

€coMerit

Membership Newsletter, Summer 2014

EcoMerit Award for Lismore Castle

The first of the new €coMerit awards in County Waterford is suitably distinctive.

Lismore Estate has risen to the sustainability challenges presented by a major historic building.

The programme is being spearheaded by Adriene Booth, the estate's forestry manager, who has great ambitions for the future. *'Our aim is to make the whole estate carbon neutral, including offsetting the aviation fuel used by the castle's paying guests who travel here from across the world'.*

This year the improvements are focussed on insulation, lighting and recycling. In future years, renewable technologies are likely to feature prominently.

The estate already supplies its own water. The open fireplaces throughout the castle are fuelled by timber from the estate's forests. The kitchens are supplied by the castle's vegetable gardens.

Phil Walker explained why he was delighted to award the new certificate. *'Instead of being daunted by the limitations of a historic building which dates back to 1185, the Lismore team are determined to show just what can be achieved'.*



L to R: Denis Nevin, Castle Manager; Phil Walker, Econcertive; The Earl of Burlington; Anne Sullivan, Waterford Council in the castle gardens.



EcoMerit Re-Branding

You will notice that the newsletter now bears the name €coMerit instead of €coCert.

This marks the latest phase in the re-branding process. Since the start of the year all new certificates are now €coMerit, as are all renewals. Existing €coCert holders can also change immediately to €coMerit if they wish. The new website will shortly be in place.

€coMerit is a service provided by Econcertive supported by The Environmental Protection Agency, Waterford County Council, Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown County Council and Dublin City Council.

Mini Case Studies

Waste Example –

Slaney Farms Produce



Slaney Farms are proud growers and producers of quality Irish potatoes.

The Issue

All categories of waste were disposed of via a large compactor, which attracted high landfill waste rates and significant rental charges.

The Solution

Examination of the waste mix indicated that 90% was recyclable – mainly plastics and cardboard. Segregation of waste at source will avoid landfill charges.

The Metrics

This will direct 9 tonnes per year to recycling, saving €1,600 in landfill and compactor hire costs. This is an overall 54% cost saving.

Total Cost - nil.

Annual Savings - €1,600

Payback Time - immediate

Investment in a baler (currently being considered) would allow the cardboard and plastics to be sold rather than paid for, saving a further €650+ per year.

For more **€coMerit** info
Email: phil@ecocert.ie
Web: www.ecomerit.ie

Water Example –

Clifford House



This luxury B&B guesthouse overlooks the sea at Rosslare Harbour.

The Issue

Water use had not previously been examined.

The Solution

Fitting flow restrictors to the showers to avoid excessive water use.

The Metrics

This will save 175 litres of hot water per day.

Total Cost - €36

Annual Savings - €435

Payback Time - 1 month

These **€coMerit** case studies are from the EPA-funded **Gr€€nSave** project run by **€concertive** in partnership with Wexford Local Enterprise Office and Wexford Chamber.



Energy Example –

Youth Train, Wexford



YOUTH TRAIN
COMMUNITY TRAINING CENTRE

Youth Train CTC Wexford trains low qualified young people to develop the skills, knowledge and attitude to access quality employment.

The Issue

Having just moved to larger premises, energy costs had increased proportionately, but the energy budget had not.

The Solution

A number of opportunities were identified;

- The electricity account was 'out of contract' resulting in unnecessarily high charges.
- The contracted electrical capacity was too high and attracting excessive charges.
- Some areas were over-lit; lightbulbs could be removed.
- The inefficient workshop lighting needed upgrading.
- The water boiler was left on for longer than needed.

The Metrics

The new electricity contract saves €975 per year. Lighting upgrades will cost €600 and save €400 per year. Removing excess bulbs will save €50 per year. A water boiler timer cost €10 and saves €70 per year.

Total Cost - €610

Annual Savings - €1,495

Payback Time - 5 months