

At a Glance

COPE Galway is a local charity that provides services to those isolated in the community. COPE Galway has participated in the Cleaner Greener Production Programme (CGPP) and as a result, significant savings have been achieved. The team at COPE Galway reviewed all bills from the start and set up an opportunity matrix to target the most significant energy users both environmentally and financially at their facilities.

The team focussed on increasing environmental awareness among staff and services users. The green initiatives from the CGPP project can be replicated by staff and service users within their own homes. Energy and waste reduction measures were introduced along with green eco labelled chemicals, for cleaning purposes.

Key Achievements

- Total reduction in oil and electricity per annum: 84,225 kWh equating to a saving of €6581 per annum.
- Total saving of 30.5 tonnes of CO₂.
- 1,200kg of waste per annum diverted from landfill.
- Reduction in oil consumption by 28%.
- Use of green chemical alternatives resulting in the reduction of use of toxic chemicals and waste from excess packaging.
- Eco labelled chemicals are on trial at three of the facilities. A smart dose system is been used. This will reduce transportation of and packaging of chemicals.
- 100 staff were trained in eco driving techniques and 60 staff were trained on energy and waste minimisation.

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COPE Galway is a local Galway charity that provides services to those isolated in the community - including sustenance and social supports for older people, a refuge for women and children affected by domestic violence and accommodation for men and women experiencing homelessness.

The CGPP project at COPE Galway focused on reducing the overall energy and waste consumption of the charity's facilities through a programme of monitoring and measuring. In addition, an emphasis was also placed on increasing environmental awareness among staff.

Aim of this project

- 1: To reduce energy consumption throughout the facilities.
- 2: To introduce environmentally friendly cleaning products.
- 3: To educate staff on how to contribute to a greener environment in everyday work practices.
- 4: To enhance further reduction in waste going to landfill.

Project Description

COPE Galway has participated in the Cleaner Greener Production Programme CGPP and as a result, significant savings have been achieved. The team at COPE Galway reviewed all bills from the start and set up an opportunity matrix to target the most significant energy users both environmentally and financially at the facilities.

Eco labelled chemicals

Eco labelled chemicals are on trial at three of the facilities. A smart dose system as seen below is been used. This will reduce transportation of and packaging of chemicals. The smart dose system eliminates the need to gauge or guess dilutions therefore reduces waste



Smart dose system

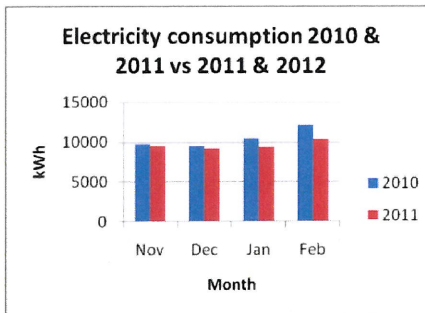
Energy Management

An energy survey was carried for each of the facilities. After monitoring took place the energy consumption for each facility was reviewed. On the basis of the results from the CGPP project results and COPE Galway secured a SEAI energy efficient grant. The grant was for wall and roof insulation, lighting retrofit and new energy efficient gas boilers at a number of for COPE facilities.

The new lighting retrofit has reduced the lighting energy consumption by 52%.

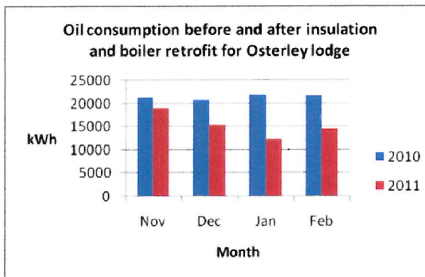
Plug in energy monitors were introduced during environmental awareness training.

Staff are now using the monitors at home and at work. This has increased the level of awareness.



The graph compares the electricity before and after environmental awareness training.

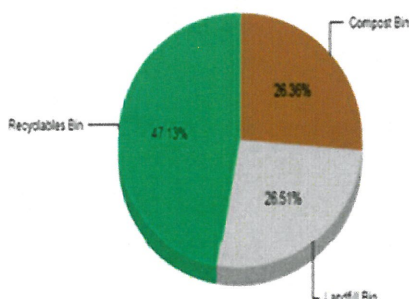
An example of one of the facilities Osterley lodge, demonstrated that due to wall and roof insulation & boiler alteration, oil consumption has been reduced by 28% which is equivalent to 24592kWh or 13107 kg CO₂/kWh while maintaining same levels of thermal comfort.



The graph above illustrates the decrease in oil consumption in kWh, between 2010 and 2011.

Waste

During the CGPP project the team monitored general, recyclable and organic waste. The amount of waste going to landfill has significantly reduced as seen below. 74% of waste is now diverted away from landfill compared to 62% at the start of the CGPP project.



Eco driving

Eco driving training was given to over 100 staff at COPE Galway. Good driving techniques have reduced fuel costs by approximately 5%.



Lessons learned

Many important lessons were learned during the CGPP project including:

- Staff sharing ideas has led to considerable savings that can be achieved with little or no investment.
- Plug in energy monitors increased awareness has resulted in significant savings.
- The importance of monthly meetings which included environmental initiatives in order to keep focus on further savings, proved invaluable for all the team.

More Information

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The Cleaner Greener Production Programme (CGPP) of the EPA is funded under the National Development Plan 2007-2013. The CGPP was launched in 2001 as a grant scheme to fund Irish organisations to implement cleaner greener practices while achieving significant cost savings.

Cleaner Greener Production is the application of integrated preventive environmental strategies to processes, products and services to increase overall efficiency and reduce risks to humans and the environment.

- Production processes: conserving raw materials and energy, eliminating toxic raw materials, and reducing the quantity and toxicity of all emissions and wastes
- Products: reducing negative impacts along the life cycle of a product, from raw materials extraction to its ultimate disposal.
- Services: incorporating environmental concerns into designing and delivering services.

The programme aims are focussed on avoiding and preventing adverse environmental impact rather than treating or cleaning up afterwards. This approach brings better economic and environmental efficiency.

The CGPP is funded by the EPA STRIVE and NWPP programmes

Additional case studies from companies that participated in CGPP are available on our website (www.cleanerproduction.ie), including:

- Programme brochures, summarising all projects funded under CGPP

More information on CGPP is available from the EPA:

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