

€coMerit

Membership Newsletter, Winter 2014/15

Record SEAI Grants for EcoMerit Members

For the third year running, EcoMerit certificate holders have successfully won substantial SEAI grant support for energy-saving projects.

This year, thirteen EcoMerit members were awarded a total of €284,509. This eclipses the successes of the previous two years, which saw a total of seven awards.

The success in 2014 is a reflection of the quality of the individual project submissions and of the track record established in previous years.

This year saw an even wider range of technologies deployed. This included LED lighting, PV solar panels, pack refrigeration systems, solar window blinds, bio-fuelled combined heat & power plant and conventional insulation and double & triple glazing works.

EcoMerit members with project ideas for 2015 should contact Econcertive now. A new round of grant funding is expected early in the year.



New pack refrigeration unit being craned into position at Flynn's Garage, Tullow.



Solar panels at the Irish National Heritage Park, Wexford

Project Statistics

2014 Awards Made:	13
Total Grant Amount:	€284,509
Value of Projects:	€640,765
Annual Costs Savings:	€120,672
Annual Carbon Reduction:	421 tonnes

Energy Case Study



Wexford Enterprise Centre actively fosters an entrepreneurial spirit, through the provision of support, advice and affordable workspace to a broad range of companies. This 45,000 sq ft facility comprises of 50 office, industrial and manufacturing units and is home to 30 companies, employing over 100 staff.



Since joining EcoMerit, they have embarked on a major programme to reduce energy use, save on costs and improve their long term sustainability.

Lighting

Lighting in the public areas was predominantly by a mix of fluorescent tubes and halogen spotlights. These relatively inefficient lights needed to be operating 24/7 because the centre has to be open to its tenant businesses at all times. The total lighting load was 10.9 kW costing €13,900 per year to run.

The solution was to replace all these lights with modern energy-efficient LED units which are typically 80% more efficient.

In addition, the installation was carefully optimised, area by area, to tailor the lighting performance and deliver further energy savings.

The net result is an impressive **93% reduction** in lighting energy use.

The LED technology was supplied by Ecopoint (www.ecopoint.ie) and installation and optimisation was by Dirr Electrics (dirrelectrics@oceanfree.net)



Solar Panels

The Enterprise Centre has installed an array of roof-mounted solar panels. These photo-voltaic panels are used to generate electricity and reduce the centre's requirement for grid electricity.



The array was supplied and installed by Solar Electric Ireland (www.solarelectric.ie). It is expected to generate between 5,000 and 6,000 kWh of useful electricity per year.

This means that the panels will be capable of supplying at least 90% of the new LED lighting load for the public areas. As a result, the annual lighting costs will reduce from €13,900 to no more than €200. **An overall reduction of 98.5%!**

Double Glazing

The opportunity was taken to replace thirteen of the centre's remaining single glazed windows with double glazed units. These are expected to save €1,850 per year in heating costs.

The windows were supplied and installed by D&B Windows (www.dbwindows.ie).

Grant Aid

To help fund the project, the Enterprise Centre used its EcoMerit certification to apply for SEAI 'Better Energy Communities' grant support.

SEAI provided **50% grant support**, reducing the overall project cost from €55,760 to €27,880. As a result, the overall **payback time** on the project will be a little **under two years**.

Annual **carbon savings** will be **49.75 tonnes**



For more **EcoMerit** information or to contribute to future newsletters, contact Phil Walker, **Econcertive**.
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