Sustainability report - 2023

Clifden Eco Beach Camping and Caravanning Park Sustainable Travel Ireland – Ecotourism - Gold



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1. Reporting context



2. Company data



Clifden Eco Beach Camping and Caravanning Park Grallagh, Claddaghduff H71W024 Clifden

Tourist volume

Number of employees

Type of tourism

Special target groups

Destinations offered

Sustainability coordinator

Kris & Tatiana Acton

3. Introduction



4. Mission statement & policy



- 4.1 Mission statement
- 4.2 Policy

5. Assessment overview

Main theme	Criteria	Completed
Company Characteristics and Engagement	11	11
2. Environmental Management	20	20
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6. Detailed overview



1. Company Characteristics and Engagement

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Company Engagement

Action		Ø	Details
1.1. Sustainability Coordinator Please fill in the details of your sustainability coordinator below. If you want to adjust the sustainability coordinator, please do so in your company profile, under the «Contact tab» in the «Admin section» of TOAST. (see guidance for more info.)	✓	✓	Tatjana & Kris Acton actonsbeach@gmail.com 095 44036
1.2. Sustainability Integration Sustainability related tasks and responsibilities are part of your company procedures and processes. Appropriate responsibilities should be assigned to staff for actions related to sustainable tourism, if an effective internal communication system exists. In larger/complex organisations a sustainability team is established consisting of managers of and/or key departments (e.g. product development; marketing and communication, human resources and internal logistics). The responsibilities of this team should be clearly defined.	✓	✓	As we are only a small business the team consists of the two owners Tatjana and Kris Acton. We consult on a regular basis on our operational structures and procedures and adjust accordingly as required when changes or information become available. Our main focus is sustainability in our business and new ideas or suggestions for improvement are a priority in these consultations. In our meetings, we try to determine specific aspects of sustainability we want to prioritize, such as reducing waste, conserving energy, or promoting eco-friendly transportation. We try to identify areas for improvement in terms of sustainability to refine our practices. We exchange knowledge on the latest sustainability trends and best practices.
1.3. Committed Resources The management commits to provide adequate resources (human and/or financial) for the implementation of the sustainability policy.	✓	✓	Finances: Offsetting of carbon footprint ca. €200 per year, sanitary eco-friendly products ca. €220 per year, cleaning products ca. €100 per year, hygienic fresh water filtration ca. €160 per year



			Human capacity: All visitors are given between 5-10 min information regarding the sustainability of the business, operations and procedures. Staff are committed to ensuring that all waste leaving the business is recycled. Therefore 30 min each day is committed to ensuring proper and thorough recycling of waste bins. Staff are also engaged in Beach Clean duties either by themselves or in combination with visitors. We are proactive in our management of resources. We are and have been setting aside finances to further improve our sustainability this includes commercial PV array, ocean source heat pump and technical advice and tutoring for our next level of environmental certification, notably our IE (ISO1401) certification.
1.4. Trained Sustainability Coordinator/Team The sustainability coordinator (or team, in case of larger companies) has successfully completed the basic TOAST Green Leader Assessment.	✓	✓	- Tatjana and Kris Acton have had 1:1 training with Mary Mulvey under the initial Eco-Tourism Ireland Certification Training. - Green Leader Assessment Certification Green Leader cert.pdf
1.5. Additional Training The sustainability coordinator, key staff members and/or management have received additional training/education related to sustainable tourism management and health & safety issues (e.g. ISO 14001, university courses, specific courses).	V	✓	 Leave no Trace: Tatjana Acton, 2014 An Teasce Clean Coasts Galway, 2016 Live on Machair, Department of the Environment 2022 Carbon Offsetting Sustainable Travel Ireland 2022 Failte Ireland, Business training Failte Ireland, Date Protection Failte Ireland, Health and Safety



			- Failte Ireland, Covid-19 - Safety Ireland, Covid 19 - Climate Ambassador Training Training Certs.pdf SouthPole_Certificate.pdf Green Leader cert.pdf
1.6. Mission Statement A sustainability mission statement is defined and published on the company's website(s).	✓		We endeavour to bring people back to the simplicity of camping to show them how nourishing, empowering and relaxing it is to immerse yourself in nature. We are very fortunate to live in this amazing location, which has a tremendous positive impact on our mental and physical wellbeing and we love to share this experience with our visitors. We hope that a pure nature experience brings our visitors closer to their surroundings by inspiring and encouraging them to leave with the knowledge that it is important to preserve the environment as a whole and hopefully implement some of our policies into their everyday lives. https://clifdenecocamping.ie/ecotourism/
1.7. Sustainability Policy The company has a written sustainability policy which reflects the company structure and activities, and is supported by top management. The policy aims for a reduction of the negative social, cultural, economic and environmental impacts of the company's activities, and includes employee related health & safety aspects.	✓	✓	https://clifdenecocamping.ie/ecotourism-policy/ Clifden Eco camping health _ Safety statement .docx Employment and HR Policy.docx



1.8. Communication The sustainability policy is accessible to all employees, suppliers and the general public via the company website(s) (where no website exists, via other means).	✓	✓	https://clifdenecocamping.ie/ecotourism-policy/
1.9. Collaboration The company is actively involved in external forums and working groups which are supportive to sustainability in tourism.	✓	*	We are actively engaged with An Taisce/Clean Coasts Ireland eg. Beach Cleans/documentation. Failte Ireland: Engaged as a case study for Failte Irelands new climate strategy. We were singled out by the Tourism Board (Tina O'Dwyer) as best practise for the implementation of their climate strategy plan 2022. Tourism Ireland Paris/France: We have worked with the international section of the tourism board (Clodagh Smullen) in promoting and providing a sustainable carbon neutral holiday for french tourists visiting Ireland. Department of the Environment: Live on Machair, participated at meetings on the protection and preservation of Machairs in the Connemara area, having particular regard to the impacts of tourism on these sites both authorized and unauthorized Tina O_Dwyer Email.pdf Eithne Davis Emails.pdf Tourism Ireland emails.pdf
1.10. Exchanging Knowledge Experiences, training materials and best practices concerning sustainability are shared with other companies and stakeholders.	✓	*	Failte Ireland: Case study Tourism Ireland: Supporting sustainable green tourism in Ireland Department of the Environment: Machair matters



			Ecotourism Ireland: We were activily engaged with promoting the benefits of Ecotourism with business partners on Inishbofin Ireland We have always given guidance and information to businesses interested in sustainability and membership association of Sustainable Travel Ireland. this has taken the form of telephone consultation and on-site visits to our premises eg Meath Ecopark Motorhome Park, Sleep Hollows Campsite, Aran Glamping & Camping and other private individuals for new Eco-start ups. Tina O_Dwyer Email.pdf Eithne Davis Emails.pdf Tourism Ireland emails.pdf
1.11. Public Reporting The key sustainability results are reported to the public at least every two years and are available on your company website. The company must also report its progress to Sustainable Travel Ireland via TOAST at least every two years.	✓	✓	The completion of the renewal for the TOAST Sustainable Travel accreditation will facilitate this request in full



2. Environmental Management

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Environmental Management Systems (EMS)

Action		Ø	Details
 2.1. Documentation An environmental impact management plan & reduction strategy is documented, which identifies environmental impacts in the key areas outlined below. Key Areas: Use of energy. (e.g. fuel, electricity) Creation of waste, including food and solid waste. Use of water and water stewardship measures, including risks and climate change weather events, and indicating water source. Use of detergents and disinfectants. Impact on wildlife / biodiversity. Sewage / grey water effective treatment - visual inspection/record of treatment systems. Pollution from greenhouse gases, noise, light, run-off, erosion, ozone-depleting compounds, and air and soil contaminants. 	>	>	We confirm the use of an EMS, please find Exel sheets attached Environmental Management System EMS.xlsx _1xlsx
2.2. Minimising Impacts The Environmental Management System details how environmental impacts are being minimised and avoided in the key areas below. Key Areas:	✓	✓	Please find outlined in Environmental Impact Plan as uploaded



 Use of energy (e.g. fuel, electricity) Creation of waste, including food and solid waste Use of water and water stewardship measures, including risks and climate change weather events, and indicating water source Use of detergents and disinfectants Impact on wildlife / biodiversity Sewage / grey water effective treatment - visual inspection / record of treatment systems Pollution from greenhouse gases, noise, light, run-off, erosion, ozone-depleting compounds, and air and soil contaminants 			
 2.3. Impact and Integrity Site selection, design and access have taken account of visual amenity, landscape, cultural and natural heritage, and the protection of biologically sensitive areas and the assimilative capacity of ecosystems. The integrity of archaeological, cultural heritage, and sacred sites has been preserved. The integrity and connectivity of natural sites and protected areas has been preserved. Threatened or protected species have not been displaced and impact on all wildlife habitats has been minimised and mitigated. Watercourses / catchments / wetlands have not been altered and run-off is reduced where possible and any residue is captured or channelled and filtered. Risk factors (including climate change, natural phenomena, and visitor safety) have been assessed and addressed. An impact assessment (including cumulative impacts) has been undertaken and documented as appropriate. 		\	Please find the outline in the document uploaded Impact and Integritiy TOAST 2.3.docx
2.4. Incident reporting The Environmental Management System includes details of a system whereby environmental impacts/incidents are reported to management (by	✓	✓	We have implemented a system where visual monitoring and checks are carried out on a daily basis by management. This relates to waste water pumps and pump stations, fresh water extraction, inspection of pitches to ensure no unauthorized use of campfires or prohibited use



staff, guides, visitors etc).			of single use BBQ's, also general observation regarding dog poo and other waste eg. litter. Observation of disposal of onsite waste, monitoring of general purpose waste i.e. two bag system general waste and mixed recyclables. Motorhome black water: this is monitored on a strict basis where, if there is any dought as to what type of toilet additive they have the additive is inspected by staff to accertain if it is eco-friendly or not. All environmental impacts/incidents should be reported to the parks reception and are documented accordingly. In general incidents are mostly observed by management/staff.
2.5. Action Plan The Environmental Management System includes a documented action plan programme to ensure that environmental impacts are being addressed.	✓	✓	Please find our Environmental Impact Plan attached
 2.6. Annual Review The EMS will be reviewed annually by the business and will be developed following input from staff from all departments of the business. Your business should agree that your Environmental Management System will be reviewed on an annual basis and include the following: A clear statement that the activities of the company do not jeopardise the provision of basic services, such as water, energy, or sanitation to neighboring communities. Energy consumption should be measured, sources indicated, and measures to decrease overall consumption should be adopted. The use enewable energy will be pursued. Water consumption should be measured, sources indicated, and measures to decrease overall consumption should be adopted. 	✓	~	The business declares it will review the EMS on an annual basis and will confirm and report any or all points outlined in its criteria. We confirm that the activities of our business do not jeopardise the provision of basic services, such as water, energy, or sanitation to neighbouring communities. We can also confirm that we have instructed expertise in the fields of hydrogeology, waste water management and ecological preservation and have received reports that prove that our business is not having any negative impacts on the community.



 Greenhouse gases/carbon emissions are measured and offset. This needs to be communicated clearly with evidence of carbon calculators used and chosen offset scheme/s named. The EMS should have been developed following input from all departments of the business. A formal review of your performance against your goals and objectives should be carried out annually at a minimum. 			
2.7. Carbon Offsetting Your business ensures greenhouse gases/carbon emissions are measured and offset. This needs to be communicated clearly with evidence of carbon calculators used and chosen offset scheme/s named.	1	✓	At the beginning of every season base data is collected and recorded from the following: Water metre, electricity metre, waste calculation and collection, business trips, office supplies etc The annual carbon footprint is calculated and offset by Southpole Global. SouthPole_Certificate for offsetting 2022.pdf
2.8. Input sources The plan will be developed following input from staff from all departments of the business.	✓	✓	Our micro business is a family business, mainly consisting of husband and wife and the help and support of our teenage children. We all regulary engage in the day to day running of the business, in particular the improvement of the environmental aspects. Outside influence is taken from annual site visits from EHO and guidance from local authority environment in addition to help from our environmental hydro geologist and ecologist. We endeavour to make improvements on a continuos basis with the help of external professional supports.

Staff awareness of & engagement with environmental impacts

Action	0	Details



2.9. Climate Change All staff should have a basic understanding of the current climate change debate and the impact of tourism on climate change (particularly in relation to air travel) including risk and crisis management.	Y	~	As a micro business with two stakeholders, we actively inform ourselves on the rapidly changing environment of climate change. This involves being informed of new developments, statistical reporting and projected outcomes as well as seeking out new technology and grand aid support in helping the business to improve its environmental policies and operations in achieving environmental best practice. To educate staff we will inform our staff with videos such as the following: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uynhvHZUOOo https://youtu.be/USRyrBgtwDE https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Lnkl_1b2dc
2.10. Carbon Footprinting All staff should have a basic understanding of how people can calculate the carbon produced by their participation in the product and how this can be offset.	~	✓	As a microbusiness, we initially took it upon ourselves to become carbon-neutral premises in 2014. We achieved this by educating and familiarising ourselves with the future impacts of climate change and global impacts. We collaborated with Myclimate Switzerland in achieving this objective. Resulting in carbon calculation, carbon mitigation and carbon offsetting. In addition, it provides a basis for visitors to offset their own carbon in a simplified matter. We have continued this approach since we initiated our carbon neutrality. We have updated our proficiency by participating in online training. The last training we participated in was the Carbon Management Course provided by Sustainable Travel Ireland on 24th March 2022.
2.11. Carbon Measuring All staff should have a basic understanding of carbon measurement and reductions which can be made towards carbon neutrality.	✓	✓	We engaged with MyClimate at a meeting in Germany and subsequently MyClimate representative from Switzerland visited our Park. Detailed discussions took part in best practices in our microbusiness. Additionally, we have recently participated in online training in 2022 with Sustainable Travel Ireland and currently the business offsets through Southpole Global. To reduce energy there are
			Low-energy bulbs and solar lighting together with sensors No heating is used in the



facilities Hot water management – wash at minimum effective temperatures using Eco programs and thermostatic mixing valve Providing soft water to appliances If possible only use appliances with AAA energy ratings Visitors are given the option to dry their clothes on clothesline instead of using the dryer Visitors are given information about how to save electricity, especially for camper vans and caravans A high-efficiency (96%) oil burner is used to create hot water Highly efficient water pumping equipment is used in addition to pump protection Keeping artificial light to a minimum No electricity is provided to tents Low Ampere powerpoints We are trying continuously to rethink energy sources and are trying to find the most suitable and sustainable up-todate system for our campsite To minimize waste creation we Buy in bulk where possible and practical – so reducing packaging Recycling paper/cardboard, plastic, glass, cans/tins, printer cartridges, batteries Sending correspondence and booking confirmation forms by email Dispose of batteries and electric equipment at the local recycling facility Dispose of low-energy bulbs responsibly In order to reduce plastic waste from water bottles we are selling reusable water bottles at a permanent discount price A "No Recycle, No Stay, No Refund" policy has been applied

2.12. Energy & Water

All staff should have a basic understanding of the issues surrounding energy and water use by tourism and specific measures taken by the product to address these.

As we are the authors of our water conservation policies and implementations of same we are acutely aware on a practical level of how to manage and conserve water for our guests.

To reduce and minimize the use of water on the campsite the following steps are taken:

We make guests aware of water conservation in the bathrooms and in the kitchen We advise them that the water is soft in nature thus allowing for less shampoo, watching detergents etc. We have installed water-saving appliances such as push buttons in the showers and sinks and dual flush buttons in the toilets to minimize water consumption Due to the quality of the waterless hygiene and disinfection products are needed and



	less water used
	Environmental Impact Plan 2023.docx

Waste/Water/Energy Minimisation

Action		Ø	Details
2.13. Waste reduction A resource minimisation action plan is in place that includes measurement, reduction, reuse and recycling. A. How the organisation in its operation and delivery manages to reduce waste/water/energy/food (including solid waste).	✓	>	Buy in bulk where possible and practical – so reducing packaging Sending correspondence and booking confirmation forms by email Encourage visitors to separate rubbish by explaining them pre arrival and on arrival how to separate the waste and the importance of this. To further encourage this, it is a requirement that all campers use two separate waste bags. All visitors are informed before arrival of the quality of our water and the bottle ban thus discouraging campers to bring plastic bottles or big plastic polypropylene/nylon bottles to the campsite We don't allow disposable BBQ's on the campsite, visitors are encouraged to use our fire pits with sustainable wood and firelighters to reduce waste or one approved by us. We have been in contact with local supermarkets to encourage de-packaging of produce at the store. Supervalu went on board with us and have bins available since we spoken to them (ca one year ago), Lidl and Aldi told us they were doing their own waste reduction schemes & not de- packaging at store. However, when Supervalu implemented the scheme, Lidl and Aldi followed suit month later. Environmental Impact Plan 2023.docx



2.14. Reuse

A resource minimisation action plan is in place that includes **measurement**, **reduction**, **reuse and recycling**.

B. How the organisation in its operation and delivery manages to **reuse** waste /water/energy/food (including solid waste).

✓

Soil waste from facilities: Collected and processed into compost and fertilizer

We reuse black refuge bags as often as is possible We reuse any jars available and give them to the local farm who sell the homemade jam on the site We have a system where campers can exchange or donate items they no longer need, such as camping gear, books, or cookware Offer campers the option to rent reusable camping gear (tents, cooking equipment, etc.) rather than buying disposable alternatives. This reduces the consumption of single-use items. When renovating or constructing new facilities within the park, we will prioritize the use of recycled or reclaimed building materials.



Environmental Impact Plan 2023.docx

2.15. Recycling

A resource minimisation action plan is in place that includes **measurement**, **reduction**, **reuse and recycling**.

C. How the organisation in its operation and delivery manages to **recycle** waste/water/energy/food (including solid waste).



Buy in bulk where possible and practical – so reducing packaging Recycling paper/cardboard, plastic, glass, cans/tins, printer cartridges, batteries Sending correspondence and booking confirmation forms by email Dispose of batteries and metal responsibly Dispose of low-energy bulbs responsibly Encourage visitors to separate rubbish by explaining to them pre-arrival and on arrival how to separate the waste and the importance of this. To further encourage this, it is a requirement that all campers use two separate waste bags. In order to reduce plastic waste from water bottles we have introduced a ban on single-use water bottles. We sell sustainable reusable water bottles at a permanent discount price in order to encourage visitors to use reusable bottles. We have sold over 4000 bottles since 2013; this has reduced the waste of thousands of plastic bottles taking refills into account, this has a long-term positive impact as visitors have converted to using reusable bottles and will use these bottles for several years & then recycle them. Provide visual evidence from our beach with the effects plastic is having on a day-to-day basis All visitors are informed before the arrival of the quality of our water and the bottle ban thus discouraging campers to bring plastic bottles or big plastic polypropylene/nylon bottles to the campsite Visitors are encouraged to dispose of their ashes from the campfires correctly by returning the fire pit with the ash. This is achieved by taking a deposit resulting in no ashes being dumped on the habitat site or beach and signing on to our campfire criteria. We don't allow disposable BBQs on the campsite; visitors are encouraged to use our braziers with



		sustainable wood and firelighters to further reduce waste. We attach an information pdf about the campsite with the confirmation booking email, informing campers of our waste policies for example to bring two different types of plastic bags to help with recycling and the non-disposal of single-use plastic water bottles on site. We are continuously rethinking our policies in this matter and are thinking at the moment of a way to encourage campers to separate waste by providing bags/bins. We also provide a specific litter beach bin. Environmental Impact Plan 2023.docx
2.16. Single use plastics The organisation should have a No Single-Use Plastic Policy.	V	Buy in bulk where possible and practical – so reducing packaging To reduce waste from plastic water bottles and utensils we have introduced a ban on these products. We sell sustainable reusable water bottles at a permanent discount price to encourage visitors to use reusable bottles. We have sold over 4000 bottles since 2013; this has reduced the waste of thousands of plastic bottles taking refills into account, this has a long-term positive impact as visitors have converted to using reusable bottles and will use these bottles for several years & then recycle them. We also provide utensils for campers in our kitchenette. Provide visual evidence from our beach with the effects plastic is having on a day-to-day basis All visitors are informed before the arrival of the quality of our water and the bottle ban thus discouraging campers to bring plastic bottles or big plastic polypropylene/nylon bottles to the campsite We don't allow disposable BBQs on the campsite; visitors are encouraged to use our braziers with sustainable wood and firelighters to further reduce waste. We attach an information pdf about the campsite with the confirmation booking email, informing campers of our waste policies for example to bring two different types of plastic bags to help with recycling and the non-disposal of single-use plastic water bottles on site. We are continuously rethinking our policies in this matter and are thinking at the moment of a way to encourage campers to separate waste by providing bags/bins.
		We are committed to implementing a No-Single-Use Plastic Policy, striving to eliminate the procurement of single-use plastic items whenever feasible, and actively promoting and



encouraging our guests to refrain from bringing single-use plastic items onto our premises.

Environmental Impact Plan 2023.docx

Environmentally friendly fuels/technology in transportation

1

Action		0	Details
2.17. Biofuels Evidence of biofuels in use e.g hybrid/electric vehicle.	✓	1	We have purchased an EV to minimise emissions and we are signed up for green energy with our provider. Electric car.jpg

Use of on site renewable technologies

Action		0	Details
2.18. Energy solution	1	V	We have signed up with Energia for a green energy supply.
The business administrative base has adopted an on site renewable energy			
solutions.			
Such as one from the following list:			
A Solon movem demostic bet water			
A. Solar power domestic hot water			
B. Central heating (biomass)			



C. Electricity generation (wind & photovoltaic)		

Use of non-motorised transport

Action		Ø	Details
2.19. Public transport The ecotourism product is designed to minimise the environmental impact of transport. Visitors are provided with detailed information on how to arrive at their destination by public transport (Specifically trains, buses and regional airports).	¥	✓	Travelling to the west of Ireland is never an easy issue to address especially travelling to a campsite, as most visitors have to bring a lot of items (i.e. tents, sleeping bags, supplies etc.). Bearing this in mind, we have developed an ecotourism product that makes it easy for campers to camp without motorized transportation in the following ways: Offer visitors a pick up and drop off from and to the local bus station with our electric car when arriving by public transport Offering packages with the use of bikes to explore the countryside and get supplies if needed from the local shops Encourage car pooling amongst guests when taking local tours Offer lifts into local towns when shopping or socializing Organize group pickups of individual guests where practical Offering a package where visitors can rent camping equipment to make travelling by public transport easier, convenient and more desirable Include in our package the use of bikes The campsite is located on the main Atlantic Way route, which is also a national cycling route. Visitors can make use of a number of different routes from the campsite, which are also incorporated in our ecotourism package.
			Our guests can check all options on public transport on our website as follows: Public Transport to Clifden Ecobeach Things to know before you go.pdf



2.20. Non-motorised transport

The ecotourism product makes maximum use (greater than 50%) of non-motorised transport in its operation.

For example: canoeing, cycling, trail riding, walking, etc.

'

<u>Bicycle Rentals:</u> We offer bicycle rental services to guests in conjunction with our customised cycle routes to explore the surrounding area, access nearby attractions, or simply for getting around the campsite. Providing rental bikes encourages guests to use them instead of their cars.

<u>Walking Trails:</u> We provide maps, and information about local hiking opportunities to make it easy for guests to choose walking as their preferred mode of transport.

<u>Shuttle Services:</u> We offer electric shuttle services to transport guests and their gear. This reduces the need for guests to use their vehicles to come to the campsite. In addition to shuttles to local bars, restaurants and sites of interest.

<u>Electric Vehicle Charging Station:</u> While not non-motorized, providing an electric vehicle charging station promotes eco-friendly transportation for guests who own electric cars. This helps reduce the carbon footprint of those who use motorized transport.

<u>Public Transportation Information:</u> We provide information about local public transportation options, such as buses or trains, that can help guests arrive at the campsite or explore nearby areas without using their cars.

Offer Activities: We offer activities such as self-guided nature walks and bike tours.

<u>Amenities Within Walking Distance:</u> We ensure our guests know that essential amenities like shops, post offices, restaurants, and local attractions are within walking or biking distance from the campsite. This makes it more convenient for guests to choose non-motorized transportation options.

By implementing these measures, we offer sustainable and eco-friendly transportation alternatives, reducing the environmental impact of our operations while providing guests with enjoyable and responsible ways to explore the surrounding area.



Omey Island Walk self guided.docx



			Aughrus Cleggan Beach Tour text.docx
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3. Responsible Marketing

6

Reporting and communication

Action		Ø	Details
3.1. Sustainability policy	✓	✓	https://clifdenecocamping.ie/ecotourism-policy/
A company sustainability policy, which details how the business is			
upholding the principles of sustainable tourism, has been drafted and is			
available to guests. The policy should focus on the following themes:			
			Engaging Staff in Sustainability:
• Environmentally sustainable practices			
Natural area focus			We provide all staff with training and awareness about our sustainability objectives and our
Interpretation and education			sustainability policy. We encourage staff to contribute their ideas and suggestions for
Contributing to conservation			sustainable practices. We work on continuous improvement by regularly reviewing and
Benefiting local communities			updating sustainability practices and policies and encourage staff to participate in this process.
Visitor satisfaction			
Responsible marketing			Communicating Sustainability Efforts to Guests and Partners:
Cultural respect and awareness			
• Evidence of engagement process with stakeholders including guests and			We display our sustainability policy on our website and use clear and engaging language to
staff			convey our commitment to sustainability. We engage with guests through signage, in-room
			materials and staff interactions. We inform them about sustainable practices within our
The organisation must also communicate this sustainability policy, actions,			organization and encourage their participation. We use social media and content marketing to
and performance to stakeholders, including customers, and seeks to engage			share stories, updates, and tips related to sustainability. We actively seek feedback from guests
their support.			on our sustainability efforts. This helps us to make continuous improvements. We collaborate
			where possible, with sustainability-focused organizations and suppliers, and highlight these
			partnerships to showcase our dedication to sustainability.



Responsible Marketing and Communication

Action		3	Details
3.2. Look and feel The look and feel of marketing material is appropriate with regards to environmental sustainability. For example: 100% recycled, FSC approved paper, printed both sides, environmentally friendly ink etc.	~	Y	All our marketing and promotions are internet based through Our website National Tourism Board Social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, LinkedIn etc. Online camping guides Numerous links, message boards and forums We use only a very limited amount of flyers, and if flyers/posters are used, we use recycled paper and recycle, reuse and reduce materials to a minimum, where the production is climate neutral Buy in bulk where possible and practical – so reducing packaging We are looking into more sustainable inks but have not found a suitable product for our printer yet, however, we do only a very small amount of printing as we try to do all our business and promotion online Use only light, non-glossy Recycling paper Sending correspondence and booking confirmation forms by email We were looking into e-brochures but have decided that we don't need them as the website is enough to give all the information needed
3.3. Access information Access information is provided for persons with special needs and is conspicuous	*	Y	Our website prioritizes accessibility for individuals with special needs, making it a welcoming and inclusive platform. It features a user-friendly design with clear, easy-to-read fonts and high-contrast colours for improved visibility. We have adapted concise and easy-to-read text, supported by pictorial information. Additionally, our site provides alt text for images, ensuring that screen readers can convey the content effectively. Users can also navigate the site using keyboard shortcuts, enhancing the experience for those who rely on alternative input devices. Overall, your website is special needs-friendly by embracing universal design principles, ensuring that everyone can access and benefit from its content. The business has applied for permission from the planning authority to upgrade our sanitary facilities which will include disability access. If approved we will be then in a position to provide a disability access certificate.



Social sustainability is also part of our concept and we are currently in contact with relevant departments and agencies to employ people with disabilities to find attractive and local jobs. It is envisaged this type of employment can be allocated as day structure positions or as training positions. We are committed to training adults with disabilities who need support at various levels in order to enable them to make the transition to the open labour market. 3.4. Product outline We are committed to communicating in an honest and clear manner our ecotourism Promotional materials are accurate and complete and do not promise more product. We are aware of greenwashing practices and bearing that in mind our marketing and communications plan entails the following: The businesses main marketing channel will provide the following: Our marketing is highly targeted to our client group Our website has an Eco information section, a Carbon offsetting scheme • Description of the product on offer • Description of how the product is run in an environmentally friendly and displays our Environmental policy

> Our website is continuously monitored and adjusted to keep up to date with target clients and new designations We have a policy of linking up with as many relevant websites/blogs of environmental/Conservation and responsible travel organizations as possible We have also links available on our website about general ecotourism and ecotourism organizations All pictures published on our website are taken by us or visitors who get the opportunity to publish them directly onto our website Nearly all the photographs published on our website are from the campsite and if not they are from relevant surrounding areas such as neighbouring beaches or villages We aim to give our visitors as much information as possible about the site or surrounding areas by providing them with maps, guides books or reports from universities that have visited our site A nature diary is available for visitors We have published links on our website with information on ecotourism and other information that is relevant to the ecology of our site and the surrounding area. We inform all visitors on arrival about the dangers that storms can pose and give them a choice of a sheltered pitch or one with a view, some of which are not sheltered Affiliated with Failte Ireland (Green Hospitality) and Wild Atlantic Way

than can be delivered by the business.

- manner
- Description of how people will experience nature
- Description of what visitors can expect to learn about/gain insights into
- Description of how the product promoter contributes to conservation
- Description of how the operation of the product benefits the local community
- SMS Policy, actions, and performance

A Responsible marketing and communications plan must be documented and include the ecotourism experience and highlight the communication tools used such as social media/websites/blogs etc.





Responsible marketing and communication plan.docx

Exclusive use of web based Marketing

1

Action		(Details
3.5. Paperless marketing Marketing of the ecotourism product is achieved entirely using the web and avoids the production of brochures, flyers, and other paper-based promotion.	✓		All our marketing and promotions are internet based through Our website National Tourism Board Social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, LinkedIn etc. Online camping guides Numerous links, message boards and forums

Developing international Cooperation

- 1

Action		0	Details
3.6. Marketing channels	1	^	All of the below and more are linked through our website eco links:
The operators' main marketing channel should incorporate at least two of			
the following:			https://www.sustainabletravelireland.ie/
1. Means of accessing additional information about ecotourism			https://iwdg.ie/
organisations (e.g. The International Ecotourism Society, Sustainable Travel			
Ireland).			https://www.responsibletravel.com/
2. Means of accessing additional information about general ecotourism			
(Books, articles, websites, events etc).			www.irishseedsavers.ie/ www.saveourseas.com/



3. Links to websites/blogs of environmental conservation organisations.		
4. Links to organisations that promote responsible Travel.		
5. Other.		



4. Procurement

4

Environmentally preferable purchasing

2

Action		②	Details
4.1. Purchasing policy A green purchasing policy is in place that encourages the purchase of ecofriendly goods and Services at all levels of the operation. This should include the purchase of renewable energy and energy efficient equipment (eg. A rated appliances) and waste prevention including food waste (accuracy of quantities required within food item's shelf life).	✓	✓	Please find our Purchasing policy in the uploaded documents Green purchasing policy.docx
4.2. Ethical trading During its operation the business makes use of goods that have been labelled as being ethically traded (e.g. Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, etc).	✓	✓	The only products applicable, we use are coffee, tea and sugar that we provide for our guests. The items are as follows: Lidl Deluxe Fairtrade Tea Lidl Deluxe Fairtrade Coffee Gem Organic Granulated Sugar (There was no Fairtrade sugar available in Clifden but we will keep looking for better options)

Use of eco-labelled accommodation

- 1



Action	B	3	Details
4.3. Certified accomodation As a component of the delivery of the ecotourism product, tourist accommodation that has been accredited with a recognized eco labels such as the EU Flower or GSTC is used to provide lodgings.	✓	1	We are affiliated with cross-border eco-certified Caravan&Camping (http://www.rushinhouse.com/). Where practical and subject to availability eco-certified accommodation takes precedence on referrals. A list of these is on our website. Where this is not available we carry out our own investigations as to what other alternatives are available in the best interest of sustainability. If going on business travel we try to use GSTC approved accommodation wherever possible.

Promotion of ecolabels for tourist accommodation

Action		3	Details
4.4. Sustainable Travel Ireland Label Any accommodation used by the business promoter will be encouraged to adopt a suitable sustainable tourism ecolabel.	~	*	It's a priority of Ecobeach Park to prioritise eco-certified accommodations and suppliers/products. We do this through conversations with our guests at the park in addition to our website and various social media platforms. When engaging with third parties that supply information to the public we continuously demonstrate the importance of being eco-certified as opposed to not being eco-certified. We have engaged with Failte Ireland and Tourism Ireland as an eco-certified case study during detailed discussions with these bodies we have emphasized the significance and importance of being independently certified by a third party. As this separates the eco-certified product from greenwashing.



5. Customer Experience and Education

24

Appropriate interpretive plans in place

1

Action		0	Details
5.1. Authenticity	1	1	Please find all information in uploaded document 5.1 Authenticity
The organisation values and incorporates authentic elements of traditional and contemporary local culture in its operations, design, decoration, cuisine, or shops.			5.1 Authenticity.docx

Use of personal interpretation

Action		3	Details
5.2. Personal encounter	✓	1	
The organisation includes one item of personal			
encounter/guiding/instruction from skilled staff.			As part of our ecotourism product, we have an onsite guide who demonstrates the educational
For example:			benefits of sea bathing and hot seaweed baths by explaining how these practices can promote physical and mental well-being, citing scientific research on the therapeutic properties of seawater and seaweed, and highlighting historical and cultural significance, all while providing
•Guided Tour			practical insights and safety precautions for a comprehensive understanding of these traditional
•Educational Course			wellness activities.
•Lectures or talks by experts			
•Demonstrations			We offer two self-guided tours (in English, French and German) for walking and
•Field Trips			cycling to give visitors the opportunity to explore the local history and folklore of the
•rieid Trips			cycling to give visitors the opportunity to explore the local history and folklore of the



•Other	area We have a variety of field study guides and nature diaries available for visitors. Some of this information is also available in French. We have information specific to the Machair site, the unique geology of the site and additional data on all ecological sites within a five-mile radius and the Connemara National Park on public display. We always encourage visitors to visit the National Parks interpretation centre which offers a great source of information on Ireland's unique peatlands. Every year we involve children in competitions with environmental, ecological or historical themes to learn more about environmental issues or the area. It is an objective of the eco-park to have at least one member of staff in addition to interested guests accompany lecturers on field trips to the eco beach. This can entail detailed information about the geo-site and habitat site. As part of carrying out the future development of the park, we deal constructively on a 1-1 basis with hydrogeologists, environmentalists and individuals trained in general aspects of a business.
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Use of non-personal interpretation

Action		Ø	Details
5.3. Non-personal information	1	1	- Pre-Visit Materials: on confirmation of booking the guest is sent extensive information about
The organisation allows visitors access to atleast one informative item of			the park via pdf file (uploaded)
non-personal interpretation.			
			- Self-guided nature trails: We offer two self-guided tours (in English, French and German) for
For example:			walking and cycling to give visitors the opportunity to explore the local history and folklore of
			the area.
• Pre-visit materials (e.g. briefing information)			
Travel library available			- Reference Materials: A nature diary and other biodiversity material is provided to the visitor
Suggested reading lists			at the park
Self-guiding nature trails			
• Interpretive visitor centres			



 • Museums trips • Art galleries • Multimedia displays • Reference materials • Other 	Omey Island Walk self guided.docx Aughrus Cleggan Beach Tour text.docx
	THE WILDLIFE IN MACHAIR.docx
	all the year birds_1docx
	Bumblebees.pdf
	butterflies.pdf
	Fish.pdf
	Seashells.pdf
	Seashells.pdf
	Things to know before you go.pdf

Presenting culture and heritage

Action		0	Details
5.4. Interpretive Plan	\		Please find our Interpretative Plan with the relevant information on page 1 attached in the
A current documented interpretive plan is in place which include a section			uploads
detailing how the plan will be implemented. The plan should include the			
following:			



 Research carried out Products' target audience Main themes and messages of the interpretation Goals and objectives of the interpretive experience Structure of the interpretive experience (e.g. guided tour, demonstration, course) Special features of the interpretation (e.g. visual, fun, interactive etc) Communicating the principles of ecotourism The significance of the ecotourism area Monitoring and evaluating the interpretation Improving the interpretive experience over time 		Interpretative Plan 2023.docx
5.5. Implementation The current documented interpretive plan will also include a section detailing how the plan will be implemented including any reference where relevant.	Y	Please find information in Interpretative plan with the relevant information on page 2 as uploaded Interpretative Plan 2023.docx

Interpretation towards special interest groups

Action

Details

S.6. Special interest groups
Interpretation is provided for at least one of the following groups:

Non-English Speakers

Non-English Speakers

Children

People with special needs

Educational groups

Details

Non-English speakers: - through the website in german and french in addition to staff having language translation apps

https://clifdenecocamping.ie/willkommen-bei-clifden-eco-beach-camping-caravanning-park/

https://clifdenecocamping.ie/bienvenue-a-clifen-eco-beach-camping-caravanning-park/



Other specific target groups	- self-guided tours in German and French
	- in German by the staff itself
	Self-guided tours can also be used by the deaf community

Interaction with other visitors

Action		0	Details
5.7. Social interaction	✓	_	We endeavour to bring our sustainable product across to various groups who are interested in
Visitors experiencing a Sustainable Travel Ireland Ecotourism approved			the great outdoors. We achieve this through creating special event weekends eg. ISKA "Come
product are given the opportunity to socially interact with another group of			and try it" weekends, hillwalking groups, foraging, Galactic Irland stargazing etc. Guests are
like-minded visitors who are experiencing a different accredited product at			informed about other guests that are staying at the park that have similar interests.
the same time.			
E.G., By bringing two or more groups together for a barbeque, picnics,			Comet Gazing.jpg
visiting rural pub's, traditional music session, play, etc			~ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
			Galactic Sky.jpg
			Sumeric Sky.jpg
			ISK A 2022, ing
			ISKA 2022.jpg
			Yoga on the Beach.jpg



Provision of newsletter for past and future visitors

1

Action		0	Details
5.8. Newsletter Information on new ecotourism experiences and other informative information is provided to past and future visitors in the form of a newsletter.	>	*	We cover this extensively through our social media platforms, Facebook (15,000 followers), Twitter (3,500 followers), and Instagram (5,600 followers). This achieves a better rate of exposure than just a specific newsletter via email which tends to either remotely get looked at or deleted. Social media platforms are a highly informative means of exposure. However, we have on occasion used this method in relation to awards etc. Newsletter Outsider Award.png

Code of Conduct

Action		0	Details
5.9. Leave no trace Visitors should be made aware of the guidelines outlined in the "Leave No Trace" code of conduct.	✓	1	https://clifdenecocamping.ie/leave-no-trace/ This is also on public display on the information board at the park.
5.10. Wildlife No species of wild animal is acquired, bred or held captive, except by	√	1	To preserve the important flora and fauna of the site, we have adopted a policy to space all campers at designated locations well apart and advise them to only use designated walkways.



authorized and suitably equipped persons and for properly regulated activities in compliance with local and international law. Housing, care and handling of all wild and domestic animals meets the highest standards of animal welfare. The organization is aware of, and complies with, relevant laws and regulations concerning captive wildlife.			We have also tried to keep all development on the site to an absolute minimum. We have no hard standings for campervans and caravans keeping the site as natural as possible and preserving the natural habitat of the site. In keeping the land as natural as possible it is our policy to bring campers back to nature by giving them a "real camping" experience and doing nature-based activities but fundamentally providing a semi-wild camping environment.
			We are dedicated to abstaining from the acquisition, breeding, or captivity of any species of wild animals as a component of our activities. We remain well-informed about the relevant laws and regulations concerning the captivity of wildlife and the welfare of animals.
5.11. Artefacts Historical, natural stone, fossils and archeological artefacts are not sold, traded, or displayed, except as permitted by law.	✓	✓	We can confirm that no historical and archaeological artefacts, natural stones or fossils are sold, traded or displayed at the park save in accordance with the law. We are dedicated to complying with all rights and laws governing artefacts and archaeological objects discovered on our property. We will abstain from any sale, trade, or exhibition of these findings unless we secure proper authorization in accordance with both local and international legislation.

Ensuring visitors' time is spent in nature

Action		0	Details
5.12. Time in nature	1	1	The business operates a unique Camping and Caravanning Park in that it provides a semi-wild
The organisation ensures that the majority of each visitor's time is spent in			experience to its visitors in that its environment is highly natural based so visitors' time is spent
nature (i.e. >51%).			in the natural environment.



Personal interpretation - 25 visitors per guide

1

Action		S	Details
5.13. Group size In general, ecotourism products involving personal interpretation with a guide will have no more than 25 visitors per guide (e.g. walking tours, gastronomic trails etc).	✓	*	We agree that we don't exceed the mentioned maximum number of participants per guide and we do advise educational group visitors of this policy. https://clifdenecocamping.ie/seaweedhottubs/

Ensuring visitors' personal experience of nature

Action		0	Details
5.14. Local experience	1	1	Through our customized self-guided tours the eco-park supports the following local
To ensure that visitors are given the chance to fully appreciate the local			experiences: secluded area visit, beach, country lane ramble, bogs/wetlands. The guest is
environment, the product should afford visitors the possibility of directly			afforded our customized self-guided tours incorporating the above areas. In addition, guests are
experiencing at least one of the following:			advised to visit the Connemara National Park for the bogs/wetlands experience and Cliff top
			walks with hilltop views.
Secluded area visit			
Broadleaf woodland walk			www.clifdenecocamping.ie/eco-adventure-camping
Cliff top walk			
• Beach			
• Hilltop view			
Country lane ramble			
Lakeshore ramble			
Organic farm walk			



Bogs /Wetlands		l
		l
		l

Personal interpretation specialist Guide - 15 visitors per guide

1

Action		S	Details
5.15. Group size Products involving personal interpretation with a specialist guide (e.g. canoeing, climbing, etc) will meet regulatory requirements for qualified instructor to participant ratios. There will be no more than 15 visitors per guide.	*	\	We agree that we do not exceed the mentioned maximum number of participants. We have implemented these specialised guides at the park ie. seaweed bath experience and confirm that the highest standards of requirements are met. https://clifdenecocamping.ie/seaweedhottubs/

Monitoring of visitor satisfaction

Action		0	Details
5.16. Measurement Customer satisfaction is measured and corrective action taken where appropriate all participants are given the opportunity to fill out a questionnaire asking them about their experiences of the ecotourism product.	\	*	The visitor receives a link when booking to give feedback, the visitor also is asked to give feedback through other channels like TripAdvisor, Google, Facebook etc. Please find our feedback form as follows: Feedback form online Feedback form.docx



Information provided on local heritage

Action		Ø	Details
 5.17. Accurate information Visitors are provided with accurate information and/ or interpretation that provides the potential for better understanding and appreciation of local heritage in two of the following areas: Sacred sites Local myth, legend and romance Local history Local folklore Local food culture Local famous/infamous sons and daughters past and present Music & song Dance Ethnic Communities 	>	✓	We offer two self-guided tours (in English, French and German) for walking and cycling which gives visitors a better understanding of • Sacred sites • Local myth, legend and romance • Local history • Local folklore • Local famous/infamous sons and daughters past and present Omey Island Walk self guided.docx Aughrus Cleggan Beach Tour text.docx
5.18. Good practises The organisation follows international and national good practise and locally agreed guidance for the management and promotion of visits to indigineous communities and culturally or historically sensitive sites in order to minimise adverse impacts and maximise local benefits and visitor fulfilment.	✓		The enterprise does not impede local residents' access to historical, archaeological, culturally and spiritually important sites. We acknowledge the importance of following international and national good practices and locally agreed guidance for the management and promotion of visits to indigenous communities and culturally or historically sensitive sites to minimise adverse impacts and maximise local benefits and visitor fulfilment. As part of our commitment, we educate and inform our guests on best practice conduct before recommending visits to such sites or communities. https://clifdenecocamping.ie/ecotourism-policy/



Development of key product groups

Action Details 5.19. Key product groups Clifden Ecobeach is a hub for marine activities and is nationally and internationally recognised The organisation has a strong emphasis in at least one of the following as an important facility in the interest of marine activities. Numerous kayaking groups visit the park every year in particular ISKA which contributes significantly to RNLI fundraising at the product groups: Park. Archaeology Bushcraft Surfing ISKA 2022.jpg • Astronomy • Vernacular architecture • Bird watching Marine activities Gastronomy Social History

Use of a cycle network

Action

5.20. Cycling routes
The business incorporates cycling on a National Cycle Route or similar as part of the visitor experience.

We provide self-guided cycling tours, which are on a National Cycle route and provide bike rentals for these.

Aughrus Cleggan Beach Tour text.docx



Encouraging purchase of local arts and crafts

1

Action		(2)	Details
5.21. Local products Visitors are given the opportunity to purchase locally produced arts and crafts based on an area's nature, history and culture.	Y	*	Visitors can purchase photographs taken by local artists in form of cards and pictures, homemade honey and jam made by locals with indigenous ingredients, and knitted hats and socks made by locals at the Park. In addition, visitors are given detailed information on specific Arts & Crafts shops and locations to visit. Cards and pictures for sale.jpg Hats for sale.jpg Jam sale.jpg Jam sale.jpg

Encouraging purchase of local food

-2

Action		0	Details
5.22. Food events Events are hosted which encourage Local Food eg., Slow Food, G.I.Y Each menu item has a local food item.	1		We encourage all visitors to visit the local food truck Dooncastle Oysters to experience local seafood. Fishermen that use the park also facilitate visitors with freshly caught produce. Organic produce is delivered once a week to the park. We also provide a delivery service for organic produce that is available in Clifden town.
The business should also demonstrate efforts to source local and organic, encourage growers /open days farmers /newsletters.			In conjunction with ISKA, we hold a food event at the beginning of summer every year. This brings guests across Ireland with a few visitors from the continent. Food is prepared and



		cooked at the Park with an evening of celebration with food, music and drinks.
5.23. Selling local food Selling local food at premises/links to their websites	✓	This is confirmed to visitors via our PDF file, "Things to know before you arrive". This gives the guest a pre-determined view of the type of food available in close proximity to the park. https://clifdenecocamping.ie/about-us/ Things to know before you go.pdf

Encouraging purchase of organic food

Action		Ø	Details
5.24. Organic food If your business is certified organic then educational events about organic food/and links to purchase these Organic items are made available. Organic Items should also be included in each menu/picnic options.	✓		We are not certified organic as we don't sell any produce but we allow locals to sell their organic Jam, honey etc. on the campsite. Things to know before you go.pdf



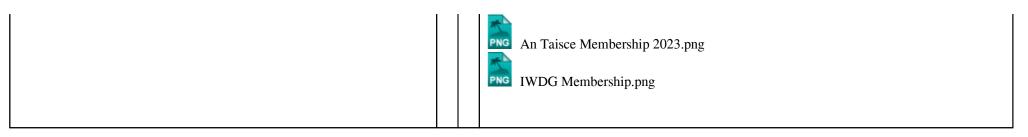
6. Biodiversity & Conservation

12

Business is involved with 'Payback Scheme'

Action		0	Details
6.1. Payback scheme The ecotourism promoter is actively involved in or is operating a visitor payback scheme that channels funds to conservation projects.	✓		We support the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group with yearly donations and are registered members of An Taisce. We do offer complimentary tea and coffee to our visitors with a voluntary donation box for environmental organisations/agencies. An Taisce Membership 2022.png An Taisce Membership 2023.png IWDG Membership.png Donation Box.jpg
6.2. Active contribution The organisation contributes to the protection, preservation and enhancement of local properties, sites and tradition of historical, archaeological, cultural and spiritual significance.	✓	~	We support the Irish Whale and Dolphin group and An Taisce and are a member of their organisation. We are a registered group with Clean Coasts Ireland/An Taisce and maintain 1.5km of coastline on a continuous basis. This is achieved through local and guest participation. We have been awarded by Clean Coasts Ireland/An Taisce Business of the Year for our commitment to maintaining this stretch of coastline. We liaise with An Taisce when and where appropriate in relation to proposed developments and unauthorized developments that may have a negative environmental or other impact on SAC's in the area.





Membership of nature conservation organisations

1

Action		0	Details
6.3. Conservation organisations Within the last year the organisation has paid annual membership fees towards a conservation organisation (e.g. Irish Whale and Dolphin Group (IWDG), National Trust, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds etc).	~	*	We confirm that we pay an annual membership fee to IWDG and An Taisce. An Taisce Membership 2022.png An Taisce Membership 2023.png IWDG Membership.png

Involvement in local environmental/cultural heritage/Spiritual Archeology

	0	Details
✓	1	The Ecobeach has its own group registered with Clean Coasts Ireland. Beach cleans are
		regularly registered with Clean Coasts Ireland for special events in addition to our general
		beach clean practices. We maintain 1.5km of coastline in conjunction with our local authority
		Galway County Council.
	⊕ ✓	1 1



Dune coastal protection: We are continuously maintaining dune conservation by planting marram grass where wind erosion threatens or has caused damage.

Eithne Davis Emails.pdf

Beach Clean up 3.jpg

Beach Clean up 1.jpg

Beach Clean up 2.jpg

Public information event

Action Details Alternatively, we contribute to these events by attending and giving information (eg. Life on 6.5. Conservation event The business organises at least one conservation event per annum from the Machair project 2022). In light of the above requirement, it is the objective of Clifden Ecobeach Park to initiate our own events in the future. This will take place in 2024 in meeting following list: this requirement. • Information event for local farmers' group focusing on conservation • Public information event on local biodiversity and conservation • Public information event on endangered species of flora and fauna • Public information event profiling protected and wilderness areas in the locality • Other

Information available on local flora and fauna



Action Details

Action			Details
6.6. Wildlife information As a component of the business, good quality information should be made available on the flora & fauna that can be seen by guests on a day to day basis e.g. wildlife guides, identification keys, nature walks etc	●	 	We have developed a comprehensive Nature Diary/Biodiversity information outlining all the different Flora and Fauna located within the park. In addition to marine biodiversity all of which is displayed in our public areas. THE WILDLIFE IN MACHAIR.docx all the year birds_1docx Bumblebees.pdf butterflies.pdf Fish.pdf Seashells.pdf
			Seashells.pdf

Litter clean up day organised

Action		0	Details
6.7. Clean up day Within the last twelve months the business has organised or resourced a litter clean up day.	1		We have a beach cleaning station and litter cleaning is carried out on a continuous basis by staff and guests alike. We participate in Clean Coasts' national designated clean-up days and our group is registered for these specific events.



(N.B. These may be joint events with other Sustainable Travel Ireland approved businesses.)

Beach Clean up 3.jpg

Beach Clean up 1.jpg

Beach Clean up 2.jpg

Information on local nature reserves

1

Action		8	Details
6.8. Provided information As a component of the ecotourism experience guests are provided with information on local nature reserves and protected sites (e.g. SAC's, NHA's).	√	✓	This information is provided through our website https://clifdenecocamping.ie/about-us/ and displayed in our public areas. Listed Habitat Sites.docx
			The Rocks of Actons Beach.doc THE WILDLIFE IN MACHAIR.docx

Native tree planting

- 1

Action		0	Details
6.9. Tree planting	1		We donate to tree planting through Trees on the Land and have donated this year, planting 25



Within the last year the business has planted a minimum of twelve native trees. (e.g. oak, ash, beech, hazel etc)			trees. Trees on the Land donation.png	
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Establishment of wildlife areas

Action		S	Details
6.10. Wildlife habitat At the administrative base of the business, an undisturbed piece of land has been set aside to encourage the establishment of wildlife habitat (e.g. ponds, scrubland, wildflower meadow, marsh).	Y		The park is on a machair habitat site. In addition to this, we have set aside an area of land within the habitat known as a salt marsh for these purposes. Machair.jpg Saltmarsh.jpg

Installation of bird and bat boxes

Action		Ø	Details
6.11. Bird and bat boxes	1	_	We can confirm that these have been installed several years ago and are maintained at their
Bird and / or bat boxes have been installed within 3km of the administrative			current location at the park.
base of the business.			
			Bird and Bat Boxes, jpg
			Bit and bat boxes.jpg



Appropriate minimal impact codes identified and adopted

Action		Ø	Details
6.12. Impact measures The ecotourism product shall adopt and implement all appropriate measures from the following minimal impact codes: • Leave No Trace Ireland • Minimal Impact Motor Vehicle Use • Minimal Impact Marine Megafauna viewing • Minimal Impact Bird Watching • Minimal Impact Canoeing • Minimal Impact Mountain Biking • Minimal Impact Bogs, Peatlands and Wetlands • Minimal Impact Caving	>	>	We can confirm that have adopted and implemented appropriate measures that minimise or lessen impacts to the above applicable criteria. Membership leave no trace Kris.png Membership leave no trace Tatjana.png



7. Community Support & Stakeholder Engagement

14

Destination engagement

Action		Ø	Details
7.1. Tourism business network	1	1	Failte Ireland: Driving Action on Climate Change for Tourism Business conference,
Within the last year the business / organisation has been a member or renewed a membership of a tourism business network and attended at least three network events.			Failte Ireland: Environmental Sustainable Practises (Tina O'Dwyer)
unde network events.			Tourism Ireland: Consumer Marketing (Cloddagh Smullen)
			Failte Ireland Driving Action through Climate.png Failte Ireland Tina O_Dwyer.png Meeting Clodagh Smullen.png

Community support

Action		0	Details
7.2. Work experience Within the last 12 months the organisation has provided at least 4 weeks	1		We can confirm that we employed Lara Acton at Clifden Ecobeach Park from June - August 2023 for sustainable tourism work experience.
work experience for people interested in becoming involved in sustainable			



tourism. Work experience should be well structured with clear outcomes.			Proof of Lara Employment.png
7.3. Local development The ecotourism product has been developed by, and is organised and managed by a local community group.	~	Y	ISKA in conjunction with Clifden RNLI ISKA meet registration.png Facebook RNLI.jpg Whatsapp RNLI.PNG

Working with the local community

Action		Ø	Details
7.4. Community development	1	1	We can confirm that we have supported the following local Clifden RNLI, annual fundraising
Within the last 12 months active voluntary participation or sponsorship			supporting the day-to-day operations and functions of the RNLI
should have been provided (by the product promoter) to at least one not-for-			
profit organisation or event that contributes to the development of local			Department of the Environment: Life on Machair 2022, Ballyconnely Community Hall,
communities.			sustainability of Machair and sand dune systems
For example:			Ireland Sea Kayaking Association, annual meet supporting marine activities including sea
Agricultural shows			kayaking and foraging
• Local sports clubs (running, orienteering, gaelic games etc)			
Local historical societies			
• Youth groups			
Local heritage groups			
• Field clubs			IMG_8916.jpg



Traditional music groups		Eithne Davis Emails.pdf
7.5. Supporting rural pubs The ecotourism product in its operation affords visitors the opportunity to spend time in a traditional rural pub.	✓	Our self-guided tours incorporate local pubs and encourage visitors to take lunch there. We also offer a shuttle service to the nearest local village pub and Clifden town. A list of pubs with music is displayed in the public area of the park. Omey Island Walk self guided.docx Aughrus Cleggan Beach Tour text.docx Things to know before you go.pdf

Local employment

Action		3	Details
7.6. Local employment The organisation seeks to provide employment opportunities for local residents in some aspect of the development or delivery of the products and services (e.g. guiding, transport, catering etc.).	V	1	It's an objective of Clifden Ecobeach Park to directly and indirectly support local employment. The campsite currently employs 3 people and we project to employ a further 2 people in the next 1-2 years. This staff will be family and the local community. This includes students with the opportunity to experience ecotourism in practice as part of their university degree education. Social sustainability is also part of our concept and we are currently in contact with relevant departments and agencies to employ people with disabilities to find attractive and local jobs. The park indirectly employs local contractors in upgrading and maintaining its facility. As a micro-business employing, our commitment is to prioritize and support local employment opportunities for residents in our community. We believe in fostering economic growth, strengthening local ties, and contributing to the prosperity of our area. To measure and manage



			this commitment, we will implement specific strategies, these include local hiring policies, collaboration with local organisations and skill development. By implementing these strategies and regularly reviewing our progress, we aim to ensure that our micro-business remains a cornerstone of local employment and a catalyst for the growth and well-being of our community. https://clifdenecocamping.ie/ecotourism-policy/
7.7. Employment of local guides Local guides are employed in some aspect of the delivery of the ecotourism product. N.B. A guide is defined as anyone involved in the ecotourism product who provides personal interpretation to visitors.	✓	✓	We have contracted a local guide who provides personal interpretation to our guests about the benefits and properties of different seaweeds, seaweed baths and wild sea swimming. The guide is a sole trader, trading under Atlantic Seaweed Hot Tubs and operates alongside Clifden Ecobeach. Please refer to independent reviews supporting our combined experiences at Ecobeach. Mark Seaweed baths 1.jpg Mark Seaweed baths 2.jpg

Review of the product by industry professionals

_1

Action		0	Details
7.8. Professional feedback Within the last 12 months a familiarisation visit has been organised for industry professionals who can review the ecotourism product and give	✓		Failte Ireland Welcome Standard: We are assessed on a yearly basis by Failte Ireland on our ecotourism product
appropriate feedback. (e.g. Fáilte Ireland, regional tourism organisation, travel journalist etc.).			Irish Independent Newspaper: Irelands Top 10 Campsites



Connemara FM: Interview on its ecotourism product and awards

James Lakes KCLR96FM: Tourism discussion relating to the best Caravan and Camping Parks in Ireland, a strong emphasis was given to Clifden Ecobeach given its sustainability practises

Clifden Eco Beach Caravan Camping Assessment 2023.docx

Irish Independent Irelands top 10 campsites.PNG

Sharing of visitor satisfaction insights

Action		0	Details
7.9. Insight sharing Within the last 12 months the ecotourism product promoter (or a representative of the product) has shared insights regarding visitor satisfaction with members of their tourism business network. This can take the form of:	*	*	We confirm that on a yearly basis, we participate in detailing visitor satisfaction through repeat bookings and feedback forms. Through this, we correlate all the information and forward the same to Failte Ireland, Camping Ireland and other surveys eg. Red Sea surveys. Please find enclosed the email about the information survey from Failte Ireland and Failte Ireland's Welcome standard assessment. Failte Ireland also engages with us on a one-to-one basis regarding market research.
 A presentation to network members A document circulated to network members A familiarisation trip for network members Other 			Clifden Eco Beach Caravan Camping Assessment 2023.docx Failte Ireland Feedback.png



Working with landowners

Action	1	Ø	Details
7.10. Agreements Any relevant landowners have been contacted and written agreements signed if the ecotourism product makes use of private lands. These agreements would be developed with the consent of and in collaboration with the community.	Y	*	As a policy of Clifden Ecobeach Park, all visitors are advised not to trespass onto private property without the consent of the landowner. In all other cases and as part of our self-guided tours our guests follow routes that are open to the general public. It is an objective and policy of Clifden Ecobeach Park when lending our self-guided tour that all staff advise guests to adhere to the information in the guide and in particular the maps route. In addition where there is fencing and signage guests are further advised not to deviate from their guide and enter these properties. In the circumstances in this area, our guides are specifically designed and detailed to only access areas that are open to the general public. In this way, we neutralize any potential issue with respect to entering private property.

Protected Areas

Action		0	Details
7.11. Land use Appropriate and responsible use of land that has been deemed a protected area is incorporated into the ecotourism experience on offer and the relevant conservation authorities informed of it's usage. E.G. Nature Reserve, NHA, National Trust Land, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.	~	*	Through our self-guided tours visitors are advised that the areas they are visiting are of protected and scientific interest and to respect its natural biodiversity. This is achieved by incorporating the leave-no-trace principles into the guide (last page). The Ecopark meets its obligations in respect of the Department of Environment designations through its consultation with Connemara National Park wildlife rangers. Omey Island Walk self guided.docx



Cross border cooperation

1

Action		Ø	Details
7.12. International collaboration The ecotourism product encourages cross border cooperation by either: Having been developed as a result of a partnership between a combination of promoters North and South or involves activities on both sides of the border in the course of the delivery of the product.	✓		The Ecopark has long established crossborder cooperation affiliations in this respect. We are currently linked to an eco-certified business in Northern Ireland (Rushin House Caravan Park) this is publicly displayed on our website in addition to both businesses displaying each other eco-tourism products at their premises. https://clifdenecocamping.ie/eco-links/

Provide Local Access

1

Action		3	Details
7.13. Local Access There is a statement that the business does not impede local residents' access to historical, archeological, culturally and spiritually important sites.	✓	*	We ensure that we do not impede local residents' access to historical, archaeological, cultural or spiritually important sites (listed Geosite). Local access to this site is considered in any decisions we make about the development and operations of our business. It is an objective and policy of Clifden Ecobeach Park to allow access by appointment. https://clifdenecocamping.ie/ecotourism-policy/

Ensuring staff are appropriately engaged and trained



Action	B		Details
 7.14. Staff Engagement All staff are engaged and have a good understanding of the following: • The principles of sustainable tourism and how the particular ecotourism experience achieves them. • The details of how the ecotourism product contributes to conservation. • The details of how the ecotourism product is ecologically sustainable/environmentally friendly. • Tips and hints on how visitors can minimize their environmental impact while on holiday. • Management of socio-cultural, environmental, health and safety practices. • Staff appraisals and reviews in HR handbooks with relevant training opportunities. • All staff receive periodic training regarding their roles and responsibilities 	★	✓	We confirm that both staff and students are regularly trained and up to date in all aspects of our eco-tourism product. All staff get and have to read the following documents: - Ecotourism Policy - Things to know before you go - Health & Safety Statement - Risk Assessment - Employment and HR Policy All staff are engaged in our sustainability meetings as relevant and practicable.
with regard to human rights issues and risk and crisis management.			Clifden Eco camping health _ Safety statement .docx Risk Assessment Form revised 2022.docx Employment and HR Policy.docx Eco Tourism Policy.docx Things to know before you go.pdf



8. Sustainability Management System & Legislation

7

Sustainability Management System (SMS)

Action		Ø	Details
8.1. Documentation The organisation has a clearly documented and implemented long-term sustainability management system (SMS) that is suitable to the size and scope of your business.	*	*	Environmental Management System EMS.xlsx _1xlsx
8.2. Topics The sustainability management system covers: • Environmental issues • Social issues • Cultural issues • Economic issues • Quality issues • Human rights issues • Health & safety issues	✓	1	Clifden Eco camping health _ Safety statement .docx Impact and Integritiy TOAST 2.3.docx Risk Assessment Form revised 2022.docx Environmental Impact Plan 2023.docx Employment and HR Policy.docx Eco Tourism Policy.docx
8.3. Risk & Crisis Management The SMS includes the consideration of risk and crisis management.	✓	✓	Clifden Eco camping health _ Safety statement .docx Risk Assessment Form revised 2022.docx



			Incident reports.xlsx
8.4. Implementation There is documentary evidence showing implementation of the SMS.	√	~	Clifden Eco camping health _ Safety statement .docx Impact and Integritiy TOAST 2.3.docx Risk Assessment Form revised 2022.docx Environmental Impact Plan 2023.docx Employment and HR Policy.docx Eco Tourism Policy.docx
8.5. Monitoring The SMS includes a process for monitoring continuous improvement in sustainability performance.	✓	✓	Link to online feedback form Environmental Management System EMS.xlsx _1xlsx Feedback form.docx
8.6. Engagement The development and implementation processes for this SMS will / has engaged stakeholders including staff, customers and local communities.	✓	✓	We are committed to the ongoing development and implementation of our environmental impact plan that actively involves and collaborates with our staff, customers, suppliers, and the local community to drive positive change. For instance, we have initiated regular meetings with our employees to gather their insights and ideas on reducing our carbon footprint, launched a customer survey to gauge their interest in eco-friendly products and services and engaged with our suppliers to source more sustainable materials. We additionally engage with visitors who have a background or education in Ecotourism/Sustainability. Through this, we seek current



			and up-to-date methods and procedures. In this way, we are proactively raising awareness about existing and new environmental initiatives.	
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Legal Compliance

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Action		Ø	Details
8.7. Policies	√	1	Please find our policies as follows:
The business has policy documents that are legislatively compliant in all			
areas (1-10) listed below that are relevant to the business.			Health & safety: Attached
			Human resources: Attached
• Health & safety			• Environmental protection: The park is subject to EU habitat directives in accordance with
Human resources			these directives and regulations we employ relevant experts in the fields of hydrogeology,
Environmental protection			environmental science, and planning consultants. The park is inspected yearly by an
• Planning			environmental health officer as part of the local authorities' policy on caravan and camping
• Food safety HACCP			park licenses. Separate documents are available supporting the above.
• Insurance			• Planning: It's a policy of Ecobeach to obtain planning permission where required. The park is
Special needs access and information is provided			compliant in accordance with the planning and development act 2003, Section 39(1) (4).
• Employment policy			• Food safety HACCP: n/a
Compliance with human rights legislation			• Insurance: Attached
• Animal welfare			• Special needs access and information is provided: The park area is compliant with special
			needs access as is practical for the provision of special needs pitch arrangements.
These policies are all available to staff.			• Employment policy: Attached
			Compliance with human rights legislation: Statement below
			Animal welfare: Statement below
			We confirm that we comply with all relevant statutory and non-statutory regulations and
			policies with regard to human rights and animal welfare.



	DOC DOC	Risk Assessment Form revised 2022.docx
	POR	Insurance policy 2022.pdf