

Protecting the environment



A pod of dolphins following Pont Aven in the Bay of Biscay

Raising awareness of environmental issues

The company has joined forces with leading marine conservation charity ORCA to offer passengers a fascinating insight into the whales and dolphins of the Bay of Biscay - one of the world's most important habitats for these amazing animals. This partnership involves ORCA's wildlife education officers living and working on board Brittany Ferries' crossings to Spain right through the summer and autumn. Not only are they on hand to help passengers make sightings of whales and dolphins and identify any animals encountered, but they also give fun and informative presentations about these highly complex and intelligent mammals, and the delicate ecosystems they inhabit.



Furthermore, Brittany Ferries participates in many research projects, for example, by collecting sea-water samples to monitor plankton levels and taking readings of sea-temperature to assist scientists in assessing the effects of global warming.

In addition, the company is also helping the University of Exeter carry out research on bat migration through the detector devices which were installed on the mast of Pont-Aven in August 2013 and are still in place today. Professors at the University are continually analysing the data collected from our bat detectors, to find out when and where bats are recorded at sea.

Food miles and sustainability

Some 80% of the food served on board originates in France, with the vast majority of this coming from Brittany. Local producers are used whenever possible in order to reduce the carbon footprint associated with supplies and long-term relationships are developed to ensure these supplies are of the right quality.



For more information visit
www.brittany-ferries.co.uk/news-views/environment

Brittany Ferries

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As a company founded by farmers, largely owned by farmers and based in Brittany, an area with a rich maritime history, there are few organisations with a more profound respect for the environment and a deeper understanding of the need to preserve scarce resources.

In common with any other form of international transport, Brittany Ferries is tightly regulated in terms of what we can and cannot do and the most significant set of regulations governing this is the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78). This is a truly international code which was conceived by the International Maritime Organisation, a United Nations agency.

We are subject to regular audits by the French maritime authorities to ensure we comply with the International Safety Management (ISM) Code which provides an international standard for the safe management and operation of ships and for pollution prevention.

£60m emission reduction project

In March 2016 Brittany Ferries completed a £60m project to cut funnel emissions from its cruise ferries. Six ships are now fitted with exhaust gas cleaning systems (scrubbers) which reduce sulphur emissions to almost zero and significantly cut particulates. Other craft in the fleet use low sulphur diesel fuel, thereby ensuring the entire fleet limits harmful emissions as much as possible.

Limiting CO₂ emissions

Carbon dioxide is a major contributor to global warming and there is no escaping the fact that any form of transport that burns fossil fuel emits CO₂. Nonetheless, ferries overall are more CO₂ efficient than many forms of transport.

Furthermore, Brittany Ferries' operation is planned to minimise fuel consumption and the resulting CO₂ emissions by reducing speed on overnight crossings. The effects of tides and the wind are harnessed to optimise fuel efficiency.

Also, all our ships are air-conditioned and by making these systems more efficient we have reduced CO₂ emissions further.

Taking freight traffic off the roads

It is the policy of the EU to shift freight transport from the road to sea, rail and inland waterways.

This means fewer trucks on the road and thus less congestion, less pollution, and more reliable and efficient transport of goods and Brittany Ferries is part of the EU's "motorways of the seas" programme.

By mixing freight and passenger traffic, Brittany Ferries makes optimum use of the available capacity and this high level of efficiency reduces the environmental impact of the operation overall.

The EU has determined that the external costs (those representing the construction, operation and environmental costs of a form of transport) to move 1 tonne a distance of 1 kilometre are:

- Road: 0.035 Euros
- Rail: 0.015 Euros
- Inland waterways: 0.010 Euros
- Shipping: 0.009 Euros

According to this calculation, shipping is by far the cleanest mode of transport.

Solid waste management

Solid waste such as glass and cardboard is sorted and compacted on board for re-cycling or disposal by a certified contractor on land.

Water discharge policy

All vessels are equipped with approved water treatment units and discharge only uncontaminated water into the sea outside a minimum distance of 12 nautical miles from the coast.

All water polluted by chemicals such as oil is pumped ashore and disposed of by certified waste disposal contractors who are periodically checked to ensure that they are in full compliance with local and government environmental regulations.



An exhaust gas cleaning system being fitted on our ships

Painting the underside of our ships

Brittany Ferries uses the very latest silicon-based anti-fouling paints (coating the submerged parts of hulls) that are very low in toxicity and have the added advantage of enhancing the ship's flow through the water, thus improving efficiency and reducing CO₂ emissions.

Environmental responsibilities continue ashore

Where offices have been refurbished or newly built the aim of achieving maximum energy efficiency has been embraced together with maximum utilisation of furnishings made of recycled materials. For example, in our UK head office in Plymouth lighting is activated by movement so that areas that are not being used switch off automatically and the level of lighting is adjusted to take account of how much daylight there is. In

Portsmouth solar panels have been fitted to the office building.

Over the past three years we have reduced the amount of CO₂ generated by our UK offices by 10.6% from 558 to 499 tonnes.

Low Emission Vehicles

Brittany Ferries is pleased to be a participant in the "Plugged-in Fleets Initiative 100" (PIFI 100) sponsored by the Office for Low Emission Vehicles. In doing so it is extending their environmental policy to our fleet of vehicles in the UK.

Our port vehicle at Poole is electric and we plan to replace diesel-powered vans at our other ports accordingly over the coming years.

Plans are in place to install a charging point for electric cars at Portsmouth this year.



Painting the underside of our ships