

WHAT CAN I DO TO PREPARE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE?

Case Studies

Belfast Harbour: Reducing Emissions on a Grand Scale*

Belfast Harbour employs over 17,000 people with activities ranging from heavy engineering to ICT, financial services to nature conservation. Belfast Harbour has reduced carbon emissions from in-house operations by reducing demand and controlling consumption where possible, in addition to employing technological solutions such as low-energy lighting and energy efficient boiler installation. As a result energy consumption in its workshops has reduced by 67% and eliminated 30 tonnes of CO₂ emissions.

Moy Park: Reducing Reliance on External Fuel Sources and Reducing Carbon Footprint*

Moy Park is Northern Ireland's largest food processing company and one of Europe's leading poultry companies. In 2010 Moy Park consumed in excess of 250 million litres of warm water on its Dungannon site. As part of a long term investment to reduce its environmental footprint the installation of a £85,000 heat recovery system was authorised. The system recovers the heat normally wasted from the site's largest refrigeration system to preheat the water. This has saved £150k in reduced heating oil demand.

Rural Generation: Example of Agricultural Adaptation**

John Gilliland has transformed the Londonderry family farm from a 320ha cereal-growing enterprise into a successful renewable fuel and waste management business specialising in using willow. John's new business, "Rural Generation", has installed 140 biomass boilers and planted 3,000ha of willow for customers. Planning permission is currently being sought for a 250kW wind turbine close to the farm and three 3MW turbines on an outlying farm to provide electricity for drying woodchip on the farm. John is engaged in willow growing knowledge transfer with Ukraine and also a US company, and hopes it will ultimately bring a revenue stream back to Northern Ireland. In 2011 John was a Green Energy Farmer of the Year finalist in the Farmers Weekly awards.

GRAHAM Construction: Environmental Responsibility for Long Term Business Success

GRAHAM Construction has committed to specific energy efficient practices at all levels within the Company, including: raising energy efficiency awareness; reducing energy consumption across all operations, and; encouraging the Company's Supply Chain to adopt energy efficient systems of work in their operations, and; ensure that selection and maintenance of plant and equipment is carried out with due consideration to whole life energy efficiency. Complementary environmental practises to support business environmental sustainability include: ensuring all possible opportunities are taken to reduce, reuse and recycle waste and to conserve scarce natural resources; managing resource use to ensure that materials with lower environmental impacts are procured, and; proactively manage ecological issues on projects by seeking to protect and enhance biodiversity through the use of biodiversity risk assessments and plans.

H & J Martin Ltd.: Strategic Plans for Energy Efficiency *

H & J Martin Ltd., construction and property management services, recognises the importance of energy management in its maintenance contracts; to make savings for one client- Duncreggan Student Village – its project team developed a strategic action plan of energy efficient measures. These included replacing 22 gas boilers with 11 more efficient ones and motivating occupants to change their behaviour through awareness raising campaigns. Plans are afoot to install solar heating panels and switching to a green energy provider.

Titanic Quarter: Incorporating Flood Risk

The £7bn Belfast Titanic Quarter project, one of Europe's largest and most exciting waterfront development, is transforming a 185-acre site on the banks of Belfast's river Lagan into a new mixed use maritime quarter. Environmental sustainability and resilience to a changing climate is at the core of the development. The project aims to: minimise carbon dioxide emissions by reducing energy demand through careful design, siting and construction of buildings which incorporate energy conservation measures, including passive solar gain, high standards of insulation, and the use of combined heat and power; to support renewable forms of energy particularly in community heating systems; and to ensure buildings are not at risk from flooding due to predicted sea level rises likely to occur as a result of climate change.

*Case studies prepared by Business in the Community (Northern Ireland), of which these companies are members

** Information adapted from "Farming Weekly" news article

(<http://www.fwi.co.uk/Articles/16/09/2011/129085/FW-Awards-2011-Green-Energy-Farmer-of-the-Year-finalist-John.htm>; accessed 04/12/2011)