



KYLEMORE ABBNEY®

**A story so timeless,
it's still being written.**

Kylemore Abbey Sustainability Policy 2024

1. Sustainability mission statement

To preserve the heritage, craft, beauty, peace and ethos of the Benedictine Estate and in doing so:

- To be Ireland's most memorable visitor experience
- To play a key role in the local economy through leadership, education, sustainability, innovation, enterprise and career development

2. Adoption of the UN Tourism Organisation definition of sustainable tourism

At Kylemore Abbey, we believe that *sustainable tourism is tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social, and environmental impacts while addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment, and host communities (UN Tourism, n.d.)*.

We therefore aim to reduce our negative effects and increase our positive impacts.

3. Our commitment to measuring energy consumption and reduction activities

Energy consumption is measured on a monthly basis. In order to reduce our energy consumption we have the following reduction activities in place:

1. Our electricity across the estate currently comes from 100% renewable energy sources.
2. We have transitioned from heating oil to HVO in the neo-Gothic Church.
3. Our fleet of buses is fuelled by HVO and we have also introduced electric vans.

4. Our commitment to measuring water consumption and reduction activities

In 2020 we installed a new water treatment plant which measures our water consumption on a daily basis allowing for the early detection of leaks. To reduce our water consumption we do the following:

1. Automatic taps are installed in visitor bathrooms;
2. The irrigation system in the Victorian Walled Garden is only used in the early morning or late evening to reduce evaporation;
3. Dishwashers are only operated when full.

5. Our commitment to measuring waste production and reduction activities

Our waste production is measured on a monthly basis, which includes general waste, recycling and organic waste. We are doing the following to reduce our waste production:

1. We have eliminated single use plastic bottles at Kylemore Abbey;
2. We work with our suppliers to reduce waste and we also bulk buy to reduce packaging;
3. All our waste is segregated on site.

6. How we support ethical purchasing

At Kylemore Abbey we have a responsible sourcing policy in place. We also have a supplier code of conduct which outlines our expectations of our suppliers. We buy local where possible and showcase local craftspeople in the Kylemore Abbey Craft and Design Shop.

Our Kylemore Abbey chocolate and soap are handmade on site using ethically sourced ingredients.

7. How we demonstrate social responsibility

At Kylemore Abbey we support local events, sporting teams, and community groups throughout Connemara.

We collaborate with local schools for tree planting and other educational events.

We are committed to attracting, developing and retaining a talented and motivated workforce who are encouraged and supported to progress their careers at Kylemore Abbey and as a result we are recognised as a 'Great Place to Work' ® and as a Failte Ireland 'Outstanding Employer'.

8. How we support biodiversity/conservation

At Kylemore Abbey we have a designated Biodiversity Officer who has developed a biodiversity action plan offering an overview of planned actions, aims, and implementations regarding the preservation, restoration, and promotion of biodiversity on our 1000 acre estate.

We have a Biodiversity Stewardship Partnership with the University of Galway.

A woodland conservation volunteer programme runs on the Estate.

Our Estate is home to half a million native Irish honey bees and a herd of Connemara ponies.

We have a rhododendron removal plan in place.

9. Our commitment to carbon management

We are committed to carbon management and we are currently participating in the Failte Ireland Climate Action Programme which aims to measure and reduce our carbon footprint.

We do the following to reduce our carbon footprint:

1. We have transitioned from heating oil to HVO in the neo-Gothic Church;
2. In 2020 we installed a water treatment plant and all our water is measured on a daily basis allowing for the early detection of leaks;
3. All our waste is segregated on site;
4. We protect and enhance biodiversity on the estate.

10. Our commitment to responsible marketing

We operate in an authentic and transparent manner and with integrity. We remain true and honest to our people, our place, and our identity. We are committed to being the best that we can in everything we do. We treat everybody with equality and fairness and we encourage education, development, collaboration, and teamwork.

11. Our commitment to continuous improvement

Sustainability is a journey of continuous improvement, and while we are doing a lot we are aware that we can always do more.

We are committed to educating staff and visitors in best sustainable practices while continuing to preserve the estate in a sustainable manner.

12. A commitment to reviewing and updating our policy annually

We commit to reviewing and updating this policy on an annual basis.

13. Signature & Date

Signed by:



23/7/2024

Conor Coyne, CEO

Date



23/7/2024

Niamh Philbin, HR & Operations Manager

Date