

The Ross

SUSTAINABILITY

“WE ARE THE FIRST GENERATION TO FEEL THE EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND WE ARE THE LAST GENERATION WHO CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT” – BARACK OBAMA

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The Ross is located in one of the most beautiful areas in the world. Protecting this amazing landscape and environment is extremely important to us at both The Killarney Park and The Ross Hotel.

At The Ross, we believe that sustainable tourism is tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social, and environmental impacts while addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment, and host communities (UNWTO, n.d.). We therefore aim to reduce our negative effects and increase our positive impacts.

In line with this we continually strive to improve our environment practices in a range of areas including energy, single use plastic and water usage. Sustainability is a journey of continuous improvement, and we aim to highlight our areas that require development through regular measurement and assessment.

We commit to measuring our water, energy, and waste usage on a monthly basis and then to reducing consumption where possible. We use 100% renewable electricity with Electric Ireland and BioLPG. We have a daily energy walk in the hotel during which the manager on duty checks each department to turn off lights, heating and equipment that does not need to be on. We have implemented processes and schedules in each department so that lights and equipment are not turned on when not required.

We carry out regular training in sustainability and waste management in an aim to reduce our impact. Reducing general waste and designing waste out of our menus is a priority for 2022

We recently added toilet cistern bags to all bathrooms in addition to existing low flow taps and showers and hope to further save thousands of litres of water in the coming year. This will also be achieved through staff training led by our sustainability manager who is scheduled to complete the Certified Water Stewardship Programme.

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It is our aim to make the following reductions in 2022:

- Energy by 5%
- Water by 15%
- General waste by 30%
- Food waste by 10%

At The Ross we regularly update our purchasing policy - As much as possible our culinary team source our food from local producers thereby reducing food miles (the distance that food must travel to get from farm to fork). Products such as meat, fresh fish, smoked fish, salads, eggs and cheeses are mostly from the locality. We also endeavour to purchase and support small artisan producers.

We aim to choose locality, seasonality, and certified products as much as possible and will not be motivated by price alone.

We know that it is important to communicate our efforts in an honest way, therefore our marketing department have committed to transparency and honesty when sharing our sustainability journey and future goals.

We also continue to develop a number of ecotourism experiences for our customers to enjoy and aim to promote local repeat business in order to reduce the carbon footprint of the guest.

We support and conserve Irish biodiversity by donating to local and national biodiversity organisations. We have areas on our grounds that are rewilded and have selected areas for reduced mowing throughout the year.

In 2021 we introduced a €1 charge to all tables dining in our Food & Beverage spaces. The F&B team across both hotels have been diligent in ensure these charges are applied to all tables for unlimited Still & Sparking Water for guests dining. This allowed us to donate €2600 to the local charity [Mountain Meitheal](#) and over €1200 to supporting the UN Sustainability goals through Southpole. We will be choosing various charities to donate every six months.

We have recently implemented a charity day for staff, where they can take a day to offer their time to their chosen charity and they will still be paid a full work day from the hotel.

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At The Ross we are firstly committed to reducing our carbon footprint. Where this is not possible, we then offset our unavoidable emissions.

We work with HomeTree here in Ireland and pledge hundreds of trees yearly.

We also recognize that climate change is a global issue and aim to support underdeveloped countries reduce their emissions. We have begun doing this in 2022 through working with South pole

We are members of Sustainable Travel Ireland and The Green Hospitality Programme. We are currently on the path to being certified through Sustainable Travel Ireland; their certification standard is the only set of criteria used in Ireland that is recognised by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC).

The GreenHospitality.ie Eco-label and Awards are recognised both nationally and internationally as standards that allow members achieve good environmental performance and allow visitors to choose “Greener” hospitality businesses knowing that defined criteria are being implemented and monitored.

We are founding members of **The Killarney Hotels Sustainability Group** which is a group of hotels totalling more than 3,000 bedrooms that take protecting our landscape and environment at the forefront of what we do.

THE FOLLOWING ARE ACTIONS ALREADY TAKEN BY US AND WE CONTINUE TO WORK TO MINIMISE OUR FOOTPRINT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Single use plastic is a disaster for our environment, and we are actively eliminating it from our hotel. In the last 12 months we have found replacements for the following items of single-use plastic:

- Miniature toiletry bottles have been replaced with larger luxury refillable dispensers. This action alone reduced our single use plastic by a whopping 100,000 bottles per annum.
- Take away coffee cups and lids are now compostable
- Plastic drinking straws and cocktail stirrers are now made of metal and reusable
- Plastic water bottles are now glass and we have a chilled, filtered water station at our front door for our guest use
- Coasters are now leather and reusable

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- Guest amenities such as toothbrushes, earbuds, shower hats, vanity kits are now either made with bamboo or a biodegradable material
- Bedroom plastic – linen/laundry bags, newspaper bags and guest carrier bags are no longer plastic and have been replaced by a natural material such as linen or paper
- We no longer use plastic pedal bin liners and have introduced a recycling bin to all guest rooms.
- We are partnered with **Clean The World** which assist us in recycling any toiletry waste and used bars of soap
- We use Green Energy – 100% Green Electricity and BioLPG as our primary fuel source
- Our cleaning products are supplied by **Green Clean** which means they are allergen free and chemical free cleaning products
- We have two Porsche designed electric car charging points for our guest use
- We offer our Guests complimentary access to PressReader which is an online platform for newspapers and magazines from all over the world. This vastly reduced the paper waste at our hotel
- All of the hotel is operating on LED lighting which saves many tonnes of CO2 energy
- Cardboard packaging, glass, cans, used light bulbs and batteries are all returned to suppliers or collected for recycling. We are committed to further reducing waste to landfill
- Paper usage within the hotel is continually monitored in our efforts to reduce and reuse.
- We are proud members of **Repak** which is a not-for-profit packaging recycling scheme funded by contributors from over 3,000 member companies nationwide.
- Our team are active members of Killarney Tidy Towns, a voluntary community-based group that works to keep our town clean, tidy and sustainable.

The Green Sustainability Team at our hotel are always looking for ways to help reduce our carbon footprint and welcome any questions or suggestions you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact louise.byrne@killarneyparkhotel.ie

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