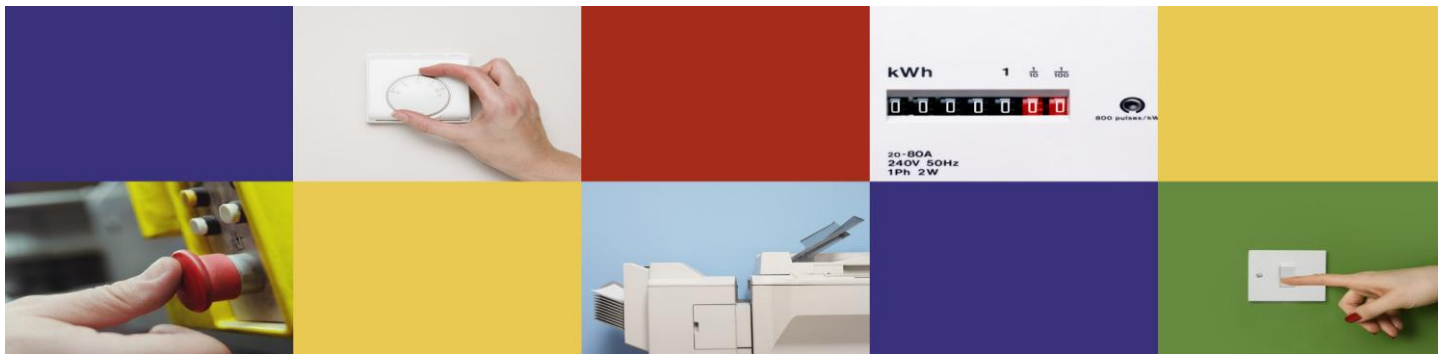




Energy Update

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Issue 4

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Issue 4 of the Energy Newsletter. Since the last Issue lots of events have occurred and most importantly, lots of energy savings have been achieved. None of these savings or successful events would have been achievable without the support and buy-in from you, the staff of Louth County Council, so a big **Thank You** to you all. Let's keep energy at the forefront of all that we do here in Louth County Council.

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL – LEADING BY EXAMPLE - PV PANELS ON COUNTY HALL

From our last newsletter edition many of you will have noticed that we have installed PV panels on the roof of the Belfry Meeting Room. We are proud to lead by example in promoting the use of renewable technologies. This project demonstrates the Council's commitment to invest in energy improvement works to drive down our energy costs and to reduce our carbon footprint and thereby our impact on the environment. The new solar photo voltaic panels in County Hall generate 11KW of electricity. They are expected to generate some 8,500KW hrs of electricity of some 3% of the annual energy use in County Hall. As part of this initiative it is intended to provide an energy display panel where staff and the general public can see the energy generated and relate that to their daily energy use. This measure is expected to generate enough electricity to power the lights in the Council's car park for the year and to contribute some 50% of the Co. Halls existing lighting energy use.



Interesting facts about our PV Panels

Each year the panels will produce enough electricity to...

- More than power two typical Irish homes electricity use.
- Prevent 4097kg of Green House gases entering the atmosphere.
- You would have to plant 106 tree seedlings and let them grow for ten years to absorb the same amount of carbon dioxide gases that generating this amount of electricity would produce.
- You would have to switch 137 incandescent lamps to LED lamps to save this much electricity

Over its typical 25 year lifetime it will....

- Generate 2512,500kWh or units of electricity
- Generate enough electricity to power 53 typical Irish homes
- Offset the production of 102,425kg of greenhouse gases

ISO 50001 – ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Louth County Council developed an Energy Management System to enable better monitoring of it's energy use. It participated in an SEAI programme to develop that to the highest standard possible - ISO 50001. As part of that process the Council developed and implemented procedures and energy saving opportunities. That enabled identification and completion of energy works focusing on the Council's significant energy users. NSAI has now certified that Louth County Council has been assessed and deemed to comply with I.S. EN ISO 50001. The Council was formally awarded a Certificate of Registration of it's Energy Management System to that standard in February of this year. ISO 50001 is a mark of excellence designed to establish and maintain a continuous standard of energy reduction, and Louth County Council is one of only a few

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local authorities who have achieved this accreditation. We plan to promote that energy management system as an exemplar to the business sector in the county.

The Energy Management System identified that 4 energy users were responsible for some 80% of the Council's energy use in 2015.

A quick reminder of the objectives of ISO 50001:

- **Develop a system for more efficient use of energy;**
- **Fix targets and objectives to meet the system;**
- **Use data to better understand and make decisions about energy use;**
- **Measure the results;**
- **Review how well the system works;**
- **Continually improve energy management.**

ALL IRELAND AND COMMUNITY AND COUNCIL AWARDS 2018

Louth County Council was awarded a "Special Recognition" award for "Innovation in Social Housing and Community" in the All Ireland Community and Council Awards 2018 (LAMA). That is recognition of the success of the Better Energy Community projects and the social housing energy improvements that have been delivered by the Council during successive years 2015, 2016 and 2017. Louth County Council has completed 554 energy improvements to social housing units, with a significant proportion of those units occupied by fuel poor tenants, so those most in need benefit from the energy savings.



BETTER ENERGY COMMUNITY PROJECT 2018

Louth County Council has once again been successful in obtaining funding for a number of energy efficient projects throughout the Northeast under the SEAI Better Energy Communities Programme for 2018. SEAI offered the Council, as grantee, €410,679 of grant aid, for energy efficient works to the value of €1.1million. Although not as ambitious in terms of scale from previous years, the 2018

project is still significant in terms of the energy savings generated and the new collaborations and partners that the energy team have encouraged into the scheme. The project partners for the 2018 scheme include: Louth County Council, Health Service Executive, Dundalk Simon Community, Parish of Blackrock and Haggardstown, Parish of St Patricks Dundalk, Mc Ilvanny Motors, Smiths of Drogheda, St Josephs School Drogheda. This is the fourth year in a row that Louth County Council has been successful in obtaining funding from the SEAI Better Energy Community fund. In the last 3 years the Council led Louth project received €2.4 million in grant aid for €7million of energy works, which have generated annual savings of the order of €600K for beneficiaries.

ENERGY AWARENESS EVENTS

Since the last newsletter the Council has held a number of awareness events for staff, promoting energy efficiency at work. They are part of the Optimising Power at Work programme. In December an energy expert gave a talk on Energy Conservation Tips in the Home. This was well attended and we hope that you got some useful ideas on how to save energy and money not only at home but also in work.

In April we had Step Up Day. Spot prizes were left along stairwells and the aim of this initiative was to introduce some energy saving habits into our everyday activities. Staff were encouraged where possible to forgo the lift for a morning; exercise provides great health benefits and it also saves us electricity, adding to the efficiency of the building and contributing to the health of the planet. A big thank you to all who came and visited our stand and availed of energy conservation advice and congratulations to our winners. A special thanks also to all our elected representatives who took the stairs to their monthly Council meeting during the Step UP Initiative



Further events are planned for over the summer months. Details of events during this week will be posted up on the Staff Intranet page.



OPTIMISING POWER AT WORK

Two of the Council's public buildings – County Hall and Dundalk Town Hall are significant energy users. The other two are Council vehicles and public lights.

Dundalk Town Hall has reached a fantastic energy saving of 27%. This means that, since joining the Optimising Power @ Work campaign in 2014, a total of over 700 thousand units of energy have been saved up to June 2018.

If this energy had been used, 166 tons of carbon would have been emitted into the atmosphere and €41,500* would have been wasted.

There has been a 33% saving from the gas consumed at the Town Hall and a 9% saving in the electricity used. The energy saving target set for the Town Hall is an overall reduction of 33%.

*Based on 5 cents for each unit of gas and 15 cents for each unit of electricity



CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY

As you all know from previous newsletters work is well underway with the Carlingford Lough Greenway. Funding of €3.46 Million has been secured from the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), to deliver the Cross Border Greenway. The new stretch will build on the recently completed and already popular Carlingford Marina to Omeath Greenway, and the scheme is scheduled to be completed in 2020. The latest update on this exciting project is that work has been completed on the section of the Carlingford Lough Greenway from Dublin Road Bridge in Newry through the Albert Basin site and along Middlebank as far as Victoria Lock - a distance of 5.7 kilometres approx. This linear section has been open for use by the public from 4th May 2018. So please, get the family out, put your walking shoes on or get your bicycle chains oiled and try out this new part of our Greenway during the warm summer months. Carlingford Lough *'Inspiring Active Travel'*



Interreg 
Northern Ireland - Ireland - Scotland
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Special EU Programmes Body
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE
Boord O Owre Ocht UE Projects



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin
Newry, Mourne
and Down
District Council



SUMMER ENERGY TIPS

1. Be Smart with Your Thermostat. ...
2. Keep Your Home Easy & Breezy. ...
3. Keep the Sun Out and the Cool Air In. ...
4. Consider LED Lighting. ...
5. Use the Barbeque. ...
6. Wash with Cold or Warm Water. ...
7. Keep Track of Your Electronics. ...

SAVING

FOLLOW THESE TIPS AND SAVE MONEY !!!

As you can see lots is happening in the energy section and much the success and savings achieved are all down to you. **We welcome your suggestions** to continue with our savings. If you have ideas for potential energy savings please email: energy@louthcoco.ie