

PRESS RELEASE

Fingal cuts energy bill by half a million euro in 4 years.

Fingal County Council has reduced its energy costs by over half a million euro through a series of energy-saving initiatives that have been carried out in the local authority over the last four years. The savings show that Fingal is way ahead of the annual three per cent energy reduction target set out for public bodies and has reduced its carbon emissions by 648 tonnes.

The total energy saved through the *Energy Reduction Program 2007 – 2010* is so impressive that it would power the average house for 64 years, make 631 round trips to New York or make 40 million cups of tea. The programme focused on four key buildings namely County Council offices in Swords and Blanchardstown, as well as Blanchardstown and Balbriggan libraries.

In 2010, electricity consumption in County Hall was down by 24 per cent compared to 2007, while gas consumption was down six per cent. Electricity use in Grove Road dropped by 11 per cent between 2008 and 2010, while gas consumption dropped by 25 per cent. There was a reduction of almost 15 per cent in electricity use for both Blanchardstown and Balbriggan libraries, while gas consumption dropped 12 per cent.

These important energy savings by Fingal County Council can be attributed to a number of initiatives including reprogramming existing Building Management Systems and controls and regular reprogramming of lighting management system. The Dublin energy agency Codema also carried out a Switch Off campaign which encouraged staff to switch off lights and office equipment when not in use.

Enthusiastically welcoming the impressive energy savings, Fingal County Manager David O'Connor said he was "delighted at the savings we have achieved through simple but very effective energy management". "We've shown we know how to use best practice to get best value for money while still delivering great benefits to the environment."

A number of other actions are now underway in Fingal County Council that will improve energy efficiency even further, including refitting existing lighting in County Hall with sensor detection and changes to the air handling unit and lighting at Blanchardstown Library.

Fingal County Council received grants from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland for works relating to County Hall and Blanchardstown Library. These are examples of actions taken which will help Fingal County Council to meet the 2020 target of a 33 per cent reduction in its overall energy consumption.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

The *Energy Reduction Program 2007 – 2010* has achieved the following savings in Fingal County Council:

- Cumulative fiscal savings of €523,246
- Cumulative kWh savings of 1,624,246 kilowatt hours.
- Total carbon savings of 648 tonnes

The Total Savings for Fingal Co Co are 1,617,177 kWh/yr. The Dublin energy agency Codema calculates that with this energy saving, you could:

- Power the average house for 64 years
- Stay in an electric shower for 23 years
- Make 40 million cups of tea
- Make 631 round trips to New York
- Power almost 34,000 TVs for a week
- Power every PC in Fingal for 3 weeks
- Power every PC in Malahide for 42 weeks
- Power every PC in Swords for 21weeks
- Power one load of tumble drying in every house in Fingal
- Power Terminal 1 at Dublin Airport for 6 weeks
- Power enough trawlers to catch 178 tonnes of fish at Howth Harbour
- Blow dry every woman’s hair in Fingal 40 times over

The program focused on four key buildings in Fingal County Council; County Hall in Swords, Grove Road (Blanchardstown) and Blanchardstown and Balbriggan libraries and a breakdown of savings for each building is as follows:

County Hall (Swords), for period 2007 – 2010	Grove Road (Blanchardstown), for period 2008 – 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity consumption reduced by 24 per cent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity consumption reduced by 11 per cent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas consumption reduced by six per cent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas consumption reduced by 25 per cent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total cumulative kWh savings: 885,381 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total cumulative kWh savings: 601,886
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total cumulative cost savings: €299,743 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total cumulative cost savings: €151,212
Blanchardstown Library, for period 2008 –2010	Balbriggan Library, for period 2008 – 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity consumption reduced by 14.5 per cent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity consumption reduced by 14.8 per cent

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas consumption reduced by 0.5 per cent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas consumption reduced by 12 per cent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total cumulative kWh savings: 94,110 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total cumulative kWh savings: 35,800
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total cumulative cost savings: €49,450 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total cumulative cost savings: €22,926

These energy savings can be attributed a number of actions that have been carried out in the council, such as:

- A Switch Off campaign which began in March 2010 and was carried out by the Dublin energy agency Codema, which acts as energy adviser to the council. The campaign encouraged staff to switch off lights and office equipment when not in use, through the use of promotional material and dedicated 'Switch Off' days.
- Replacing existing lighting in County Hall with sensor detectors
- Air handling unit and lighting changes
- Reprogramming of existing BMS (Building Management System) controls
- Regular reprogramming of the lighting management system controls (Initial reprogramming BMS and LMS contributed to first year savings 100,000 kWh. Secondary changes, refining programming of BMS and LMS plus changes in work practices resulted in a further 100,000 kWh saving in second year)

Benchmark studies carried out across number of buildings in 2008 have been used to ascertain the actual occupancy of buildings, opening hours, range of controls and mechanical/electrical equipment on each type of building.

About Codema:

Codema is the leading energy agency in Dublin. For over 10 years, it has been committed to improving the energy efficiency of Dublin homes and workplaces, while also creating sustainable solutions for the city's infrastructure. It acts as energy adviser to Fingal County Council, along with the other three Dublin local authorities.

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