

BALLYNAHINCH CASTLE HOTEL & ESTATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY 2026

Ballynahinch is set in a private 1500-acre estate of woodland, rivers and walks in the heart of Connemara, Co. Galway. This authentic and unpretentious Castle Hotel stands proudly overlooking it's famous salmon fishery, with a backdrop of the beautiful 12 Bens Mountain range.

We recognise the impact of our operations on the environment and are committed to identifying and minimising any detrimental effect that may occur. In line with our long history in care for the flora and fauna of Connemara we will continually strive to improve our environmental practices in a range of areas including energy, waste management and water usage. By working together, we can contribute to a cleaner and safer environment and ensure environmental issues remain a focal point and receive due attention.

GREEN INITIATIVES IN THE HOTEL:

- An active Green Committee with representatives from all departments
- All Team Members are trained and briefed periodically on the hotel's environmental policies and best practices implemented by Team Members.
- Team Members are actively encouraged and rewarded for promoting, suggesting & implementing new environmental best practices
- Energy efficient lighting throughout the hotel's back & front of house
- A recycle program for paper, metal, plastic, glass, polystyrene & food waste is implemented in the hotel, we offer WEEE Recycling facilities to all our staff and guests.
- The hotel hot water and heating system is heated through a biomass heating system using pellets made from compressed organic matter
- Wastewater is treated and sanitized on-site before being returned to the estate's ecosystem
- Composting of all applicable waste in our gardens, kitchens, restaurants, guest rooms & offices
- All hotel nurseries, herb and vegetable gardens are planted and maintained on organic principles, eliminating the use of all unnatural & harmful fertilizers
- Use of produce from the estate's own herb and vegetable gardens in our kitchens. Additionally, our kitchen team forages the estate's grounds for ingredients.
- As much as possible of our food is sourced from local producers thereby reducing carbon footprint, and impact on the environment
- Products such as meat, fresh fish, smoked fish, salads, eggs and cheeses are mostly from the locality. As much produce as possible is sourced from small artisan producers.
- Supplementing our firewood by using the estate's naturally fallen timber for use in our fireplaces
- Organic food and beverage options are used where available and applicable
- Our onsite Solar Array generates approximately 25% of our hotels annual energy

requirements.

- Rainwater recycling to use for watering some of our vegetable growing.
- Throughout the life of the hotel our planting & estate maintenance has created a renewed habitat for birds and other native Connemara wildlife.
- Installed 4 EV charging points, each point can be used by all types of electric cars in the hotel's main parking area to encourage further use of electric cars
- All hotel's staff and guest shuttle services are done with the hotel's own electric shuttle van
- We have joined the Clean the World Project. An initiative of 8100+ hotels and resorts worldwide. We are recycling our soap and bottled hygiene products and eliminating its use as single-use plastics. All soap is recycled into new bars, and all bottles are recycled and distributing them to children and families in countries with a high death rate due to acute respiratory infection (pneumonia) and diarrheal diseases (cholera).
- The hotel is committed to digitalizing workflows, information-sharing & reporting. This
- transformation of all administrative tasks will result into a paperless work environment
- We support environmentally sustainable tourism by encouraging guests to walk or cycle while staying at the hotel. Complimentary bikes are available for residential guests.

CONSERVATION EFFORTS

While Ballynahinch Castle has always embraced our rich fishing heritage and provides the platform for anglers to participate in some of Ireland's finest fishing, we also recognise our responsibilities to ensure our salmon populations are maintained and even improved

- The Hotel's fishery has implemented a strict catch and release policy for its entire catchment.
- Fishing at the hotel follows the licensing and guidance from Inland Fisheries Ireland at all times
- We are working together with the local fishing community known as the Ballynahinch Catchment Co-operative with the collective aim of improving the wider Ballynahinch Catchment and increase the number of salmon in the river in future years.
- A professional ecological engineer is working with the hotel, the catchment cooperative and Ireland Inland Fisheries on habitat restoration.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS:

- We are committed to reducing its environmental impact through better efficiencies in the use of energy and the minimisation of waste, packaging and water usage.
- We have set ourselves reduction targets for each key area in the hotel and are actively working with our Team Members and Guests on reaching these goals.
    - Further reduce our landfill waste by 17% by the end of 2026
    - Further reduce our food waste by 15% by the end of 2026
    - Further reduce our water usage by 7% by the end of 2026
    - Further reduce our energy usage by 7% by the end of 2026
    - Move to 100% usage of BioLPG to further reduce our carbon footprint
- Raise awareness with our colleagues and provide environmental impact & reductions training for 100% of our Team Members to meet our collective environmental objectives.
- Never stop exploring ways to minimize the use of energy, water and raw materials.
- Comply with local and national government environmental legislations, plans and policies.
- Engage our guests, suppliers, team members and partners in our efforts to protect the environment.
- We are members of Green Hospitalities 'Plastic Smart' program with the aim of removing all single use plastics from the business.

OUR FUTURE OBJECTIVES:

- To further reduce our energy usage and lower dependability on fossil fuels
- We are investigating the feasibility of expanding our Solar Array and installing geothermal.
- To further reduce our waste generation particularly food waste.
- To eliminate remaining single use plastic products throughout the estate by the end of 2026
- To eliminate non-native & invasive species and replacing them with native trees throughout our estate grounds by implementing our rhododendron removal plan.
- Provide opportunities for guests to carbon neutral their visit
- All internal communications to be fully paperless by 2026

GREEN HOSPITALITY PROGRAMME

We are members of The Green Hospitality Programme which is the only Irish developed environmental certification standard for the hospitality sector. The GreenHospitality.ie Awards are recognized both nationally and internationally as standards that allow members achieve good environmental performance and allow visitors to choose "Greener" hospitality businesses knowing that defined criteria are being implemented and monitored

GUEST FEEDBACK

Guest feedback is important in helping us maintain and improve our products and services, including our environmental practices. All guests are given a Customer Feedback Form and are encouraged to complete it.

RESPONSIBLE MARKETING

We use web-based marketing activities as much as possible and have a strict policy of not using mailshots. We keep in contact with regular customers through the use of e-zines. Recycled paper and card are used in the printing of brochures and leaflets.

CULTURAL RESPECT AND AWARENESS

Staff at the hotel are encouraged to be respectful of the culture of visiting guests. Equally, guests are encouraged to be respectful and aware of local culture and sensitivities. Guests are encouraged to interact locally in pubs, or through traditional music and dancing or local events such as sporting activities.

