

# €coCert

Membership Newsletter, Summer 2010

## EDITORIAL

Dear EcoCert members,

As part of our service to you we aim, from time to time, to issue a newsletter to keep you informed of EcoCert developments and to include tips and information which you might find useful. This is the very first of these newsletters, which we hope you will enjoy.



Our aim is to make EcoCert more than a certification scheme. Our emphasis on support and cost savings during the certification process is something we wish to continue with throughout your membership.

Another aspect we want to promote is the idea of member companies helping each other by sharing their experiences and successes with matters environmental. This newsletter can be a mechanism for doing this, and you would be welcome to contribute to future issues.

As you know, our combined environmental savings will be published annually, and member companies can point to that as a shared achievement, year on year.

*Phil Walker, Editor.*

## SAVING ON COSTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**The first ten EcoCert companies' improvement plans identify total annual savings of €51,000, an impressive average of over €5,000 each!**

These are all savings which are achieved by improving environmental performance in energy, waste and water. Truly a win-win situation for the companies themselves and for us all as citizens of the planet.



Shown here is the very first certificate issued, to Rittal Ltd of Carlow.

It is worth emphasising that these are the achievements of the member companies, not of EcoCert (which only provides support and advice).

As might be anticipated, the companies which join EcoCert are already interested in improving their environmental performance, and in many cases were already actively pursuing this objective before joining. This is reflected in their impressive performance to date.

## CERTIFICATIONS TO DATE

EcoCert came in to existence at the end of 2009, and the initial pilot phase had the target of recruiting fifteen member companies. This was achieved in six months and eleven of these companies have now been awarded EcoCert certification - the remaining four are expected to be awarded shortly. With the continuation of EcoCert beyond the pilot phase, at this time a further eight companies have so far joined the scheme.

The current EcoCert certificate holders are;

**Bus Eireann, Waterford**  
**Focus Visual Communication, Kilkenny**  
**Glenisk, Offaly**  
**Laois Leader, Portlaoise**  
**Malone O'Regan Consulting Engineers, Waterford**  
**Molloy Precast Products, Offaly**  
**Portlaoise Leisure Centre, Portlaoise**  
**Revolution Bar & Niteclub, Waterford**  
**Rittal, Carlow**  
**Tory Services, Waterford**  
**Waterford One World Centre, Waterford**

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## WATER TIPS



Water is becoming a significant, and increasing, cost for most businesses. With metering being progressively extended, and the cost of a cubic metre of water well above €2, it is a cost which most companies can no longer afford to ignore.

Here are some simple and inexpensive measures available to reduce water usage.

### Leak Test

If you are metered, and you have a leak on your side of the meter, you are paying for it. A simple way to check this is to pick a time when the premises are unused (e.g. overnight), switch off all known users (such as fill-and-flush urinals), and take a meter reading. Take a second reading before start of business. The readings should be the same. If not, something is using water – maybe an expensive leak. Investigate and resolve!

### Toilet Cisterns

If installing new toilets, be sure to choose a dual-flush model, or a low water usage model (such as is available from [www.watersave.ie](http://www.watersave.ie)).

For existing conventional toilets, water-saving retro-fit kits are available. The Mecon device incorporates a button, which stops the flush when pressed. The Interflush device stops the flush as soon as the handle is released – this is probably the most practical approach. Both devices are available for under €20.

Mecon device available from [www.ecostore.ie](http://www.ecostore.ie)  
Interflush device available from [www.watersave.ie](http://www.watersave.ie)

### Urinals

If connected to a conventional fill-and-flush cistern, these use a huge amount of water, most of which is completely wasted. One set of urinals will cost around €600 per year in water charges.

A water saving device, such as a detector unit, will pay for itself well inside one year. A zero-cost (but less effective) option would be to turn off the cistern valve each day at end of business.

There are now also waterless urinals available. If anyone has experience of these, please let us know.

### Wash-basin Taps

For public areas especially, push-stop taps can help reduce water use. If you have these, be sure to check they are set to stop after a reasonable time (e.g. ten seconds).

Aerator heads can be fitted as inserts to the tap outlet. These mix air into the flow, reducing water use by around 30%. They typically cost around €5 per unit. Note that there are extra savings in heating costs for hot water taps.



### Shower Heads

Aerator heads are also available for showers, with a similar level of savings in water and heating costs.

NB: Most of the above products are available from watersave or ecostore, and a range of other outlets in Ireland.

### Rainwater Harvesting

Most of the water we use does not need to be of drinking quality, and most business premises have roofs which can be used as rain collectors.



Although rainwater harvesting systems involve a capital cost, they can very quickly pay for themselves. A two year payback time is fairly typical.

Molloy Precast Products, of Tullamore, an EcoCert company, produces rainwater harvesting tanks. They also have a clever piece of software

which calculates the performance of any proposed system, taking into account your roof area, usage profile and historical rainfall patterns.

For more information contact Michael Cahill, Tel 057 932 600 or go to [www.molloyprecast.com](http://www.molloyprecast.com)

## FUTURE EDITIONS

**Any feedback you might wish to give would be very welcome. You might wish to contribute to future issues - tips you might wish to share with fellow members; a short review of your EcoCert experiences; thoughts on future subject areas to cover; or maybe a short profile of your company, particularly if your products or services might be of interest to other member companies.**