

The Green Hospitality Programme, Ireland, continues to significantly reduce waste, improve resource efficiency and highlight the green agenda for the Irish Hospitality Sector.

The Green Hospitality Programme (GHP) has been 'Greening Irish Hospitality' since 2004. The Programme provides the Irish hospitality industry with the opportunity to achieve third party environmental certification which is recognised nationally and internationally. It is now one of the most successful certification Programmes in Europe. Members of the programme can attain green certification at a number of levels based on the implementation of a number of strict environmental criteria. The GHP offers an incremental certification (3 stages) allowing members to commence the certification process at a pace that suits their needs and ability. Certified members are recognised both nationally and internationally as committed to actively managing their environmental footprint and are taking specific actions to minimise energy consumption, water consumption and reduce waste sent to landfill. Certification allows members to market their business as green and gain market advantage.

While GHP is a certification body set up in public / private partnership and currently funded by the Irish EPA, it actively promotes resource efficiency in the hospitality sector and requires its members to report annually on their environmental performance through an environmental benchmarking tool. Members of the GHP have reduced their waste sent to landfill by 80% between 2007 and 2010, reduced water consumption by 50% and reduced energy consumption by 20%.

GHP has assisted its members to improve their efficiency through a number of measures which include the certification process itself, regular regional workshops, benchmarking tool, on line resource efficiency calculators, on site resource efficiency assessments, awards ceremonies, best practice guides and case studies. It is estimated that GHP saved its 240 members €6million through improving resource efficiency in 2011.