

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 identified average annual savings of €3,150.

The total annual savings at €31,500 was therefore 58% above the project target of €20,000.

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

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

Project Savings Achieved

Subject Area	Average Annual Savings
Energy	€2,587
Waste	€460
Water	€103
Total Average	€3,150

Retail Example

Joyces Expert, Wexford Town



Joyces are a member of Expert Ireland, Ireland's largest electrical retailer with 60 stores nationwide.

The following items are drawn from their EcoMerit improvement plan.

Lighting

Joyces are progressively upgrading all their lights to energy-efficient LED units. This started with the biggest units, the main high level roof lights.

When complete, the expected total cost will be €29,000 and the annual savings will be €6,700 - giving an overall payback time of just over four years.

Plastic Packaging

This material was being segregated for recycling but presented 'loose' in bins for the waste contractor.

By baling the plastic instead, Joyces will be paid for their plastic instead of being charged for it. This will save €475 per year.

Air Conditioning

The old air conditioning units have been replaced by more modern and efficient alternatives. At the time of writing it is too early to accurately evaluate the improvement.

Site Electrical Load

The reduced electrical demand from the lighting and air conditioning improvements should allow Joyces to avoid site capacity charges. This will save them a further €2,750 per year.

Transport Example

**Roche Logistics Group,
Rosslare Harbour**



Roche Logistics Group is Ireland's leading global provider of transportation and logistics services – over 25 years in business in moving goods worldwide safely, quickly.

The following items are drawn from their EcoMerit improvement plan.

Electricity Contract

The contract for their warehousing site had expired with the result that Roche have been bumped up to expensive standard rates.

Negotiating a new contract has saved €2,600 per year.

Lighting

Upgrading the main warehouse lights to energy efficient LED lamps will save €1,700 per year.

Roche are presently considering a more extensive lighting upgrade which would secure even greater savings.

Battery Charging

Fitting timers to the charging stations for the electric fork lifts will ensure that cheaper night rate electricity is always used.

This will save €1,100 per year.

Waste Segregation

Much of the general waste at the warehouse site was collected in a skip which attracted high landfill rates.

Improved segregation of recyclable packaging waste will save €1,800 per year.

Toilets

Replacing the old single flush toilets with modern dual flush units when the toilets are refurbished will save €300 per year.

Future Items

Improvements under consideration for the longer term include;

- Installing PV panels on the roof
- Replacing the diesel van with an electric vehicle

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:

Keiron Phillips EPA

Environmental Protection Agency,

Richview, Clonskeagh

Dublin 14, Ireland