

Resource Efficiency News For Industry & Business

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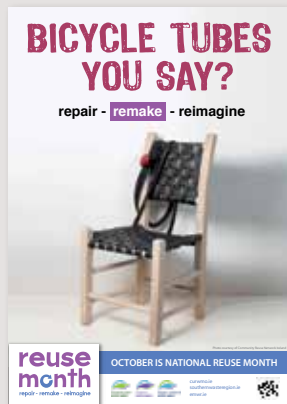
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National Reuse Month Oct 2016

National Reuse Month is a new waste prevention initiative to raise awareness about the economic and environmental benefits of reusing everyday items and materials that would otherwise go to waste.



Reuse Month in October led to a number of events all over Ireland to promote ways for families, businesses and communities to reuse. Businesses, for example, can examine how they could reuse packaging or repair office furniture and equipment.

**reuse
month**
repair - remake - reimagine

If you don't have further use for an item, maybe another business will – please check the website for SMILE Resource Exchange www.smileexchange.ie.

Green Credentials

Business Case Studies

The Southern Region Waste Management Office has published a new booklet 'Green Credentials - Business Case Studies' featuring good practices from across the Southern Region and covering a variety of business sectors.



A number of the examples are from workshop presentations or companies that participated in a project run by the Southern Region that was grant-aided by the Environmental Protection Agency under the national Green Enterprise Programme.

Each case study shows the benefits of adopting good practices relating to the use of resources, often linking environmental achievements with the creation of jobs and saving costs.

The Green Credentials case studies can be accessed on www.southernwasteregion.ie.

Case Study: Dunhill Integrated Constructed Wetland



Dunhill Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW) treats all waste water and storm water flows from Dunhill Village, Co. Waterford.

Storm water is treated separately in a series of four linear ponds before discharging to the adjacent re-profiled Dunhill-Annestown stream. The village sewage / wastewater enters a septic tank and is progressively treated through a series of five wetland areas, the first of which is divided into two segments to facilitate odour control and sediment management.

Originally constructed in 2000, Dunhill ICW was re-constructed in 2012 and has a number of unique educational and amenity facilities.

The ICW concept was pioneered by Dr. Rory Harrington of VESI Environmental Ltd. VESI's concept of 'Harness to Harvest' (H2H) applies, adhering to the universally adopted environmental paradigm: 'reduce, reuse, recycle'. Rory and the other staff at VESI have been recognised nationally and internationally for their innovation and commitment to enhancing the environment.

What plants grow at Dunhill Integrated Constructed Wetland?

A large number of plants like grasses, sedges, herbs and reeds grow at Dunhill ICW. During the year, plants like ragged robin, flag iris, meadowtails, cattails and spreadwort will grow and flower, attracting bees and butterflies that can help with pollination. Hawthorn, blackberry, holly and bilberry bushes all grow at Dunhill Integrated Constructed Wetland.

What wildlife lives at Dunhill Integrated Constructed Wetland?

There is a range of wildlife living at Dunhill ICW. Throughout the seasons you have the opportunity to spot otters, water bats, frogs and newts. You will also see visiting and resident birds at Dunhill Integrated Constructed Wetland, including kingfishers, herons, little egrets, cormorants, moorhens and grey wagtails.

Recognising the wider benefits

Why are the wider benefits that result from reanimating wetland ecology and the wider role of land in the management of water not more generally recognised? They are emphatically known to lead to a more sustainable management of our environment and better resourced future for society.

For further information on Integrated Constructed Wetlands, please check www.vesienviro.com

Case Study: Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd.

Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd. (DREL) is located approximately 13km from Waterford City and 8km from Tramore near the start of the beautiful coastline of Copper Coast Geopark that stretches to Dungarvan. DREL, which is a voluntary community-based social enterprise, was established in 1999 and is a sub group of DFBA Community Enterprises Ltd (Dunhill, Fenor, Boatstrand and Annestown).

Dunhill Ecopark

DREL's mission is to develop an entrepreneurial culture and to facilitate job creation. One of the means of fulfilling this mission has been the development of Dunhill Ecopark. There is a range of supports located at the Ecopark:

- Full time Development Manager
- 4 person Rural Research & Innovation Cell
- State of the art Multi-Education Centre
- An Equality & Diversity Unit
- 3000 m² business space: home to over 26 companies with 85 people employed.

Resource Efficiency

Dunhill Ecopark has implemented a number of resource efficiency measures, covering energy and water conservation and waste prevention. Use of high-efficiency lighting and heating systems, food waste prevention in the café which follows the principle of sourcing supplies locally, office waste minimisation and segregation bins for recycling of waste.

Integrated Constructed Wetland

The Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW) treats the wastewater produced by the Ecopark's various facilities, whilst improving the water quality of the Annestown river and its tributaries. The ICW has been a direct contributory factor to the return of trout into the river after many years of polluted waters. This ICW is one of 16 in the Annestown-Dunhill area servicing the villages and surrounding farmland.

Dr Rory Harrington, working with the community and his colleagues in the relevant Government departments and a number of universities, has pioneered this new concept in water and ecosystem management. The ICW concept strives to address all aspects of sustainable water and land management, whether for farm or wildlife, amenity or general development.

A Weather Station in operation at the Dunhill Ecopark provides the project with essential information on how weather conditions impact on the various water systems in the valley.

Other Environmental Initiatives

The East Waterford Beekeepers Association (EWBA) installed the first hive of a Bee Apiary at Dunhill Ecopark amongst its integrated constructed wetland in 2009. The purpose of the apiary is to have a communal hive for the Association where those interested can learn more about bees and beekeeping.

The Community Garden is a key asset for the Ecopark. It was created with the aim of providing opportunities for environmental education for schools and the community as a whole. It provides a creative and natural space to relax and to learn about growing your own food and sustainable living.

Case Study: Manna Organic Store



Manna Organic Store is located on the Island of Geese, Strand Street, Tralee. It is owned and managed by Claire and Thomas O'Connor.

It is a fully certified Organic Shop, selling a wide range of delicious organic fruit, vegetables and organic wholefoods. With produce from their own farm, and other local organic farms, Manna is a shop with a difference.

It is ALL about the taste. At Manna, they sell all kinds of organic fruit and vegetables, some depending on the season. They bring in as much stock as possible from the local organic farms, including their own. And they have a buying policy to get their non-Irish stock from as close to Ireland as possible.

Manna Organic Farm has provided the shop with their own lettuces, mixed leaf salad bags, kale, rocket, radishes, broad beans, peas and scallions. They will have more produce as the seasons progress. They also buy from other local organic farms: salads and vegetables from Ian McGrigor at Gortbrack and Tony Gerrahy in Lough Boora, Cheese

from Kate Carmody at Beal and fabulous dairy products from Jonathan Haslam in Mossfield.

Manna Organic Store has applied the principles of Resource Efficiency to its business.

- They have adopted a Cradle to Cradle approach - Local suppliers are used whenever possible and waste goes for recycling or reuse.
- Potential savings for fridge and freezer use have been identified, i.e. energy reduction in cold storage, example from previous company experience
- Installation of higher efficiency lighting while costing €9,000 means annual Energy Savings of €15,000.



DREL - Supporting Jobs and Community

Communities Creating Jobs (CCJ) was established by Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd in partnership with Carbery Enterprise Group, Skibbereen, Co Cork in late 2011. Driven by its leaders, including Dr. Senan Cooke and Mr. Seamus Goggin, CCJ's target is to assist communities create 10 jobs in every community and 20,000 jobs countrywide by December 2016. It is working on developing a network of micro-economies countrywide. See www.ccj.ie.

Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd has plans to expand the services of Dunhill Ecopark further to include for example a 12 unit Inventors Village, Eco-Lodge accommodation, heritage trails and walking routes, a Visitor Centre of Excellence, as well as additional space for new enterprises.

For further information on Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd and Dunhill Ecopark, please check their website www.dunhillcopark.com.



EcoMerit

Cost Savings through EcoMerit Environmental Certification Programme

EcoMerit

Environmental Business Support

EcoMerit has been designed with Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in mind. There are now over 70 organisations in the Southern Region certified under the EcoMerit Programme which is run by Phil Walker of Econcertive.



EcoMerit Presentation

EcoMerit support includes an onsite review visit and follow up recommendations. Advice covers matters relating to energy, water and waste issues. While achieving environmental improvements, Phil places a strong emphasis on the cost savings that a company can achieve under the EcoMerit programme.

In fact, EcoMerit companies identify annual average savings of €5,000.

Some of the most recent businesses in the Southern Region that were awarded the EcoMerit Certificate include:

- Button & Spoon Restaurant, Bridgetown, Co. Wexford
- Stakelum Office Supplies, Thurles, Co. Tipperary
- Anderco Safety Ireland Ltd, Little Island, Cork
- Brian Scully Services Air Conditioning, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick
- KDK Scaffolding, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
- Info Lab, Annacotty, Co. Limerick

From January 2016, the Southern Region Waste Management Office has provided part funding for the EcoMerit programme, along with other support partners. The typical subsidised fee is €400, depending on company size.

For more details on the EcoMerit Programme, please check the website www.ecomerit.ie or contact Phil Walker, email phil@ecocert.ie, Tel 051 428739/086 255 9677. Alternatively please email margaret.murphy@srwmo.ie, Tel 087 2427515.

New Resource Efficiency Tool on Green Business Website:

SME Efficiency And Cost Reduction Questionnaire



The national Green Business Programme's website www.greenbusiness.ie now contains a new on-line tool to aid companies to assess their Resource Efficiency and identify cost reduction measures. The tool, which comprises a straight forward questionnaire

is focused on Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs). The questionnaire covers clear questions regarding energy, water and waste and general resource efficiency management.

Once you complete and submit your questionnaire, Green Business will send you an email showing you the Resource Efficiency Score (RE Score) for your businesses with an accompanying Green Business Report.

Please check the Resource Efficiency Tool on www.greenbusiness.ie

Seminars Presentations Available On-line



Green Business seminar held in Horse & Jockey Hotel, Co. Tipperary

Limerick Local Enterprise Office recently ran a seminar at Fitzgeralds Woodlands Hotel, Adare in association with the Southern Region Waste Management Office. The event featured many practical examples of Cost Savings for your Business through efficient use of Materials, Energy and Water – this was the theme for the event. All the speaker presentations can be accessed through the Homepage of www.southernwasteregion.ie.

The Green Business Programme has run a series of Summer and Winter Seminars in 2016, which featured a number of business case studies as well as talks by business environmental support agencies. The talks from these events are available on www.greenbusiness.ie.



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