



## **Sustainability at the Falls Hotel & Spa**

### **Our Environmental Commitment & Plan 2026-2028**

The McCarthy Family have owned and managed the hotel since 1986 and are proud to continue to live and work from a location that has a history spanning more than four and a half centuries. We believe passionately in maintaining the hotel as a successful business welcoming visitors, providing significant local employment (83 full time and 56 part time as of Jan 2026), supporting local food and drink producers. We contribute to local events and charities including being the main sponsor Ennistymon GAA. Contributing to Restore Ballymacraven River Association, who have planted native trees in the Glen and removed invasive species.

In March 2021, we were certified as a **carbon neutral property** through the Green Hospitality Programme GREENMark. The certificate states that; *'The hotel has achieved a carbon neutral status for Scope 1 & 2 and other direct emissions through the implementation of a comprehensive carbon reduction programme (Carbon Smart), investment in energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy plus carbon offsets'*. In a five-year period, through our green initiatives, we reduced our carbon emissions by approximately 90%. From the moment you arrive on our 50-acre property, you are reducing your own carbon footprint!

We pride ourselves on implementing sustainable development and strive to become as self-sufficient as we can. The management and all our staff are dedicated to conducting business in a manner that reduces our impact on the environment.

#### ***Our core green principals are:***

*The efficient use of energy, conservation of water, minimisation of waste (especially Food Waste & Single Use Packaging), Prevention of Pollution. Encouraging Guests to be more sustainable, green and responsible procurement, and a deep commitment to installing eco - friendly energy production methods*

Not only are we dedicated to becoming "greener", but we have encouraged all our staff, contractors, and suppliers to become involved also.

## ***Our Targets – to 2028***

We have come along way since we started our sustainability journey, and have massively decreased our energy, waste and water consumption figures and we will strive to reduce these further in the next 2 years.

In conjunction with our partners in the Failte Ireland Climate Action Programme we aim to further reduce our carbon emissions by another 1% by the end of 2028. WE hope to achieve this through the production of more green electricity through our 90 solar panels. However, our biggest aim for the next 2 years is to reduce our general waste figures. We are committed to reducing the waste through several measures including increased staff training, customer education and looking at the level of waste coming into the business from suppliers.

Green procurement – increase the level of our sustainable, ecofriendly and/or local suppliers.

## ***What have we already Done? Key Actions***

We are certified members of the Green Hospitality Awards programme which is Irelands leading environmental certification programme for tourism and hospitality.

[www.greenhospitality.ie](http://www.greenhospitality.ie)

In 2018 we spent almost €1m on building a hydro-electric turbine powered by the waterfalls themselves. This long-term investment will see the hotel using renewable electricity with c. 80% created onsite. We purchase 100% Green Electricity when the river water levels are too low for the turbine to operate.

Our heating and hot water systems are powered by 100% BioLPG supplied by Calor Gas Combined this means the hotel has reduced its Scope 1 & 2 Carbon Emissions by 100% since 2018.

We have recently installed 90 solar panels on the hotels extensive roof space, which it is hoped will generate electricity in the summer months when the river level may be low.

We have eliminated single use plastics from the hotel

## ***What are we planning to do?***

To install a glasshouse on the hotel grounds and plant vegetables and fruit that may be used in the hotel. This will be a replica of a glasshouse that would've been on the property in the early 1900s when it was a private house. The frame is now installed and it's hoped to have it in place by late 2026.

## ***What other Actions have we taken***

*There are many smaller initiatives that, when taken together, means we have become more efficient and sustainable.*

### **Water Management**

We monitor our water consumption to detect for leaks

We have tap aerators installed in all our bedrooms to regulate the amount of water used by guests

Our showers and toilets in the leisure centre are sensor operated

We have sensor taps in the public toilets in the hotel

The urinals in the gents' toilets are controlled on a sensor to reduce the water consumption.

### **Waste Management**

We refill individual soap & shampoo containers; there are no single use plastics in our bedrooms

In our bathrooms, we use products from the Co Meath based Handmade Soap Company

We have a towel reuse program in each of our bedrooms

We have recycling bins in our guest bedrooms, giving guests the opportunity to recycle their waste

All our hand paper towels, and toilet paper is Lucart Eco Natural recycled paper

We recycle our light bulbs with WEEE Ireland

We have recycling points for batteries at the reception and at the desk in the leisure centre

We do not sell any plastic bottles the hotel

Our takeaway containers are compostable

Our kitchen monitors food waste so we can try to use up food before it goes off

The kitchen also monitors the waste coming back on guests' plates to see how we can reduce this

All our hotel correspondence, including reservation confirmations and invoices are e-mailed to reduce the use of paper

All our waste is collected by authorised operators who have provided us with their permits

We are members of Repak Ireland

## **Energy Management**

We use 100% renewable electricity, generated primarily from our own hydroelectric turbine, this has reduced our carbon emissions by approximately 80% in a five-year period. We have installed 90 solar panels on the hotel roof.

We purchase 100% Calor BioLPG fuel, reducing further our carbon emissions.

We use LED bulbs exclusively throughout the hotel

## **Green Procurement**

We have implemented a green procurement policy that states:

*'The aim of this policy is to make every effort to purchase and contract products and services purchased that align with the Falls Hotels Environmental Commitment to sustainability. All departments within the hotel will strive to purchase environmentally preferable products and services that align with our values and ethos. '*

## **Destination Sustainability (Community, Biodiversity, Transport)**

We are active members of the Burren Ecotourism Network

We are supporters of, and inform our guests of the principles of Leave No Trace

Our coffee and tea is Fairtrade

We regularly partake in community litter pick ups

We have two electric car charging points on site with fast chargers to be installed through Transport Infrastructure Ireland Grant Aid (it is hoped by the end of 2026)

We have bikes available for guests' use

We have a dedicated wildflower garden on our property

We planted a new orchard in late 2021 and added more trees in 2022 and this past winter (2024) we planted an additional 150 native trees to encourage the red squirrel habitat.

We manage the site for biodiversity (apart from front gardens)

We inform our guest about our sustainable practices, encourage them to do likewise

