

Code of Practice for Sustainable Tourism



Cliffs of Moher Retreat

Environmental Policy Statement

At The Cliffs of Moher Retreat, sustainability is not just a value; it is the essence of our existence. Nestled in the tranquility of nature, we recognise the profound connection between well-being and the environment. Our commitment to environmental management is unwavering, as we prioritise the conservation of the natural surroundings that inspire our retreat. From minimising our carbon footprint to embracing eco-friendly practices in every aspect of our operations, we strive to create a harmonious coexistence with the environment. Through mindful choices in construction, resource consumption, and waste reduction, we aim to be a sanctuary where individuals can rejuvenate their spirits while fostering a deep respect for the Earth. Nature is not just a backdrop; it is our partner in promoting holistic wellness and environmental stewardship.

Working Together

We collaborate with all stakeholders to collectively develop the Geopark as a sustainable tourism destination. We understand the importance of the training and networking events and strive to attend as many as possible with our small team throughout the year.

A cared-for landscape

We actively participate in conserving our natural and cultural heritage. We take part in clean ups, adopt a hedgerow cleaning and we have adopted the Leave No Trace principles, informing our guests of the same. We have had acres of native trees planted in the surrounding land of the venue and have a stunning garden space that produces much of our own food. This garden is cared for in a sustainable way to ensure we crop rotate, its biodiverse and organic - it's a huge part of who we are and we are very proud of it!

A well-understood heritage

We offer quality information and interpretation to communicate our stories and the unique character of our place to guests. We have a guest book within each room with a full pack of tourist information about the area, leave no trace code and Code of practice for sustainable tourism. We also have the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark maps available to all guests. Cliffs of Moher Retreat staff will take part in the 2024 Heritage training Organised by the Geopark

Vibrant Communities

We work to ensure that tourism makes a positive social contribution so that it benefits our community as well as our guests. 71% of our suppliers are based in The Burren, we also always promote the area on our website as a place to visit and not the Retreat centre itself.

<https://www.cliffsofmoherretreat.com/the-place/>

We host over 2500 guests per year and always ensure that they are informed of places in the area to enhance their experience in County Clare.

Strengthened Livelihoods

We contribute to the local economy by maintaining and supporting local employment, by sourcing services and produce locally wherever possible, and by engaging with other businesses in promoting our region as a sustainable tourism destination. Our staff has increased from 6 Full time employees in 2022 to 9 Full time employees in 2023.

We also buy local as much as possible and gift our guests local products to ensure they are aware of the wonderful produce in the area - we have a true pride in making sure guests are aware of all the amazing business's and places in the surrounding area.

Sustainable tourism management

We naturally always ensure that we are doing everything that is possible to ensure that we are making the right decisions and reducing our carbon footprint as a business. As this is our first year within BEN we work towards, with their support to have a solid Environmental Action Plan with targets for improvement that are reviewed annually.

We will implement effective systems for monitoring and adequately managing our waste, water, wastewater and energy.

Cliffs of Moher Retreat are committed to taking the following action;

- To continue sound environmental practices across our entire operation
- To produce an annual Environmental Plan setting out our Objectives, Targets and planned Actions
- To comply fully with all relevant legislation
- To minimise our waste and reduce our water consumption where possible
- To reduce, Reuse, Recycle the resources consumed by our business wherever practical
- To invite our costumers, suppliers and contractors to participate in our efforts to protect the environment
- To provide all employees with the training and resources required to meet our objectives
- To openly communicate our policies and practices to interested parties
- To monitor and record our environmental impacts on a regular basis and compare our performance with our policies, objectives and targets

As stewards of both inner and outer landscapes, we stand committed to weaving sustainability into the very fabric of our existence. Our journey toward a greener future is ongoing, with a dedication to continual improvement and innovation. Looking ahead, we aspire to deepen our impact by exploring new avenues for renewable energy, biodiversity conservation, and community engagement. Our vision extends beyond the serene confines of our venue, reaching towards a global consciousness that cherishes and safeguards the environment. Together with our staff and community of mindful individuals, we strive to inspire a ripple effect of positive change, fostering a world where sustainability is not just a choice, but a collective responsibility. Our commitment remains unwavering as we evolve, embracing the interconnectedness of personal well-being and the well-being of our planet.