



CLIMATE ACTION FOCUS AREAS



WASTE
MANAGEMENT



SUSTAINABILITY
CULTURE



TEAM
ENGAGEMENT

CASE STUDY

THE KILLARNEY PARK HOTEL

ABOUT US

The Killarney Park Hotel is a family-owned and run 5-Star hotel close to Killarney Town Centre and adjacent to the Killarney National Park in Co. Kerry. The hotel is a certified Gold Member of the Green Hospitality Programme and is a founding member of the Killarney Hotels Sustainability Group.

“ Protecting the amazing landscape around us here in Killarney is something we’ve always been passionate about... We took a few small steps and started to see real savings. ”

Marcus Treacy, General Manager,
The Killarney Park Hotel

A passion for action

GETTING STARTED

"Protecting the amazing landscape around us here in Killarney is something we've always been passionate about. My personal passion was for improving the efficiency of the business. An element of passion is needed, I think. There was a time when we thought we didn't have time to work on sustainability. We took a few small steps and started to see real savings. Staff felt happy about

working for a business that cared and that was actively working on becoming more sustainable. These two things make it a very easy decision for us to commit to a long-term sustainability journey and challenge ourselves to higher levels of practice."

Marcus Treacy,
General Manager,
The Killarney Park Hotel



LAKES OF KILLARNEY,
CO. KERRY

In other areas...

Killarney Park Hotel sees local purchasing as central to its sustainability policy and buys from many local artisan food producers. To minimise food waste, buffet breakfasts were discontinued, and continental breakfast is now served on an Afternoon Tea tray. The hotel is actively involved in Killarney Tidy Towns, Killarney Meitheal Group and Killarney Town Festivals through the local Chamber of Commerce.



FOCUS ON WASTE

The Killarney Park Hotel took action across a wide range of areas: energy, water, procurement, community, biodiversity. For illustration purposes, the table below focusing on waste-

related activity illustrates The Killarney Park Hotel's systematic approach to costing sustainability investments and quantifying commercial and environmental savings.



CLIMATE ACTION – RETURN ON INVESTMENT

ACTIVITY	INITIAL INVESTMENT	PAY BACK TIME	ANNUAL COST-SAVING AFTER PAY-BACK PERIOD	ENVIRONMENTAL SAVING
✓ Installed on-site water filtration system to offer own still and sparkling water.	€4,000	6 months	€10,000 per annum	✓ Eliminated 52 pallets of glass waste per year (approx. 30 tonnes)
✓ Switched from chemical-based products to GreenClean, a non-chemical cleaning and sanitising product	€5,000	Less than one year	€7,500 per annum	✓ Prevented harmful chemicals entering local waterways ✓ Eliminated over 250 large plastic containers related to previous product
✓ Installed a water fountain	€6,500	1 year and 3 months	€5,000	✓ Removed 7,000 plastic bottles from the hotel each year
✓ Changed to digital newspapers and magazines for guests	€4,000	6 months	€8,000 reduction in waste collection costs.	✓ Removed 5 tonnes worth of paper from the hotel each year
✓ Removed single-use toiletries from bedrooms	€10,000	Less than 1 year	€12,000 per annum	✓ Removed 250,000 small bottles of toiletries from our waste each year. ✓ Demonstrates to guests that the business is trying to reduce its carbon footprint



EMBEDDING A CULTURE OF SUSTAINABILITY

The hotel's General Manager provided the leadership and direction in the early years of the sustainability journey. Working with certification programmes such as the Green Hospitality Programme and Sustainable Travel Ireland provided a framework for mapping the approach. These programmes also provided training and mentoring, which greatly helped expand his knowledge in the area. Gradually, the

responsibility for sustainability was spread into a wider Green Team with representatives from various departments. From there, a noticeable culture shift started to embed itself across the business leading eventually to the appointment of a full-time Sustainability Manager.

Sustainability is now very much a part of the culture at The Killarney Park Hotel. Sustainability Action

Review and Planning is a fixed item on the weekly management meeting agenda. Informal, fun training is provided to staff on a regular basis. Role-playing has been particularly effective for training.

Staff members from various departments get involved in site audits, energy review walks, monitoring meters and all staff are encouraged to share suggestions for improvements.

“ If we had employed a Sustainability Manager earlier, we would have seen results much quicker. ”

Marcus Treacy, General Manager, The Killarney Park Hotel



Top Tip

"Rome wasn't built in a day and you can't do it all at once. Once you get started, one project leads you on to improving another project and momentum builds. Things change step-by-step and piece by piece. We worried about greenwashing. We really wanted to get tangible projects completed with concrete results, and only then start to slowly tell people what we were doing. We find that social media is a great platform for sharing our story."

Marcus Treacy,
General Manager,
The Killarney Park Hotel

About climate action

This case study is part of Fáilte Ireland's suite of climate action business supports, helping tourism and hospitality businesses on their climate action journey.

Find out more at [Climate action \(Failteireland.ie\)](https://www.failteireland.ie)