

The Killarney Park

SUSTAINABILITY AT THE KILLARNEY PARK HOTEL

**“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 Killarney Park 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.

Together our team created a mission statement that we all agreed to work towards:

*“We will offer an enhanced luxury experience to our guests that delivers positive environmental, social, and economic impacts to our local communities.
We will prioritise protecting the planet for the next generation.”*

At The Killarney Park, 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 reduce consumption where possible. It is our aim to make the following reductions in 2022:

- Electricity & LPG by 5%
 - Water by 10%
- General waste by 20%
- Food waste by 5%

At The Killarney Park 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. We are also proud members of the All Ireland Pollinators Plan.

We are members of **The Green Hospitality Programme**. **The GreenHospitality.ie Eco-label and Awards** are recognised both nationally and internationally as standards that allow members to achieve good environmental performance and allow visitors to choose "Greener" hospitality businesses knowing that defined criteria are being implemented and monitored. We also work with **Sustainable Travel Ireland**, **EarthCheck** and **50 Shades Greener** which helps us work within best practice guidelines and also keeps us accountable.

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. 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
 - 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

- Our cleaning products are plant-based, and 100% biodegradable. They are [Cradle to Cradle Certified®](#)
- We have two Porsche designed electric car charging points for our guest use
- We have partnered with [Positive Carbon](#) with the aim of keeping food waste to a minimum
- 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 will be introducing the option of a paperless check in and out for our guests in 2023
- 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 info@killarneyparkhotel.ie

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