

Winter 2016/17

€coMerit

Membership Newsletter

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In This Issue

- [EASI Money Coming Soon!](#)
- [2016 SEAI Grant Projects Completed](#)
- [2017 Grant Application Deadline](#)
- [Join the GreenSave Charter](#)
- [New EcoMerit Awards](#)
- [Envirocom Awards](#)
- [Don't Forget Your Performance Report](#)

Fast Fact

Since the launch in 2009, €coMerit certificate holders have achieved an average 9.4% improvement in carbon emissions performance - YEAR ON YEAR!

€coMerit is a service provided by €concertive in partnership with



EASI Money Coming Soon!

2017 will see the launch of an exciting new €coMerit initiative. The EcoMerit Award for Sustainability Improvement (the EASI fund) will provide grant support for small projects by €coMerit members.

This €20,000 fund will be exclusively available to €coMerit certificate holders and may be used for a sustainability project at the certified site or a closely associated site, such as a local community initiative. The award can be up to 80% of the total project cost for a charitable project, or 40% for a commercial project. The cap for any single award is likely to be set at €4,000.

The award is designed for small projects and will have a simple application process. It will complement the SEAI 'Better Energy Communities' grant scheme



Environmental Protection Agency



Eastern - Midlands Waste Region



Southern Waste Region



Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown County Council



Wexford County Council

which is suited to larger energy-saving projects. The EASI fund is sourced from the sale of energy credits from previous SEAI grant-aided projects and so is a great way to share the benefit among the wider [€coMerit](#) community.

Details of the EASI fund will be finalised early in the year and it is anticipated that the first awards will be made around Easter. If you have a project in mind, please [contact us](#) now for an early indication of its eligibility.

[Back to Top](#)

2016 SEAI Grant Projects Completed



Grant payments for the 2016 energy improvement projects were distributed over the Christmas period.

The projects at twelve [€coMerit](#) sites incorporated a



Waterford City and 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](#)

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variety of technologies including gas boiler installations; building management systems improvements; buildings insulation; LED lighting; and variable speed drives for pumps and air handling units.

The picture above shows a Remeha gas fired boiler as was installed at Waterford Institute of Technology.

2016 Awards Made:	12
Total Grant Amount:	€270,705
Value of Projects:	€829,462
Annual Costs Savings:	€184,400
Annual Carbon Reduction:	696 tonnes

This is the fifth successive year in which **€coMerit** members have used their certification to apply for, and win, SEAI grant aid via **€concertive**.

2017 Grant Application Deadline

The application deadline for the 2017 grant programme is in February. Anyone wishing to join the 2017 **€coMerit** grant application should [contact us](#) without delay.



[Back to Top](#)

Join the GreenSave Charter



The carbon emissions performance of all **€coMerit** certified sites is aggregated and published annually on our [website](#). These figures show consistent year-on-year improvement since the scheme was launched in 2009.

This year, we are launching a new initiative, called the **GreenSave Charter**. This asks organisations to publish their individual environmental performance data on their own websites. Participants will publish their

- Carbon emissions performance
- Water usage performance
- Waste creation and recycling performance

on their own websites and at a prominent location (e.g. the main reception area) on site.

This is an excellent way for you to;

- Demonstrate your long term commitment to sustainability

- Show the measurable progress you are making each year
- Differentiate yourself from competitors who don't make their own performance public

Participating organisations will have their **GreenSave Charter** status flagged on the **€coMerit** website and will be authorised to display this status on publicity materials.

Please [contact us](#) if you wish to explore the option of joining the **Greensave Charter**. To download a copy of the charter application form (which includes full details of the charter requirements), click [here](#).

[Back to Top](#)

New EcoMerit Awards



Leopardstown Park Hospital became the third Irish healthcare facility to achieve €coMerit certification. The photograph shows project manager Colm Sorohan with some of the hospital

team receiving the award from An Cathaoirleach Cormac Devlin of Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown County Council.

Other recent awardees are;

- HSE Dalkey Community Unit (Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown)
- The Square Shopping Centre, Tallaght (South Dublin)
- Wicklow Leisure Centre (Co. Wicklow)
- Arklow Leisure Centre (Co. Wicklow)
- Infolab (Limerick)
- Waterford & South Tipperary Community Youth Service, Abbeylands (Co. Kilkenny)

We are delighted to welcome them into the **EcoMerit** 'family', which now totals 90 certified companies and organisations.

Four of the new awardees have already capitalised on their membership by winning SEAI grant support for energy-saving improvements at their respective sites.

[Back to Top](#)

Envirocom Awards



No fewer than three €coMerit member organisations won their respective categories at the recent 10th Anniversary Envirocom Awards.

Environmental Innovation companies with more than 50 employees

St John of God Hospital has invested over €1 million in the last two years for an energy upgrade which included the installation of 250 double glazed windows, LED lighting, high-efficiency gas boilers, a new heating system, backup generator and Building Management System. The project received technical support from SEAI.

Best Example of Energy Management – Awareness, Practices, and Behaviours – (Joint Winner)

The **Irish Management Institute** is a 13-acre facility with meeting rooms for up to 120 people, conference centre and a residence with 50 rooms. From 2012 they undertook an extensive environmental upgrade which has resulted in reducing their energy consumption by 9.4% despite participant numbers increasing by 50% alongside a staff increase of 9%. They also upgraded the boilers and cooling systems, installed LED lighting and held mandatory staff training in energy conservation.

Best Example of Energy Management – Awareness, Practices, and Behaviours. (Joint Winner)

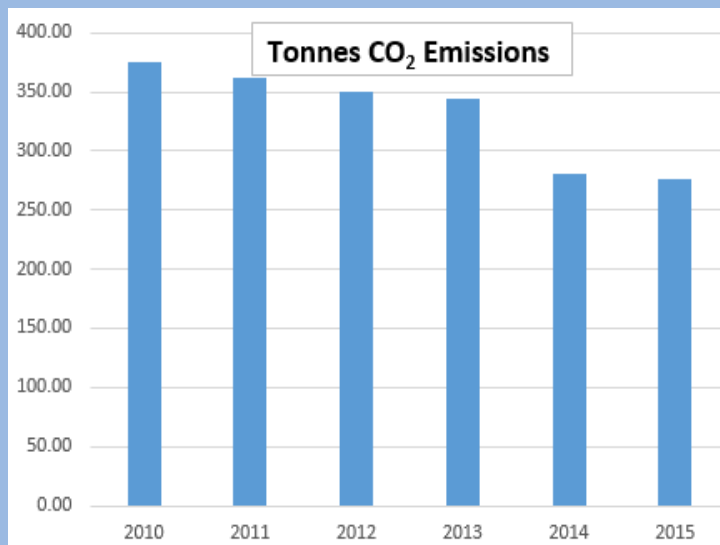
The 4-star **Beacon Hotel** focused on reducing its environmental impact by training staff in energy saving techniques while investing in a comprehensive lighting upgrade, with SEAI grant support. It also monitored energy saving behaviours. This resulted in reducing their energy costs by 17% while room occupancy grew by 6%.

Congratulations to all three **€coMerit** Envirocom award winners on their achievement.

Let us know if your organisation is in the running for an award, especially if we can be of help to you.

[Back to Top](#)

Don't Forget Your Performance Report



It's that time of year again! Please remember to compile and submit your annual performance report for 2016 in order that it can be incorporated into the overall **€coMerit report. Your performance report should be submitted by the end of January.**

Also note that the new format report workbook is available on request. This has advantages over the old style workbook in that;

- It allows you to choose any three performance indicators
- It estimates waste weights automatically from volume information (e.g. binloads)
- It provides graphs of water and waste performance in addition to carbon emissions performance

The new workbook format is similar to the old style and so should be easy to adopt. Let us know, of course, if you need any help.

[Back to Top](#)

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