



WESTPORT WOODS IS GREENEST HOTEL IN IRELAND

Ireland's top ten Green Hotels, as verified by The **Green Hospitality** Programme, were announced at the 'Responsible Tourism Conference' which took place in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Golden Lane in Dublin on March 20th.

The **Green Hospitality** Programme has produced its first league table listing for the Greenest Hotels In Ireland. This is based on 2013 environmental benchmark figures produced by Irish hotels that reveal what they are doing to reduce their environmental footprint. Benchmarks for waste, energy, water and carbon footprint were considered. And the Westport Woods Hotel, which was one of the first hotels to join the Programme in 2004, came out on top. The Westport Woods Hotel was rated the number one hotel in the Waste Management category and number one in the CO² Management category. This was achieved by placing a huge focus on energy awareness, energy efficient building design, and the use of biomass to provide heating for the pool and hotel.

In second place was The River Lee Hotel in Cork city. This hotel has been a committed **Green Hospitality** member since 2009 and holds the **Green Hospitality** Gold Award. The Garryvoe Hotel in Co Cork was in third place. A committed **Green Hospitality** member since 2007, the hotel now holds the highest certification level available to



Pictured (l-r): Scott Barclay, River Lee Hotel, Cork City, Michael Lennon, General Manager, Westport Woods Hotel and Duncan Stewart, representing The Garryvoe Hotel, Co Cork at the awards event.

Green Hospitality hotels - the Platinum Award - and even installed one of the first cryogenic CHP plants in 2011.

Ireland's Top 10 Greenest Hotels are: The Westport Woods Hotel, Westport, Co Mayo; The River Lee Hotel, Cork; Garryvoe Hotel, Co Cork; Bewley's Hotel, Dublin Airport; Radisson Blu Hotel, Galway City; Castle Court Hotel, Westport, Co Mayo; Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise, Co Laois; Carlton Hotel, Dublin Airport; Buswell's Hotel, Dublin City; Maritime Hotel, Bantry, Co Cork.

Sandie Dawe, CEO of VisitBritain, and Niall Gibbons, CEO of Tourism Ireland, signing a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), at a business event in Imperial College London.

TOURISM AGENCIES SIGN PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Tourism Ireland and VisitBritain recently announced a new agreement to boost tourist numbers from long-haul markets such as China and India. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Niall Gibbons, CEO of Tourism Ireland, and Sandie Dawe, CEO of VisitBritain. The announcement was made in London, at a business event, organised by the British Irish Chamber of Commerce to mark the State Visit of President Michael D Higgins to Britain. Under the agreement, Tourism Ireland and VisitBritain will work more closely together, particularly in long-haul markets outside of Europe and North America, to promote the island of Ireland and Great Britain as destinations to be visited as part of a single holiday. The aims of the MoU are twofold: to align the work of both agencies, combining their activities in markets where appropriate; and to increase visitor numbers and revenue to both the island of Ireland and Great Britain from long-haul markets.

