



Eco policy

2025 Major Targets (Using 2024 as our base year)

We recognise that our business has an important role to play in protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations and to help secure the long-term sustainability of the Tourism Industry. The Royal Canal Greenway / Old Rail Trail Greenway is a pristine habitat for wildlife and we acknowledge and accept our role in its protection.

To this end Mullingar Bike Hire is committed to taking the following action:

- To achieve sound environmental practices across our entire operation.
- To produce an annual Environmental Plan setting out our Objectives, Targets and planned Actions.
- To comply fully with all relevant legislation.
- To minimise our waste and reduce our water consumption where possible.
- To reduce, Reuse, Recycle the resources consumed by our business wherever practical
- To invite our customers, suppliers and contractors to participate in our efforts to protect the environment.
- To provide all employees with the training and resources required to meet our objectives.
- To openly communicate our policies and practices to interested parties.
- To monitor and record our environmental impacts on a regular basis and compare our performance with our policies, objectives and targets.

1. Introduction

Purpose: This document outlines Mullingar Bike Hires 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.

Scope: This policy applies to all our operations, including Single Day bike hire , Guided group tours , unguided group tours, overnight bike hire and our eco friendly Trailer tent overnight camping experiences , working with our partnerships with all our suppliers ,Local visitor attractions and local communities.

2. Vision and Values

Vision Statement: "To be a leader in sustainable tourism by delivering exceptional guest experiences while 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

3. Key Sustainability Goals

Environmental Goals:

- Reduce energy use by 25% by 2027 through energy-efficient systems.
- Eliminate single-use plastics in all operations by 2025.
- Transition to 100% renewable energy sources by 2028.

Social Goals:

- Offer at least 50% of job opportunities to local residents.
- To continue Partnership with local artisans and businesses to feature their products and services.
- Promote diversity and inclusivity in hiring and guest experiences.

Cultural Goals:

- Support local heritage preservation projects eg Baltrasna Boreen biodiversity group contributing at least 5% of annual profits.
- Educate guests about local customs and traditions through guided tours and events.

Economic Goals:

- Ensure 50% of our suppliers are local by 2027.
- Implement fair wages and ethical labor practices across all operations.

4. Implementation Strategies

Sustainable Operations:

- Install energy-efficient appliances and LED lighting in all facilities.
- Use eco-certified cleaning products and toiletries.
- Implement a robust waste management system, emphasizing composting and recycling.

Guest Engagement:

- Provide reusable water bottles.
- Offer eco-friendly tours that minimize environmental disruption
- Include sustainability tips in guest activities.

Community Collaboration:

- Partner with local environmental and cultural organizations for volunteer opportunities.
- Participate in local events to celebrate cultural heritage.

5. Measurement and Reporting

Performance Metrics:

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

Reporting Frequency:

"We will publish an sustainability report highlighting progress, challenges, and upcoming initiatives."

Transparency:

Regular audits will be conducted to evaluate compliance with industry standards (e.g., Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) criteria).

6. Governance and Accountability

Leadership Roles:

- A dedicated Sustainability Manager will oversee the implementation and monitoring of initiatives.

Policy Enforcement:

- Incorporate sustainability goals with employees
- Establish a grievance system for employees and guests to report non-compliance.

7. Future Commitments

- Expand initiatives to include carbon-offset programs for guest travel by 2028.
- Continuously innovate to adapt to new sustainable practices and technologies.
- Partner with global organizations to support responsible tourism on a larger scale.

8. Appendices

Glossary:

- Carbon neutrality: Achieving a balance between emitted carbon and carbon offsets.
- Cultural preservation: Efforts to maintain the customs, traditions, and artifacts of local communities.

References:

- Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) standards.
- UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) relevant to tourism.

Related Policies:

- Guest Code of Conduct
- Supplier Code of Ethics
- Environmental Management Plan

Signed

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