

Sustainability Policy



At Foynes Flying Boat & Maritime Museum (FFBMM) 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. We therefore aim to reduce our negative effects and increase our positive impacts.

In general, FFBM attempts to keep our purchasing needs to a minimum and aims to reduce our consumption by only buying what we require. We thereby follow the key principles of:

- Sourcing products and services locally where possible and giving preference to third-party certified products.
- Purchasing products with less environmental impact in their manufacture, use and disposal, and giving preference to responsible products with less packaging.
- Reducing, reusing and recycling packaging.
- Ensuring that all suppliers adhere to safe and ethical working practices.
- As part of our commitment, we ask our employees both in the restaurant and museum to engage in ethical purchasing practices when purchasing on behalf of the company.

This document outlines FFBMM's commitment to sustainable tourism and hospitality. We strive to minimize our environmental impact, promote cultural preservation, and support the well-being of our guests, staff, and local communities. This policy applies to all our operations, including accommodations, tours, dining facilities, and partnerships with suppliers and local communities.

1. Vision and Values

Vision Statement: "To be a leader in sustainable tourism by delivering exceptional guest experiences while at the same time protecting the environment, celebrating local culture, and fostering community well-being."

Core Values:

- Environmental preservation
- Respect for local culture and traditions
- Inclusive and equitable practices
- Responsible economic growth

2. Key Sustainability Goals

Environmental Goals:

- Reduce energy consumption by 5% per annum.
- Reduce use of single-use plastics by 10% per annum.
- Increase our PV Panel to double capacity (100,000 kvA) within the next two years. See details about roof for reference in section 7- *electrical* – PV Panels)

Social Goals:

- Our organisation currently offers 70% of job opportunities to local residents. We aim to increase this to 85% in the next couple of years.
- Partner with local businesses and individuals to feature their products and services.
- Promote diversity and inclusivity in hiring and visitor experiences.

Cultural Goals:

- Educate visitors about local customs and traditions through guided tours and events.
- Support local heritage preservation projects. Our own project as part of this goal is currently taking place with a final deadline of December 16th, 2024. Funding from The Heritage Council is allowing us to preserve the Maureen O'Hara collection for future generations.

Economic Goals:

- Local suppliers make up 50% of our total suppliers. We plan to increase this to 70% by 2027.
- Implement fair wages and ethical labour practices across all strands of the business.

3. Implementation Strategies

Sustainable Operations:

- Turning off light switches when leaving rooms.
- Unplugging appliances when not in use.
- Setting our laptops to eco mode.
- Installing and maintaining light-emitting diode (LED) light bulbs

Guest Engagement:

- Provide reusable water bottles and access to filtered water stations (please note that there was a community-wide water ban in Foynes from May '23-August '24).
- Where possible offer eco-friendly tours that minimize environmental disruption.
- Include sustainability tips in visitor communications and activities.

Community Collaboration:

- Partner with local environmental and cultural organizations for volunteer opportunities.
- Host workshops for guests on topics such as sustainable cooking or local crafts.
- Participate in local events to celebrate cultural heritage.

4. Measurement and Reporting

Performance Metrics:

- Waste diverted from landfills (in kg/month).
- Local suppliers used (% of total).

Reporting Frequency:

We will endeavour to publish a bi-annual sustainability report highlighting progress, challenges, and upcoming initiatives.

Transparency:

Regular audits will be conducted to evaluate compliance with industry standards.

5. Governance and Accountability

Leadership Roles:

- An appointed team member will oversee the implementation and monitoring of initiatives.
- Form a cross-departmental sustainability committee to gather feedback and drive innovation.

Policy Enforcement:

- Incorporate sustainability goals into employee performance reviews and 1-to-1's
- Establishment of a system for employees, board members and visitors to report non-compliance.

6. Future Commitments

- Continuously innovate to adapt to new sustainable practices and technologies
- Consider partnering with international organizations to support responsible tourism on a larger scale.

7. Action Plan with vision towards these commitments

We are improving our building/facilities energy efficiency in the following ways:

Mechanical

1. Air Conditioning

Exhibit rooms on the ground floor are heated / cooled via a refrigerant-based air conditioning system. This is a VRF system using heat pump technology which are highly efficient and air-cooled combined compressor/heat exchanger units for simultaneous heating and cooling, featuring high COP / EER values.

Target: To install two further air con units. One in the restaurant and one in the Maritime Museum. Outlay €5,500.

2. Ventilation

Exhibit rooms on the ground floor use heat recovery ventilation units that extract heat / energy from the extracted air and get absorbed into the incoming external ambient air.

3. Domestic hot water

Central hot water cylinder served from the gas fired boilers.

Target: Install under-sink heater in the conference room reducing the need to turn on the boilers. Outlay €850.

Electrical

1. Lighting

LED energy saving lighting throughout the new building.

Target: Replace halogen bulbs in the restaurant with LED lighting. Outlay €500.

Target: Upgrade shop lighting and replace with LED tracks. Outlay €1,500. Project is currently in progress.

2. PV panels

PV panels (Electric) were installed on the new roof in September 2023 with a capacity to generate 50,000 kVA producing almost half of the energy needed for the building. Outlay €48,000. Project has been completed.

Target: Increase import from 29 MIC to 120 MIC, enabling FFBM to sell surplus energy back to the grid. Outlay €9,500. Project is currently in progress.

3. Electrical car charging points

Provision of electric charging points in the new carpark will be considered once costed (costing in progress).