

CASE STUDY - PUBLIC ORGANISATION



Introduction

This case study is based on the work undertaken by Galway County Council to improve its environmental performance and resource use at headquarters at Áras an Chontae. The floor area at Áras an Chontae is 5,360 m² with a staff complement of 300 people.

Waste Management

During 2008, approximately 75 tonnes of waste was generated by Galway County Council and following capacity building and intervention the amount of waste produced per staff member reduced in the second half of 2008 by 15%. The success of the programme at Galway County Council is attributed to:

- Management commitment
- Improved existing waste management practices throughout the organisation
- Introduction of various conservation initiatives
- Communication programme
- Capacity building and staff training

Energy Management

The organisation has successfully reduced energy consumption following participation in the Galway Waste Prevention Programme from 187 kWh/m²/yr in 2007 to 180 kWh/m²/yr in 2008.

This success was achieved through improved housekeeping, energy awareness programmes, staff training and capacity building.

The organisation also now has access to a comprehensive energy monitoring system through their service provider which allows them to monitor usage on line.

Water Conservation

A water conservation programme was also undertaken by Galway County Council. Based on the installation of a green button in all the toilets and the implementation of a corresponding awareness campaign, water consumption reduced from 6,205m³ in 2007 to 5,475m³ in 2008.

Capacity Building

Capacity was built amongst staff through a series of training sessions, the establishment of an intranet site and the circulation of good practice posters, emails etc. The training consisted of a series of PowerPoint presentations delivered on site to small groups working in specific areas of the organisation. The training was adjusted as required. Staff embraced the training and this allowed for an opportunity to discuss issues and look at improved operational practices. Training is an integral part of any successful campaign and needs to be continually updated and monitored.

A Green Team was established which participated in setting up procedures to improve the organisations environmental performance.

Outputs

	MWh / m ² / yr	m ³ water / yr
2007	187	6,205
2008	180	5,475

Conclusion

Staff at Galway County Council were provided with hands-on expertise from the programme team who undertook an assessment of the organisations environmental performance, made recommendation on cost-effective action plans, and assisted staff with the implementation of new improved environmental programmes.