

A better tomorrow?

Do you think that ecology is boring? Do you think that ordinary people can't help the environment? Think again! If you visit one of these places in the UK, you may change your mind!

CAT (The Centre for Alternative Technology): Powys, Wales



CAT is Europe's leading eco-centre. Its mission is to teach people about the green way of life: renewable energy, organic food production and how to reduce your carbon footprint.

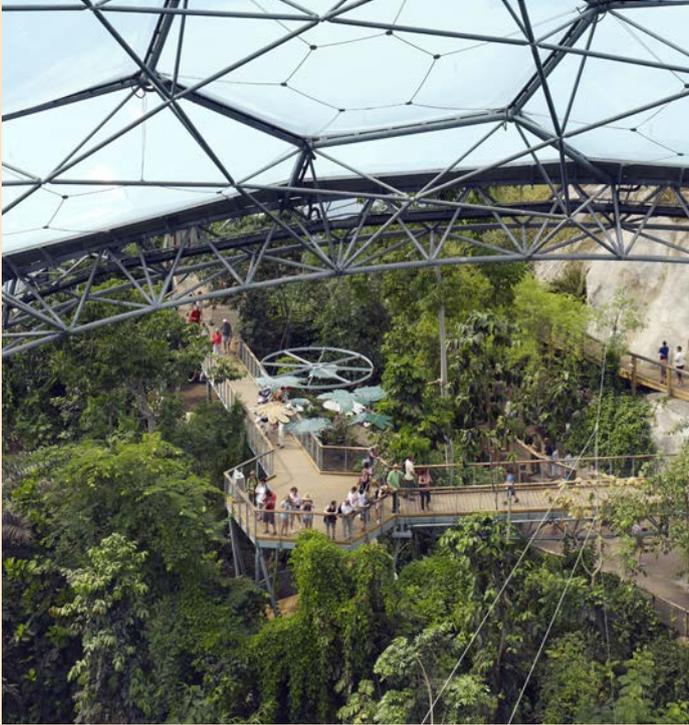
If you visit CAT, you'll see organic gardens and modern sustainable architecture. You might learn about wind energy and solar power, and you can visit Britain's 'greenest building' (a shop with sheep's wool insulation!). There's a café with organic food, and you can even try making fruit juice using bicycle power!

CAT is situated high in the hills of Wales. If you come by bike or public footpath, you'll receive a discount off your ticket price. If you don't want to walk up the hill, you can take CAT's amazing cliff railway. This railway, with two carriages only uses water power. A lake at the top of the cliff supplies water for the railway.

Nothing is wasted at CAT. Some of the toilets there don't even use water! If you want to know more about the green way of life, you can stay at CAT and study there on one of their courses. And if you're really inspired by their mission, you can go back one day and work there. Many of CAT's staff are volunteers!



The Eden Project: Cornwall, England



Over a million people visit the Eden Project in Cornwall each year. The project, near the sea, in a valley that was once a quarry, has two gigantic covered domes with plants from around the world.

If you go in the tropical dome, you'll find the biggest rainforest in captivity! The other dome has a Mediterranean climate, and together they provide the perfect habitat for plants like bananas, olives, coffee and tea. There are even streams and waterfalls, and a few animals!

In the tropical dome there's a viewing platform 50 metres above the ground. The temperature up there can be 40°C, because air always rises when it gets hot. If the temperature is very high, visitors aren't allowed on the viewing platform.

You can see amazing architecture and sculptures at the Eden Project too. How many electronic gadgets will you throw away in your life if you don't recycle them? The WEEE Man sculpture (= Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) will show you! Like CAT, Eden's mission is to show us how to live more ecologically.