GREEN LIVING AUDIT

Gauging compliance with best practices

Curious about just how well you are faring with adhering to the guidelines for green living? The checklist to follow is intended to serve as a quick self-audit and to point to those areas where you might need help with finding an environmentally sustainable solution to a problem.

If need be, a member of the Urban Conservancy's audit committee could walk you through the checklist and will gladly render any assistance you may require. To set up an appointment, please call the NVT's office on 044 531 6820.

Once completed, it would be most appreciated if you could share the results with us.

Your willingness to share would help us to form a clearer picture of those areas where home owners might require a little extra assistance and advice on how best to approach green living in the valley.

Rest assured, all responses will be treated as strictly confidential.

Nevertheless, whether you decide to share or not to share, your willingness to complete the self-audit checklist is much appreciated.

Thank you.

Name: _____

Erf number: _____

Date: _____

Are you a permanent resident: □ **Yes** □ **No**

Contact details

Home address: _____

_____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

4.2 THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

4.2.1 FENCING

- *Is your property fenced or partially fenced?*
  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If* **Yes,** *what type of fencing is it?*

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_____

- *If* **Yes,** *what is the reason for the fence?*

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- *Does your fencing allow for the free movement of wildlife in and out of your yard?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *Is your fencing animal friendly?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If your property has animal-proof fencing, do you have gates that you can leave open while the property is unoccupied?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If you have or intend to erect fencing for pet or child control, does it or will it cover only a portion of your property?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

Comments:

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Proposed solutions

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4.2.2 SEWAGE

- *What type of sewage system do you have in place?*
  - *Conservancy tank* □
  - *Septic tank/soak-away* □

- *Is your sewage system maintained and functioning?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If you have a conservancy tank, do you have a flow device installed that monitors sewage levels?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If you have a septic tank, when was it last serviced and checked?*

  Date: _____

- *If you have a conservancy tank and let your home, do you have a system in place to ensure your tank can cope with the anticipated load or tasked your letting agent with sewage management?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If you have a septic tank system and you let your home, do have clear instructions for tenants not to put anything other than high-quality toilet paper into the system?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

Comments:

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Proposed solutions

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4.2.3 LIGHTING

- *Do you have external lighting?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If* **Yes,** *what is the reason for these lights?*

  _____

- *Do your external lights burn all night?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *Is essential external lighting frosted or the beams directed downward?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *Do you have energy-efficient bulbs in your home?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

Comments:

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Proposed solutions:

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4.2.4 SECURITY

- *Are you concerned about security?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *Have you had any security incidents? If so, list dates and what the incidents involved.*

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- *Do you have an alarm?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *Would you consider a silent alarm?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *Would you support and assist with organising a neighbourhood-watch programme in your vicinity of Nature's Valley?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *Would you support the establishment of an info/security centre at the entrance to the valley?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *Do you employ casual labour during holiday periods?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

Comments:

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Proposed solutions

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4.2.5 ORGANIC GARDEN WASTE

- *How do you currently dispose of your organic garden waste?*

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- *Would you use an organic waste dump at the Crags if it was available?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *Do you currently chip your organic waste?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *Would you make use of a mobile chipping service?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *Would you consider starting a compost heap*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

Comments:

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Proposed solutions

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4.2.7 WATER

- *Do you recycle your grey water?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *Do you have a rainwater tank?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

Comments:

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Proposed solutions

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4.2.8 REFUSE MANAGEMENT

- *Do you have wildlife-proof rubbish bins?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If* **No,** *would you like the Urban Conservancy to facilitate ordering these for you?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *Do you have a wildlife-proof refuse collection area?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

If **No,** *would you like us to facilitate having one installed for you?*

□ **Yes** □ **No**

- *Do you properly dispose of your rubbish at the Nature's Valley dump if leaving for an extended period?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If you let your house, do you inform your tenants or letting agent about how the refuse management system functions?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

Comments:

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Proposed solutions

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4.2.9 HOME MANAGEMENT

- *Do you use environmentally friendly cleaning products within your home?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If you have pest or rodent control issues, do you manage these by using pesticides and poisons?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If* **Yes,** *would you consider using organic products or products that are designed to impact the environment as little as possible?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

Comments:

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Proposed solutions

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4.2.10 BUILDING IMPACTS

- *If you are in the process of renovating, building or adding on, have you acquired the necessary permits and permissions?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If you are in the process of renovating, building or adding on, have you considered the impact of a large foot print and hard landscaping?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

Comments:

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Proposed solutions

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4.2.11 A. DOGS

- *Do you have dogs?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If* **Yes,** *how many and are they confined to your property?*

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- *Do you adhere to the NVRA's Doggy Guidelines?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *Do you pick up after your dog?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If* **No,** *why not?*

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Comments:

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Proposed solutions

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4.2.11 B. CATS

- *Do you have cats?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If* **Yes,** *how many cats and are they confined to your property?*

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- *Have your cats been fitted with belled collars or colourful bibs?*

□ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If* **No,** *would you consider fitting belled collars or colourful bibs?*

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4.3. THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

4.3.1 WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS

4.3.1A BIRDS

- *Do you feed wild birds in your garden?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If* **Yes,** *what do you feed them*?
  - Sugar water

  □ **Yes** □ **No**
  - Seeds, fruit, suet, other

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If* **Yes***, how often do you feed them?*

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- *If* **Yes***, are your feeders monkey and rat-proof?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *Would you consider planting trees and shrubs that attract birds as an alternative to feeding?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

Comments:

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Proposed solutions

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4.3.1B BABOONS, MONKEYS AND BUSHPIGS

- *Do you have any problems with baboons, monkeys and bush pigs?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If* **Yes,** *please describe the nature of the problem and any measures you have taken to mitigate the problem.*

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Comments:

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Proposed solutions

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4.3.1C SNAKES

- *Are you concerned about snakes being a danger to you and your family?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *Have you ever killed a snake or had a snake removed from your property?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

*Describe the incident:*_____

_____

- *Do you know how to manage a snake bite and what you can do to avoid snake encounters with children?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

Comments:

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Proposed solutions

4.3.1D Fishing

- Do you fish?

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- Do you have a fishing permit?

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If* **Yes***, is it a recreational* □ *or commercial* □ *permit?*

- Do you have a permit to collect bait?

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If* **No** *to the above, do you know where to obtain such permits?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- Where do you fish: lagoon or ocean?

- What species of fish do you catch?

- Do you fish on a “tag-and-release” basis?

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If* **No,** *are you familiar with the list of threatened marine species?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- Would you like to know what these species are?

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

Comments:

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Proposed solutions

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4.3.1E Bushbuck

- A bushbuck monitoring group has been established on WhatsApp. Would you consider joining this group?

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

4.3.2 INDIGENOUS GARDENING

- *Do you know if you have any declared invasive alien plants on your property?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If* **Yes,** *do you have a plan in place to get rid of them?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- Would you consider using a targeted, species-specific herbicide?

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- *If* **No,** *would you like an NVT consultant to visit your property for the purposes of conducting an assessment?*

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- Are you willing to convert to a majority indigenous garden?

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

- Would you consider joining a fun monthly group outing to identify plants?

  □ **Yes** □ **No**

Comments:

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Proposed solutions

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