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Page 1 of 1

Ireland's greenest hotel to share its secrets

EARLIER this year the Westport Woods Hotel was selected as the greenest hotel in Ireland following a review of the 2013 benchmarking data. On Thursday, October 2, the top hotel will host a free green hospitality workshop where the team will share their success story and top tips for going green and saving money.

On average, the Westport Woods Hotel has saved €100,000 per year by making some simple changes. With the help and knowledge of the green hospitality team, the hotel made some small changes and ensured every employee and guest now has the opportunity to reduce and reuse wherever possible, allowing them to make significant savings.

They looked at every element of their heating, cooling, energy loads, electricity, waste and recycling, and by going back to basics they analysed how they use each of these. The analysis, aided by Green Hospitality, showed how they unnecessarily stored and paid for these utilities.

Michael Lennon, general manager and owner, explains: "Being part of the Green Hospitality programme has been very important to the Westport Woods Hotel. It has helped us to understand how to best manage and reduce our utility costs, which have been spiralling over the last 10 years.

"It involves constant monitoring, control, and training, as well as looking at new ways of doing business, improving customer service and promoting our business. Hotels are very wasteful by nature and having experts like James and Maurice from Green Hospitality on the case, helping with new methodologies, has kept my team on the ball over the years.

"Our environmental footprint is always reducing and the utility cost per guest stay is continually monitored and decreasing without guest dissatisfaction or a reduction in comfort."

The workshop on Thursday, entitled Introduction to Responsible Tourism, is designed to introduce hospitality businesses to the opportunities that responsible tourism can deliver to the sector, and ultimately save them money. The event will cover a number of topics and will run from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

To register or for more information, see www. greenhospitality.ie.