

# Sustainability Policy

## Odyssey International's Sustainability Policy 2024

This document will be reviewed every 6-9 months



### 1. Vision/mission/company ethos

We believe in Odyssey that sustainability should be at the core of everything we do, and each small step we make can be beneficial not only to our environment but also to our product, suppliers and clients.

We, as a company, need to keep educating ourselves and our stakeholders and to engage with our partners to ensure that our goals are aligned.

### 2. UNWTO definition

At Odyssey International, 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 (UNWTO, n.d.). We therefore aim to reduce our negative effects on the environment and increase our positive impacts.

### 3. Continuous improvement

Sustainability is a journey of continuous improvement, but we will keep educating ourselves and staying abreast of newest trends in this area. We are committed to this path and would like to keep bringing our clients to our beautiful island to enjoy its wonder. We acknowledge that to maintain this we need to stay cognisant of the impacts of tourism on our local community. We continue to research new technologies to assist us on our journey. We have cut our printing by 60% over the past 3 years and are committed to decreasing these levels every year.

### 4. Measuring and reducing negative impacts

#### 4a. Energy consumption

We measure our electricity use at Odyssey in the business every 6 months and reduce try to reduce consumption by 3-5% a year. We monitor our bills and have moved to sustainable energy provider and are managing to keep our costs down. Staff are more aware of energy consumption and the importance of turning off pcs and other electrical appliance when leaving the office.

#### 4b. Water consumption

We educate and discuss with our staff water usage and consumption. We put the dishwasher (when full) on a timer to come on at night to be less impactful on the grid. Our team drink tap water rather than buy single use plastic bottles. We have discussed with our partners at hotels and venues about monitoring our client's consumption.

#### 4c. Waste production

We commit to *measuring* our waste consumption every 6 months and *reduce* consumption by using less plastic packaging, more compostable packaging and recycle everything we can. We use eco-bricks, re-use cardboard boxes, recycle batteries (encouraging the team to bring batteries from home) and compost all food waste.

#### 5. Ethical purchasing

At Odyssey we are committed to buying products that are environmentally sustainable whether it's cleaning products, paper or consumables. Our cleaning products are chemical free.

#### 6. Carbon offsetting

At Odyssey we are committed to reducing our carbon footprint as much as possible and to offsetting the remainder with a trusted partner. We are currently working with **Self Help Africa** to offset our travel emissions. They plant trees for us in Ireland and in Africa to offset our carbon emissions. We include tree planting now in all our quotations for 2025

#### 7. Responsible sustainability marketing

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. We commit to ethical holding of customer information in line with GDPR - and that all our marketing information is representative of our company with accurate information. We are committed to making small realistic changes.

#### 8. Social responsibility

As we are aware that tourism activities can have a negative impact on local communities, we support them by getting involved in helping local farmers and Artisan producers when we bring groups to our partners in areas such as Killarney or Wicklow. We are also committed to encouraging our staff to cycle or walk to work as regularly as possible.

- We plan CSR activities for our clients on a regular basis and plan this year to do our own company CSR Activities.

#### 9. Supporting Biodiversity

We support and conserve the Irish biodiversity by tree planting and creating a small wildflower garden in the grounds of our offices.

Signed by:

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