



Environmental Policy Statement

“We recognise that our business has an important role to play in protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations and to help secure the long - term sustainability of the Tourism Industry”

Working Together

We collaborate with all stakeholders to collectively develop the Geopark as a sustainable tourism destination. We attend as much training and networking events as possible throughout the year as well as participating with sub groups formed from Burren Eco Tourism Network.

A cared-for landscape

We actively participate in conserving our natural and cultural heritage. We will take part in clean ups, adopt a hedgerow scheme and we have adopted the Leave No Trace principles through the hotel also informing our guests of the same.

A well-understood heritage

We offer quality information and interpretation to communicate our stories and the unique character of our place to guests. The Merriman Hotel has a wide range of tourist information on site with Geopark maps and booklets of information, we also include a Heritage paragraph of info on the Geopark on our guest bedrooms booklets. The Merriman Hotel staff will take part on the 2019 Heritage training organized by the Geopark and already have a deep understanding of the area they work and live in.

Vibrant Communities

We work to ensure that tourism makes a positive social contribution so that it benefits our community as well as our guests. 70% of our suppliers are based in The Burren, we also always promote Kinvara as a destination and not the Hotel itself, we help organize 2 festivals every year, The Fleadh Na gCuach Irish Music Festival in May, the Cruinniu Na mBad festival in August, which is a traditional Hooker Boat Regatta which bring many more guests to our area. We also help fundraise and are involved in sponsorship of many local groups in our area.

Strengthened Livelihoods

We contribute to the local economy by maintaining and supporting local employment, by sourcing services and produce locally wherever possible, and by engaging with other businesses in promoting our region as a sustainable tourism destination. Our staff has increased from 15 Full time employees in 201 to 20 Full time employees currently, also from March to November our staff increases to 45 employees each year. We are part of our own buy local/support local initiative in Kinvara. We also buy local as much as possible, employ local tradesmen when needed and participate in local activities. We would consider ourselves to have an positive impact on the local economy.

Sustainable tourism management

We work to an Environmental Action Plan, which includes actions and targets for improvement that are reviewed annually. We have effective systems for monitoring and adequately managing our waste, water, wastewater, energy, travel impact and purchases. We have just changed every light bulb in the hotel and cannot wait to see the difference in our energy bills. Our next program will be installing sensors and timers on all electrical equipment not required to run 24 hours a day. We will also be implementing recycle bins for guests and giving guests the option of reusing their towels. We also plan on installing water restrictors on all 60 sinks in the building in 2019.

The Merriman Hotel is committed to taking the following actions:

- *To continue sound environmental practices across our entire operation*
- *To produce an annual Environmental Plan setting out our Objectives, Targets and planned Actions*
- *To comply fully with all relevant legislation*
- *To minimise our waste and reduce our water consumption where possible*
- *To reduce, Reuse, Recycle the resources consumed by our business wherever practical*
- *To invite our customers, suppliers and contractors to participate in our efforts to protect the environment*
- *To provide all employees with the training and resources required to meet our objectives*
- *To openly communicate our policies and practices to interested parties*
- *To monitor and record our environmental impacts on a regular basis and compare our performance with our policies, objectives and targets*