

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT

Inagh Farmhouse Cheese Ltd is a company dedicated to producing artisan goat cheese through sustainable farming and production methods. We also offer a unique tourist experience through our farm tours.

In all our endeavours we are striving to minimize our impact that we have on the local and global environment. Our management plan outlines the steps that we have already taken and also the plans that we have for reducing further usage of energy, waste, water and impact on the environment.

We are fully committed to respecting and implementing the Geopark Sustainable Code of Practice for Tourism. This awareness is highlighted to all our staff, visitors and suppliers.

- The Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark – Information and Interpretation
 - Information about the Burren and Cliffs of Moher will be displayed and provided in our interpretive centre
 - All staff have a good working knowledge of the local area and then environment delicacy of the Geopark and are encouraged to pass on this information to visitors
- Leave no Trace
 - We are implementing the 7 principles of the Leave no Trace programme
 - 1. Planning Ahead: We encourage visitors to come on large tours to minimise impact of travel on the landscape and to prepare for inclement weather
 - 2. Consideration for Others: Our tours are largely confined to our farm area, this allows visitors to experience the country side in a way that does not impact on the rural community at large
 - 3. Respect for farm animals

Physical interaction between farm animals and visitors is kept to a minimum
 - 4. Travel and Camp

Trails are established and no new ones are to be made. No camping allowed on site
 - 5. Leave what you find

All staff and visitors are encouraged to respect property, and the environment
 - 6. Waste disposal

All waste is recycled, up cycled or reused as appropriate

- 7. Fire

There are no fires on site allowed.

- Contribution to Conservation

- All farming is done in a responsible and sustainable manner
- All fertilisers are natural and produced on site
- 20 Apple trees have been planted in our site to encourage bees
- .5 acre of willow has been planted to offset our carbon footprint and to encourage drainage on the land
- We are planning an on-site vegetable/flower garden
- Bird boxes have been put up on our sheds to encourage more birds
- We promote conservation and responsible farming in all our tours
- We host an annual free open day every year.

- Energy

We try to keep our energy usage output to a minimum in all areas of production, farming and tourism.

We:

- Use solar panels for heating some of our water
- Turn off all electrical items at source when not in use
- Have insulated the attic
- Have filled the cavity walls
- Have purchased a portable electricity to monitor our consumption
- Run dishwashers and washing machines only at capacity
- Have recently purchased an energy efficient boiler
- Have conducted a recent energy audit
-

Future Improvements

- Improve electricity monitoring in order to identify phantom loads

- Staff will be trained in how to recognised and eliminate phantom loads
- Installation of pvc strip curtains on all fridges (4 large fridges on the premises which according to a recent audit account for 70% of all electricity consumed)
- We will upgrade all light bulbs throughout the entire house to energy efficient bulbs
- A planning application has been lodged for a wind turbine to supply energy to power the entire site
-

- Water

- We have weekly and monthly water checks, which is compared to production output and anomalies as are investigated
- All staff are training in water management
- All clean down uses specified amount of water
- Where appropriate taps are fitted with flow restrictors
- All WC have water usage reduced

Future Improvements

- Exploratory digging has started to dig our own well & should provide half our water usage
- Rain water harvesting for farm wash down purposes

- Waste

- All products that are the by-product of farming and production are treated on site in our custom built aeration tank under the supervision of the University of Limerick
- We recycle or up cycle or reuse all paper, glass, cardboard, glass, plastic and tin cans
- All organic products are recycled on site or composted on site
- All equipment purchased is high quality to ensure a long life

Future improvements

- We will review our waste management programme on annual basis

- Sustainable Transport
 - The company employs 5 full time staff
60% of staff walk or cycle to work
 - The other staff are encouraged to car –pool where possible
 - All tour groups are encouraged to use public transport
 - We use central distribution to large supermarket chains.
 - Local deliveries are on set days so only one trip needs to be made per week
 - 10% discount will be offered to all visitors that arrive to the farm by bicycle

- Green purchasing
 - 90% of our inputs are produced on site (milk!)
 - All fodder for our animals is produced on site
 - Pellet ration is purchased in bulk to minimise transport impact and from a company (BOCM Pauls) with a responsible attitude to sustainability
 - All packaging from Dakota packaging is produced in the most environmentally sensitive way possible
 - All products for our tourist shop are purchased locally where possible and include for 2014 the following
 - Wildes Chocolate from Scarriff
 - Organic Seaweeds from Quilty
 - Goat milk soap from Ballyvaughan
 - Organic Salmon from Lisdoonvarna.

Our team is very enthusiastic about the local area and the Geopark in particular. Membership of the Burren Ecotourism Network will allow us to develop business in a sustainable manner in co-operation with other local businesses and the community.