

€coCert

Membership Newsletter, Summer 2011

GREENING WATERFORD WITH THE TALL SHIPS RACES 2011

The tall ships are the most majestic examples of renewable energy technology to be seen anywhere on the planet. In recognition of this, the event organisers have adopted an innovative programme to 'Green' the Tall Ships Races 2011, for a lasting legacy of a greener Waterford after the ships have sailed.



Businesses throughout Waterford City and County are getting involved by signing up to a green charter and finding ways to save money and become more environmentally aware.

EcoCert is the chosen route for non-hospitality businesses who wish to become more involved. Hospitality businesses sign up to the Green Hospitality Award. Both options attract additional subsidising funding from the project funders, the Environmental Protection Agency.



The Tall Ships website highlights the participating companies. Existing EcoCert businesses are automatically included.

The Tall Ships themselves come to Waterford on **30th June – 3rd July 2011** and it is a don't-miss event. Street entertainment, fireworks, music and food will all add to the festival fun.

For more information see the Tall Ships website www.waterfordtallshipsrace.ie Interested businesses should click on the 'Get On Board' page, or contact Econcertive direct at phil@ecocert.ie or Tel 086 255 9677.

Econcertive Short-Listed for Wexford Business Awards

We are proud to announce that Econcertive, in only its second trading year, has been short-listed for the Wexford Business Awards. Many thanks to our EcoCert members who have made this recognition possible.

€coCert is a service provided by Econcertive supported by The Environmental Protection Agency, Laois County Council, Offaly County Council, Waterford City Council, Waterford County Council and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

Bus Éireann



The Ferrybank Garage of Bus Éireann maintains a fleet of ninety locally based buses, and supports a further forty which terminate their routes at Waterford City. In addition to mechanical maintenance and repairs, this includes daily washing and cleaning of each vehicle. Garage manager Eddie Hannon (seen with his team above) is behind an extensive and ongoing programme to reduce energy, water and waste costs throughout the facility and hence improve environmental performance.

Lighting

The main lights in the garage were near the end of their practical life, and instead of just replacing them like-for-like, we took some time to investigate our options.

In the end we decided to go for long-life Induction High Bay lighting fixtures. These cost €12,000 to install, but give an annual saving on our electricity bill of €7,600. So they will pay for themselves in under two years.

As a further refinement we are fitting a motion detector and light sensor to each unit, so that it will only light when it is actually needed. This will give further savings. Our choice of induction lighting made this possible, as other types of high bay lighting are unsuitable for this type of lighting control due to their 'warm-up' time.

We also replaced our old inspection lamps with 24V rechargeable LED lamps. These are handier to use, and more energy-efficient.

We then replaced our yard lights with energy efficient alternatives, to complete the package.

Water

As part of our EcoCert certification we needed to look at our water usage and carry out a leak test. To cut a long story short, we found a variety of leaks spread over the site, and repairing these saved us €8,500 per year in water charges.

We are about to fit flush controls to the urinals in both gent's toilets. This is anticipated to yield a further €3,000 a year in water savings.

The bus wash is a major user of water, and we are now planning to filter and re-use the water for this. We are also seriously looking at rainwater harvesting to further reduce the cost of operating the bus wash.

Waste Disposal

We have taken measures to improve the level of recycling at the garage, and to avoid hazardous waste, such as oily rags, going to landfill.

Insulation & Heating

The main garage building required extensive renovation, and we took the opportunity to re-roof it with insulated panelling, and likewise the old metal wall panels. The roller-shutter doors have been replaced which makes the whole area much more comfortable to work in, and easier to heat.

We revised the heating controls to include an interlock with the garage doors. This means that the heaters will not work unless all the doors are closed. Now, in the winter, all our mechanics are much more mindful to keep these doors closed when not needed, and hence the heat in.

Pollution Prevention

As part of our environmental improvements we looked at pollution prevention. Being an old site, there was great scope to reduce our pollution risks. Our biggest investment will be to install a new underground drainage system, with separators to catch any spilled oil. We have already created a new bunded store and put bunds under all our oil and chemicals storage drums.



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