



### **Woodenbridge Hotel Environmental Policy 2024**

At Woodenbridge Hotel Management and Staff are fully committed to our Environmental Policy, we recognise that our business has a role to play in protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations and to help secure the long-term sustainability of the tourism industry.

Woodenbridge Hotel is set in the beautiful Vale of Avoca, The Goldmines River runs through the gardens which are home to much wildlife including Red Kites, Buzzards, Rabbits, Pheasants, Otters, Kingfishers, Trout and much more.

Our Gardener Jason grows herbs and edible flowers for use by the kitchen, reuses coffee grinds for fertilising plants and has planted 113 native tree saplings in 2021, he also rotates the areas he mows, leaving patches of grass with wildflowers for the bees.

We are committed to the following actions:

- To achieve sound environmental practices across our entire business
- To provide staff with resources to enable this policy to be implemented.
- To produce an annual Environmental plan setting out our objectives, targets and planned actions
- To minimise our waste and reduce our water and energy consumption where possible.
- To reduce, reuse, recycle the resources used by our business.
- To help increase environmental awareness among staff, customers and suppliers.
- To communicate our policies and practices with interested parties.
- To monitor and record our environmental impacts on a regular basis and compare our performance with our policies, objectives and targets.
- To upgrade older equipment for newer energy efficient equipment.
- Provide support to local community groups and promote local artists and businesses.

### **Sustainability Goals 2024**

- Where possible to increase our local/ regional suppliers by up to 10%
- Continue to engage with suppliers to reduce their own packaging where possible.
- Continue replacing bathtubs for showers reducing water usage, a 5 minute shower uses 35ltrs less water than a bathtub.
- Reduce LPG usage by 15%
- Reduce or maintain our Electricity usage

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

**Reduced LPG usage by 3% in 2023 comparing with 2022**

### **Energy Conservation**

- Our electricity is from a 100% renewable source.
- We have a strict switch off policy in all departments and encourage guests to switch off.
- Installation of 74 photovoltaic solar panels on the Lodge building completed in 2022.
- Use of low energy lighting throughout the hotel.
- There are 6 charge points for electric cars at the Lodge carpark.
- In October 2023 we installed the Heat Boss system; this should reduce LPG heating usage by 30% in 2024.
- Reintroduce energy-efficient electric radiators replacing existing radiators in some locations, December 2023.

### **Waste**

- We segregate waste and aim to recycle or compost as much of our waste as possible.
- We encourage both staff and guests to recycle, requesting guests segregate recyclables and general waste in guest rooms.
- Smart phone technology available to guests in place of key cards.
- Miniature toiletry bottles have been replaced with refillable dispensers. This action alone reduced our single use plastic by 46,150 mini bottles per annum.
- We don't supply bottles of water in bedrooms in our bid to reduce single use plastics, jugs of filtered water from our well are provided on request.
- Aerator shower heads fitted in bedrooms.
- Plastic straws and cocktail sticks replaced with a biodegradable alternative.
- Jams and sauces are no longer served in single use packaging.
- Single use Take away coffee cups have been replaced with reusable 2Gocups.
- We encourage all staff to use re-usable coffee cups and water bottles.
- We are reducing our administration paper waste through email receipts and double sided printing where printing is necessary, we also reuse waste paper where possible.
- We are members of Repak.

### **Guest Contribution**

- Guests' opt-in for cleaning service, towel or linen change.
- We welcome guest feedback and have added sustainability questions to our guest feedback survey.
- We are members of Refill.ie and will provide free filtered water from our well to fill any reusable water bottle.

**Green Purchasing**

- We are committed to responsible purchasing and trying to source our products and services locally where possible.
- We buy in bulk to reduce the energy used in transport and reduce packaging.
- During our recent refurbishments we used regional and local services, recycled fabrics and upcycled items instead of replacing where possible.

**Wellbeing of our Team**

- Monthly Head of Department meetings and weekly departmental meetings.
- Open door policy with management if member of staff has a problem.
- Regular staff surveys.
- We were awarded A Great Place to Work Award in 2022 & 2023.
- The hotel has participated in the Fáilte Ireland Employer Excellence Programme.

February 2024