

Energy Management Award

The Boghill Centre, Kilfenora

Geopark Sustainable Code of Practice Award Winner



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Who they are: The Boghill Centre is a residential venue Situated in 50 acres of natural bogland in the Burren & Cliffs of Moher Geopark. Boghill is a small innovative company on the cutting edge of Ecotourism in Ireland who offer a residential venue for learning, training events, retreats and functions. They are committed to running a low cost and low impact ecological activity venue. Making the most of their natural resources their mantra is reduce, reuse, recycle. They are committed to a process of monitoring and measuring their environmental impacts with a view to continual improvement. Members of the Burren Ecotourism Network since 2009, The Boghill Centre participated in ecotourism training provided as part of network membership including the Geopark code of practice for sustainable tourism in 2012.

What they did: The Boghill centre developed an eco-diversification plan following involvement in the Burren Ecotourism Network and conducted an **energy audit** in 2012. The audit gave them a chance to rethink their whole energy use and research indicated the best and most economical solution for Boghill was a **wood gasification boiler system** to eliminate the facility's over dependence on fossil fuels. The audit advised that an integral part of this new system should include **thermostatic radiators valves**, hot water cylinder thermostats and **zoned heating controls** to enable the heating for the centre to be controlled more efficiently. The recommendations were implemented in 2013 and the centre invested in a wood boiler that heats the entire complex.

Outcome: All heating and water is now fuelled by sustainable locally sourced logs rather than oil, thus reducing carbon emissions and the centre's carbon footprint. Visitors also enjoy the pleasant wood smoke and the feel good factor of visiting a place no longer dependant on oil.

The centre is heading towards its goal of being fully independent of fossil fuels and is saving €5,000 per year on their energy bill – the difference between oil and wood costs and including their energy initiatives.

Top Tip: Conducting an energy audit will help you understand where energy is used and which areas are worth focusing on to achieve the greatest savings.