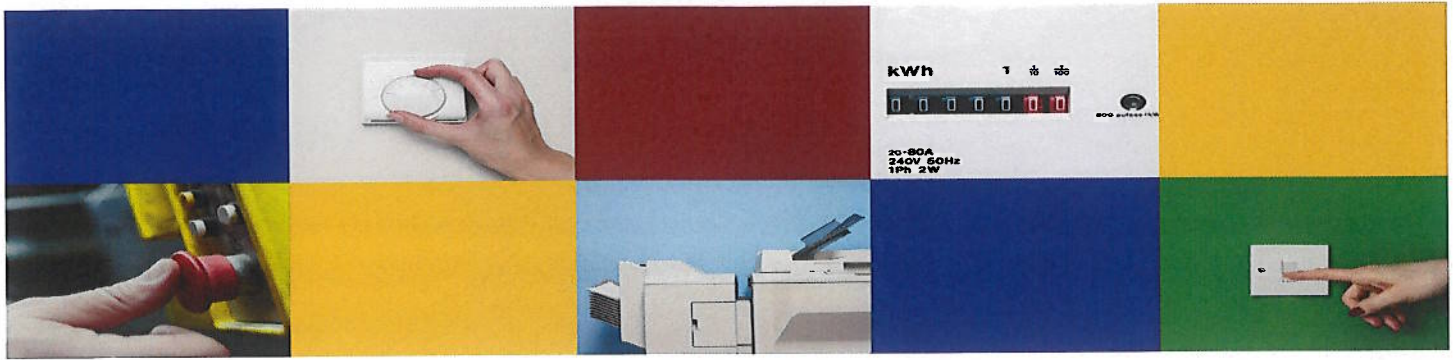




Energy Update

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Issue 5

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Issue 5 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.

CLIMATE ACTION

One of the biggest buzz words of today is Climate Action and how is this affecting us. There is no doubt that our weather patterns are changing. The summer of 2018 was glorious but water shortages were causing a real problem for our farmers and our livestock. The 'Snow Days' last March had a real impact on us. For many work closed, schools closed, road where impassable and there was No Bread. But on a serious note, if events like this become more frequent we all need to act now to slow down the effects of Global Warming that why we must take Action now.

So what are we in Louth County Council doing to tackle climate change?



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. The Council was formally awarded a Certificate of Registration of its Energy Management System to that standard in February 2018. An external Audit in October 2018 retained this accreditation and commits Louth County Council to maintaining a continuous standard of energy reduction.

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.**

The Energy office attended two events by Dundalk Chamber of Commerce where we displayed details about our Energy Management System and offered advice to businesses based. It is hoped that events like these will increase energy awareness within our community.

OUR TARGETS

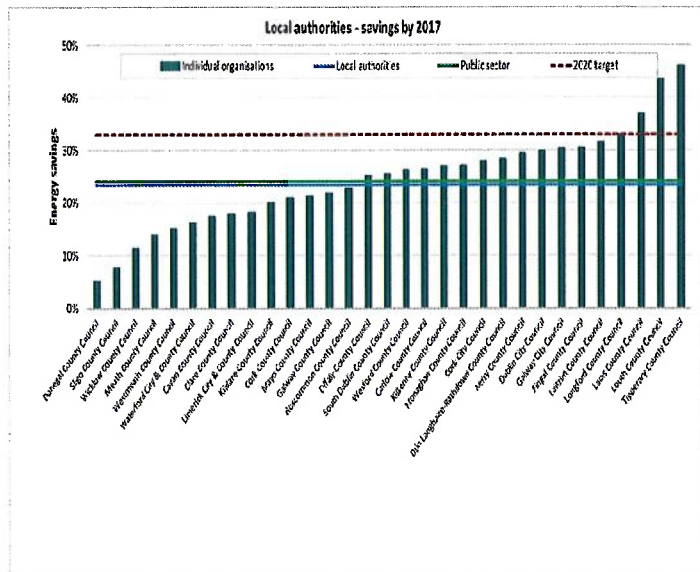
So how are we in Louth County Council doing with regard to our statutory 33% energy targets. The table below will show you that we are doing very well when compared with other Local Authorities and have reached our 2020 target early.

How have we managed this?

Well your efforts first and foremost. **All** staff buy in is crucial in helping us meet our targets . Other measures include the changes that we have made to our buildings through our annual BEC grant applications, which has saw

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.

the transition of many areas in LED lighting, our solar panels, new Building Management Systems to name but a few. But while this is worth celebrating we cannot become complacent, because as we take more housing estates in charge, along with more public lighting each year these figures are open to fluctuation. Also the EU are preparing new 2030 targets



Further interactive workshops promoting Climate Action is scheduled in Ardee, Dundalk and Drogheda Libraries during Engineers Week in March 2019

ENERGY AWARENESS EVENTS AND THE OP@W CAMPAIGN

During 2018 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. The events were

BETTER ENERGY COMMUNITY PROJECT 2018

In 2018 Louth County Council secured €410,679 of grant assistance from SEAI for energy works to the value of €1.1 million throughout the Northeast region. In total 7 beneficiaries from across the community took part in the scheme. The energy works carried out has generated savings of almost 5 million Kilowatt Hour or 2.6 million kg of carbon dioxide. **Retrofitting of the lighting in County Hall has resulted in a saving of in excess of €1,500 to our energy bills**

SEAI has made €31m grant support available nationally for 2019 and Louth County Council is in the process of submitting an application for the Communities Energy Grant 2019 which will assist in energy works being carried out throughout our community. If you know of any community or sports facilities that would like to reach out and avail of this grant, please pass on our contact details.

SCIENCE WEEK

Louth County Councils Libraries conducted a series of very productive and engaging workshops during Science Week in November. The energy office availed of the opportunity to conduct two workshops which were attended by local National Schools. The workshops explored how our young people can become energy champions, contribute to climate change, and manage energy efficiency in their home and classroom. The day involved plenty of hands on activities and fun filled games and proved to be a huge success.



We have many more awareness events planned for 2019, with the first for the staff based in Drogheda scheduled 27th February 2019. All welcome. Details of events will be posted up on the Staff Intranet page.

CARLINGFORD LOUGH GREENWAY

The latest news in relation to the €3.46 Million Carlingford Lough Greenway is that Louth County Council are

continuing to work closely with Newry Mourne and Down District Council and East Border Region on the delivery of the proposed Cross Border Greenway. Following the official opening of the Newry to Victoria Lock phase in July 2018, efforts are now fully focused on the Victoria Lock to Omeath section as well as the extension from Carlingford Village to the Marina. Doran Consulting have been appointed as the designer for the project and are currently working with the Project Partners and all relevant stakeholders on the design aspects of the scheme, prior to a consultation process being held and follow-up submission of a planning application in early 2019. Carlingford Lough *'Inspiring Active Travel'*



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WINTER ENERGY SAVING TIPS

1 Sort out the letterbox

Heat maybe 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. Remember 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 weatherstripping). Over time, gaps appear in these seals causing heat to escape, so check if yours need replacing.

6. Eliminate the worry of impending heating bills

If you want to completely avoid the worry of an impending heating bill, consider switching to pay as you go electricity. You can track your usage and control exactly how much you are spending. Electric Ireland's pay as you go electricity plan, called [Smarter Pay As You Go](#), offers the cheapest pay as you go electricity in Ireland.

7. Energy Efficiency Rewards

If you're taking even bigger measures to make your home more energy efficient, such as insulating walls, upgrading windows or replacing a boiler, Electric Ireland will credit your account as a reward. This scheme is called the [Energy Efficiency Incentive](#). Go online and you can find out how much credit you can earn.

Now that's Smarter Living - Simple Ideas That Make Life Better.

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