



beauty & style, naturally

Achieving Zero Carbon



“Building a log cabin can be your opportunity to reduce your carbon footprint,” says Catanger Llamas. They should know - with the help of specialist log cabin supplier Rural Log Cabins, they have just built the UK’s first zero-rated log cabin.

They loved it so much that they are now building a second timber construction as a Visitor Centre for their Llama Trekking business. Each building is equipped with all the latest technologies and features designed to reduce the carbon emissions and achieve zero carbon rating.

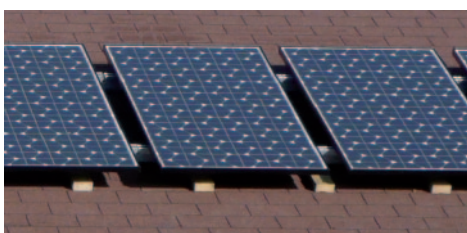
Eco-friendly home is plane perfect

The owners of the Catanger Llama Centre in Northamptonshire are now living a carbon-free lifestyle in their own home on the farm, thanks to an innovative log cabin solution designed and built for them by Rural Log Cabins Limited. Also, because the log cabin is classified as both environmentally sympathetic and as a non-permanent structure, the planners were happy to give approval where other buildings would not have gained consent.

Rural Log Cabins helped to design a purpose-built, ecofriendly home and advised on the technologies now available to help them reduce their carbon footprint to zero. The structure is made of timber from sustainable wood sources and runs entirely on renewable energy. The cabin has no connection to the national grid electricity network.

Off the grid

Power is generated by photovoltaic panels on the roof and stored in batteries, with any shortcomings topped up by a back-up generator, although this seldom happens.



Photovoltaic Panels charge the cabin batteries.

Solar thermal panels on the roof of the cabin supply ample hot water in the summer months, whilst winter heating, cooking and hot water is all being provided through a woodburning stove. Rainwater is harvested for washing and flushing and all waste goes into a biogester.



Solar thermal tubes supplying plentiful hot water

The combination of all these environmental features provide a zero carbon rating on the SAP scale, the Government’s Standard Assessment Procedure for the Energy Rating of Dwellings. The calculation had been made, even assuming the worst air leakage results, giving an environmental impact estimated at the lowest level for CO₂ emissions and energy consumption.

Next, the visitor centre..

The couple moved into their log cabin in Autumn 2008. They were so pleased that they placed an order with Rural to design and build the visitor centre, this will provide accommodation for visitors and school parties studying the llamas as part of the national curriculum and the zero carbon rating will also provide ample subject matter for science curriculum activities.

Catanger Llama Trekking is a very popular educational facility in Northamptonshire. The centre provides a wide range of educational activities and offers cross-curriculum learning for key stages 1 & 2 (children up to age 11) and eventually also Key Stage 3. The llamas come originally from South America and can be studied for both geography and history. Traditional skills in spinning, weaving and felting the llama fibre are demonstrated, providing education for design, technology and art with genuine hands-on experience.

For Nature & Biology studies the llamas themselves are of course on hand to study, plus 20 acres of native woodland established since the Llama trekking began in the 1990’s. The trees, wild flowers pond life, birds and wild mammals all provide opportunities to study natural history.

To find out more about Rural Log Cabins visit: www.rural-log-cabins.co.uk

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