

River Shannon Hire Boat Fleet to Change to Sustainable HVO.

Sustainable HVO, Green D +, hydrogenated vegetable oil, is made from refined used cooking oil. A raw material that has already been used for its original intended purpose in the food industry but has been recycled and re-refined to be used again as a sustainable fuel, a low carbon replacement for diesel oil.

Sustainable HVO comes with an ISCC), International Sustainability & Carbon Certification, to prove the source of the used raw material in our HVO.

IBRA members, Emerald Star/ Le Boat, Silverline Cruisers and Carrickcraft undertook extensive trials with HVO throughout the 2023 season and can report that these trials to be very successful in almost every area of comparison with regular white diesel.

Independent laboratory testing was also carried out and the results indicated that using HVO would lead to better performance and reliability with regards to marine use of the fuel compared with road diesel. There was a slight loss of engine hours using HVO compared with road diesel but the benefits in emission reduction far outweigh the negative aspect.

Each year the cruise hire sector uses 500,000. Litres of diesel on the Shannon with each litre producing 2.68 kilogrammes of Co2. Each season we produce 1,340,000. Kilogrammes of Co2. By switching to Sustainable HVO we will bring our emissions down by 92% to 107,200 kilograms of Co2. We also eliminate almost all NOx emitted and also PM's such as soot making for a cleaner marina or harbour and healthier atmosphere for our customers and our staff.

The use of low emission fuels makes the cruise hire sector a perfect fit into the Ireland's Hidden Heartlands brand values of 'Getting Close to Nature' and to contribute to the regenerative tourism strategy.

The transition to HVO will be gradual as our diesel stock run down but the majority of the fleet will be running on HVO for the 2024 season.

The transition to HVO could be helped if the government would reduce the Mineral Oil Tax which is applied to HVO the same as if it was a fossil fuel. The application of the carbon tax on this fuel makes no sense and it should be removed immediately to bring down the cost of this low emission fuel so that HVO would be available at the same cost to the customer as road diesel. With the application of these taxes there is no incentive to change over to low emission fuels making it difficult for industry to meet the governments own climate action plan targets.

In welcoming the initiative, Paul Kelly, CEO of Fáilte Ireland added: *"The cruise hire sector on the Shannon has taken a really significant step towards reducing its carbon emissions by switching from diesel to sustainable HVO. Representing the sector, IBRA has shown strong leadership to the rest of the tourism industry, which must collectively reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030, with the aim of becoming carbon neutral by 2050, in line with Government targets. Fáilte Ireland is committed to supporting climate action initiatives in the tourism industry, and we look forward to seeing more innovations like this across our sector."*

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