

## **Green Purchasing Policy**

### **Mission Statement**

Our purchasing policy demonstrates our commitment to environmental sustainability. By purchasing "Green" and "Local" products, we will be playing a significant role in the development of environmental sustainability in our business and in the local community.

### **Goals**

We will promote the purchase of local products. Where no local alternatives are available we'll look for products within county Clare, neighbouring counties and nationally. Giving preference to materials and products with the highest percentage of "green" recycled content available, provided that the products meet acceptable use and performance standards. We'll be actively looking to partner up with companies that have relevant certification and give the same attention to sustainability as ourselves.

### **The Importance of Green Purchasing**

Sustainable development involves using the Earth's natural resources (i.e. both renewable and non-renewable resources) to fulfil our present needs without affecting the needs of next generations. "Green Purchasing" is an important element to achieve sustainable development. Consequently, when one considers buying something, he/she should think about the adverse environmental impacts associated with the product during its full life-cycle.

However, environmentally preferable products are sometimes more expensive to purchase than alternative products. This circumstance can discourage green purchasing by consumers seeking lower costing products without significant environmental benefits. Nevertheless, buying "greener products" doesn't necessarily mean paying more, especially when other cost factors are considered.

It is important to recognize and appreciate that proper and effective green purchasing doesn't simply lead to environmental benefits, but also helps purchasers reduce full life-cycle costs and thus save money.

### **Green Purchasing**

Green Purchasing is the practice of procuring goods and services that cause less harm to the environment, and the living beings that depend upon it for survival. Green Products are those manufactured with more environmentally-friendly materials or which are produced with minimal impact to the environment.

We will strive to purchase materials that are:

- Durable, as opposed to single use or disposable
- Non-toxic, natural and preferably biodegradable
- Highly energy-efficient
- Recyclable or safely disposable
- Made from raw materials obtained in an environmentally sound, sustainable manner
- Manufactured in an environmentally sound manner
- The cause of minimal or no environmental damage during normal use or maintenance
- Shipped with minimal packaging (consistent with care of the product), preferably made of recycled and/or recyclable materials

## **Initiatives**

### **Homemade breakfast products made from scratch here at the B&B**

Following products are homemade from raw materials. Where possible all materials are sourced locally. Materials that can't be found locally are preferably bought from Irish companies.

- Stout bread is made with local stout from the Burren Brewery.
- Brown bread, yeast based made with brewers spent grain.
- Traditional soda bread
- Banana bread and carrot cake
- Yoghurt
- Granola made from brewers spent grain
- Variety of jams and spreads
- Pancakes

### **Some breakfast menu choices:**

- Full Irish breakfast with meats from award winning local craft butcher Neil Hawes.
- Scrambled eggs with organic smoked salmon from local award winning Burren Smokehouse.
- Burren breakfast bun: Homemade bun with a spread from Goats cheese (local St. Tolas) and mustard (local from Clare Jam shop) with lettuce and tomato (from our own greenhouse when possible) bacon (Neil Hawes craft butcher) topped with a sunny side up (free range eggs from local supplier Mick Johnston)

### **Food miles:**

If alternatives are available within the Geopark region we opt to use those products. If not we'll first search in our own county or nationally.

80% of our products and supplies are locally sourced or bought within 30km of our business keeping our food miles low.

### **Toiletries, cleaning products and detergents**

All products are bought from [www.earthmother.ie](http://www.earthmother.ie) who endeavour to source all of their products from ethical businesses that produce natural, organic and sustainable products, ensuring a cleaner, greener world for our children and future generations. They also use minimal packaging when packing orders, they reuse all the packaging they get from deliveries in and they never use plastic - everything is cardboard or compostable.

Products we use from them are all green labelled, natural and biodegradable. Ecover, Ecozone, Sonnett. No harmful products are used within the business.

We opt not to have single use toiletries. Instead we choose to refill existing bottles from big 5liter ones.

Toilet paper is eco friendly and Irish from company Archie&Izzy. For each box of toilet paper we buy, they will plant a tree through edenprojects.org

### **Filtered water.**

We do not buy single use plastic water bottles. Instead we've chosen to install an inline under the sink water filter. This allows us to fill re-usable glass bottles in all our guest rooms.