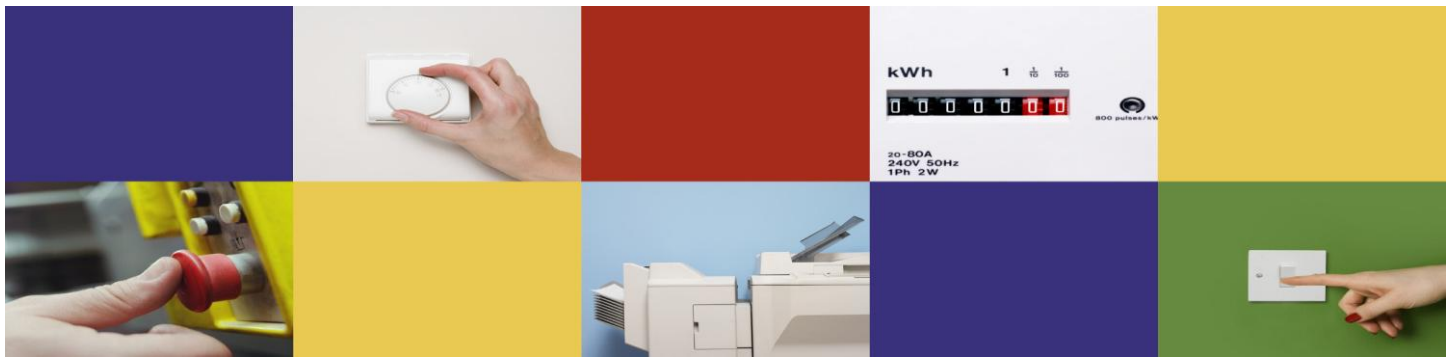




Energy Update

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Issue 3

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Issue 3 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.

NEWS

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY ENERGY PROJECT 2017

This year Louth County Council are the lead Partner in the 'Northeast Community Energy Project', which is an energy initiative funded by the SEAI. It is essentially similar to previous Better Energy Community grants that the Council has been involved in, however, the major difference in this year's project is that works are not just confined to County Louth, but that energy projects have extended to Counties Cavan and Monaghan, which has added significant value to the Louth application. In total there are 12 partners including LCC. There are various energy works being completed under the scheme, some of which include: the delivery of energy upgrade works to 120 Local Authority homes in Dundalk and Drogheda; upgrading of existing lighting systems and fixtures to more energy efficient LEDs; installation of more energy efficient heating systems; installation and upgrading of loft and cavity wall insulation, to name but a few. Louth County Council submitted the application in February and were delighted with the announcement in June that the project has been awarded grant aid of €968,875 towards an overall project value of €2.7m. All works and claims must be complete by October 2017, just in time to keep everyone warm over the winter months.

Keep a look out for new changes coming our way towards the end of the month – County Hall is going PV!!

NEW GOVERNMENT GRANTS AVAILABLE TO YOU

The Warmth and Wellbeing Pilot Scheme aims to make homes warmer and healthier to live in. It does this by providing extensive energy efficiency upgrades to those in energy poverty who are living with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Asthma. The initiative is led by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment in conjunction with the Department of Health and the Health Service Executive (HSE). To find out more about this scheme and if you or someone you know qualifies why not find out more via the following link:

<https://www.seai.ie/Grants/Warmth-and-Wellbeing/About-Warmth-and-Wellbeing/About-Warmth-and-Wellbeing.html>

ENERGY AWARENESS WEEK JUNE 2017



European Sustainable Energy Week ran from 19th to 25th June 2017. Awareness events are being rolled out across the County and this year included promotion of energy initiatives at Drogheda Fair Street Office and Dundalk Town Hall as well as at County Hall. The Initiatives involved Energy Display Boards with attendance by members of LCC's Energy Team and/or by a Private Energy Advisor. The energy advisor provided energy advice for both professional and personal benefit and to provide money saving tips. We would like to thank all those for visiting the Energy Displays and playing your part in European Sustainable Energy Week.

Disclaimer: The energy saving efforts of this company are supported by Sustainable Energy Ireland. SEI, while providing this template design only, is not responsible for the information presented in this poster.

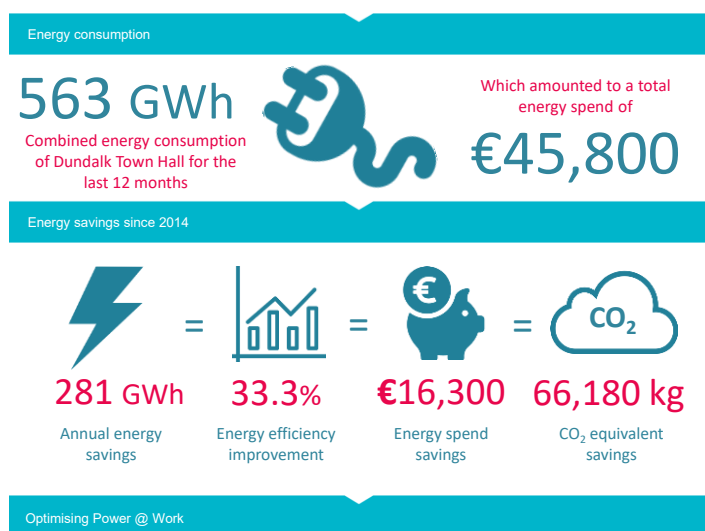
OPTIMISING POWER @ WORK

The Office of Public Works (OPW) has devised and implemented a successful energy conservation campaign (*Optimising Power @ Work*) in its own portfolio of large buildings. Energy savings in excess of 20% have been achieved by OPW from that campaign in approximately 275 participating buildings. Louth County Council has agreed with OPW (by signing a Service Level Agreement) to extend that campaign to one of its public buildings (Dundalk Town Hall) to assist the Council to manage and improve energy use there. The energy conservation campaign is predominately a behavioural change programme.

This partnership to improve energy use in Dundalk Town Hall commenced in 2014. Since that time, energy use at Dundalk Town Hall has reduced energy use by 33% as a result of the combined efforts of the Council and advice from OPW. That resulted in a reduction of €16,300 in the energy spend for the Town Hall in that time. This has been achieved by a combination of implementing energy efficiencies from behavioural change and from works to address energy efficiency issues at the building. The entire staff at the Town Hall deserves special mention for this energy reduction and it is thanks to those staff that this reduction in energy has occurred.

The challenge now is to ensure that this reduction in energy use is sustained and where possible that further energy savings are achieved. OPW are committed to working with the Council in Dundalk Town Hall for the next number of years to ensure that. The OPW plan to improve their communication of energy information with all staff in Dundalk Town Hall while at the same time ensuring that such communication does not adversely impact on the daily work of staff. Successful development of this model, offers us an opportunity to learn how best to do this so that we extend that to all of the Councils' buildings without the assistance of OPW.

The diagram below shows saving achieved in Dundalk Town Hall



ISO 50001:2011 – ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The latest update with regard to the Councils effort with regard to achieving ISO50001 accreditation is that we have successfully completed and passed the Stage 1 audit process and are almost ready for our Stage 2 audit, which is due to take place on the 11th and 12th of October. The Energy Office, in partnership with a range of other departments have identified the Council's Significant Energy Users and we are actively working together towards meeting the requirements of the ISO standard and delivering on the energy savings identified.

However, we need all staff to do their part, and that is to familiarise yourselves with our Energy Policy. The policy is on display in the foyers of County Hall, Dundalk Town Hall, Drogheda Civic Office, Dundalk Machinery Yard and Ardee Civic Office. It is also available to view on the staff intranet and the Councils website, or click on either of the following links to have a read.

Louth County staff intranet [Louth County Council Energy Policy](#) or the Council [Website Energy Policy](#).

A quick reminder of the objectives of ISO 50001:

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

CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY

The Carlingford Lough Greenway was officially launched on June 16th 2017 at the [Granvue Hotel](#), Omeath. €3.6 million of funding was secured from the EU Interreg VA Programme. The successful launch was attended by the many stakeholders involved with the project, such as local businesses and schools, SEUPB, local Councillors from both Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Louth County Council, as well as Mairead McGuinness MEP. The project will see the construction of 10.1km of new greenway, which will expand on the existing Carlingford to Omeath route, which opened in 2014. The entire route will provide 19.7km of greenway for both pedestrians and cyclists alike, connecting Newry City to the village of Carlingford. This project will be completed by 2019.

Interreg 
Northern Ireland - Ireland - Scotland
European Regional Development Fund

 Special EU Programmes Body
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE
Boord O Owre Ocht UE Projects



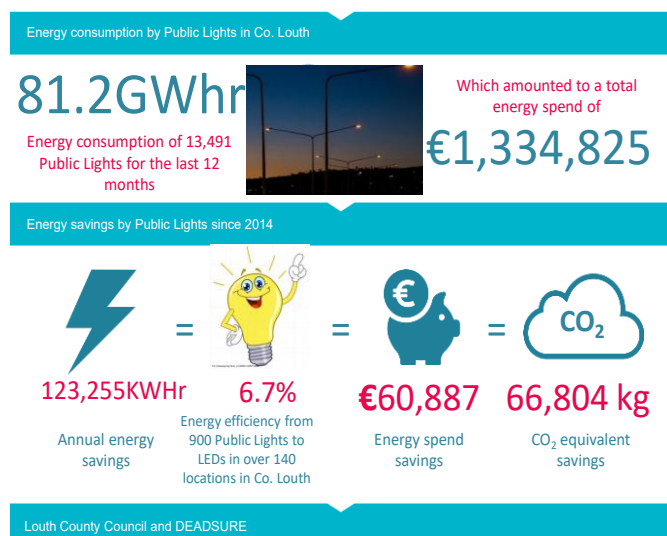
THE SWITCH TO LED – LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Did you know Louth County Council have been shifting towards more sustainable public lighting for improved quality lighting in our public road network for significantly reduced cost and which reduces the Council's carbon footprint?

High quality LED lighting designs, are presently being retro-fitted to public lights in Co. Louth. To-date, that has been completed in over 140 locations around the county.

New LED lights offer improved visibility and better quality driving conditions, helping to reduce traffic accidents. The enhanced colour quality and ambience helps reduce fear of crime and provides for improved detection of crime leading to safer streets. Financial savings in reduced lighting bills enable better delivery of public services. There are also environmental benefits from reduced energy consumption and reduced carbon emissions.

The graph below shows the huge savings have been achieved by simply making the switch to LED. **Make the switch in your home**



SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY ASSESSORS

A Corporate Objective of Louth County Council is to promote Sustainable Energy Initiatives throughout the county. This commenced with an initiative some years ago, when Louth County Council hosted energy interns over a 9 month period. On completion of "Energy Map" training, the Energy Interns completed a number of energy audits in the "Small and Medium Sized Businesses" (SME's) throughout the county, identifying significant savings. This initiative proved very successful, and the interns that were engaged, identified total energy savings of over **€250,000** in local businesses.

More recently, a training programme was provided to offer an Energy Auditing Consulting service to the SME sector. This arose from a development of that earlier initiative involving further collaboration between SEAI, Louth County Council and Louth and Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB). A steering committee was established involving staff from Louth County Council, LMETB and SEAI. This committee devised a training course programme – "The Small Business Energy Assessor" – and The National Learning Network was engaged as contract learners to take the course. 14 people undertook the 10 month training course and 40 local SMEs from the NE region were audited, ranging from coffee shops, pubs/restaurants, leisure centres etc. Over **€267k** of energy savings were identified and reported on. The scheme was completed in March/April of this year with course participants receiving their certificates in June, when the scheme and skills of the "Small Business Energy Assessor" were formally launched. With further SEAI funding promised these assessors are now in a position to assist applicants wishing to participate in the Better Energy Community programmes and the Sustainable Energy Committees that have been established in the NE.

AUTUMN AND WINTER ENERGY SAVING TIPS

The stretch in the evening is bidding farewell, the kids are back to school and the heating is humming back to life. *How can you still save on energy, you ask? Here are 5 energy efficiency tips to make an Irish home more energy efficient for Autumn.*



1. Sort out the letterbox

Heat is making a break for it through your letterbox so measure it up and pick up a letterbox flap for less than a tenner.

2. Go shopping for a quirky draft excluder

The gap under your door is an escape route for heat. Seal it up with a €10 adhesive strip of brush from the DIY shop. Or, use this as an excuse to go shopping and browse the endless prints and patterns of fabric cushioned draught excluders.

3. Bleed the radiators

Those with DIY allergies might not realise that a radiator can actually 'bleed'. It sounds like something involving a toolbox and overalls but, fear not, it's actually an easy job. All you need is a radiator key (from a DIY store)

4. Stop chimney drafts

If your fireplace is not being used, pick up one of the many gadgets used to block the chimney, such as a chimney balloon or chimney snug. Don't forget to remove it if you decide to light a fire.

5. Replace window seals

Not a lot of people know this, but around your window frames there is a sealant (known as caulk) and/or a strip of foam or plastic (known as weather-stripping). Over time, gaps appear in these seals causing heat to escape, so check if yours need replacing.

QUIZ (WIN WIN WIN)

1. At what setting should I set my thermostat?

Answer to energy@louthcoco.ie (please use 'Energy Quiz' in the subject field). Good Luck!

We welcome your suggestions. If you have ideas for potential energy savings please email: energy@louthcoco.ie