



Garryvoe Hotel's commitment to getting Greener

"Oh I do like to be beside the seaside and so do we." We are proud to be situated across from a blue flag beach, in beautiful East Cork and understand the importance of it and our surroundings to our business. Therefore we try our best to work with the environment and community around us. It's a work in progress but we aim to improve every day.

What we are committed to taking action on:

- ❖ To achieve sound environmental practises across our entire operation. Complying with all relevant legislation.
- ❖ To minimise our waste by reducing, reusing, and recycling the resources consumed by our business wherever our policies and practices.
- ❖ To provide ourselves with the training and tools to meet our objectives.
- ❖ To monitor and record our environmental impacts on a regular basis and compare our performance with our objectives and targets.

What we achieved to date:

- ❖ Installed rain water harvesting tanks to fill our pool and public toilets.
- ❖ Reduced the number of bulbs on corridors, installed light sensors & changed bulbs to CFLs and LED's
- ❖ Organised a beach clean-up, with regular clean-ups to take place throughout the year.
- ❖ Reduced our carbon footprint by 70% (estimated 900 tonnes reduction per annum, by installing a Combined Heating and Power (CHP) plant which is 98% energy efficient, replacing our old boiler system. The CHP unit use the by product of heat from producing electricity with natural gas, to heat our hot water.)
- ❖ Installed new air handling units with heat recovery, which harvest the heat in the air instead of expelling it from the building.
- ❖ Installed a computerised Building Management System (BMS) to optimise our energy use regarding heating and hot water.
- ❖ Built, extended and retrofitted the hotel with energy conservation a priority.
- ❖ Installed an absorption chiller, one of two hotels in the country to create air conditioning for our ballroom, creating cold air from hot water.
- ❖ Bronze, Green Hospitality Award in 2009.
- ❖ Silver, Green Hospitality Award in 2010.

**Our goals for 2012**

- ❖ Platinum, Green Hospitality award.
- ❖ Become Carbon Neutral by end of 2012, with the help of our guests.
- ❖ Reduce our water consumption by 40% and reduce our landfill waste by 50%
- ❖ To become self reliant for electricity using our CHP unit.
- ❖ Increase the efficiency of our BMS to control our heating and air conditioning, with our customers comfort a priority.
- ❖ To become more involved in our local community to promote environmental awareness. Promote charity work etc.
- ❖ To work closer with local producers who are environmentally aware.

Although we use environmentally friendly Bio degradable detergents in our cleaning, they still place a burden on our environment. With your help we can reduce our impact on the environment, reducing chemicals, water and energy consumption. The hotel has a number of programs for you to choose to participate in if you wish.

Towel re use programme:

We have a towel reuse program in the hotel. If you are staying for more than one night we service your room daily unless you decline it to be serviced by placing the declining service card outside your door.

When we service your bathroom any towels that are in the bath or on the floor we replace with fresh ones, any towels that are hanging up we leave. We will however leave an extra towel on the rack just in case there was a misunderstanding.

Long Stay Guest Linen Program:

For long stay guest we automatically change the bed linen every third day, if you wish the frequency of this to be changed please inform reception and we would be glad to oblige.

Becoming Carbon Neutral - Declining service Program:

Our aim is to become carbon neutral by the end of 2012. Our commitment is to purchase and plant trees to off-set the hotels carbon foot print each year. One tree planted counteracts one ton of carbon over its life time. You can participate by off-setting your carbon footprint while you stay with us by declining to have your room serviced, if staying with us more than one night, or by placing a donation in our donation box to purchase trees at reception.



By placing the declining service tag on the door handle outside your room, housekeeping will not enter and will log it on their rooming list. The housekeeping manager tracks the rooming list and for every declined room the hotel will donate €3.50 to purchase trees on your behalf.

Environmentally Friendly Activities around the area:

There are a number of activities that you can enjoy in the hotel and in the surrounding area, here are a sample of what you can do:

- ❖ Garryvoe Beach, Killeagh woods, Ballymaloe School Gardens, Ballycotton cliff walk, Cobh Heritage Centre, St. Colman's Cathedral in Clone, Midleton Farmers Market, Cork city jail etc.
- ❖ We can also organise packages that include Kayaking, SCUBA diving (PADI certified), Surfing etc, in conjunction with Munster Dive and Canoe at the hotel and using the hotel pool.

For further information we have additional information in the guest directory plus at reception.

Local Produce:

We are proud to be in East Cork and promote local produce. Our Kitchen design their menus with this in mind and we work closely with local producers such as, the Village Green Grocer, Shannagarry Smoked Salmon, Ballycotton Seafood, Tom Kelly Butcher, Ballyburden Meats, Tim O's Cheese, Midleton Eggs, Jameson Distillery to name but a few. If you have any further queries on local producers, cheese makers, farmers markets, etc. Please do not hesitate to ask our restaurant managers or at reception.

For Conferences and Wedding:

We would be delighted to discuss with you in further detail ways to make your events kinder to the environment. From organic food and high quality local produce, to environmentally conscious wineries, to reducing your need for paper and hand outs for delegates to name but a few idea