



Vagabond Tours Sustainability Policy

Vagabond Tours is committed to reducing its impact on the planet, our environment, and the people we interact with on a daily basis. We are dedicated to operating in an environmentally and socially responsible manner while promoting the preservation of Ireland's natural and cultural heritage.

Policy Statement

As one of Ireland's leading inbound tour operators, we are committed to promoting responsible and sustainable tourism practices that preserve the natural beauty, cultural heritage and communities of Ireland.

At Vagabond Tours, we recognise the immense responsibility we have in ensuring that our tours contribute positively to the places we visit and the people we encounter.

Our commitment to sustainability goes beyond words; it is ingrained in everything we do. We are committed to a code of best practice in all aspects of our business, including our relationship with, and effect on, the environment and the communities that we visit.



We believe it is our responsibility to constantly monitor our business methods to make sure that our environmental impact is as low as possible.

We at Vagabond invite you to join us in preserving the wonders of this extraordinary country for generations to come.

We have adopted The World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) definition of responsible tourism:

"Tourism that takes full account of its current and future environmental, social and economic impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and communities" - The World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)

Scope

This policy applies to all employees and all aspects of the company; from the office headquarters to on-the-road guiding. It also extends to our guests, third-party suppliers and the local communities that we visit. The Company aims to minimise the impact on the environment in all areas of operations.

Aims

1. To pursue further environmental certifications and implement best practices. In 2024 we achieved recertification with B Corp. We are currently in the process of STN certification for 2025 through our sister company The Sustainable Tourism Network.



2. We aim to reduce our energy consumption by turning off all appliances in the office when not in use and unplugging all appliances when not in the office. We use Energia, an Irish energy supplier which is 100% renewable. We installed solar panels at our office HQ in 2019. We installed a second set of solar panels at our office HQ in November 2024 doubling our solar capacity. We are aiming for a **1% reduction in energy consumption at our office.**
3. To reduce waste in all areas of the company. This includes all recycling, waste going to landfills, hazardous waste compostable waste and single-use plastics. We are aiming for a **1% decrease from baseline year 2023.**
4. To reduce water in all areas of our company. We are aiming for a **1% reduction from baseline year 2023.** This includes in-office on the vehicles and while on tour. We aim to help our guests do the right thing and reduce water usage while on tour with us. Our Guides have been trained in some water conservation ideas to share with our guests. We will continue to use NoH2O waterless cleaner for the vehicles.

Waste

We have met our reduction target of 1% for waste for 2024. We had an average decrease of 23.5% per employee for waste in 2024.

We have not met our reduction targets of 1% for energy, gas and water for 2024. The reason for this is the office employee numbers have grown from 15



office employees in January 2023 to 26 office employees in December 2024 an increase of 73.33%.

Energy

This employee increase is in line with an increase of approximately 40.98% per employee for energy. Our Total consumption per m2 was 22.06kWh. We are currently under the mean consumption for office buildings in Ireland. (Mean consumption per m2 in office buildings in 2022 (Ireland) was 80 kWh/m2 (CSO. 2023))

Gas

We had an increase of 16.93% per employee for gas for 2024. Our total consumption per m2 was 29.86m3. We are currently under the mean consumption for office buildings in Ireland. (Mean consumption per m2 in office buildings in 2022 (Ireland) was 80 kWh/m2 (CSO. 2023))

Water

We had an increase of 9.09% per employee for water in 2024. Our total consumption per employee was 0.24m3 for 2024. We are currently under the [Waterwise](#) benchmark for offices (0.6m3 of water per m2 office space per annum and 4m3 per employee per annum)

It is not unusual for a company to not meet its reduction targets in the first year of monitoring. As a company grows, these reduction targets may not be met. At Vagabond Tours of Ireland we are committed to consistently improving



our sustainability efforts. We will be reviewing our efforts to see where we can make improvements to meet these targets in the future.

5. To encourage ethical purchasing in all areas of the company.
6. We do not sell any artefacts and encourage our guests to not purchase any artefacts.
7. To support biodiversity and heritage locally.
8. To ensure that promotional work is accurate and realistic.
9. To encourage our suppliers and other members of the tourism-related business community in Ireland to adopt similar practices.
10. To maintain and strengthen our relationships with local communities and local livelihoods by not adversely affecting local access to livelihoods, including land and aquatic resource use, rights-of-way, transport, and housing.
11. At Vagabond we currently do not own any land as part of our operations. If we were to acquire lands in the future we will ensure that we do so in compliance with local communal and indigenous rights including their free, prior and informed consent, and that it does not require involuntary resettlement. In addition to this In the course of our business we do not make use of any private lands. Should this change in the future, we will ensure that we have written agreements from all landowners involved.
12. Vagabond respects intellectual property rights. We aim to ensure that all copyright and intellectual property rights are observed, and necessary permissions have been obtained. E.g. Unsplash a company we use for photos for our website.



13. To regularly review and assess our sustainability practices to identify areas for improvement and to welcome feedback from our guests, stakeholders and the communities we visit to enhance our sustainability efforts. We actively seek their insights, expertise, and feedback.
14. To continue to nurture and respect Ireland's landscape, culture, and heritage (this includes no buying or selling of any artefacts) by bringing and educating our small-group, low-impact tours to rural Ireland.

Implementation

The policy will be implemented in the following ways:

- To continue measuring and monitoring energy and water consumption, and review reduction efforts inline with company growth.
- To continue to monitor waste within the company, and review reduction efforts inline with company growth.
- To share our company Procurement policy for guidelines on ethical purchasing to all staff.
- Committing to support the local communities our tours visit and to integrate feedback from those communities where applicable.



- Continue to support local environmental organisations such as BirdWatch Ireland, The All Ireland Pollinator Plan and Leave No Trace through membership. We also became members of the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group in 2024 and the Landmark Trust.
- Continue to Adopt Leave No Trace principles on all our tours.
- Continue to offset the carbon we cannot avoid each year using only reputable organisations. We will also be considering insetting for years 2024 and 2025.

“Insetting focuses on reducing emissions within a company's own supply chain and activities, rather than offsetting emissions through external projects”

We are trialing HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) for our tour vehicles to replace Diesel in the future. This is an ongoing carbon reduction project with the aim to see carbon reductions over the next few years. We will track this through our carbon footprint consultants at ecollective.

- Continue to reduce our carbon emissions year-on-year in office and on tour. We are aiming to reduce the average carbon footprint per customer per day.
- To dedicate 1% of turnover each year to sustainability initiatives.
- Continue to be transparent about our sustainability goals by sharing our progress, achievements, and challenges with stakeholders, guests and the public.



Rob Rankin

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Owner, Vagabond Tours

Date: May 14th 2025

Edwina Horgan

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Sustainability General Executive

Date: May 14th 2025