

Sustainability Progress Report 2020

2020 proved to be a very challenging year for our industry, with no international travel, conferences or meetings permitted and the majority of our members closed for a period of 6 months and in some cases even longer. However, along with many of our members we used this time to evaluate our performance in terms of sustainability.

Some of our achievements are outlined below:

Ireland's only 2 Carbon Neutral Hotels located in Co. Clare	55% of member hotels in Clare have a 3 rd party sustainability certification	78% of member hotels in Limerick have a 3 rd party sustainability certification
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8 member hotels in Clare have adopted the Repak Members Plastic Pledge	9 member hotels in Limerick have adopted the Repak Members Plastic Pledge	From July 2021 the following single use items are banned: Cotton bud sticks, cutlery, plates, stirrers, chopsticks, straws, polystyrene containers and oxo degradable plastic products
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In 2020 38.9% of electricity generated was from renewable sources	Two Clare restaurants: The Wild Honey Inn and Gregans Castle were commended at the Michelin Star awards for their efforts in promoting and supporting sustainable practices
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Some actions for the year ahead:

Push for Regional Data for Waste Reporting	Work towards reducing food waste	Increase 3 rd party sustainability certification among member hotels & event agencies
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By engaging with City and County Councils and the Energy Policy Statistical Support Unit	By working with Savour Food	Through engagement and by providing access to sustainability training
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Case Studies

Ireland's 2nd Carbon Neutral Hotel

FALLS HOTEL & SPA is powering itself from the energy provided from the fast-flowing river and cascades alongside it. The 220-kilowatt water turbine is providing the Falls Hotel with 100% of its power, when the river is at full flow. The hotel has greatly reduced its dependency on carbon fuels, being declared a carbon neutral property in March 2021 by Green Hospitality Ireland, reducing hugely its carbon footprint. All events held in the hotel are also carbon neutral! They are on track to reduce their electricity consumption by 800,000kw of electricity, offsetting approximately 550 tonnes of carbon. This is the equivalent of offsetting three return trips to the moon by car!

Sustainability Pioneering

FITZGERALDS WOODLANDS HOUSE HOTEL & SPA are trailblazers when it comes to investing in environmental initiatives that reduce the resort's carbon footprint. The resort has its own well and waste-water treatment plant on-site, which means it is entirely self-sufficient. An organic garden was created in the grounds of the hotel to supply the kitchen with the freshest and most natural ingredients possible. Shortly after the land was converted into a certified organic farm, produce from Mary's Organic Garden and the farm can be found on the breakfast table, in a host of dishes at Timmy Macs Bistro, as drink ingredients and garnishes served in Dicks Bar and as the inspiration behind Fielding's of Adare. All food-waste is composted and used for Mary's Organic Garden and the organic farm, both of which are home to trees planted as part of the resort's carbon offset programme.

Azul ZERO – Ireland's 1st and only solar powered boat

Secret Ireland Escapes, one of Ireland's most innovative companies in destination experiences have a new addition to their fleet: AZUL Zero - Ireland's first and only solar-powered boat. This custom-made, eco-friendly cruiser runs with, zero emissions, zero carbon footprint and zero engine. This is a zero-carbon impact experience, solar powered and with biodegradable cutlery and crockery manufactured from dried banana leaf and wood cork, this ensures the environment is protected and nothing is left behind but fine ripples on the water