
Summer 2016

€coMerit

Membership Newsletter

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Fast Fact:

The typical cost of an €coMerit certification is only €400.

The average annual cost saving achieved is €6,434.



EcoMerits Post Further 4% Carbon Improvement

A key aim of €coMerit is for all members to achieve ongoing environmental improvements. We measure our performance each year by totalling the carbon emissions of all certificate

EcoMerit is a service provided by **Econcertive** supported by



Environmental Protection Agency



Eastern - Midlands Waste Region



Southern Waste Region

holders and comparing this with the equivalent emissions for the previous year.

The figures for 2015 have just been published and they show a continuing trend of improvement. The **EcoMerit** certified members logged a 4.1% improvement over their 2014 performance. This is in spite of 2015 having colder winter months - with a consequent increase in heating requirements.

As a result, the underlying trend is probably more in line with the 9.4% average year-on-year improvement which has been posted from 2009, when **EcoMerit** was launched.

To view the full reporting history, click [here](#).

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Grant Aid Success for 2016





**Waterford City & County
Council**



**Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown
County Council**



Wexford County Council

For more **EcoMerit** information, or to contribute to future newsletters, contact:

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This year **EcoConcertive** again succeeded in securing major SEAI grant support for the energy-saving capital projects of **EcoMerit** members.

Twelve sites have been awarded at total of €315,269 to support improvement projects which have a combined value of €758,000. Once complete, these projects will save our members €186,100 in annual energy costs and reduce annual carbon emissions by 696 tonnes.

Site works are now in full swing and completion of all projects is scheduled for early October. The photograph shows Dunamaise Arts Centre in Portlaoise, who are installing new gas boilers and upgrading their Building Management System.

Competition for grant support this year was once again very tough. **EcoMerit** retains its **100% success record** in winning grant support every year since the 'Better Energy Communities' grant scheme commenced in 2012.

Members considering capital projects for 2017 should [contact us](#) now. Forward planning is an essential part of a successful grant application.

Web: <http://www.ecocert.ie/>

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

To view **EcoMerit** case studies, click [here](#)

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AMGEN Green Their Supply Chain



Amgen Technology Ireland recently completed an innovative environmental project.

Already **EcoMerit** certified, and working in the highly regulated pharmaceuticals industry, they have robust site controls in place. Looking beyond their gates, they are now seeking to monitor and improve the environmental performance of their supply chain.

The project examined the environmental credentials of their critical suppliers and offered direct support to five suppliers to implement their own **EcoMerit**

certifications. All five suppliers were successfully certified and in the process implemented improvements which will save them each an average of €7,430 per year.

In addition, all five suppliers received support in compiling a sustainability report which highlights their Corporate Social Responsibility achievements to their customers and stakeholders.

As part of the project, Amgen have established a simple measuring system for monitoring their progress in greening their supply chain. They now measure the proportion of their spend which goes to suppliers with proven green credentials, such as an ISO 14001 or **EcoMerit** certification.

The project was supported by the Environmental Protection Agency and carried out in partnership with **Econcertive**, Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown County Council and Business In The Community (Ireland).

If you are interested in greening your own supply chain and would like to find out more, please [contact us](#).

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New EcoMerit Awards



The latest organisations to successfully achieve **EcoMerit certification are;**

- **Weslin Construction (Fingal)**
- **Brian Scully Services (Limerick)**
- **Stakelum Office Supplies (Tipperary)**
- **Philtron Electrical (South Dublin)**
- **Anderco Safety (Cork)**
- **KDK Scaffolding (Wexford)**
- **TEG (Westmeath)**
- **HSE Dalkey Community Unit (Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown)**

We are delighted to welcome them into the **EcoMerit** 'family', which now totals 88 certified companies and organisations. The photo above shows Brian Scully Services based in Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

One of the new members, Stakelum Office Supplies, has already capitalised on their certification status by applying for, and winning, SEAI grant support for energy-saving improvements.

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Energy Case Study

Electric Vehicle



Just like the **EcoMerit** members we support, **Econcertive** has a commitment to environmental performance improvement. So when the time came to replace our ageing diesel car we took the opportunity to go for a more radical alternative, an electric vehicle (EV).

The Car

The Nissan Leaf is a medium sized four door hatchback. It contains some very clever safety and user features. This includes a Satnav system which can guide you to EV charge points on your route or near

your

location.

The Leaf is surprisingly good fun to drive. When driving in ECO mode, acceleration is moderated and when braking or going downhill, energy is regenerated back to the battery. These features help to maximise the vehicle's range. When you take it out of ECO mode, its acceleration is very respectable. Also, being direct drive there are no pauses for gear changes.

Performance

Emissions performance on an EV is of course excellent. The Leaf produces 57% less carbon emissions than the diesel vehicle it replaced. It also completely eliminates diesel particulate emissions.

Running costs are remarkable. The fuel costs of running the predecessor diesel worked out at 10 cents per mile. The electricity costs of running the Leaf work out at 2 cents per mile. Servicing costs are similarly low. Overall the Leaf is 80% cheaper to run than the old diesel.

The burning question with any EV is, of course, range. Realistically the Leaf will run for 180 km on a full charge. That is assuming the car is running in ECO mode and at moderate speeds on the open road (typically 95 km/hr).

Support Infrastructure

The national [eCars](#) network of EV charging points presently has around 1,200 charging points. Some of these are fast chargers, which will re-charge a battery from near flat to 90% in under 30 minutes.

Journeys which exceed the EV's range are made possible by using the eCars network. This is a regular occurrence with [Econcertive's](#) Leaf. These journeys certainly require more planning than is necessary for a petrol or diesel vehicle.

Unfortunately, the eCars network has reliability issues and it is not unusual to turn up at a charging point to discover it is out of commission. As a result, it is prudent to have a fall-back plan for an alternative charging point within the remaining available range.

Overall Conclusions

The car is impressive and a joy to drive and it is clear that much thought has gone into its design.

An EV involves a change in driving style and journey planning. Charging stops, when needed, do lengthen journey time. However, they needn't greatly impact the length of the working day. Charging time can be used to have a coffee, check and respond to

emails, and return phone calls. Leaving less work to do after returning to home base.

The eCars charging network can be frustrating and it needs to improve its reliability if EV's are to reach their full potential. That said, our diesel vehicle is now very much the second car, and it rarely moves unless the Leaf is already in use.

In conclusion, the major benefits are drastically reduced emissions and running costs. The downside is the need for journey planning and longer journey times, particularly when charging stops are required.

To view the full case study, click [here](#)

To view more **EcoMerit** case studies, click [here](#).

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**Save Even More on
Support Costs**



The **€coMerit** service is already subsidised for all our member organisations. From time to time we can access additional project funding which allows us to give even better value for joining members.

Wexford

Four places remain available under the 2016 Wexford GreenSave programme, which is co-funded by the EPA and Local Enterprise Office Wexford, and run in co-operation with Wexford Chamber. As before, the €250 flat fee and full money-back guarantee apply. For more information and an application form, click [here](#)

If you are located in County Wexford, and would like more information, please [contact us](#).

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