

## Skerries Mills Sustainability Policy 2026

### Sustainability Mission Statement

We recognize the finite resources of our planet, and this informs our mission to operate ethically, in a holistic and exemplary manner. Skerries Mills aims to implement appropriate sustainable practices across our varying activities and business units. We also aim to expand our educational offerings on topics such as renewable energy and biodiversity.

At Skerries Mills, we believe that *sustainable tourism is tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social, and environmental impacts while addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment, and host communities (UN Tourism, n.d.)*. We therefore aim to reduce our negative effects and increase our positive impacts.

### Ethical purchasing

At Skerries Mills, we are committed to making locally sourced products available to shoppers. We are fortunate to operate in Fingal, an area rich in agricultural land and culture, and we support local farm producers.

- As an attraction with a large Café, we view food through a local lens and are active members of the Fingal Food Circle.
- We host a weekly Farmers Market.
- Our Craft and Gift Shop supports and promotes local handmade ranges.

### Social Responsibility

At Skerries Mills social responsibility is at the heart of what we do every day. We support our community as follows,

- We made a home for Skerries Men's Shed on our heritage lands.

- We have a people-first ethos, supporting diversity, and people with challenges in gaining employment or returning to the workforce. We are linked with several employment projects and are a major sponsor of the local Community Employment scheme.
- We collaborate with and support the Skerries Community Gardens Events here at Skerries Mills, including the annual Wild Bee Festival.
- We host Art Exhibitions in our Watermill Café, giving local artists the space to showcase their talents. Skerries Art School (after-school project) works from Skerries Mills premises, and many local art and craft groups meet here to socialise and share their hobby.

## Biodiversity/conservation

Skerries Mills is a collection of three restored historic structures, two sail mills, and a watermill. The watermill building is the focal point of activity. It includes a museum and café. Yet it is the expansive outdoor areas that allow us to aspire to being leaders in biodiversity action.

We work with Fingal County Council's biodiversity officers and many groups, including Sustainable Skerries and Skerries Community Garden, to action the following on the grounds of Skerries Mills:

- Pollinator-friendly plans.
- Habitat-promoting initiatives.
- A reduced mowing plan and a wildflower meadow.

We further support and conserve Irish biodiversity by offering School Biodiversity Workshops and have worked with the Men's Shed to develop a biodiversity garden which will be dedicated as an outdoor classroom for primary school children.

## Energy consumption

We commit to *measuring* our electricity consumption weekly and do the following to *reduce* consumption.

- Provide infographics and staff training.
- Use all LED lightbulbs
- Reduce the running time of appliances. You may see our aprons on the line, as we've unplugged the tumble dryer.

We have strategically moved from outdated equipment with poor energy ratings, such as refrigeration units, and progressed to A or A Plus energy-rated substitutes.

## Water consumption

We are currently measuring our water consumption.

- We have placed Infographics in key areas such as the Dishwasher and Glass Washer
- We have incorporated the site-specific recommendations of Failte Ireland's Climate Action Plan into plans for the premises.
- We plan to incorporate a rainwater harvesting system within the site.

## Waste reduction

We are currently measuring our waste production.

- In 2023, we implemented a Single-Use Plastics Policy.
- We separate all waste and recycle.
- In 2026, we have committed to design, under the proposals put forward in Failte Ireland's Climate Action Plan, and implement a rigorous Food Waste reduction plan.

We then plan to sign up to the Food Waste Charter.

## Our commitment to carbon management

We are committed to carbon management, and we view the following as some of the actions to reduce our carbon footprint:

- Implementing the recommendations of Failte Ireland's Climate Action Programme.
- Staff training in the reduction of waste, water, and energy.
- We promote active travel and the convenience of public transport for visiting Skerries Mills. EV charging will become available in 2026. Bike racks are already available.

## Our commitment to responsible marketing

We view best practise in Sustainability as a journey of continuous improvement. We know we can't always get things right the first time. We therefore commit to honestly communicating where we are on our journey and our improvements.

## Our commitment to continuous improvement

At Skerries Mills we are committed to having a positive impact on the future and to providing our visitors with a quality experience where they feel assured of a positive environmental and social impact.

We aren't perfect yet, but we are committed to continuously improving our efforts, and accept that we have a lot to learn, and more to do, we remain open to new methods and innovations.

## Our commitment to reviewing and updating our policy

We commit to reviewing and updating this policy annually.

Signed by:

*Mary Jo Sheridan* 16.04.2026

General Manager