

2011 Ecotourism Policy Statement for “Burren Painting Centre”

The Burren Painting Centre endeavours to provide an eco-friendly environment for all of its guests. We aim to create a better awareness of the Burren region of North Clare and to protect the fragile habitats within its boundaries. In essence we pursue a policy of sustainable tourism.

We are reducing our use of energy wherever possible, by switching off lights and standby buttons and replacing light bulbs with long life low energy versions. The use of oil is being closely monitored and we are using lower temperature settings for water heating and laundry cycles. The use of water is being minimised by shorter washing cycles, displacement bottles in cisterns and curtailing use of running taps.

We try to reduce our waste and packaging as much as possible. We buy commercial sized containers and recycle most packaging. We have a waste food management policy with our refuse company. Please help with this when you can.

Guests are encouraged to think of their carbon footprint and to use public transport, walking or cycling when possible. We use car-pooling to travel to painting locations.

We encourage the appreciation of the natural beauty and quietness of the Burren, and the enjoyment of the flora and fauna and follow the policy of “Leave No Trace”. Guests are asked not interfere with the stone surface of the limestone pavement, but to appreciate the natural processes of nature and geology.

We endeavour to use locally produced meat, cheese and vegetables and also use the locally smoked fish products. We support local craft producers and visual artists of the Burren area, buying their work from galleries and at craft fairs.

We support the Slow Food movement, the Burren Beo Trust, An Taisce, the Clare Roots Society and Birdwatch Ireland. These organisations help to protect and conserve our environment and heritage. Through the ecotourism network, B.E.N. we participate in ecotourism conservation and the dissemination of the ecotourism ethos.