

Spring 2018

# €coMerit

## Membership Newsletter

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### Fast Fact

€coMerit has now won over €1 million in grant support for our certificate-holding members.

€coMerit is a service provided by €concertive in partnership



## Carbon Performance – A Wake Up Call

As we head towards 2020 and Ireland's climate change commitments under the Paris agreement, it is becoming increasingly clear that Ireland is heading for spectacular failure. In fact, far from reducing our carbon emissions, for the last three years Ireland has actually increased them.

This is in stark contrast to the performance of the €coMerit certified sites. On average, the EcoMerits have reported a 9% year-on-year reduction. The graph shows Ireland's performance since 2008 (the thick blue line); the corresponding performance of the EcoMerits as a whole (the thick orange line); and a range of individual €coMerit sites.

with



Environmental Protection Agency



eastern - midlands waste region

Eastern-Midlands Waste Region



southern waste region

Southern Waste Region



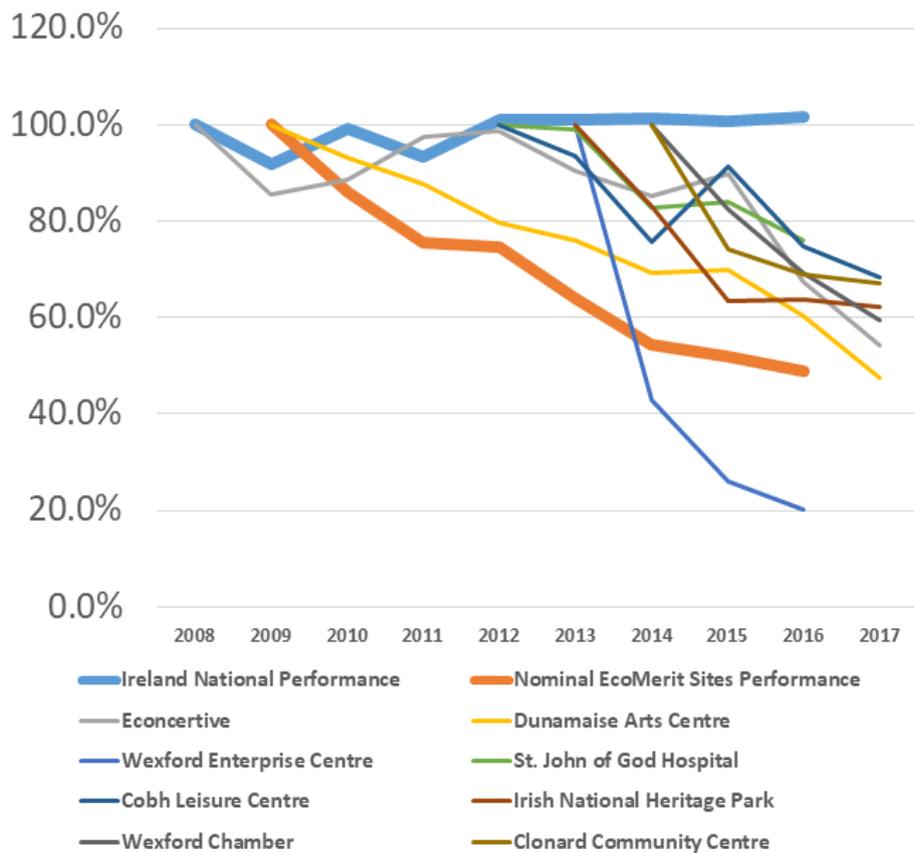
connacht-ulster waste region

Connacht-Ulster Waste Region



Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown County Council

## CO<sub>2</sub>eq Emissions Performance



If Ireland had been able to match the achievements of the **EcoMerit** sites, we would already have achieved our 2020 obligations. And then some.

Irish Government, business and all of us as individuals need to step up to the plate and make serious changes to the way we use energy. It really is no good waiting for someone else to fix this for us. Any business who wants to make a difference, but doesn't know where to start, should [contact us](#) to find out.

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**Wexford County Council**

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For a full listing of **€coMerit** certificate holders and members click [here](#)

To view **€coMerit** case studies click [here](#)

To view previous **€coMerit** newsletters click [here](#)

To download an **€coMerit** application form click [here](#)



# Cool Planet



**If you would like to know more about climate change, and what you as an individual can do to make a difference, a great place to start is the new Cool Planet initiative.**

Cool Planet aims to help us all understand more about climate change, how it affects us and what we can do about it. There is now a Cool Planet 'Champion' appointed for every county in Ireland. These are volunteers who give up their time to provide climate change talks to interested groups.

The Cool Planet champions for Wexford and Galway are Phil Walker and Christian Kubernat, both of whom are also **€coMerit** advisors. You can [contact Cool Planet Experience](#) if you want your local champion to come to your business, group, school or organisation for a free, interactive presentation on climate change, what it means for Ireland and what it means for you.

Also, the Cool Planet Experience visitor centre is about to open at Powerscourt Estate in Co. Wicklow.

Cool Planet is an initiative of Crowley Carbon and the Cool Planet Champions programme is supported by the Environmental Protection

Agency.



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## EcoMerit Goes National



We are delighted to announce the Connacht-Ulster Waste Region has joined **EcoMerit** as a new partner for the 2018 programme.

They join the Southern and Eastern-Midlands Waste Regions, who have been programme partners since 2016. This means that all counties in the Republic of Ireland now have representation on the **EcoMerit** steering group and all businesses and organisations throughout the Republic can now avail of subsidised **EcoMerit** support.

Sinead Ni Mhainnin joins the **EcoMerit** Steering Group representing the Connacht-Ulster Region. Sinead has a background in resource efficiency and brings a wealth of experience to the table.

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# Meet Your New EcoMerit Advisor



Christian Kubernat has just joined as our new **EcoMerit** advisor. Strategically based in Galway, Christian will first and foremost be providing support for the new Connacht-Ulster Region, but he will also be available elsewhere as demand might require.

Christian is an experienced environmental assessor and has worked on other EPA supported programmes such as Greenbusiness and Green Hospitality.

With advisors now based in Wexford and Galway, **EcoMerit** can now provide support throughout Ireland, without the need for excessive travel mileages and rarely needing expensive overnight stays. This all

helps to keep down our operating costs, and our fees, while maintaining the high level of service our clients have come to expect.

We are delighted to welcome Christian to the **€coMerit** team.

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## New Certifications



**Green Biofuels Ireland** is a leading supplier of Bio Diesel, Glycerol, Potassium Sulphate, and other Biofuel products throughout Ireland. Bio-diesel is a clean burning alternative to mineral diesel fuel that is produced from renewable resources such as animal fats and vegetable oils. The New Ross company achieved their **€coMerit** certification at the end of 2017.

Other recent awardees are;

- Frizelle O'Leary (Solicitors, Co. Wexford)
- Enniscorthy & District Chamber (Co. Wexford)

- Port of Waterford (Co. Kilkenny)
- Power Plant Hire (Co. Wexford)
- Waterford & South Tipperary Community Youth Service (who added 5 further sites to their existing portfolio)

We are delighted to welcome our new members into the **ÉcoMerit** 'family'.

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## Case Study - Passenger Lifts



Photo: Dun Laoghaire Shopping Centre

### Background

When the passenger lift mechanisms were due for replacement at Dun Laoghaire Shopping Centre, the centre management initially viewed this as an inconvenient and expensive maintenance requirement.

However, instead of just seeking a like-for-like replacement they took the time to research what was available on the market. Obviously passenger lift technology has advanced considerably since the original lift installation in 1976.

The main choice was between a modernisation of the existing units or a completely new installation. The cost was similar for both options but as 50% plus of materials could be reused (guide rails, counterweight system and car frame) the decision was taken to modernise and hence minimise the environmental impact.

After evaluating various quotes the contract was given to the original lift installer, Otis.

### **New Technology**

The original lifts were operated by means of heavy duty electric motors driving a series of four steel ropes mounted on a drive pulley, shown in the photograph below. These ropes can be expected to be changed on average every 5 to 7 years.



The new installation is quite different. A much smaller electronically controlled motor drives four lightweight (but very strong!) belts. The belts are constantly monitored by a pulse system and their life expectancy is a minimum of 10 years.



The lower inertia of the new mechanism means that the power required to move the lift from a standing start is hugely reduced. The smaller motor combined with the 'smart' electronic controls can therefore operate each lift with a much reduced electricity requirement.

They are known as the "regen" series and actually feed power back into the system when the units are operating under their own weight and the control system is used as a brake. This can be observed on the check meter when the meter actually runs backwards at these times.

### **The Results**

The table below shows the original amperages required to move the lift from a standing start, and then to run the lift between floors in three different loading conditions. It can be seen that it required a considerable

spike in electrical input to get the lift moving, and then a rather lower load to keep it moving to the next floor.

	Original Lifts - amps per phase		
	Up empty	Up 2/3 load	Down 2/3 load
Start	47.9 amp	46.0 amp	48.0 amp
Run	8.4 amp	9.2 amp	11.2 amp

By comparison, the table below shows the electrical load requirement for the new arrangement under the same three load conditions. It can be seen that the spike required to get the lift moving has almost disappeared, and the steady state load to keep it moving between floors is much lower than the old arrangement.

	New Lifts - amps per phase		
	Up empty	Up 2/3 load	Down 2/3 load
Start	1.9 amp	5.3 amp	10.0 amp
Run	1.1 amp	4.3 amp	9.5 amp

Overall, the electrical requirement for running the lifts each day will probably have reduced by about half. The peak load has reduced by 79%.

## Conclusions

When equipment of any type reaches its end of life, the obvious choice of buying an equivalent replacement isn't always best. It makes sense to stand back and take the opportunity to explore other options. An unwelcome need for capital spend may also be an opportunity for a significant improvement in environmental performance, and a significant reduction in operating costs

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