

Summary

The project aim was to recruit ten small Wexford businesses and support them in the objective of achieving average annual savings of €2,000. They would do this by improving their control of energy, waste and water.

The participants each paid €250 for their project support, and were guaranteed that their annual savings would exceed their fee.

In the event, the ten participating businesses achieved average annual savings of €6,221.

The total annual savings achieved was therefore €62,210, or 211% above the project target of €20,000.

Five of the businesses went on to achieve EcoMerit environmental certification.

In addition, two businesses used their certification status to apply for, and win, SEAI grant funding for energy improvements.

The project was designed and run by three partner organisations (see below).

Project Savings Achieved

Subject Area	Average Annual Savings
Energy	€5,891
Waste	€180
Water	€150
Total Average	€6,221

Energy Example –

JJ Devereux, Wexford



JJ Devereux Ltd. supplies stationery, furniture, office equipment, and other office supplies and arts materials to customers throughout Co. Wexford and beyond.

The Issue

Long established in their existing premises, energy efficiency had not been examined for some time. A range of opportunities were identified.

The Solution

- The electricity had gone 'out of contract' resulting in unnecessarily high charges.
- Lighting was mainly by inefficient T8 fluorescent tubes, lighting levels were poor. The solution was a major upgrade to LED lights.
- Insulation was poor and the central heating system did not service the main shop area, resulting in expensive plug-in electric heaters being used in wintertime. The solution was to install insulation above the false ceiling and fit overhead heaters.
- The company's **EcoMerit** certification was used to access SEAI grant funding.

The Metrics

The new electricity contract saves €470 per year.

The new lights cost €8,700 and save €2,300 per year.

The insulation and heating improvements cost €4,400 and save €820 per year.

Total Cost - €11,100
Grant Support - €2,775
Annual Savings - €3,590
Payback Time - 27 months

Waste Example –

Enniscorthy Enterprise & Technology Centre



EETC is a purpose-built facility which supports local businesses by providing mentoring, advice, training and incubation space.

The Issue

The waste disposal arrangements were long-standing and had not been reviewed in recent times.

The Solution

A new waste contract was negotiated which was more cost-effective and better suited to the premises.

The Metrics

The new waste regime saves €800 per year.

Total Cost - nil.
Annual Savings - €800
Payback Time - immediate

Investment in a bin crusher (currently being considered) would allow further annual savings of €600 to be achieved.

Water Example –

Ferrybank Caravan Park & Camping



Ferrybank is a three star rated caravan and camping park with hardstanding, electric and water points and an area for tents.

The Issue

The Gents toilets are fitted with urinals served by conventional fill-and-flush cisterns operating 24/7.

The Solution

Fitting an automatic control system will ensure water is only flushed when needed.

The Metrics

This will save 1 tonne of water per day.

Total Cost - €1,000
Annual Savings - €1,500
Payback Time - 8 months

Recommendations

This successful project model could readily be developed and extended for wider use across Ireland.

The Cleaner Greener Production Programme (CGPP) of the EPA was funded under the National development plan 2007 - 2013. CGPP is now known as the Green Enterprise Programme (GEP) and was launched in 2012 as a grant scheme to fund Irish organisations to implement cleaner greener practices while achieving significant cost savings. Greener Production is the application of integrated preventive environmental strategies to processes, products and services to increase overall efficiency and reduce risks to humans and the environment.

- **Production processes:** conserving raw materials and energy, eliminating toxic raw materials, and reducing the quantity and toxicity of all emissions and wastes
- **Products:** reducing negative impacts along the life cycle of a product, from raw materials extraction to its ultimate disposal.
- **Services:** incorporating environmental concerns into designing and delivering services.

The programme aims are focussed on avoiding and preventing adverse environmental impact rather than treating or cleaning up afterwards. This approach brings better economic and environmental efficiency. The GEP is funded by the NWPP programme. Additional case studies from companies that participated in CGPP are available on the website www.begreen.ie

More information is available from the EPA:

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