OUR COMMITMENTS

Sustainability Policy

At Burren Nature Sanctuary we protect and enhance the biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage of the Burren. We run our business so that it benefits our community, our guests and the wider Burren region of County Galway and County Clare. This policy follows the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark Code of Practice for Sustainable Tourism.

1 Working together

We work with others to make our area a sustainable tourism destination.

- We work with local Tidy Towns groups and ACRES farmers.
- We partner with the Plant Sciences department at the University of Galway and the National Botanic Gardens on biodiversity research and habitat conservation.
- We are members of the Burren Ecotourism Network and partners of the Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark.

2 A cared-for landscape

- Our 50 acres have been certified organic for over 30 years, and 25 acres have been left to rewild since 2012.
- We manage a 15-acre orchid meadow for conservation, protect a 3-acre wetland and care for native hazel woodland and stone-walled fields.
- We collect seed for the National Seed Bank of Ireland and grow native plants in the Burren Native Nursery.
- We hold a Leave No Trace Gold Award and ask every visitor to follow its seven principles.
- Each year we clear litter from the 1 km of road between Kinvara and our gate through Adopt a Hedgerow.

3 A well-understood heritage

We share the Burren's rare flora, geology and cultural heritage through on-site signs, guided walks, talks, audio stories and the Living Collection of Burren Flora in the Burren Botany Bubble. Our team trains every year in sustainability and the natural history of the Burren.

4 Vibrant communities

We want tourism to benefit our community as well as our guests. We provide local jobs and are an equal opportunities employer. We work with community groups and local clubs, offer our rooms to community groups at a reduced rate, and make our experiences as inclusive as we can.

burrennaturesanctuary.ie
hello@burrennaturesanctuary.ie

5 Strengthened livelihoods

Over 70% of our suppliers are local. We work with nearby makers, farmers and tour operators, and our shop stocks work by Burren and Galway makers.

6 Resource efficiency and sustainable management

We measure our energy, water and waste every year. Our Sustainability Action Plan sets actions and targets for improvement, and we review it every year.

VISITOR CENTRE BUILDING: A SUSTAINABLE BUILD

Solar power
Solar panels on the visitor centre generate electricity on site.

Air-to-water heat pump
Heating without oil or gas.

Rainwater harvesting
Harvested rainwater flushes the toilets.

High insulation and LED lighting
Less energy used for heat and light.

- **Energy:** we use no oil or gas, and our own car is electric. Our Wild Cabins are off grid and run on solar power.
- **Water:** we keep cutting our use of treated water. Our waste water passes through a biological filter and a sand filter before it returns to the ground.
- **Waste:** our bins are billed by weight and we record every collection. We compost kitchen waste, choose recyclable supplies and aim for near-zero waste.
- **Buying:** we choose local, low-impact and recyclable products wherever we can.

7 Independent recognition

Emerald Award, 2026
Geopark Code of Practice for Sustainable Tourism

Finalist, 2026
All-Ireland Sustainability Awards, Small Business

Finalist, 2025
SEAI Sustainable Energy Awards, Small Business

8 Review and responsibility

The directors are responsible for this policy. We review it, and our Sustainability Action Plan, every year, and we share it with our team and our guests. We welcome feedback at hello@burrennaturesanctuary.ie.

Mary Bermingham, Co-founder and Director

Date