

Geopark Code of Practice Case Study

Water Management

Linnalla Ice-cream, New Quay



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Who they are: Linnalla Ice-cream is owned by Brid and Roger Fahy and run from their family farm on the Finaverra peninsula in North Clare which has a history of water shortage until the 1970's. Traditionally a dairy farm from the mid 1800's Brid & Roger started making ice cream in 2006 using the milk from their shorthorn cows which are native to the Burren. The Fahy's are committed to the preservation and sustainability of the coastal Burren, joining the Burren ecotourism network in 2012 and undertaking the Geopark code of practice for sustainable tourism in 2012 has provided them with some tools to take actions in conservation.

What they did: The Fahy's developed and implemented a water management policy which includes leak detection, water tracking and harvesting actions along with the championing of water saving measures to all residents on the Finaverra Peninsula.

The installation of pressure valves ensures that water flow rates are controlled while under sink heaters ensure only the required amount of water is heated. Cafe toilets have been fitted with a short-flush option to conserve water while rainwater harvesting actions sees roof rain water being diverted to a trough for drinking water for the cattle with excess water drained through a gravel and sand bed. All water consumption and flow data is monitored and recorded through two water meters.

Outcome: Linnalla Ice-cream has seen a marked decrease in their annual water consumption and bill along with improvements in water pressure on the Finaverra peninsula.

Top Tip: installing pressure valves means lower pressure and less water used which leads to less energy consumed and lower bills, as up to 30% of household water is heated.