-made bread and yogurt and organic tea and coffee. The four guest rooms have Irish linen sheets, en suite bathrooms and Wi-Fi access. Two rooms have a balcony, and one on the ground floor has wheelchair access and a wet room (shower room) in addition to a private terrace.

The Johnsons' flower-filled garden is completely organic, including the vegetable plot. They also have another

18 acres of land plant with inc species that w

Stay here a just strolling r lying in the ha trees, or spott However, ther Mourne Mour plenty of opp walks, while b want to head f see the migrat

● 028-9754 15 £70-85 B&B. S sailings to Belj



Primrose Valley Hotel, St Ives



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