

Introduction

Nowadays we are all becoming more aware of environmental issues, particularly in relation to climate change, and most of us are aware that the choices we make in our day to day lives can affect the health of our planet in different ways. We at the Ferrycarrig Hotel recognise that our business has an impact on the environment and we have taken appropriate steps to ensure that this impact is minimised. We have drawn up an Environmental Policy, taken a number of environmental actions and have an Environmental Manager on site to help meet our targets.

The EU Flower Eco-Label

The Ferrycarrig Hotel is committed to achieving certification under the EU Ecolabel (EU Flower), the highest standard of Environmental Management System (EMS) for environmentally friendly tourist accommodation in Europe. The EU Ecolabel is the only sign of environmental quality that is both certified by an independent organisation and valid throughout Europe. It involves limiting energy & water consumption, reducing waste, using renewable resources where possible and promoting environmental education and communication.

Our Environmental Policy

Ferrycarrig Hotel based at Ferrycarrig, Wexford are aware that all of our activities interact with the environment and are committed to minimising adverse impacts and improving service efficiency. In particular, this will be achieved through our commitment to:

- Comply with all relevant environmental legislation and regulations.
- Review the actual and potential environmental impacts of all activities, including those affecting our local community.
- Strive for continual improvement in environmental performance through setting objectives and targets and developing key performance indicators.
- Employ best practice to prevent pollution, minimise waste and maximise the efficient use of resources (materials, fuels and energy).
- Involve employees and contractors in our environmental programme and provide information to enable them to discharge their responsibilities.

- Engage in dialogue with suppliers and waste management / re-cycling contractors to encourage their participation in our environmental practice.
- Produce an annual environmental report to set out progress to employees, regulators, suppliers, neighbours and other interested parties.
- Support and train our employees so that they can help us meet the requirements of this policy.
- All are invited to contribute ideas for better practice.

By visiting the Ferrycarrig you can be confident of the following:

- Our Environmental Management System (EMS) is compliant with the highest European environmental standards.
- We have signed up to a supplier of wind generated energy which means that 100% of the electricity we use for lighting, heating and hot water comes from a renewable energy source.
- We are installing a woodchip boiler system for heating purposes in the knowledge that this will dramatically reduce our carbon footprint.
- All our windows are thermally insulated and guests are free to choose their preferred room temperature in the guest bedrooms.
- We are switching to energy saving lightbulbs to help reduce the amount of electricity supplied to the hotel.
- We have taken steps to reduce the amount of water used in the hotel by fitting water saving taps and shower heads.
- In keeping with best practice internationally we have introduced a towel policy for guests that has enabled us to dramatically reduce the energy, water and detergents we use in laundry.
- We regularly monitor our use of energy & water, as well as our production of waste, and have set targets for their reduction.
- We are separating and recycling the waste produced by the hotel and in particular all our food waste is being turned into compost; a valuable product much loved by gardeners!
- We encourage our staff and guests to arrive by public transport where possible, in an effort to help reduce the carbon produced by travelling to the hotel.
- We provide information for you, our guest, to help you to minimise your own carbon footprint when staying in or visiting the Ferrycarrig Hotel.
- We provide organic and local food options on our menus to help support local farmers and growers in the Wexford region.
- We have been active in helping Wexford to become a FAIRTRADE town thus guaranteeing a better deal for producers in developing countries.
- We provide environmental training for our staff annually and at induction.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear guest, as part of our commitment to making environmental improvements we would be grateful if you could take a moment to answer the following questions:

How would you rate your overall stay at the Ferrycarrig Hotel?

Poor 1 2 3 4 5 Excellent

Were you aware that the Ferrycarrig Hotel is participating in an environmental management programme?

Yes No

Were our environmental actions visible to you during your stay?

Not visible at all 1 2 3 4 5 Very visible

During your stay did you feel encouraged to participate in our environmental programme?

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 Very encouraged

How was the temperature of your room during your stay?

Too cold 1 2 Perfect 3 4 Too hot 5

Overall do you feel our environmental actions impacted positively or negatively upon your stay?

Negative impact 1 2 No impact 3 4 Positive impact 5