



THE Mayo News

Westport Woods is country's 'Greenest Hotel'

Castlecourt in top ten

ÁINE RYAN

WESTPORT Woods Hotel is the country's 'Greenest Hotel' according to a new league table announced at the Responsible Tourism Conference held in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Dublin city, last week.

Its high environmental standards mean that it pipped-to-the-post leading hotels from Cork, Dublin and Galway in the **Green Hospitality** Programme. The programme has produced its first league table listing, which is based on 2013 environmental benchmark figures produced by participating hotels committed to reducing their environmental footprint. The criteria assessed were waste management, energy, water and carbon footprint.

Among the first hotels to join the programme back in 2004, The Westport Woods Hotel has a proactive strategy for reducing its environmental footprint

and has already exceeded its stated goals.

It was rated the number one hotel in both the Waste Management and CO2 categories.

The owner, Michael Lennon explained that this 'was achieved by placing a huge focus on energy awareness, building design for efficiency and the use of biomass to provide heating for the pool and the hotel'.

"For the last ten years we have sought out ideas and technologies which make our hotel more efficient. Efficiency and customer comfort is a way of life at the Westport Woods Hotel.

We wish to thank the **Green Hospitality** Programme for their support," Mr Lennon said.

The River Lee Hotel, Cork City, which was the runner-up, has been a committed **Green Hospitality** member since 2009 and holds the **Green Hospitality** Gold Award.

CASTLECOURT HOTEL

WESTPORT'S Castlecourt Hotel also ranked highly in the top ten list coming in at number six in the league table.

"We are absolutely delighted to receive this award. It is a huge honour for us as the whole team led by Pat Smith have worked

extremely hard to achieve this," said proprietor, Anne Corcoran.

The league table is the first of many initiatives 'to celebrate and recognise hotels that have made commendable changes to go green, and in turn make savings for their business'.

James Hogan of The **Green Hospitality** Programme said: "Green hospitality has saved our members €35,000 per annum on average, through 'no cost' and 'low cost' measures. Reducing one's environmental footprint, by reducing waste is good for business and the environment."

Green Hospitality is a flagship programme of the National Waste Prevention Programme and is the only Irish developed environmental certification standard for the hospitality sector.

Member hotels and other businesses in the hospitality industry set themselves targets to reduce their environmental footprint, and in so doing, save themselves thousands of euros each year.

MORE www.ghaward.ie



▲ **THUMBS UP** Westport Woods Hotel was named the number 1 Green Hotel in Ireland by **Green Hospitality** at the Responsible Tourism Conference 2014, from left: Duncan Stewart, representing The Garryvoe Hotel, Co Cork; Maurice Bergin, **Green Hospitality**; Michael Lennon, General Manager, Westport Woods Hotel and James Hogan, **Green Hospitality** at the event which took place in the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 8. Pic: Aidan Oliver