

# In the backcountry... SOMETHING TO THINK OVER TILL NEXT TIME

## HOW RESORT WORKERS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Since it was launched in 2004, the Ski Club of Great Britain's 'Respect The Mountain' campaign has helped increase environmental awareness in the snowsports industry, while additionally raising over £25,000 for environmental projects.

Their website ([www.respectthemountain.com](http://www.respectthemountain.com)) has recently been updated with more information on what you, operators and resorts can do to mitigate global warming.

Natives.co.uk – publisher of 'Tribe' – is, of course, well known as the Season Workers' website, so we particularly liked the 'Best Practice Guidelines for Resort Staff' included on the new website. And with that in mind, here are our top tips if you are working in the Alps this winter and want to make a difference yourself.

- Educate Guests about green practices. Make sure guests are aware of the fragility of the mountain environment. If you can help them to understand the threat of climate change to their sport they may take it more seriously.

- Make recycling as simple as possible for guests by having bins throughout your chalet, with clear signs showing what can be recycled in each.

- Chalets and hotels in ski resorts

are often unnecessarily warm. Turn down the thermostat and encourage your guests to turn their radiator off if they would like some fresh air in their room, rather than just leave the window wide open.

- Ask guests to keep bathrobes and towels to cut water and energy use rather than changing them. Many tour operators, such as Esprit Holidays, already employ an environmental policy that puts the burden on guests to request a change of towels.

- If water-efficient toilets are not already in use, place a plastic bottle filled with water in the cistern in order to displace and conserve water.

- Don't rely on the car - it might be cold outside, but it is incredibly polluting and inefficient to use cars for journeys of less than five minutes. Bus



services in most ski resorts are very regular and usually free with a lift pass.


- When you do have to drive, why not share lifts with co-workers or other chalets? It's a great way to getting to know other company's staff at the beginning of the season.



- Shop selectively, avoiding anything with excessive packaging. The more radical might want to take on board the advice of environment minister, Ben Bradshaw ([tinylink.com/?L22QvKo3l4](http://tinylink.com/?L22QvKo3l4)) and leave the packaging at the counter.

- Forget bottled water - tap water in mountain regions is usually much purer than bottled water, which is usually shipped long distances and the bottles just end up in landfill.

- Don't be scared to voice your opinion to your employer. In many cases, a strong, positive environmental policy can reduce costs for a tour operator, so they get a triple win 1) save costs, 2) boost their green image, 3) and, umm...help the environment.



Have a green season the right way, and we can help prevent green seasons on the mountain to come! 

 [www.respectthemountain.com](http://www.respectthemountain.com)  
 [www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/](http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/)