

# ENTERPRISE CENTRE BEST PRACTICE CLIMATE ACTION COMPENDIUM

Inspired by **best  
practices** across  
Europe



**SUSTAINABLE**  
futures for enterprise centres



# HOW TO USE THIS INTERACTIVE GUIDE

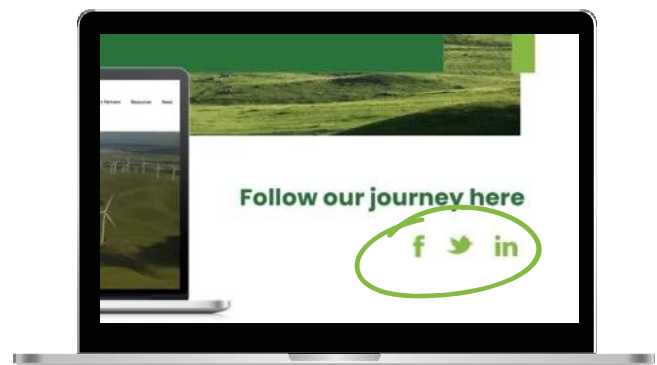
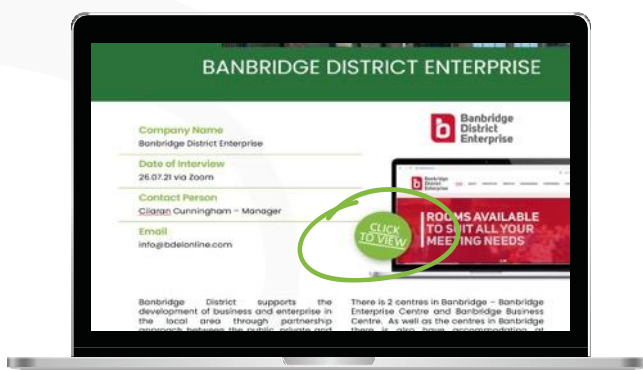
The SFEC Best Practice Climate Action Compendium is an online interactive set of resources and additional learning links. This content provides a deeper, self-guided learning opportunity featuring sustainable enterprise centres throughout Europe. We invite you to use these links and to explore and engage with the case studies and best practices in more detail.

## INTERACTIVE CONTENT IS IDENTIFIED IN THIS GUIDE BY THESE ICONS



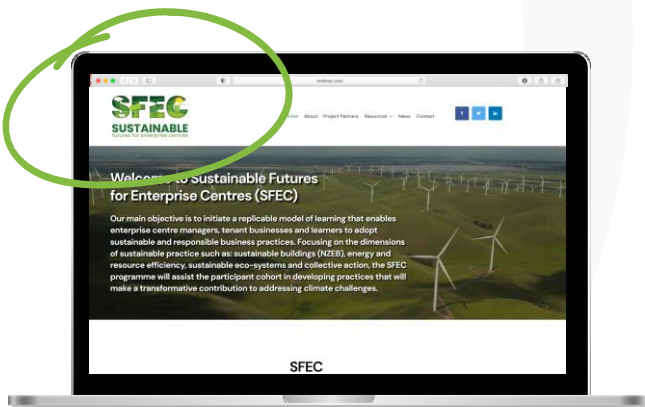
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### DEEPER LEARNING - Click to find out more about our case studies



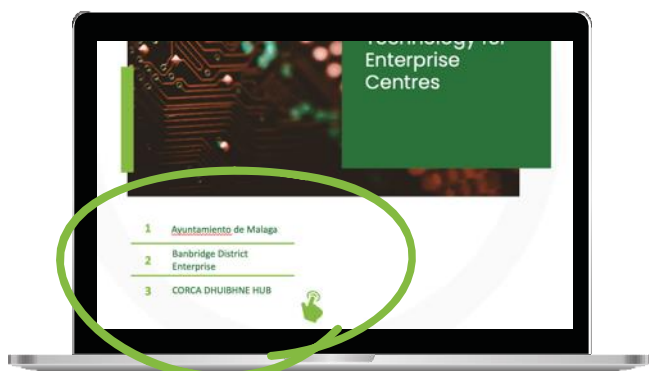
### TOP TIP

To return to the compendium - use the click to go back option in your browser



### FAST AND EASY NAVIGATION

Jump to a case study of choice by clicking on the interactive table of contents at the beginning of each section



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This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use, which may be made of the information contained therein



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



# INTRODUCTION TO SUSTAINABLE FUTURES FOR ENTERPRISE CENTRES

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The **Primary Objective** of the **Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres (SFEC)** project is to initiate a replicable model of learning that enables enterprise centre managers, tenant businesses and learners to adopt sustainable and responsible business practices.

The project focuses on the dimensions of sustainable practice such as: sustainable buildings (NZEB), energy and resource efficiency, sustainable eco-systems, collective action and will assist the participant cohort in developing practices that will make a transformative contribution to addressing climate challenges.





# PARTNER INTRODUCTION

*Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres project brings together partners from **Northern Ireland, Ireland, Denmark, Spain and Netherlands.***

*This section of the Best Practice Climate Action Compendium contains links of our partners websites for more information.*

## OUR TEAM



[www.omaghenterprise.co.uk](http://www.omaghenterprise.co.uk)



[www.intreegue.nl](http://www.intreegue.nl)



[www.enterprisecentres.ie](http://www.enterprisecentres.ie)



[www.momentumconsulting.ie](http://www.momentumconsulting.ie)



[www.ances.com](http://www.ances.com)



[www.euei.dk](http://www.euei.dk)



# BEST PRACTICE CLIMATE ACTION COMPENDIUM

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Many enterprise centre managers want to take measures to improve the sustainability of their centres and gain learning that they can pass onto their tenants but there is currently no VET training or offering of best practices available to help drive change or improve their own environmental practice as part of an innovative pedagogical process.

The aim of this Enterprise Centre Best Practice Climate Action Compendium is to identify 50+ examples of best practices enterprise centre case studies in climate action and sustainability from participating countries and all over Europe, having an influence on enterprise centres where they can replicate to reduce their carbon footprint, improve their services, supports and future proof their infrastructures.

This first of a kind publication introduces Enterprise Centre leaders including Board of Directors, enterprise centres business advisors, mentors, VET educators as well as operational staff and community enterprise centre volunteers to sustainable practices and justifies their importance in Enterprise Centre Sustainable futures.

Enterprise Centre Best Practice Climate Action Compendium is first in our work plan because it captures inspirational case studies and best practice examples of enterprise centres and other public buildings which are/have implemented innovative sustainable and climate change programmes, thus consolidating the working relationships and laying the groundwork for the following outputs.

When inspired, you can read further in our Toolkit and Action Plan to bring sustainable practices and ideas to fruition via concrete and applicable learning actions.

## METHODOLOGY

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To gather the information, we have used the extensive knowledge and resources of our partners. This network consists of businesses in the education, climate and sustainability sectors and with other organisations in the government, private and non-profit sector. Every partner was involved in the compilation and analysis of the current trends in innovative sustainable and climate change programmes and management methods applicable

to them. This included the analysis of academic research (journals and publications), online research (policy and practice documents) open call through our networks for best practice case studies.

The methodology is guided by the belief that the following project resources must be based on accurate findings specific to our target groups.

## 01

### DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY FOR SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISE CENTRES:

Enterprise Centres who have adopted new digital technologies are featured in this section. Digital Technology Includes emerging technologies for infrastructure, smart grid/agile digital supply chains, working practices including facilities for remote workers, virtual meet ups and conferencing. To learn more about how enterprise centres are utilising technology to improve their sustainability see section 01.



## 02

### ENERGY + RESOURCE EFFICIENCY:

This sections features enterprise centres who have taken actions regarding energy and resource efficiency including; building management systems and policies that improve energy efficiency, ensuring sustainable energy supply, and other measures to promote saving food and water and promoting reuse and recycling. To learn more about how enterprise centres are making improvements see section 02.



## 03

### SUSTAINABLE ECO-SYSTEMS + COLLECTIVE ACTION:

This section puts a spotlight on methodologies that facilitate tenants and users to adopt lower carbon work approaches and ways to collaborate with suppliers and service providers through circular economy principles and practices. These case studies showcase ways to cultivate and actively participate in partnerships with enterprise and community groups and in turn make improvements in the use of resources and reduced climate impact. To learn more, see section 03.



## 04

### SUSTAINABLE FUTURES FOR ENTERPRISE CENTRES:

Future proofing is more than capital investment in environmental actions for enterprise space, it also includes developing the workspace of the future to address and meet talent shortages. To learn more about how enterprise centres are building for a sustainable future see section 04.



## 05

### SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE/BUILDINGS:

Sustainable infrastructure refers to equipment and systems that are designed to meet the essential service needs based on all-round sustainable principles. This means the infrastructure is environmentally friendly from end to end, and that includes economic, financial, social and institutional factors. This section showcases enterprise centres that are taking actions towards passive building principles that design for performance with smart low-carbon materials, retrofitting and heat and energy management, eventually working towards a zero/near-zero carbon footprint.







# 01

## Digital Technology for Enterprise Centres

Digital Technology Includes emerging technologies for infrastructure, smart grid/agile digital supply chains, working practices including facilities for remote workers, virtual meet ups and conferencing.

1 [Ayuntamiento De Malaga](#)

2 [Banbridge Enterprise Centre](#)

3 [Corca Dhuibhne Hub](#)

4 [Mohill Enterprise Centre](#)

5 [Ludgate Hub](#)





# AYUNTAMIENTO DE MÁLAGA

(City Council of Malaga)



**Company Name**  
City Council of Malaga

**Date of Interview**  
01/06/2021 via Video Call

**Contact Person**  
Sanchez Pacheco, Department Head at Malaga City Hall

**Email**  
info@malaga.eu



PHOTO DE EDIFICIOS INTELIGENTES:



Malaga was the first Spanish city to have a Department of Innovation and New Technologies, which promoted a series of actions that were consolidated in the following legislatures until today. The different areas of the City Council have been linked to projects related to innovation and new technologies, increasingly increasing their participation and involvement in the process and resulting in the new TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2022.

It should be noted in this line of sustainable innovation that in the Governing Board of the City Council of Malaga held on July 11, 2020 approved the Climate Plan 2050, called "Alicia". The objectives foreseen are different given the magnitude covered by the Climate Plan, the reduction foreseen for 2020 is considerably higher, as well as that projected for 2030. Alicia adds, like the Urban Agenda, the 2050 horizon, where carbon neutrality is foreseen, in the same way as established in the recent document "the European Green Deal" of the European

Commission presented at COP 25. The project that we are talking about, to collaborate with the SFEC project, from the Area of Innovation and new Technologies, is the CENTESIMAL project.

The City Council of Malaga was the beneficiary of a call for the granting of aid for the development of the national plan of intelligent territories of the digital agenda for Spain, Pilots of intelligent buildings presenting an initiative called CENTESIMAL (Centenas de Edificios y Sensores Inteligentes de Málaga). This initiative involves the implementation of a huge network of IoT nodes, installed in buildings of various kinds, creating a telecommunications mesh that covers almost the entire surface of the city. In the 218 buildings participating in the project, and their surroundings, a series of sensors will be installed that will allow the development of a multitude of use cases, which will improve the well-being, environment and safety of its citizens, as well as save energy and offer new services.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**3000** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ?

(eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **10,000** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **15** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Public Body

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Public Body

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

The "CentESiMal" project was one of the projects selected as beneficiaries of red.es' Call for Smart Building Pilots. The objective of the Call for Intelligent Building Pilots is to develop a series of projects to refine and test the integration model of buildings and other internal objects in smart cities, as well as to demonstrate their benefits and the services that such integration will allow to provide. In the envisaged model, buildings are integrated into the smart city as an IoT (Internet of Things) node, which provides all the building's information to a smart city platform. In this way, they will send data on the levels of air pollution at different heights, noise or water; meteorological information such as wind speed, temperature, humidity or rainfall; information on consumption of services such as electricity, water, gas or diesel; information on the energy produced, or the storage capacities, among others.





## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

### Digital technology for sustainable business Centres:

- Installation of a system of air quality monitoring indicators.
- Pedestrian flow indicators in pedestrian areas.
- Counting of people entering/exiting buildings.

### Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings:

- Establishment of smart meters to monitor electricity consumption inside buildings.
- Installation of alarms on pollution levels or danger to the population.
- Installation of multiple indicators that will serve to detect increases in corrosion, humidity, etc.

### Sustainable ecosystems and collective action:

- Installation of sensors for the control of noise and electromagnetic pollution.
- Monitoring for the follow-up and control of beach water quality.
- Installation of electric vehicle recharging points and parking spaces.

### Sustainable Futures for Business Centres:

- Indoor localization using IPS technologies.
- Interaction with Intelligent Building.

### Energy and resource efficiency.

- Remote management and automation of public lighting systems.
- Monitoring of the city's water cycle.
- Waste tele management.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

Red.es, an entity under the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation, has been the promoter of the Call for Smart Building Pilots together with the City Council of Malaga. The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), through the Pluri-regional Operational Program of Spain (POPE) has co-financed this project.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

In addition to financing, the entities and projects mentioned in the previous point have played an important role in guiding and supporting the actions to be undertaken. The involvement of the beneficiaries of these actions, as well as the owners of the different existing buildings and infrastructures on which these measures will be applied, has played an important role in their implementation.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

### Digital technology for sustainable business centres:

- CO2 concentration control in building interiors, improving air quality and the health of the people who pass through them.
- Improvement of public road safety and improvement of tourist services.
- Improving the efficiency of public transport services, making optimal routes and thus reducing the impact of noise pollution and CO2 emissions.

### Sustainable infrastructures/buildings:

- More efficient consumption and reduction of the impact of energy consumption and light pollution.
- More detailed study of the climatic conditions of each area and, therefore, better use of the natural resources of each area.
- Better care of critical building structures thanks to its self-diagnostic system.

### Energy and resource efficiency:

- Energy savings thanks to the efficiency of the system implemented, providing light according to the affluence and needs of each place.
- Better control of water quality and a more efficient use of water, with the corresponding savings that this implies.
- Optimization of the collection and

management of the same, causing a considerable saving in costs and contamination or accumulation of the same in the public road.

### Sustainable ecosystems and collective action:

- Control of noise and electromagnetic pollution from airborne noise and radiating elements, facilitating their identification and subsequent measures to mitigate their effects.
- Improvement of beach water quality through more precise identification of the most affected areas.
- Reducing CO2 emissions and encouraging the use of electric vehicles.

### Sustainable futures for business centres:

- Obtaining information on users and their behaviour, thus enabling modifications to be made to make better use of spaces and resources.
- Buildings provide accurate and instantaneous information on their occupancy, energy consumed, accumulated waste, etc., thus achieving a better distribution of them according to needs.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

Together with the support of local public administrations, we intend to continue with the digital and sustainable transformation of the city of Malaga. Thanks to these pilot tests we will obtain data on the positive or negative effects of the implemented measures and, for those that have reported beneficial effects, our goal is to apply the tested actions to all the buildings and business and public infrastructures of the city.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Awareness and support from society, not only from public
2. That the political authorities give us their support and trust, in addition to the necessary infrastructure investments that will have to be made. It will also be essential to have all the necessary qualified and experienced personnel.
3. To look for a reference city on which to base the future evolution of our city, from which we can obtain new ideas or systems to implement.
4. Maintain relationships with our stakeholders as they play a very important role in driving this project forward.
5. project.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. To have the necessary contacts and support, both political and professional.
2. Provide in-depth training to all employees in advance, not once the project is underway.
3. To carry out innovative and technological but necessary actions, so that they bring utility and value to society.
4. Trust in good practices and their corresponding benefits, but always with patience since these results will not come in the short term.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 1 to 5 years

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Next 1 to 5 years

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 1 to 5 years

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 1 to 5 years

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 1 to 5 years





## BANBRIDGE DISTRICT ENTERPRISE



### Company Name

Banbridge District Enterprise

### Date of Interview

26.07.21 via Zoom

### Contact Person

Ciaran Cunningham – Manager

### Email

info@bdelonline.com



Banbridge District supports the development of business and enterprise in the local area through partnership approach between the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The Centre provides tailor-made office and industrial workspace for small businesses. Office suites are available ranging in size from 200 to 500 sq. ft. Industrial units range from 588 to 1400 sq. ft and are tailor made to suit a range of manufacturing capabilities.

There is 2 centres in Banbridge – Banbridge Enterprise Centre and Banbridge Business Centre. As well as the centres in Banbridge there is also have accommodation at Rathfriland Enterprise Centre and Dunbarton Court, Gilford.

Banbridge Centres are strategically located in a pivotal geographical position within easy access, all accommodation is designed to meet the needs of new and expanding businesses and a range of support services are available.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



5 EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST 9 YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Tenants/ Public Body/community members/SMEs

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

Banbridge District Enterprise have Introduced Herschel Inferred Heaters that targets the person not the room, cost effective and storage heaters are not user friendly. The radiant nature of Herschel Infrared means the heat goes exactly where you want it and you don't waste excess energy warming up unused areas of a room. There is no noise, no moving parts and no maintenance. Infrared heat helps maintain a healthy damp-free office atmosphere. This has been rolled out across all offices/tenants but it must be noted not everyone wanted it.

Other good practices: Bookkeeping system Xero to create and send professional invoices. The software lets customers pay straight away from online invoices using third-party payment services, set reminders for customers to pay, quicker and most importantly paperless.

Banbridge District Enterprise also strive to reduce waste and look to saving energy where possible.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

Analysed the Inferred heating options. Worked with advisors to develop an action plan what the company could do, looking at the electricity providers, lighting LED and at different options to replace heating.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

Focusing on the heating system the company didn't involve tenants and mainly communicated with staff when considering to implement the system. Banbridge District Enterprise installed a trial system in reception area, feedback from staff was positive.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

Training was provided on setting thermostats and set on timers for different stages of the day, if it drops below certain temperatures comes back on again. The company received instructions as well.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

1. The system was monitored monthly to record any changes and review the data, this is easy to do by logging into system to see usage and compare
2. From implementing this system it makes the company mindful of internal and external usage
3. From reviewing the Introduced Herschel Inferred Heaters with staff, Men & Women have mixed perception on the heating system
4. From conversations tenants are not interested in cost saving, as they currently have a flat rate for heat and power.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

1. Introduce sensor lighting for common spaces & areas.
2. Look at co working spaces as a way to save energy and generate income for the company
3. Work towards a more sustainable future for Banbridge District Enterprise
4. Review SDG's to see how the company can implement others into their building infrastructure and a way to improve energy & resource efficiency.



# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Discussions with other Enterprise Centres to see what they have implemented
2. More support from Invest NI, funders for example Carbon Trust Energy Efficiency Loan;
3. More information on sources of funding
4. Resources and materials to advise on energy efficiency and to be sustainable in the future.
5. Ongoing updates on what is available for Enterprise centres/organisations.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Research into region's initiatives
2. Try to involve an expert who can advise
3. Ensure the funding is available
4. Talk to others who have implemented practices into their organisations asking what worked well, what didn't work well to learn.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 6 months

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Ongoing

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

1 to 3 years

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Ongoing

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 6 to 12 months.



## CORCA DHUIBHNE HUB (The Dingle Hub)



### Company Name

Páirc Ghnó Cúilín, Dingle, Co. Kerry

### Date of Interview

22/07/2021 via video call

### Contact Person

Deirdre de Bhailís, Hub Manager

### Email

deirdre@dinglehub.com



The Corca Dhuibhne Creativity and Innovation Hub (Corca Dhuibhne/ Dingle Hub) is a community enterprise initiative supported by Enterprise Ireland, eir, Údarás na Gaeltachta, Kerry County Council, Net Feasa and the Dingle Business Chamber.

The vision is to build a creative, livable, sustainable and inclusive community, fostering a vibrant and diverse ecosystem of stakeholders to facilitate the creation and maintenance of well-paid, year-round incomes on the Dingle Peninsula. The Hub aims to identify opportunities through collaborative projects, to improve core skills, to facilitate learning new skills, to help entrepreneurship and business and to improve people's lives.

The Hub is located in a specially fitted-out office facility underpinned by 1Gb fibre broadband. There are 30 spaces available to support new business formation, comprising of co-working spaces, dedicated offices and hot desks.

Established in April 2017, The Corca Dhuibhne Hub works to create strategic antecedents for new employment within four thematic pillars;

1. Sustainability and Green Agenda
2. Digital Transformation
3. Creative Industries and
4. Community-Authored Vision and Strategy.

Dingle is a small port town on southwest Ireland's Dingle Peninsula. The population of the Dingle Peninsula is approximately 10,000 people of which 2,050 live in Daingean Uí Chúis / Dingle Town.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



4 EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN 200 PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST 4 YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise/ Community Development/ Creative Sector/ and supporting Research Development and Innovation activities on the peninsula.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- SMEs/ Sole Traders/ Micro-enterprises/Students (3rd level students) and Connected (Remote) workers.

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

The Corca Dhuibhne Hub seeks to support and create a community that engages continuously in education, learning and upskilling; by being supportive of innovation, through learning about the future societal changes and using Test and Trial Networks to explore solutions; by facilitating effective engagement between the community, public bodies and private companies wishing to co-develop workable solutions for these challenges; and by encouraging the young people to believe that they can live and work in their local community at some time in the future, doing work that is both rewarding and challenging; it should be possible to support the creation of a significant number of high quality, sustainable incomes that will guarantee the economic and social development of the community on the Dingle Peninsula.

DINGLE PENINSULA 2030 - The Corca Dhuibhne Hub is part of a collaborative Dingle Peninsula 2030 strategy, an initiative for a more environmentally and economically sustainable future on the Dingle Peninsula. The goal is to transition the peninsula into a low-carbon society. This is important for the health of our planet, and to plan for future environmental changes and regulations. By reducing energy demands and using local renewable resources, the initiative could save the peninsula as much as €8 million.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

Dingle Project -Since its launch in 2018, the ESB Dingle project has developed the electricity network and installed a range of new technologies across the Dingle peninsula. The Dingle Peninsula has been chosen as a Sustainable Innovation Pilot for the EU Ploutos project (announced October 2020). As part of this, the Corca Dhuibhne Hub will work with partners Teagasc, IFA and Net Feasa (a technology company dealing with Internet of Things and located in the Dingle Hub) to roll-out carbon emission sensor technologies to 30 farms on the Peninsula. This will encourage new collaborations between farmers, technology providers, data analysts, food/service entrepreneurs and consumers to unlock opportunities for new businesses and new revenue streams from higher value products. Data gathered will be analysed and used to develop models and effective decision-support tools for farmers and to add value to a range of products and services, e.g.

- using good environmental parameters in marketing goods from the area;
- localised 'real-time' weather data enabling providers to tailor tourist packages optimised for changing weather conditions;
- building a trusted brand for the Dingle

Peninsula to secure the region as a destination of choice for the sustainably conscious visitor supported by data proving low food miles and low carbon footprint.

- It is hoped that facilitating collaborations across the value chain will support and enable co-created, innovative solutions to both address climate change and support the financial viability of farms (SDG11|SDG13|SDG12|SDG4|SDG17|SDG8|SDG9)

To date, activities have included home energy trials, community planning, anaerobic digestion, smart farming trial, community energy mentor training, Climate Hacks in schools, and a sustainable transport initiative. A West Kerry Dairy Farmers' Sustainable Energy Community has recently been established, as has a new community energy group. In early February, ESB Networks launched its electric car trial with 17 EV's being driven by trial participants across the Dingle Peninsula for a year (SDG13|SDG17|SDG11|SDG7)



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

Established in early 2018, Corca Dhuibhne 2030 is a multi-partner initiative on the Dingle Peninsula, Co. Kerry. It involves the Corca Dhuibhne Creativity and Innovation Hub, ESB Networks, North East & West Kerry Development (NEWKD)) and the SFI MaREI Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine, at UCC. Partners actively collaborate with each other and with the local community, schools, business, transport and farming sectors to support and enable the broader societal changes required for the sustainable transition.

### Across pillars:

Enterprise Ireland, KETB, KCC, MTU, ÚnaG, UCC, eir, NEWKD

### Within Pillars:

1. Sustainability:: MaREI, SEAI, Teagasc, SFI, ESB Networks, Gas Networks Ireland, Dept of Transport, NTA, Local Link Kerry, CIE, Bus Éireann
2. Digital Transformation: Kerry Agribusiness, Teagasc, Net Feasa, IFA, Techspace, Coder Dojo
3. Creative Industries:: Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Creative Ireland, Animation Dingle, Féile na Bealtaine,

Other Voices, Ireland's Edge, New Dingle International Film Festival, Dingle Lit



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

The mentorship from the Board has been incredibly valuable.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

- Successfully awarded funding through the EU Ploutos project (announced October 2020) under Horizon 2020.
- Announced (Dingle Sustainable Energy Community) as Finalist with SEAI Sustainable Energy Awards.
- Dingle Peninsula was the overall winner of the .IE Digital Town Awards 2021. Dingle Peninsula came out on top for their innovative project 'Reimagining Creatively Through Digital'. The focus of the Dingle team was on promoting innovation and imagining new ways of doing things through digital.
- The .IE Digital Town Awards were launched earlier this year to honour local town projects and people that have demonstrated how digital projects have contributed to enhancements or digital improvements in areas such as health, tourism, education, public services, employment opportunities, citizen empowerment, and social entrepreneurship.
- SFI Discover Funding received in December 2019 - to roll out the 'Activating the Energy Citizen' programme.
- Completed the Dingle Energy Masterplan supported by SEAI in September 2019.
- The Anaerobic Digestion Feasibility study was completed in May 2020 (supported by SEAI).
- The Hub has recently received funding to upgrade the windows and insulation in one of their leased premises via the Connected Hubs.
- The Hub has successfully trained 12 community energy mentors (supported by Kerry Education and Training Board and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)).



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

Eir (large fixed, mobile and broadband telecommunications company) have been a valuable partner throughout equipping the centre with a dedicated fibre line. An upgrade is now needed, and more network access points are to be added due to increasing demand and the expanded tenant capacity of The Hub.

Exploring a project with Kerry County Council, the National Transport Authority, CIE (Córas Iompair Éireann (CIÉ) is a commercial semi-state company and the largest provider of public transport services in Ireland), the Department of Transport, LocalLink Kerry and University College Dublin to undertake a feasibility study for the enhancement of sustainable transport modes on the Peninsula.



# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Project management, event management, marketing and human resources training could be useful for enterprise managers starting off.
2. Funding mechanisms can be disjointed and difficult to identify. Supporting centres to identify and access funding sources, and funding models would be of benefit.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Aim to be a focal point for sustainability and related capacity building initiatives in your community. This leads to business opportunities which strengthen client relationships and encourages economic activity that supports the SDGs
2. Connect with local education and research institutes to support the delivery of suitable courses, partner on engaged research projects and identify funding collaboration opportunities.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Ongoing. Funding has just been received for one of the leased properties, with windows to be replaced by the end of 2021.

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

The building design concept is being progressed immediately.

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Activities are ongoing with various partners. A learning brief from the SFI supported 'Activating Energy Citizens' will be developed in early 2022.

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

The Hub continues to expand

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

The broadband is being updated and will be completed in 2021/2022.



## MOHILL ENTERPRISE CENTRE



### Company Name

Mohill Enterprise Centre

### Date of Interview

22.08.21 via Phone Interview

### Contact Person

John Mannion, Manager

### Email

[John@MCT.ie](mailto:John@MCT.ie)



Mohill Enterprise Centre was established in 1998 in South County Leitrim in the Irish midlands. Because of the central location of South Leitrim, Mohill is a preferred option as a commuter town for people working in both Galway and Dublin. With work from home now a viable option, Mohill Enterprise Centre is putting their community on the map as a viable rural work hub, developing the digital readiness of the area under the guidance of their motto 'Work Smart, Learn Smart'.

MEC offers a wide variety of smart flexible office space including hotdesking, small offices and industrial units. All office space has free access to high-speed fibre broadband among other office services such as printing. MEC also offers a range of fully equipped rooms suited to both training and meeting purposes. Training rooms cater for groups from 4-20 attendees and are adapted for

online and mixed-use facilitation with interactive displays and green screens.

In conjunction with the MSLETB (Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board), MEC makes a range of training services available for the local community. They offer business mentoring for individuals and small businesses as well as a range of ICT training through MCT (Mohill Computer Training).

MEC have been implementing a sustainability agenda for over 5 years and aim to transfer their effort to the community. They are involved in a LECO project (Local Energy Community) and are constantly striving to improve their energy efficiency and have also run a number of sustainable energy workshops to transfer their knowledge to the local community.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



4 EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN 60 PEOPLE WEEKLY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

SINCE THE BEGINNING IN 2002

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise/ Education/ Community Development

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Students/ Public/ Micro-enterprises/Community

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

Mohill Enterprise centre have been implementing a sustainable agenda for the past 5 years and aim to have sustainability feed into the local community by setting a strong example. MEC are trying to position themselves as an attractive community for the new work-force who are looking for more quiet sustainable locations to base themselves in the new work from home environment.

Mohill Enterprise Centre works with their partners in order to constantly improve their energy rating and reduce waste in the Enterprise centre while also working with the local community to improve their overall carbon footprint. Through working with the local community and improving their own sustainability MEC are working to address sustainable development goal 9, fostering sustainable innovation, and SDG 11, sustainable cities and communities.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

Mohill Enterprise Centre constantly strives to improve the energy efficiency of their premises and contribute towards the development of their local community. MEC utilised their network and created connections that aided them on their sustainability journey. From a number of grants MEC have invested 400,000 euro into their infrastructure and services over the past 5 years. They have greened their electricity with PV panels (SDG 7) and retrofitted their infrastructure with improved insulation and lighting (SDG 9). MEC also play a key role in a network of stakeholders striving to make Mohill a sustainable Community (SDG 11). MEC continue to provide a collaborative work space and facilitated the upskilling of the community in digital and business skills (SDG 4, 8 + 9)



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

[SEAI](#), [Leitrim County Council](#), [Leitrim Development Company](#), [Contract Research Unit IT Sligo](#) (Engineering Consultants). MEC also have an extended network of partners including [Solas](#), [Pobal](#), [MSLETB](#) and [Enterprise Ireland](#)



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

Mohill Enterprise Centre utilised their extensive network and the aids that were available to them. MEC have worked in conjunction with MSLETB in order to provide their training. SEAI and Contract Research Unit IT Sligo have provided grants and consultancy to help them achieve their sustainability improvements. This has helped them to develop their infrastructure and energy masterplan.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

Mohill Enterprise Centre is a successful centre for learning and business with 100s of visitors weekly. Since beginning their sustainability journey ago they have successfully retrofitted their premises with improved insulation, smart heating and energy management systems, efficient lighting, and PV panels. MEC have successfully upgraded their old industrial space into micro-offices to meet the needs of the new digital work force. MEC also play a key role in an ongoing LECO (Local Energy Communities) project to make Mohill as energy efficient as possible. They have assisted in the development of a feasibility study, have run a number of sustainable energy workshops and have a EV charging point for community members to use.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

Mohill Enterprise Centre are constantly looking to improve their facilities and position themselves as a green place to work and visit. In the next year they are hoping to install a public display monitor that communicates their efforts, including energy from their PVs to the public. They are looking to join the connected hubs network and make their facilities accessible to remote workers. MEC with Leitrim County Council are looking at utilising derelict land next to them to create a car park covered with PVs, that would facilitate extra EV charging.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS**?

1. Assistance with grants. The process of accessing grants can often be complex.
2. It can be difficult to sell new ideas and investments to people so assistance in conveying a vision in order to achieve buy-in.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Utilise your network and ask for help. If you are struggling in certain areas reach out to specialists in the area
2. Focus on the needs of the community first.
3. Network with organisations with similar goals to your organisations.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Within next 6 months – MEC is hoping to expand their footprint by utilising derelict land and adding more PVs

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

This is an ongoing process for MEC and is due to be upgraded soon with the addition of a public display monitor

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

This is an ongoing project for MEC as they work to mobilise the community in the LECo project

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

With Mohill Computer Training located on the premise MEC are leading the way in digital infrastructure for the local community

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

1 - 3 years





## LUDGATE



### Company Name

Ludgate Skibbereen

### Date of Interview

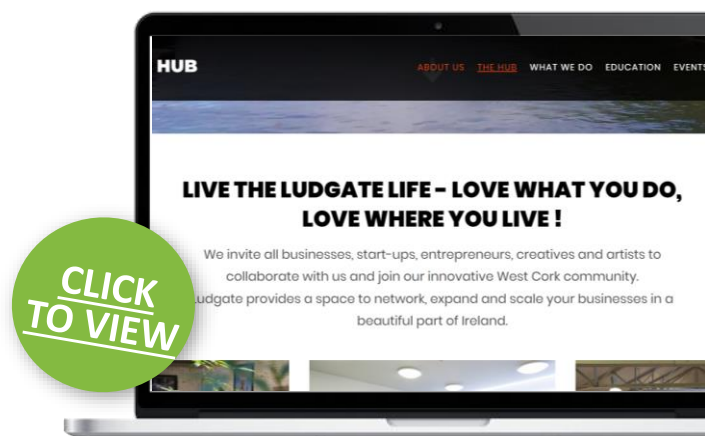
06.08.21 via Video Interview

### Contact Person

Kieran Collins, Education Innovation Manager

### Email

Kieran@ludgate.ie



The Ludgate of Skibbereen, in the rural south of Ireland has been described as a pioneering rural digitalization project in Ireland since it opened its doors in 2016. Housed in a former bakery in the previously retail and agri dominated economy of Skibbereen, the Ludgate provides the local community with ultra fast connection speeds and a place to work and share ideas.

The Hub has space for 75 workers providing hot-desking, meeting rooms, private offices and student workspaces. The Ludgate provides the opportunity for workers who would traditionally have to commute to Cork City to work remotely. The Ludgate's goal is to facilitate the creation and evolution of start ups by providing them with the physical space and facilities from which to base their company. Along with their regular tenants, the ludgate also run a number of education programmes, entrepreneur/start-up programmes, and host events.

As a future focused rural digital hub, the ludgate are always looking to prepare the local community for the jobs of tomorrow. The Ludgate's vision is to help support education so that it is relevant to the needs of 21st Century learners, educators and organisations. The aim

of the education programme is to graduate a greater number of students from west cork to STEM degree programmes leading to job placement and rural regeneration.

Ludgate's start-up ecosystem has a strong reputation of being diverse, welcoming and accessible. The Ludgate utilises strategic partnerships with corporates, academia and investors that help grow the budding new businesses of the community. The Ludgate runs internship programmes, mentor hours and is launching the propeller series which is a series that interviews experts and provides insights for entrepreneurs in the area.

As a key player in the community of Skibbereen, the Ludgate also hosts a number of events highlighting different areas of interest to the community. Along with their own exhibitions and events, the Ludgate also makes their facilities available to organisations which can be used for conferences, training days, ideation days, workshops and festivals

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW **MANY STAFF** IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**4** FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY **PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING** ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



**50** PEOPLE WEEKLY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN **DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?**

**WITHIN LAST 5 YEARS**

WHAT **SECTOR/S** IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise/ Education/ Community Development

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN **STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?**

- Remote workers / SMEs / Start-Ups

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR **VISION AND STRATEGY** RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

The Ludgate was founded on the vision of sustaining the area of West Cork by preparing for jobs of the future. The Ludgate's goal is to facilitate the creation and evolution of start ups by providing them with the physical space and facilities from which to base their company. Ludgate provides a connection between Entrepreneurs, Investors and Institutions so they can build a better future for West Cork enabling start ups to succeed through the challenging ideation stage through to growth. Rural regeneration is hugely important for sustaining the economy and they achieve these goals through:

1. Offering facilities with digital connectivity, closing the digital divide between rural and urban by equipping our cluster schools with the technology and learning platforms to develop STEM skillsets in our young.
2. Supporting Employment and Careers in Rural Areas through advertising employment opportunities and operating as a bridge between the employment seeker and the employer.
3. The enhancement of services within West Cork allowing employees to live and work remotely with no impediments to connectivity and the equipment necessary to operate effectively.
4. Supporting our community of West Cork to transition to a Climate Neutral Society through the dissemination of informative events



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

The Ludgate Hub is a proud ground roots initiative and was started when a group of local stakeholders got together to develop the future of the town. Assembling a board and from there, using their networks to make the best strategic partnerships in order to build out the digital hub and provide it with the best possible amenities in order to attract enterprising initiatives and individuals. Instead of constructing from scratch, the Ludgate chose to retrofit a semi-derelict site that previously served as a bakery, modernising an aging site of employment into a hub for jobs of the future.

As a key player in the community the Hub viewed themselves as more than a digital hub and host cultural events as well as education initiatives. The Ludgate's STEM based education and experience initiatives are investing in the future skill base of the area. The Ludgate uses their expanding network to their advantage and regularly host events on issues of relevance such as the '[opportunities in a climate neutral environment](#)' which was co-hosted by tenant [Nexalus](#).



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

The Ludgate is primarily a community led initiative that started when a group of local businesspeople and stakeholders had the idea of upgrading an old bakery into a digital hub. Many of these original stakeholders continue to serve on the board and combined with their investment of time and money with the capital from grants and sponsorship they continue to grow the capacity of the Ludgate. These funders and partners include: [Enterprise Ireland](#), AIB, Vodafone, Fields of Skibbereen, Google, [Cork County Council](#), KPMG, [Siro](#), ESB and [Ronan Daly Jermyn](#).



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

As a community led project, the ludgates operations are supported through their network of stakeholders. Through this networking approach they gained access to a number of supports. [Enterprise Ireland](#) and AIB provided them with the finances needed to retrofit the original and new premises while Vodafone, Siro and the ESB allowed them to achieve high speed connectivity.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

The Ludgate successfully renovated a vacant building, making it energy efficient and providing a space for enterprises and individuals to work, share and create. Prior to the founding of the Ludgate, West Cork was not deemed a feasible location for digital start-ups, but through the Ludgate's strategic partnerships with SIRO, the Vodafone and ESB joint venture, Skibbereen now has access to ultrafast fibre broadband. As a rural digital hub, the Ludgate is viewed as an example of what can be achieved throughout Ireland. The Ludgate has outgrown its initial footprint in just 5 years with funding secured to expand into another vacant building in the community of Skibbereen.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

The Ludgate's success has led to a need to expand their footprint. They have secured funding to move into a secondary school that has been laying vacant. For this second retrofit there is an increased focus on how they can be more sustainable and are installing PV solar panels as well as EV charging points as part of the planned renovation. Ludgate 2 is being built to the same high standard of high broadband speeds with an increased focus towards catering for the creative industries with plans to create studios that allow users to record music, podcasts or educational resources.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS**?

1. Greater access to training for sustainability across a range of topics. Sustainability training specific to enterprise centres.
2. More guidance on how to host your own sustainability workshops with tenants and students.
3. There needs to be greater knowledge sharing between enterprise centres and the opportunity to meet and discuss shared issues.
4. There is no next step to create momentum after pioneering an education initiative

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Think long-term
2. Utilise your network.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Ongoing

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

6 -12 months

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Ongoing

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Ongoing

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Ongoing





# 02

## Energy + Resource Efficiency

This sections spotlights enterprise centres who have taken actions regarding energy and resource efficiency including; building management systems and policies that improve energy efficiency, ensuring sustainable energy supply, and other measures to promote saving food and water and promoting reuse and recycling.

1 [Benchspace](#)

2 [BIO Partner Centre](#)

3 [Dungannon Enterprise](#)

4 [East Belfast Enterprise](#)

5 [The Hive](#)

6 [Matrix Bedrijvencentrum](#)

7 [Menta](#)

8 [Terra Bedrijvencentrum](#)

9 [Creative Spark](#)





## BENCHSPACE



### Company Name

Benchspace Cork

### Date of Interview

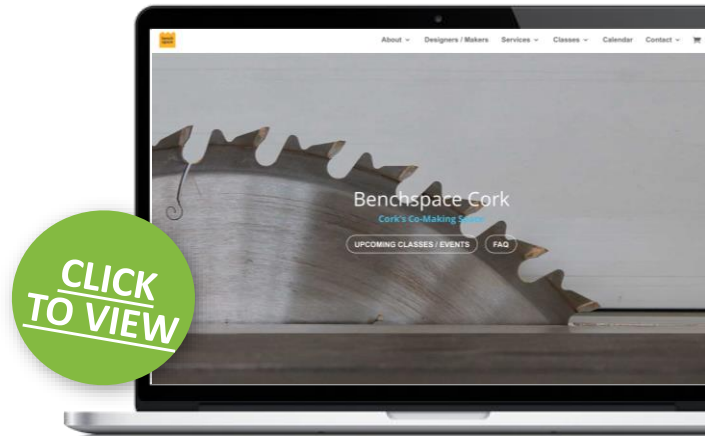
22.07.21 via video call

### Contact Person

Maeve Murphy, Operations Manager

### Email

maeve@benchspacecork.ie



Benchspace is a creative hub in Cork City. Cork is the second largest city in Ireland, located in the south-west of Ireland, with a population of circa 210,000.

Benchspace was established to provide affordable access to workbenches and professional standard machinery to hobbyists, learners, makers and designers. Benchspace Cork is the first co-making space of its kind in Ireland, the project is inspired by similar successful projects in Holland, the UK and Australia. Such projects have turned post-industrial spaces into seed-beds for a new generation of creators, designers, and techies.

Benchspace is located at the former Ford factory in Cork which has a tangible heritage as a centre of commerce and production. Benchspace exists to allow makers turn their passions into their professions.

The ambition is to create an incubation space for new creative businesses, thereby fostering employment and contributing to the cultural and economic fabric of the City.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**2** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **50** PEOPLE WEEKLY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **4** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise/ Education/ Community Development/ Creative Sector

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Students/ Public/ Micro-enterprises/Crafts-based 'designer-makers/ Community

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

Benchspace is non-profit, shared manufacturing space where anyone with a passion for product design, or a talent for making can access the equipment, workshops and resources they need to commercialise their abilities, grow new enterprise, and bring product-based businesses to life.

Benchspace operates on the basis of minimal waste, with a focus on using materials and processes that are low impact, reducing any potential impact on the environment. Benchspace Cork work with their community to support this ethos.

Benchspace are in the process of developing a sustainability strategy.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

The materials used within Benchspace are as sustainable as possible with a view to their longevity, quality and resilience (SDG12)

To support minimal wastage, all waste is divided and sorted and repurposed for example, sawdust is given to the local equine centre, offcuts of wood are used in the classes (SDG12|SDG11|SDG13)

Benchspace are sourcing a new building currently to support the expansion of their activities, and aim to have a green studio as part of this (no chemicals used, emphasis on circular economy principles) (SDG11|SDG13)

Benchspace work with other organisations to deliver projects, and opportunities for their members and the wider community for example the Design and Craft Council of Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Cork City Council (Arts Office), Cork County Council (Arts Office), Cork City Local Enterprise Office, Local Enterprise Office South Cork (SDG17)

Benchspace align their activities to the Cork City Council Development Plan supporting the wider community and enterprise development for Cork (SDG8). Benchspace focuses on energising and supporting start-ups.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

[Design and Craft Council of Ireland](#), [Enterprise Ireland](#), [Cork City Council](#) (Arts Office), [Cork County Council](#) (Arts Office), [Cork City Local Enterprise Office](#), [Local Enterprise Office South Cork](#).



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

Training has mostly focused on marketing support accessed via the Local Enterprise Office.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

Since 2017, Benchspace has supported 5 startups from initiation and ideation to being fully independent and setting up as businesses. There is a waitlist to access the centre. . Benchspace successfully received funding through the Community Foundation for Ireland for their Rising Sparks programme. This will support attendees

from disadvantaged or marginalised areas or groups to attend workshops and develop their skills and interests. The aim of this project will be to support the transition of individuals from these communities into long term artistic and creative livelihoods.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

In the coming year Benchspace is searching for a new property to establish a creative manufacturing facility in the heart of Cork City, with over 1,000m2 of shared professional equipment and workspaces.

Benchspace plan to host international speakers and to widen their tenant base to support tech startups. Benchspace aims to grow their engagement and working with collectives and educational institutes.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Resourcing and staffing is an ongoing challenge. The Operations Manager role is funded for 3 years, prior to this there was no dedicated staff member. To be strategic and to support a centre to meet its full potential, it's crucial that centres are staffed and that there's funding certainty for staffing.
2. Support on strategy development would be helpful.
3. Support to access insurance - where designer-maker centres can house a number of machines, this is proving very difficult.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. See what's happening on site with your tenants and develop a starting point to work from.
2. Develop a strong community and ecosystem for users and get people engaged in the centre ethos.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Within next 6 months

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Ongoing

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Ongoing

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Within next 6 months

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

1 - 3 years





## BIOPARTNER CENTER



### Company Name

BioPartner Center Wageningen – Kadans Science Partner

### Date of Interview

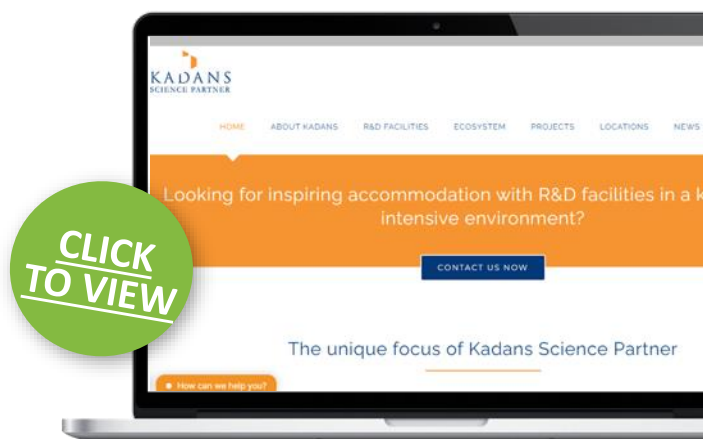
12.07.21 Face to Face Meeting

### Contact Person

R. Wijngaard – Property Manager

### Email

info@kadans.com



BioPartner Center Wageningen (BPCW) was originally founded in 2005. It was an initiative of Wageningen University & Research. In 2011 it was taken over by Kadans Science Partner. It serves as the catalyst and incubator of the “Food Valley”, in the heart of the Food Valley region. It has the ambition to be the most high-potential and innovative food cluster of its kind. In this region, over 10,000 people are involved in R&D, education and business in the Life Sciences.

BioPartner Center Wageningen offers tenants of its incubator and multitenant science buildings a broad spectrum of options to rent science facilities, including laboratories, cleanrooms, pilot plants, climate-controlled spaces, multifunctional research facilities. This incubator function stimulates contact and cooperation and offers facilities for experienced businesses, but also for start-ups and scale-ups. Here, innovative ideas come to life and have room to grow.

Kadans has extensive experience in finding the right specific solutions for tenants. It is capable of finding the accommodation solution that fits the needs of the 17 present tenants. BioPartner Center is located on the Business & Science Park Wageningen (BSPW), where many knowledge-intensive businesses are present and where contact and cooperation between businesses and entrepreneurs is stimulated. The Campus of Wageningen University & Research is close by.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**5** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **120** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **2** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Mainly in the agro-food/life sciences. But also, some companies from the technical sector can be found. Example is a company, dealing with paints.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Combination of small scale start-ups and bigger organisations/companies.

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

Kadans Science Partner, as owner of the Bio Partner Center, focuses on the development and operation of industrial and office buildings, in combination with laboratories, cleanrooms, research facilities, climate-controlled spaces and pilot plants for R&D departments of knowledge institutions, education institutes and knowledge-intensive businesses in innovative (top) sectors, such as Food, Life Sciences, Health, Living Environment, Biotechnology, Biobased and High-Tech Semicon. It has also buildings in other parts of the Netherlands, as well as in Germany (Aachen) and the UK (London).



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

Two years ago, all lights were replaced by LED Light and equipped with a monitoring system. Recently 544 solar panels are installed on the roof.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

### Main stake holders:

- Wageningen UR took the initiative to start the Center in 2005.
- Architect: SWA  
Construction company: Kuipers.
- Local Government of Wageningen stimulated the development of the Science Park.
- Kadans Science Partner is owner since 2011. This company owns more buildings at the Wageningen Campus as well as in other cities. Sustainability and flexibility for future users are key words for Kadans.
- Tenants are: BLGG, Nippon Suisan, Kikkoman, Friesland Campina, EBI Foodsafety, Dyadic, Genetwister and Clean Light.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

Not applicable.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

In 2021, BioPartner Center has a history of over 20 years, with Kadans as owner for the last 10 years.

The building is light and open. Communication possibilities are well developed. That facilitates the tenants to have an optimal communication.

Sustainable results are the installation of energy saving lighting (2019) and solar panels (2021).



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

Sustainability is an ongoing process. Step-by-step, energy and water saving will be realised. Also, the re-use of water is discussed.

On a smaller scale, the canteen will stop with the use of plastic cutlery, cups and plates. Waste from the coffee machines, is collected and picked up and used for mushroom growing (circular economy).

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS**?

1. Good communication with tenants about the use of chemicals and the procedures of waste treatment.
2. Budget to invest in facilities for electric cars and e-bikes.
3. External advice to make an analysis of all processes in the enterprise centre and to create a more year plan for further improvements.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Start with a base line survey, in order to know the present situation
2. Make an overall plan for the coming three years and a more detailed plan for the first year.
3. Make a choice between urgency and needed investments.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

The building is over 15 years old. It is not so easy to change in the infrastructure. There are idea to replace the glass windows, in order to create a better isolation: 1-3 years

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Further monitoring for energy saving (light and heating): 1-3 years Analysis of the solar energy, with storage facilities, combined with charging electric cars: 1-3 years

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Improving the surrounding of the building: more green areas and rain water collection: 1-3 years

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Improvement of the present Wifi system in the building: 6-12 months  
Introduction of glass fibre internet, as a part of local developments: 6-12 months

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Kadans sees the investments in sustainability as an important marketing criterion. Modern tenants in this sector are not interested in buildings which are not sustainable: 3-5 years



## Dungannon Enterprise



### Company Name

Dungannon Enterprise

### Date of Interview

08.09.21 via Telephone

### Contact Person

Denise Murtagh - Business Development Manager

### Email

info@dungannonenterprise.com



Located in South Tyrone in the heart of Northern Ireland, Dungannon Enterprise Centre's primary aim is to simply help new businesses start up and to encourage existing businesses to expand.

Our mission states: *"to strengthen and grow our economy by encouraging economic development and supporting entrepreneurs to create and grow competitive, profitable and wealth generating enterprises"*

**We provide support in many ways but is dependent upon the needs of the entrepreneur:**

- Industrial and office workspace units to incubate local businesses
- Professional business advice and counselling,
- Training on business start-up and expansion planning
- Low interest loans for start-up businesses
- Consultancy support in sourcing government support and finance
- Marketing and digital marketing content help.

The Enterprise Centre is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors made up of representatives of the local business community, voluntary sector and the local Council. The Enterprise Centre has a wealth of experience in the development of micro-businesses, in particular the provision of support for those who have already set up their own business. Since its formation, DEC has assisted more than 2,000 potential entrepreneurs to explore self-employment, many of whom started in business. The Centre rents over 100,000 sq. ft. of commercial property at several sites.



# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**10** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **200** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **5** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Tenant, micro businesses

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

The Enterprise Centre has adopted a sustainable development policy to ensure that the organisation has minimal negative impact upon the environment. To that end all procurement is focussed upon achieving zero carbon emissions and local sourcing. Energy consumption is monitored and regularly challenged to be reduced. A paperless office policy is being implemented reducing photocopying, purchasing of paper and storage space.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

Local sourcing of products and materials to reduce carbon miles. Assessment of heating and installation of a system to monitor and control the electric consumption. Waste recycling procedures in place. Replacement of lights to LEDs . Replaced all gents urinals with waterless urinals. We have implemented a work from home policy allowing staff to choose between home of office to work, thereby reducing travel cost. A cycle to work scheme is in operation allowing staff to acquire bikes to travel to work.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

Glen Dimplex: Glen Dimplex Group is the world leader in intelligent electric heating and renewable energy solutions, as well as holding significant global market positions in domestic appliances, cooling and ventilation.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

No Training



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

Electric consumption reduced by 50%. Water consumption reduced.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

We are exploring the installation of solar panels on the roof, the purchase of an all-electric van and the harvesting of rain water for toilets.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Assistance to assess and procure solar panels
2. More information on other ways to save energy for older buildings.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Involve all staff on the implementation of the environmental policy
2. Trial and Test with staff and tenants
3. Ask for open and honest feedback
4. Implementing processes should save money in the long term.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 12 months

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Next 18 months

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 12 months

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 12 months

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 12 months



## EAST BELFAST ENTERPRISE



### Company Name

EAST BELFAST ENTERPRISE

### Date of Interview

28.06.21 via Video Call

### Contact Person

Jonathan McAlpin: Chief Executive

### Email

reception@eastbelfast.org



East Belfast Enterprise (EBE) was established in 1995 to provide incubation workspace and training/mentoring initiatives to support new and established businesses in the local area. The company has developed from its original focus providing support in the local area and now works for the benefit of businesses in other areas of Belfast and surrounding areas, through a partnership approach with other organisations.

The company is also a member of Enterprise Northern Ireland, which is the association of enterprise agencies in Northern Ireland. Enterprise Northern Ireland aims to improve the provision of support to start-up and established micro businesses in Northern Ireland by providing a cohesive and collective approach and by working closely with other partner organisations and government agencies.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**6** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **150** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **12** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Tenants and SMEs

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

East Belfast have practices related to SDG11, SDG13, SDG12 including retrofitting LED and sensor controlled lighting throughout our property and retrofitted all industrial units with modern double glazing to reduce energy consumption using local suppliers to support the local economy and reduce carbon footprint by reducing travel time for suppliers.

Use Irish Waste to recycle all refuse, ensuring less than 5% goes to landfill and we have efficient gas heating.

East Belfast also have hot-desking options and conferencing to offer tenants options for remote working linking to SDG8. Electric Car points for cars is being reviewed and the building has recently changed doors & windows in units and now looking at the roofs for sustainability.





## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

Motivation: Increasing awareness of environmental challenges and as a charity and social enterprise aware of triple bottom line, environmental impact is the core of the organisation.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

Mix of consultation with tenants and engagement with stakeholders through business in the community and carbon trust.

Lighting was advised by building consultants.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

No training required.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

The LED lighting definitely noticed a reduction to costs and with modern double glazing to r=we have most definitely reduced energy consumption.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

Short Term: Renewal within the building and be ensuring the business is using responsible business practices, researching in developing property sites and mindful of environmental .

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Seeking advice from the businesses in communities
2. Make sure compliant with legislation
3. Research well in advance, energy resources & incorporating recycling processes etc
4. Understanding Efficiency & cost of future goals.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Depending on size of project – qualified advisors’ architects, QS to advise.
2. Talk to an expert partners for businesses, governments and organisations to help realise ambitious plans for a sustainable, low carbon future.
3. Talk to relevant government departments
4. Chat to other organisations who have a similar model in place.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 6 to 12 months

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Ongoing

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

1 to 3 years

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

1 to 3 years

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

1 to 3 years



## THE HIVE



### Company Name

The Hive, Carrick-On Shannon

### Date of Interview

26.07.2021 via Telephone

### Contact Person

Colm Keane, Manager

### Email

reception@the-hive.ie



The Hive is Leitrim's Technology Enterprise Centre, which operates out of its award-winning state of the art facilities. The Hive aims to facilitate the establishment and growth of sustainable enterprises by clustering knowledge-based businesses in the centre, as a key action in generating social and economic prosperity for all the people of Leitrim.

The Hive is Leitrim's Technology Enterprise Centre which was developed as part of the Innovation and Enterprise Programme (IEP) which is a joint cross border initiative between Leitrim and Omagh.

The Hive offers fully serviced office spaces, hot desk work areas and also large and small meeting rooms all with fibre broadband connection. The Hive offers a contemporary, productive work environment with our hot desk areas allowing for ample individual work space.

With access to high speed networks throughout and a contemporary design which resulted in The Hive receiving an award for sustainability at the Irish Architecture Awards in 2014 and also the Green Apple Award in 2015.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



5 EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE WEEKLY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST 8 YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Social Enterprise/ Education/ Community / Circular Economy/ Environmental

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- SMEs/Co-Workers

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

The mission of Leitrim County Enterprise Fund is to facilitate the establishment and growth of sustainable enterprises in County Leitrim, as a key action in generating social and economic prosperity for all of the people of Leitrim.'

By supporting local enterprise, providing key resources for the community and ensuring the future economy of the local area they are specifically meeting SDG 8+11 good work and sustainable communities.

The building was constructed in 2013 to the highest efficiency standards of the time. The construction featured state of the art building management systems with strong energy and environmental plans. Their vision for their building management is to minimise usage through careful management of resources. All electricity comes from renewable sources, including from their own 14KW of PV panels, and the building makes use its thermal mass to regulate the internal temperature of the building.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

Developed their own energy and environmental plan and regularly review their metrics to identify inefficiencies in their system.

Consistently seek areas to improve and are now installing their own PV panels as well as better facilities for bikes and EV charging points.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

Board of Directors, Staff, Sub Contractors and Government Bodies.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

No, research was carried out through their own network of expertise, internal and external, and contractors who were experts in the area of efficient buildings were hired.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

The Hive have successfully provided a facility that improves the job prospects on a regional basis and provides an alternative workplace for commuters.

RIAI Irish Architecture awards 2015 Highly commended, Sustainability category.

National Gold Ireland award winner Green Apple Awards for built environment and Architectural heritage 2015.

Solar Panels have since been added– to reduce fuel consumption.

Switched to fully renewable electricity suppliers and LED light bulbs with sensors and timers improving efficiencies.

Successfully trained staff on how to implement their energy management system and regularly engage with their tenants on what they can do better.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

Planned expansion of both their cycle to work facilities as well as EV charge points facilitating a more sustainable community.

Looking to upgrade the older parts of the building with improved insulation.

The Hive has attracted a cluster of green tech companies. Harnessing the potential of this small, but growing cluster, and engagement in EU projects will be a key focus.



# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS**?

1. How to better engage with tenants on environmental issues (e.g. behavioural economics, nudge theory etc)
2. Shared resources with similar organisations to see what they're implementing and what can be done to help one another
3. Information on how to spot funding opportunities to drive sustainability/climate action change.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Only implement what is needed (i.e. a one room hub doesn't need a building management system)
2. Engage with your tenants and constantly review your metrics to find anomalies as they may be masking much bigger issues
3. Do what you can by utilising your network of expertise including tenants
4. Seek the right help and record as much information as possible to avoid issues further down the line.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

1-3 years

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Constant improvements

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Consistent improvement

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

6 -12 months

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

1 – 3 years



# MATRIX BEDRIJVENCENTRUM



## Company Name

MATRIX BEDRIJVENCENTRUM

## Date of Interview

15.07.21 via Telephone

## Contact Person

Department for information

## Email

info@matrixalmelo.nl



Matrix is an enterprise centre in the Eastern part of The Netherlands. It has a focus on “Maatschappelijk Verantwoord Ondernemen (= MVO = Corporate Social Responsibility) and integrated many measures to increase the sustainable character of the centre. Some examples are; green energy, CO2 reduction and energy saving lighting. It has an integrated vision on Profit, Planet, People, under the name MVO Business.

The centre has also all needed facilities for people with physical limits. New tenants can use the service of the internal company Extend BV, in order to develop their own sustainable working place. See [www.extendmvo.nl](http://www.extendmvo.nl).

They can help to formulate mission and vision from tenants. It also offers advisory in processes towards certification, training and coaching and strategic HRM.

Matrix offers office space, starting at 20 m2, flexible workplaces, shared meeting rooms, facility services and catering.

All working places are 24/7 available. Recent developments include; installation of charging stations for electric cars and e-bikes, new solar panels on the roof of the building, and a shared electric car available for tenants.

In 2021, Matrix welcomed around 40 tenants. These tenants are very diverse; from a bakery, to a pre school centre and from assurance to electric safety. See <https://matrixalmelo.nl/huurders/> NB The website is only available in Dutch language

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**20** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (e.g. tenants, students, members of the public etc.)



MORE THAN **800** PEOPLE WEEKLY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **7** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- No specific sector, sustainability is what the tenants connect

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Service oriented companies, such as assurance and business administration
- Electronics companies
- Craft companies such as a bakery and a gardener
- Probation
- Pre-school day care

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

### Vision:

Under the name MVO Business, a concept has been developed towards corporate social responsibility, according the concept of planet, profit, people.

### Strategy

To realise this sustainable enterprise centre, the existing building was complete renovated in 2014. That resulted in a sustainable enterprise centre. In order to advice new tenants, services were offered via an internal company. This advisory makes tenants aware of their social responsibility as well and support them to become certified.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

A number of actions was taken:

- Green electricity via 275 solar panels,
- Reduction of CO2 production,
- Energy saving lighting,
- OHSAS certification (Safety and well-being),
- Member of local sustainability network in the city of Almelo,
- Partner in “1.000.000 drips” (saving water)
- Car charging station



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

- SOWECO NV as owner of Matrix
- Municipality of the city of Almelo



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

We have our internal company “ExtendMVO BV” which gives advisory and training to our own staff, as well as to (new) tenants.

See: [www.extendmvo.nl](http://www.extendmvo.nl)



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

- We reduced the use of energy and produce own electricity.
- We reduced the water consumption.
- We stimulate our tenants to use our shared electric car.
- We offer work places for people with physical limits
- We are certified according several certifications.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

We will continue our activities in producing own electricity with the ultimate goal to be independent.

We will continue to improve our monitoring systems for the use of electricity and water and for the temperature control per office.  
We will reduce plastic in the restaurant.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. To attract new tenants, who follow our philosophy, we will continue our marketing activities.
2. Budget for investments is necessary.
3. Technical support for long-term planning of activities to increase savings on energy and light
4. Further investments in facilities for (shared) electric cars and e-bikes.
5. Greening the outdoor areas.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. We choose for an integral (holistic) approach. That means that we also look in the complete chain. We advise other centres to do the same
2. Calculate all costs and benefits from your SDG investments. Make calculations for the long term.
3. Only accept tenants who agree with the system of Corporate Social Responsibility. Make it a substantial part of your marketing strategy.
4. Let tenants develop their own plans.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Maintenance of the building: 1-3 years

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Improvement of savings on energy, by monitoring light and temperature: 1-3 years  
Installation of solar panels: 6-12 months  
Monitoring water use: 6-12 months

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Making green areas around the building less water- and maintenance dependant: 1-3 years  
Analysis of canteens, to reduce plastic waste and to re-use coffee residues: 1-3 years

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Faster and safe internet (Glass fibre is being installed in Almelo in the coming year: 1-3 years  
Ongoing activities to improve data protection: 1-3 years

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

More charging stations for electric cars and e-bikes (at least 10% of all places): 1-3 years  
Stimulate the use of the shared electric car: within 6 months





## MENTA



### Company Name

MENTA

### Date of Interview

30/06/2021 via Zoom

### Contact Person

Alex Till Chief Executive

### Email

heretohelp@menta.org.uk



MENTA work with SMEs across Norfolk and Rated as one of the top three business training providers in the UK, we are proud to super-serve Norfolk and Suffolk and have one-stop-shop business hubs in Bury St. Edmunds, Brandon, Haverhill and North Norfolk. MENTA also offers business unit space, co-working and meeting spaces in some of these locations Suffolk, with help, support, advice and training having helped more than 50,000 entrepreneurs launch, run, and grow thriving and profitable businesses across East Anglia.

The business adapts to what clients say they want from business support, when lockdown hit, we moved quickly and positioned our training and advice online, delivering hundreds of sessions and support within a few weeks. MENTA also offer space for business from freelancer to business team there are many workspace options with sites in Haverhill, Brandon as well as Bury St Edmunds.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



4 EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST 10 YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Public Body/ /SMEs

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

MENTA benefits from having a board of non-executive members who advise the CEO and his team. They bring insight from exemplary business experience, helping us to develop our work, products and services to support the wider business community. The support MENTA receives from our patrons aids us in delivering the services the SME communities of East Anglia tell us they want. We work with EDF energy, Britain's biggest generator of zero carbon electricity EDF are also at the very heart of the wider business community, their work across the UK, has them supporting and working with partners in SME communities.

We reviewed where we are spending in more areas than what we need too. MENTA looked at the Energy Protection Certificate to improve their own buildings to make more sustainable and to avoid increasing the service charges for tenants. We have closely looked at how to save when it comes to energy and resource efficiency to improve our overall systems and day to day implementation.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

To be cost effective we spoke to local authorities to ask did they want to rent roofs of buildings own and pay to put solar panels on them and they now they take a percentage of money that is put into the grid.

Looking at other opportunities to make the business money and become greener we installed electric points for charging electric vehicle to support green initiatives. Customers are charged and then these profits are reinvested to help support the business.

We changed to LED lighting and also discussed

with tenants how they can improve their own working space, for example we can help get them an energy certificate.

We have a 1 to 5 year business plan, profit is not what you make it is what you save. Looking at saving funds in premises reducing paper, photocopying etc.

We are constantly looking at energy suppliers, looking at the tariffs, is there any other ways to reduce these costs and become more savvy. We also want to implement closer to home working, to reduce travel.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

Stakeholders have helped to look at where we can get funding from. Local Authorities have helped with how access grants. We also felt it is important to get support from tenants to kept up to date if there is changes and discuss the impact it has on them. We also work closely with Board of Directors with monthly meetings.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

Local authorities are very helpful to stay up to date and to have a good insight to what we can access and if MENTA are not eligible for access we can give out the information to clients. It is important to get support for the impact on the business.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

We believe people get benefit when it adds value to their lives, when there is personal or business benefit. Looking at our change in attitude over the past few years our costs have been driven down, for example with our solar panels. We want to use savings to redevelop the premises or towards helping local small businesses.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

The future plans is in a position that we have reduced the amount of carbon we are creating. With the older built buildings they are not very energy efficient so we have a responsibility to improve them over the next few years.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS**?

1. Having access to simple knowledge and information about how to have an impact
2. Looking at how this can then be supported through grants or specialist advice
3. Looking at timescales and how plans can be complete
4. The ability to see what can be implemented in the space you have.
5. Rewards system for energy efficiencies similar to Vitality health insurance

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Take little steps often
2. Don't be scared of the process
3. Have a good understanding.
4. Trust the process

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 6 to 12 months

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Ongoing

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 6 to 12 months

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 6 to 12 months

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 6 to 12 months



# TERRA BEDRIJVENCENTRUM



## Company Name

Terra bedrijventrum, Almelo, The Netherlands

## Date of Interview

16.07.21 via Telephone

## Contact Person

Manager

## Email

info@terra-almelo.nl



Terra is a multifunctional enterprise centre in the city of Almelo, in the Eastern part of The Netherlands. The building is very sustainable. It produces all energy itself with solar panels. During the construction, double isolating profiles for the concrete were used. Terra is equipped all around with isolating glass with three layers, which saves energy and also reduces the traffic noise from outside.

The climate system has cold/heat storage in the bottom, combines with a heat pump installation. Terra has 70 parking places and facilities for electric car charging. It is located near two Motorways A35 and A1.

The Terra building is about 90 meters long, with three layers and a total surface of 3.600 m<sup>2</sup>. It offers office

space in a flexible way. Space can be customised. Apart of the offices, tenants can use shared facilities, such as meeting rooms and catering facilities. Training can be given in a “pub”, which is more relaxed than a normal meeting room.

Near the entrance of the building is a big LED screen on which tenants can promote themselves. Since electricity is available, tariffs are low.

Tenants are mainly from the medical and para medical sector. These tenants know each other and exchange useful information. Total number of tenants is 23. See the Terra-Almelo website for further information and links to their own websites.



# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**15** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **300** PEOPLE WEEKLY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **5** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Medical and para medical sector

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Service oriented companies, such as medical massage, coaching, natural healing, physiotherapy, child ergo-therapy, speech therapy, homeopathy and more.

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

### Vision

Terra has the objective to be completely energy neutral.  
Further, Terra wants to offer office space to tenants, who have effective contacts with each other.

### Strategy

To realise this sustainable enterprise centre, the building was constructed with special energy saving characteristics. Later also solar panels were installed.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

A number of actions was taken:

- Green electricity via solar panels,
- Three double glass for isolation
- Energy saving lighting, via monitoring
- Idem for heating
- Cold/heat storage in the bottom
- Heat pump installation, instead of gas.
- Car charging station



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

- Terra Almelo is also the owner of this building
- Municipality of the city of Almelo



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

Not applicable.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

- We reduced the use of energy and produce own electricity.
- We reduced the water consumption.
- We reduced the use of gas for heating.
- We facilitate our tenants to use an electric car.
- We offer work places for people with physical limits.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

We will continue our activities in producing own energy with the ultimate goal to be autarkic.

We will continue to improve our monitoring systems for the use of electricity and water and for the temperature control per office. We will reduce plastic in the restaurant and separate waste.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. To attract new tenants, who follow our philosophy, we will continue our marketing activities.
2. Budget for investments is necessary.
3. Technical support for long-term planning of activities to increase savings on energy and light
4. Further investments in facilities for (shared) electric cars and e-bikes.
5. Greening the outdoor areas.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. We choose for an integral (holistic) approach. That means that we also look in the complete chain. We advise other centres to do the same.
2. Calculate all costs and benefits from your SDG investments. Make calculations for the long term.
3. Only accept tenants who agree with the system of Corporate Social Responsibility. Make it a substantial part of your marketing strategy.
4. Let tenants develop their own plans.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Maintenance of the building: 1-3 years

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Improvement of savings on energy, by monitoring light and temperature: 1-3 years  
Installation of solar panels: 6-12 months  
Monitoring water use: 6-12 months

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Making green areas around the building less water- and maintenance dependant: 1-3 years  
Analysis of canteens, to reduce plastic waste and to re-use coffee residues: 1-3 years

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Faster and safe internet (Glass fibre is being installed in Almelo in the coming year: 1-3 years  
Ongoing activities to improve data protection: 1-3 years

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

More charging stations for electric cars and e-bikes (at least 10% of all places): 1-3 years  
Stimulate the use of the shared electric car: within 6 months



## CREATIVE SPARK



### Company Name

Creative Spark

### Date of Interview

28.07.21 via phone interview

### Contact Person

Sarah Daly – Executive Director

### Email

sarah@creativespark.ie



Creative Spark operates as a not-for-profit social enterprise in Dundalk, Ireland. Creative Spark, centre for creativity and innovation, launched in October 2012 with the goal of providing dedicated creative training and workspace facilities for new and established enterprises in county Louth. Creative Spark was conceived with a clear focus on the development of the creative and innovative enterprise sector in this region and the use of creative practice to promote social engagement.

Creative Spark corresponds to best practice principle that clustering creative and innovative businesses in a central multi-tenant enterprise hub can be a dynamic business stimulation strategy bringing wealth creation, job creation and knowledge advancement to an area. EU and national policies place a very firm strong emphasis on knowledge-driven businesses and industries, learning and skills, educational linkages and R&D as the absolute drivers of regional economies. Therefore, Creative Spark seeks to stimulate and develop the region's small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) sector and operate as a

creative and innovative hub for the region offering a range of facilities, services and opportunities.

Dundalk is a showcase town for sustainability in Ireland, with the town becoming Ireland's first sustainable energy zone in 2007, and currently part of a sustainable energy community programme established by SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland). Creative Spark was built with sustainability at the forefront of design in order to demonstrate a low-energy building solution in the sustainable energy zone in excess of the normal targets, with outcomes and learnings applicable across a range of sectors and building types. The building was constructed with the aim of achieving an improvement in energy performance of up to 50% through building design and building management strategies.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**8** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



**1000** WEEKLY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **10** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise/Education

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- SMEs, Co-workers, Students

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

Creative Spark has a clearly defined purpose, vision and mission, and the strategy needed to achieve these are clearly set out in their strategic plan. Creative Sparks purpose is to provide a centre for creativity and innovation, with three key pillars to all their activities; they provide space, they deliver supports, and they connect clusters.

Creative Spark keep the Sustainable Development Goals at the forefront of all decision making. The three SDGs that they constantly work towards are SDG8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure, and SDG11 - sustainable cities and communities.





## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

Creative Spark built their state-of-the-art enterprise centre to the highest possible building standards. They achieved this through working with their knowledgeable stakeholders and financial backers and investing in consultants in sustainable buildings who carried out an energy analysis of the proposed building to identify how to maximise energy efficiency. Creative spark also recognised the importance of tenant buy-in and made sustainability part of their handbook for tenants. Sustainability is at the fore of all their activities, and they strive to be ambassadors for the community encouraging cycling with bike racks and putting waste to use through their classes.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

Creative Spark was built with an investment of just under €1.8 million in construction and fit-out costs from its funders [Enterprise Ireland](#), [the International Fund for Ireland](#), Louth County Enterprise Board, PEACE III, [Dundalk Credit Union](#), Oriel Developments, [Louth County Council](#), [Create Louth](#) and [Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland](#)



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

Support for the initial build was provided in the form of €1.8 million in funding from different funding streams. SEAI under the sustainable energy zone provided Creative Spark with continued advice on how to make energy savings.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

Creative Spark was successfully built as a flagship development in Ireland's first sustainable energy zone. There are now over 30 commercial creative tenants working out of the enterprise centre with 1000 people accessing the facilities weekly. Due to the work done by Creative Spark and their funders, the annual energy savings were estimated at €10,300 (at current fuel prices) – a potential 40% reduction in fuel bills, providing a better service for all users of the building.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

Creative Spark have funding secured from Enterprise Ireland to expand their current operation by doubling their footprint through the Creative Spark Downtown Project. Plans are in place to refurbish a semi-derelict shop into additional enterprise centre space for 40 hot-desks. Creative Spark have also secured funding to include a FabLab in this new development which will provide access to a suite of state-of-the-art digital fabrication hardware and software co-located with a thriving enterprise centre. The extended facility will include a new Creative Spark Community Café to encourage social interactions between Creative Spark members, visitors and the local community. The Creative Spark team are also hoping to secure funding from the Creative Ireland Climate Action Fund to bring their innovation and sustainability on the road with a climate academy bus which would help local communities in the extended local area to live more sustainably by providing them with access to learning resources and repair services.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Greater opportunities to share knowledge with similar organisations.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Be open to anything. One of the best ways of promoting innovation is to take a no bad ideas approach
2. Look to others to draw inspiration from.
3. While accessing funding is hugely important, focus first on what you can achieve with what you have already and work from there.
4. Achieving buy-in for some of the duller issues can be difficult, so find things that people are interested in to improve the palatability.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Ongoing

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Ongoing

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

6 – 12 months

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

6 -12 months

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

6 – 12 months



# 03

## Sustainable Eco Systems + Collective Action

This section features case studies that showcase ways to cultivate and actively participate in partnerships with enterprise and community groups and in turn make improvements in the use of resources and reduced climate impact.

**1** [Camara Oficial De Comercio](#)

**2** [EETC](#)

**3** [HET Marineterein](#)

**4** [PARTAS](#)

**5** [PLNT](#)

**6** [PNE](#)

**7** [ROOTS Innovation Hub](#)

**8** [The Food Hub](#)

**9** [The Junction](#)

**10** [UCC Green Campus](#)

**11** [SCCUL](#)

**12** [MEAG](#)





# CÁMARA OFICIAL DE COMERCIO

## (Santiago Chamber of Commerce)



### Company Name

Santiago Chamber of Commerce

### Date of Interview

02.07.2021 via Video Call

### Contact Person

Ms. Belén Mendoza / EU projects Senior Manager

### Email

proyectos@camaracompostela.org



Santiago Chamber is a corporate of Public Law, founded in 1889, including 32 municipalities in the south of the province of A Coruña, in Galicia region, Northwest Spain.

The Chamber collaborates actively with the more than 30,000 Santiago de Compostela area-based companies, covering various needs, such as advice for the creation and development of businesses, promoting, training human capital, and developing initiatives to extend the culture of quality and innovation. We are also a consultative and collaborative body liaising with the Administrations, which represents, promotes, and defends the general interests of companies in the region. The support to SMEs and entrepreneurs is one of the main tasks of the Chamber in Santiago city and its district.

We have set a Creation and Business Development office that brings together all the information related to the start-up of a business project, giving orientation and advice to the entrepreneurs, especially on the following issues: definition of the project, draft of the Business Plan, general information on the legal status and constitution steps, new business areas, business networks and entrepreneurs cooperation, contacts of interest, opportunities for self-employment, contracting, intellectual and industrial property, internal commerce, subsidies and aids, credits and all the employer obligations and requirements.



# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



9 EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN 30 PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST 5 YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Chamber of Commerce and Industry

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

We have drafted a strategy that makes us to be a close and friendly support to the SMEs and entrepreneurs in our area to work towards the goal of making the sustainability a lever to improve their organizations and increase their business opportunities.

At the same time, we have committed to do our best to apply the SDGs also in our organization, starting from small actions that increase our visibility while improving and getting more and more committed towards sustainable development and climate change and global warming fight





## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

We have followed a strategy of “small actions to reach a bigger one to make a more sustainable world”. Amongst those actions we can highlight the following ones:

- Incorporate SDG logo to our Chamber logo to increase visibility and show our commitment with the SDG.
- Recycling paper and plastic as well as effort to reduce its use, not only recycling.
- Digitalisation of documents and tools to keep

the files, all Chamber system has been adapted to remote working due to pandemic outbreak

- Promotion between staff of the use of collective transport
- Since March 2021 we offer in our facilities a brand new “digital co-working” with the main aim of reduce waste, increase digitalisation of companies.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

We have involved both profiles: public administrations and private companies since we believe that this is the way to cooperate in a local challenge that need global solutions. In the trainings and informative sessions addressed to SMEs to inform on SDGs we always try to involve our local companies in the events, to give them the opportunity to show their best practices.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

All staff have followed several trainings in SDGs organised by Spanish Chamber and UN Global Compact Spanish Network staff. Besides that, the EU Projects Department staff is taking part in workshops with other European Chambers or business support organizations.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

We have increased awareness in our territory on SDGs as well as we have cooperated in the increasing of company's signatories or participants in the UN Global Compact Spanish Network. At Chamber level we have increased the number of challenges every year, what makes the staff more conscious to incorporate the SDGs in the most of their activities and tasks.

We have learned about project STEEP managed by Eurochambres, a project developed in to train staff Chambers in “energy efficiency” measures to explain to SMEs owners and entrepreneurs and a project from Malta Business Bureau to increase awareness in companies to develop low carbon technology.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

- We would like to work closer to companies to develop and spread the “Sustainable Business Charter” to give support to them to incorporate the SDGs in their business model;
- We would like to have more staff working directly with this issue to open a unique portal to show the work we are trying to implement to increase awareness and impact of our actions.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Co-financing to increase our energy efficiency measures with concrete measures and assessment or current performance.
2. More collaboration to offer to companies' financial support to reach their sustainability challenges related to SDGs.
3. Training in the calls that could be offered to SMEs to get co-financing to increase business opportunities in this field,
4. More information on impact of the actions being developed to inform our members.
5. Some useful simple guides to promote amongst our members the implementation of the SDGs inside their organizations, including selected "success stories".

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. See the SDGs as an opportunity for your business.
2. You are not alone, look for support in business associations.
3. Start with small actions to reach bigger goals.
4. Specify your specific challenges and put in a calendar to reach them.
5. Learn from other similar actors, incorporate best practices to your business.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

We will keep our own assessment on the energy efficiency of our buildings trying to incorporate as much as possible low energy consumption materials and tools. (Within next 6 months).

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

We will explore options for the use of renewable energy in our premises. (Within 3-5 years).

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

We will continue our partnership to reach the goals and increase awareness in our area. (Within next 12 months).

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

We will increase awareness in our companies towards decent work and hiring policies. (Within 1-3 years).

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

We will increase awareness in R&D innovation investment to improve industrial productions cleaner and more sustainable. (Within 1-3 years).



# ENNISCORTHY ENTERPRISE & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE



## Company Name

Enniscorthy Enterprise & Technology Centre, Co. Wexford

## Date of Interview

27/07/2021 via Video call

## Contact Person

John O'Connor, CEO

## Email

info@eetc.ie



The Enniscorthy Enterprise & Technology Centre (EETC) is a purpose-built premises located just outside of Enniscorthy town (Enniscorthy is the second-largest town in County Wexford, South East of Ireland and has a population of 19,381 residents (Census, 2016) with a population of 35,000 within a 20km radius).

Equipped with office units of various sizes, excellent facilities and supportive staff with industry experience, EETC helps businesses succeed, whether start-ups or established businesses. The Enniscorthy Enterprise & Technology Centre offers a unique opportunity to its tenants – that is, the cooperative culture that exists between the various businesses who operate onsite.

Each business at the EETC has the common goal of reaching their business' potential. Networking is an important part of the success of any business, at the EETC businesses can find that there is the opportunity to make many important contacts through the other businesses operating within the centre.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**4** FULL TIME EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **90** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **19** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise/ SMEs/ Start-ups/ Community development/ Training and Development (reskilling for employment)

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- SMEs/ Startups/Trainees

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

The Enniscorthy Enterprise & Technology Centre is a non-profit organisation committed to helping the Enniscorthy District Community. The core objective of the EETC is to support local start-ups, established businesses and individuals. The EETC achieves these objectives by providing a sheltered environment and incubation space for vulnerable start-ups to develop their businesses. Offering affordable office space in order to give new and established businesses the best opportunity to reach their potential, the EETC also provides training, support and work placements for individuals to become employment ready.

The EETC is also committed to taking steps towards becoming more sustainable in its business practices. In this way, the EETC sets an example for other businesses to adopt more sustainable practices. The EETC have developed our their 3 pillars of sustainable development which they strive to achieve:

- Positive local economic outcomes
- Positive social outcomes
- Positive environmental outcomes.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

### Positive local economic outcomes

By providing incubation space for startups, affordable workspaces for businesses and training programmes for individuals, the EETC encourages positive local economic outcomes. In this way, the local economy will have a strong economic asset base which will assist businesses and individuals to reach their potential. The incubation space encourages diverse and responsible businesses in the local community leading to positive consequences for the local economy with higher employment opportunities located in Enniscorthy (SDG8|SDG4|SDG11)

### Positive social outcomes

The EETC supports society by providing a supportive and enabling environment for start-ups and individuals to develop their skills, test their ideas and reach their potential. Through this, the EETC fosters local activism, participation and capability through the people of Enniscorthy (SDG11|SDG8)

### Positive environmental outcomes

The EETC is committed to improving its organisational sustainability and has, for example built a community garden and upgraded the facility's lighting to more efficient systems. The EETC are making changes to support sustainability, and are working towards becoming an example for their tenants and local business to show how they too can become more sustainable and adopt long-term improvements for the environment (SDG13|SDG11).

To support their ambition from a climate action, environmental management perspective, the EETC initiated a certification with the EcoMerit environmental award certification in 2014.

The certification process acts as a framework and guide to work within and has been very useful in propelling and achieving progress:

- Moved energy supplier to fully renewable electricity supplier
- transitioning lighting to LED via Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland grant.
- Air conditioning unit is being replaced (saving energy)
- Sensor lighting has been fitted in the building (saving on energy)

- An infra-red panel has been fitted in one of the meeting rooms (acts as a heating and lighting unit)
- EETC signed up to the All Ireland Pollinator Plan in 2016, and maintains sections of their garden for wildflowers and biodiversity enhancement.
- Started their centre garden in 2019, and continue to encourage wider community involvement. The garden is growing beetroot, radishes, and swiss chard along with herbs.

Through adopting the EcoMerit certification, the Centre aims to work as a demonstrate on site for its tenant businesses and the community (SDG11|SDG13|SDG7).

In 2009/2010, the EETC invited Cultivate to speak to their tenant businesses on the topic of peak oil and transition communities (SDG11|SDG13).

Each of the 23 businesses in the centre have adopted a charity that they support on an ongoing basis. This is actively encouraged and facilitated (SDG11).

The EETC also works closely with Waterford Institute of Technology to help tenants develop their business with their national programme supporting early stage entrepreneurship, New Frontiers. New Frontiers Entrepreneur Development Programme – Phase 1 Commenced in September 2020 (SDG8).

Through affordable office rental prices, high speed broadband connection, reception services and invaluable mentoring, the EETC supports their local community to thrive. New businesses require careful planning, access to professional support, low overhead costs and high speed communications in order to succeed in today's business environment – this is what EETC strives to provide (SDG8|SDG11).





## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

Wexford Local Enterprise Office, Enterprise Ireland, Waterford Wexford Education and Training Board, Wexford Local Development LEADER Company, Waterford Institute of Technology, Wexford County Council, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

The EcoMerit certification process, and through the support this has afforded the centre, has helped in guiding the energy management actions onsite.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

- Two thirds of the building has been transitioned to LED lighting.
- The community garden has expanded and is a success with centre tenants.
- The building energy efficiency has increased through simple actions like tightening windows (in 2021).
- A fabrication lab was set up in the centre.
- The Centre is home to a diverse range of businesses and tenants.
- The Centre strives to be a model of entrepreneurship and economic activity in the region.
- The EETC has a 400mb download speed for tenants.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

In a report developed by the Centre, Natural Step Actions Report 2009, the opportunity for the Centre to become a national centre for sustainable enterprises and a catalyst for sustainability within the community was recognised. Since this report, the Centre has been striving to implement changes and actions to support sustainability. This is done on an ongoing basis with sustainability incorporated into decision making and planning.

### Future plans include:

- Solar panel installation is to be explored in the future
- An electric car charge point will be installed in winter 2022
- There will be indigenous trees planted in the community garden (apple and pear trees) in 2021/2022.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS**?

1. Support to progress sustainability actions is so important. A sustainability toolkit would be very useful giving a 'How To' checklist, and expanding on the relevance and applicability of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. When progressing an idea/ action, you need to be determined, explore the options and get the support from your community.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Electric car charging point in Winter 2022.

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

The integration of solar panels is being explored. No set date for installing.

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

TBC

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

The community garden is being planted with indigenous trees in 2021/2022.

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

TBC.



# HET MARINETERRAIN



**Company Name**  
Het Marineterrein

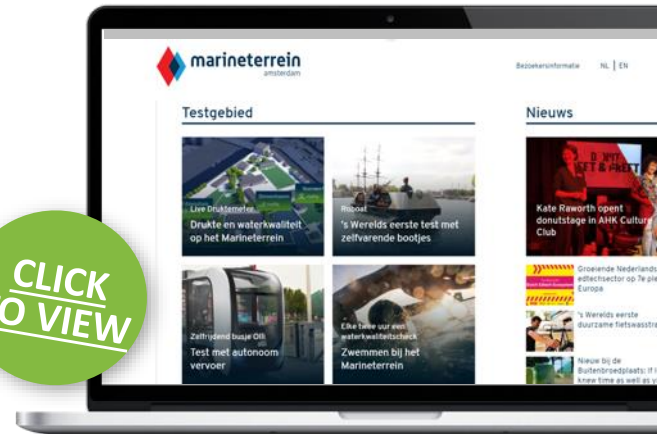
**Date of Interview**  
14.07.21 via Telephone

**Contact Person**  
Mr De Vries and Mr Thijs Meijer – Communication Managers

**Email**  
nfo@marineterrein.nl



CLICK  
TO VIEW



In the middle of the city, Marineterrein Amsterdam is the place where small and large businesses, organizations, colleges and universities can experiment in the field of learning, working and living.

In these partnerships, there is a lot of experimentation with technology and how it can improve the living environment. Marineterrein Amsterdam used to be the place where the Royal Dutch was situated. Its history goes back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Under the responsibility of the National Government and the Amsterdam Municipality, it is being transferred into a test area and an urban district for learning, working and living, situated in the city center of Amsterdam.

Its special and flexible approach is gradually developing the test area into an urban district with space for open innovation, special forms of housing, sports, recreation and greenery.

Most of the buildings are from the 20<sup>th</sup> century, built in a period that sustainability was not yet a hot issue. It is foreseen that some of these buildings will be broken down, making place for new ones. Nevertheless, finding new destination for old buildings is also sustainable.

Cities like Amsterdam, need a new approach to resolving social problems and ask what role technology play in this.

This approach is gradually developing the test area into an urban district with space for open innovation, special forms of housing, sports, recreation and greenery.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**20** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **1000** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **10** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- On the Marineterrein, 51 organisations, companies are active in 3 sectors:
- Learning
- Living
- Working

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- All sectors are represented.

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

The emphasis on innovation stems from the growing importance of knowledge and creativity for the national economy and national employment. In addition, research has shown that inner city environments create excellent incubators for innovation. The Marineterrein will therefore become an economic ecosystem that will strengthen the city, the region, and the Netherlands as a whole.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

### Sector Learning:

- Tech jobs for everybody
- Amsterdam University of Arts has started a Learning Lab

### Sector Living:

- Re-using human urine
- Roboat eases congestion in a crowded city
- Open source crowd monitor government and civil society.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

National government and the Municipality of Amsterdam created an Estate Agency, to coordinate the use of buildings by the tenants. Also, the Ministry of Defence is a partner, since a part of the area will be used by the Royal Dutch Navy. In 2026, new barracks will be ready.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

Not Applicable.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

### Learning

Continuing to learn is becoming increasingly important in a society that is changing rapidly. At the same time, the number of early school leavers is increasing.

At Marineterrein Amsterdam, we are testing all kinds of solutions to modernize our education, reduce the number of school leavers and find ways in which employees can continue to develop their skills. We are testing new methods of learning, new skills and new surroundings with the aid of technology.

### Working

The pressure to perform in our society is increasing. The partnerships at Marineterrein Amsterdam community-based solutions for a sustainable career for everyone, with and without technology.

### Living

Experiments by all kinds of businesses, organisations, knowledge institutes and active citizens are taking place in the outdoor space at Amsterdam Marine Park, where our site functions as an inner-city testing ground for how technology can improve our living environment.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

Some buildings will be broken and replaced by new buildings. Till that time, the buildings are used by the tenants. Royal Dutch Navy plans new barracks for 2026..



# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Good cooperation between the national government, the Navy and the Municipality of Amsterdam.
2. Good marketing tools (focus on sustainability) to attract new tenants.
3. Financial resources, to realise the future plans.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. We realise that the Marineterrein is not just an enterprise centre. It is a big open area, surrounded by water, with a lot of buildings on it. Many of these buildings are in use by a big number of companies. That makes us unique in The Netherlands.
2. We advise comparable places in Europe to communicate with us, to see how we started our developments. On our website you can find the background information of the steps we have made in the last 10 years.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Present buildings are not sustainable in structure. Little improvements have been made. Main developments are planned for 2026 and later: 3-5 years.

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Heating is still with gas. Electricity: first solar panels are installed. Also here, main developments are planned for 2026 and later: 3-5 years.

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

On tenant level are several examples of sustainable eco-systems, like an organic brewery, a greenhouse with solar energy and a restaurant with organic products. More to come: 1-3 years.

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Internet is available on the entire area, Wifi is still on tenant level. Plans for central Wifi are in progress: 1-3 years.

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Marineterrein is already an interesting example of sustainable developments. This will accelerate from 2026 on: 3-5 years.



## PARTAS



### Company Name

Partas (Partas CLG)

### Date of Interview

14/07/2021 via video call

### Contact Person

Bernard Bennett

### Email

receptiontec@partas.ie



Partas has four enterprise centres in the Tallaght area and is firmly at the heart of the entrepreneurial spirit within the community. Tallaght is located in South Dublin, and is the largest satellite town of Dublin City (population of 76,119 (census 2016).

The Partas training in personal and business development, computer skills, mentoring programmes, micro-financing and Social Enterprise ensure that every assistance is provided to support clients. Partas aims to build an inclusive and thriving community by being a leading source of excellence in development of local enterprise and of social economy. A key factor in creating and supporting an entrepreneurial culture in Tallaght is the provision of affordable and suitable workspace.

**Since 1984 Partas has worked with State agencies, NGOs, Businesses and Community Representatives in developing enterprise space and now manages four successful Community Enterprise Centres, namely:**

- Tallaght Enterprise Centre - 1765.1578 sq m
- Bolbrook Enterprise Centre – 743.2243 sq m\*
- Brookfield Enterprise Centre - 2415.47904 sq m
- Killinarden Enterprise Park - 2043.8669 sq. m

\*The Bolbrook Enterprise Centre which recently underwent a total upgrade and refurbishment has reopened as 'The Edge'.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**62** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **300** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **15** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise/ Education/ Food and Hospitality/Social Enterprise.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Learners/ Local Community/ SME's/ Micro Enterprise/ Sole traders/ Start-ups/Social Enterprises.

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

In pursuance of a sustainability agenda, Partas has incorporated the following goals in the formulation and implementation of its plans, strategies & programmes in all areas of activity.

- Minimise the consumption of natural non-renewable resources.
- Encourage energy efficiency, reduction in emissions and where possible adopt alternative/ renewable energy sources and best practice in its operations.
- Accommodate new development needs in an environmentally sensitive manner.
- Promote water conservation measures, waste prevention, reduction, re-use, recycling, energy recovery & safe disposal.

### Equality Policy:

Partas is committed to equality of opportunity in terms of its employment practices, its policies and procedures, and access to its services. This commitment to equality of opportunity is evidenced in the mission statement of the organisation: "Our aim is to build an inclusive and thriving community by being a leading source of excellence in development of local enterprise and of social economy."

### Environmental Policy:

Partas provides business support, advice and training to individuals, community businesses, SMEs and Social Enterprises throughout Tallaght. Partas recognises that environmental concerns are an integral part of its business both within its own operation & in its relationship with clients.

Both within its own operation and in its relationship with clients. To this end See below for some of the activities Partas engages in below:

## Internal

- Ensure that wherever practicable all consumables within Partas are recycled
- Identify and offer environmental training to all staff, where appropriate.

## External

- Advise all new and existing clients, where appropriate, of their environmental responsibilities.

## Internal/External

- Make every effort to minimise use of private transport in the internal and external work of the Centre
- Review this policy from time to time against best practice in the business support sector.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

The Bolbrook Enterprise Centre underwent a refurbishment between 2019, reopening in 2020 as 'The Edge'. In developing 'The Edge' every effort was taken to marry sustainability efforts from an environmental perspective with cost savings potential while exploring opportunities to generate income (the Coffee Shop) in the building also. The building is state of the art. It incorporates a Heat Recovery System (similar to Passive House systems) and also installed a Heat Pump with underfloor heating. These actions have greatly reduced energy usage and bills (SDG7|SDG11).

Partas accessed grant funding through the SEAI EXEED programme (match funding secured from South Dublin County Council). Solar panels were installed at construction, which during the summer months covers the full load of electricity used on site. Funding via the REDF (Regional Enterprise Development Fund) was also central in supporting the upgrade (SDG7|SDG11).

Partas have led the development of the Social and Local Sustainable Energy Community (through SEAI) in Tallaght. This was initiated 18 months ago and involves South Dublin County Council, the South Dublin Chamber of Commerce, the Local Enterprise Office and the Technological University of Dublin, Tallaght. The aim is to develop a forum of participants to drive the discussion on developing a local energy generation and use scheme, with a possible role for Partas here to supply excess energy from solar locally (local distribution) (SDG7|SDG11).

When businesses arrive, they are helped and supported to adopt environmentally conscious and sustainable business practices. This is initiated from the very start, with the aim that as businesses grow, they will grow with strong environmental practices (SDG13|SDG11|SDG7|SDG12).



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

SEAI/ South Dublin County Council/ the Local Enterprise Office/ Enterprise Ireland/ tenant businesses and Partas staff.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland) covered 75% of the cost of a consultant (through the EXEED programme) and also provided mentorship.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

Social enterprises like Partas constantly face funding challenges, and so it was of significant import that Tallaght Partnership, following its inception in 1991, sub-contracted a significant portion of its enterprise programme to Partas. This enabled the organisation to expand its services to its client base, and firmly established Partas as a key player in the development of the local economy. In addition to enterprise supports for individuals, Partas established a Social Economy Unit in 1997 to provide management & enterprise supports to community businesses in Tallaght. In addition to its core work in Tallaght, Partas has participated in many EU programmes over the past 25+ years and has significantly benefited from its experience with European partners.

Of significance also is The Rise programme, which is radically different from the majority of programmes available for Social Enterprise development. Based on a three-year pan-European research programme (on why social enterprises have failed to achieve sustainability) this programme incorporates two cutting-edge entrepreneurial processes – disruptive design thinking and action coaching. Free to a limited number of applicants, training and mentoring with an estimated commercial value of €15,000 is now available to selected social entrepreneurs and social enterprises with ambitious plans for growth and impact.

Partas also secured funding from the Department of Justice and Equality for WEBNET through the Gender Equality European Social Fund (ESF) PEIL programme, to run a 3 year programme offering mentoring and support to budding female entrepreneurs. Participants will avail of networking support from their peers, also receiving accredited skills through the delivery of three QQI modules, including Sales and Marketing Skills, Business Planning and Career Planning.

The Bolbrook Enterprise Centre which was redeveloped to 'The Edge' centre and is now a state of the art location, where once people had to wear coats inside due to the cold, it has now been completely transformed. The Edge solar panels cover the energy usage (during the summer) of the entire building.

The cafe's (The Edge and Main Road Tallaght Enterprise Centre) and the brewery (Priority Brewery - social enterprise) were developed with sustainability and environmental practices as a central tenet in each project. Each work to keep down their environmental footprint, simultaneously keeping down costs and generating revenues for the centres.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

- Tackle increasing unemployment in their communities through the promotion of self employment and social entrepreneurship
- Continue to expand and widen services
- Tackle new and emerging target groups in the community (supporting startups and microbusinesses)
- Continue to develop our 'Social + Local' strategy to encourage a thriving local/social economy
- Concentrate on further developing EU partnerships and capitalise on funding opportunities.
- Planning to install electric car charge points for tenants or the public at 'The Edge' centre to utilise the excess energy generated from the solar panels while in tandem developing a new income stream for the centre. Potential partnership with Glas Energy.
- With all new developments and all opportunities to invest in upgrading of facilities, every effort is taken to ensure that sustainability/ energy efficiency criteria are met along the way.



# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Funding is a big challenge for Enterprise Centres..
2. A more secure process for Enterprise Centres with less uncertainty when applying for grants such as the SEAI EXEED Grant..
3. Many Enterprise Centres struggle to survive - the connection between sustainability from a financial perspective and sustainability from an environmental perspective needs to be acknowledged and supported.
4. Support and funding needs to be easier to navigate.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Take action. Do it today. Do something. Don't let perfection stop you getting started. Better to get started.
2. Agree the strategy at Board level. Set out the rationale, the business case and get support.
3. Seek out synergies and partnerships where these could be mutually helpful.
4. Communicate plans clearly to centre managers..
5. Enterprise Centres must look to link opportunities to be self-sustainable economically with those opportunities to ensure environmental and social sustainability.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Electric car charging infrastructure - by the end of 2021

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Main Road Tallaght Centre insulation retrofit, food hub and solar panels - mid to late 2022

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Training Academy - 2022-2023

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Local and Social SEC - discussion around local generation and distribution - in 2022

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Solar panels and refurbishments (Main Road) - in 2022



PLNT



### Company Name

PLNT Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship  
in Leiden in The Netherlands

### Date of Interview

September 2021 via Telephone

### Contact Person

Bastiaan de Roo - Director

### Email

frontoffice@plnt.nl



PLNT Leiden is committed to stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship in Leiden and region. The pre-incubation centre offers a divers mix of innovation and entrepreneurship programs, an active start-up-community, network-partners, flexible meeting and event-rooms, office-spaces and workplaces for innovative start-ups. Here, start-ups, based at the PLNT premises, are supported and take advantage of the knowledge and network for a flying start. PLNT also links talent between

social partners and the business community, with the aim to find (new) solutions for existing and future SDG-challenges. These ideas and solutions may grow into new start-ups.

PLNT is actively supported by regional partners in the field of education (from university to VET-colleges), SME's to the civil society and the local government.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**13** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **300** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **3** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- The organisation is active in all sectors. From health tot space, from agriculture to data-science.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Start-ups, Students and young professionals entrepreneurs who join PLNT as community member and/or tenant together with our stakeholders: educational partners, business partners, governments, SME's and a mix of ngo's.

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

PLNT aims to make the Leiden region more innovative and enterprising. The transition to a clean, sustainable and resilient economy is on its way, together with several local and regional partners, in the field of education, research and entrepreneurship.

PLNT helps and stimulate people and organisations to develop ideas and solutions "from seed, to sprout to a healthy plant". A diverse community of active PLNT-ers helps to

grow together by learning from each other.

In cooperation with the partners, PLNT provides an inspirational environment with work and event places and several programs to help start-ups to work out their ideas. Some examples:

- Start-up Play: develop an idea in a start-up concept
- Venture Academy; a program for entrepreneurs that is committed to launch their start-up.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

During the first couple of years, PLNT organised more than 800 events and facilitated more than 1400 ideas to grow from seed.

- PLNT used its network to collect experiences from identical centres
- PLNT had contacts from the local and national government to get support.
- PLNT developed a marketing plan to promote itself.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

The community of PLNT has several partners in the field of education, research and businesses and is still growing. More information See: <https://plnt.nl/partners/>



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

We did not receive concrete training. The team consists of professionals with backgrounds in supporting SME's, local government, higher education, start-up-centres, entrainment-industry and communication. By combining challenges, expertise and network in a start-up way by doing, showing and testing supported by partners the centres works as a start-up itself.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

Some of our start-ups have developed serious solutions for challenges in the field of energy, climate-change, pharma, agriculture and health and are growing their business.

The centre developed a circular multi-functional roof garden as well as a circular pavilion over the last 2 years where challenges can meet solutions.

The centre has become a hotspot and podium for the growing quadruple helix of industry, academia and government and civil society.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

To expand fertile ground on which our community of students and start-ups can grow and meet the challenges of our partners and network. Extra attention will go to the chain-concept of educate, stimulate, innovate and execute. Our centre and community are part of the larger switch in the chain of solutions for the challenges of today and tomorrow. We can only be sustainable, when the complete chain is.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS**?

1. Budget to further develop programs for different SDG's challenges
2. Developing good contacts with other sustainable enterprise centres in The Netherlands, for exchanging ideas and for cooperation.
3. Partners for developing more sustainable concepts.
4. Good promotion and marketing.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Invest and ask your networks what they can do,
2. Experiment, show and tell
3. Develop a sustainable chain-concept with the quadruple partners
4. Invest in a diverse team of professionals from different fields.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 6 months and further, depending on financial possibilities

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Next 12 months and further, depending on financial possibilities.

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 12 months, depending on financial possibilities.

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 6 months. Important topics are Digital security, AI and data protection.

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 1-3 years and further, depending on financial possibilities.





PNE



### Company Name

PNE

### Date of Interview

05.08.21 via Video Call

### Contact Person

05.08.21 via Video Call

### Email

enquiries@pne.org



PNE is an enterprise agency in North East England that supports a thriving business landscape and is driven by a purpose: to create positive social and economic change through enterprise.

The business supports people to start a sustainable business, support organisations to grow sustainably and support partners to help businesses start, grow and thrive. PNE works with organisations and individuals, who

share their ambition of supporting businesses to start, grow and thrive, and who want to harness the power of entrepreneurship to make a difference.

PNE are always seeking to explore new partnerships with those who share our purpose and values. Business support includes 1-2-1 Advice & Mentoring, Training & Masterclasses, Leadership Coaching, Management & Leadership Qualifications, Workspace and more.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**12** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **300** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **10** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Tenants/Public Body/Funders

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

When working with new businesses PNE encourage and ask business owners how they can reduce carbon footprint and start a sustainable business for a sustainable future. With staff, there is development work on social pay living wage, training support, mental health support.

Environmental PNE has Solar panels, LED lights motion sensors, Cycling facilitates, radiator controls, recycling for a paperless zone. PNE is currently in the process of looking at EPC ratings of minimum C by installing double-glazing windows and more energy efficient radiators.

PNE is looking to build a new sustainable building with ground source heating, seeding roof, bio diversity, nature protection but due to covid-19 there was delays and is looking for funding in 2021/2022.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

PNE deliver a Sustainable Start-up Award the first of its kind in the region supports new and emerging businesses by providing funding and practical support, including one-to-one mentoring appointments and tickets to workshops and masterclasses by leading business professionals. To be considered for a grant, applicants must be able to show how their business supports at least one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined by the United Nations.

Followed EDF to improve overall ratings and implement systems. To go paperless the organisation started looking at human behaviour and comfort and analysing why people need paper. Tenants were receiving invoices in paper and making the change to online saved time long term. Accounts system – alternative “Xero” Monthly Subscription with tag on apps.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

Involve tenants as much as possible in implementing new systems to building. Talked to other Enterprise centres to bring businesses together who are not involving in change and overcome barriers.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

Research before bringing in systems. Tracey has completed Climate Change course and is part of the North East Climate Change coalition bringing people together to tackle the climate emergency, to reverse ecological collapse and deliver a just transition to a new green economy. PNE also work with local colleges so young people can see business opportunities for better climate businesses.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

- 50 businesses in Tyne and Wear availed up to £1,000 to support with start-up costs.
- Solar Panels installed last year – difficult to analysis costing with covid and some businesses working from home.
- Reducing cost of stationary, funders have to print and sign this was difficult when trying to go paper free. Now electronic signatures for documents.
- Bike sheds are full so PNE are looking at the possibility of expansion, encouraging more people to cycle to work rather than taking their cars



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

- Currently researching electric chargers in Car park for a clean Air Zones
- Sourcing funding for new building development, carbon neutral
- Continue to be carbon neutral and finding income generation opportunities that don't rely on heavy staffing

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Funding - looking for grants for financial support
2. Technology is expensive to implement
3. Resources and training for Enterprise
4. Centres that can then train new entrepreneurs.
5. Looking at new business owners for what systems they can implement from early stages.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Don't try to change world in one go
2. Take small steps
3. Explore the benefits
4. Support businesses & promote the benefits for planet
5. Do not have a fear of technology.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

6 -12 months

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

6 -12 months

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 6 months

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

6 -12 months

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

1 to 3 years.





## ROOTS INNOVATION HUB



### Company Name

ROOTS Innovation HUB in Ede in The Netherlands

### Date of Interview

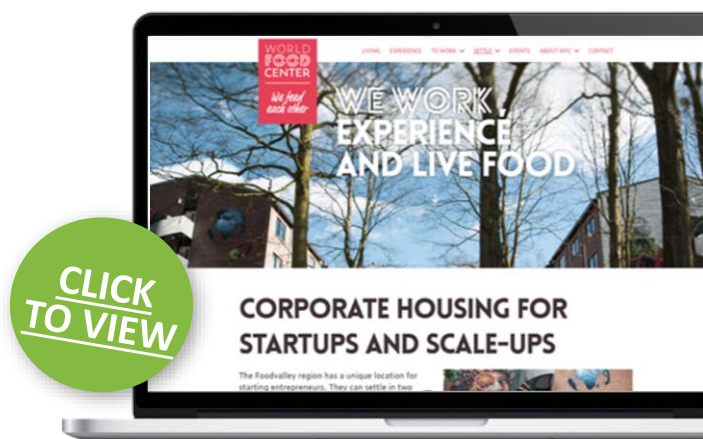
02.08.2021 via Telephone

### Contact Person

Louis de Boer

### Email

l.boer@bpd.nl



ROOTS Innovation hub offers space to start-ups and scale-ups that are active in the Agri and food sector. ROOTS does this because young entrepreneurs play a major role in the transition and renewal of our food system into a sustainable system. The Innovation hub is located next to Ede-Wageningen railway station in the centre of the Dutch Food Valley. ROOTS is part of the World Food Center (WFC) grounds which makes it an ideal location for innovative and sustainable entrepreneurs.

ROOTS is located in former military barracks. The buildings will eventually be demolished to make way for the WFC Hotel. Until then, the buildings will be used by start-ups and scale-ups. The costs to rent space are very low, there are almost no rules and therefore plenty of room to experiment. An ideal place to start and grow new innovative businesses together with other young entrepreneurs.



# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**1** EMPLOYEE

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **160** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **5** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Agri and food business

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Tenants startups and scale-ups

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

The world population is growing and climate is changing. Our food supply requires sustainable and healthy food and innovative business models. The World Food Center (WFC) centrally located in the Foodvalley region wants to play a key role in these developments. In a couple of years this will be the place where more and more entrepreneurs, governmental and educational institutions work together on the food supply of tomorrow.

ROOTS Innovation hub is one of the initiatives at the WFC premises. It is not a commercial activity but it facilitates tenants in their basic needs to grow their own sustainable and innovative business: a place to work and grow in an inspiring environment with a minimum of rental costs. That is the new concept behind ROOTS. It's up to the young entrepreneurs themselves to connect and to inspire and help each other.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

Almost nothing. The buildings were already available. We made these buildings ready for the tenants with good internet connections and safety precautions so they could enter the building 24 hours a day.

We have set up a new foundation, appointed an administrator and defined the criteria for the new tenants. Their business has to be in Agri and food business (80% of the tenants) or in related business (20%). They must be a start-up or scale-

up business (not older than 5 years) and prepared to participate in marketing activities of WFC (interviews, presentations or guided tour etc).

They also participate in WFC network and community with different kinds of activities (in progress). Tenants are completely free what they do with their rented space. It could be a lab, a test kitchen, an office or storage room, etc.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

A new foundation was set up to exploit the buildings and facilitate the tenants of the building. The building itself is very old and not very sustainable. Only the lifecycle of the building has been extended through this initiative and you might call that sustainable.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

No, the concept is new and we just started to experiment with it. There is a lot of interest and more than 25 new businesses already rented a space. Most of them are innovative and sustainable businesses concerning new kinds of products and services like microgreens, fungi, plant-based foods, biological control, indoor gardening, drone technology, etc. tenants list with links to their own business sites see <https://worldfoodcenter.net/roots-voor-startups>



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

Many new businesses with national and international backgrounds have rented space in our buildings. A lot of them arise from studies and students from the Wageningen University which is our neighbour. Wageningen University and

Research is one of the main agriculture universities in the world with focus on healthy food and living environment. Further information: <https://www.wur.nl/en/About-WUR.htm>



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

The concept is successful, although the start-up and scale-ups are renting space in some old buildings at the WFC grounds. The ambition is that after the buildings have been demolished some other spaces will be available for them. Basically, it is important that WFC has room for the young entrepreneurs who can help developing and growing WFC with their fresh and innovative ideas.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Ideas to build and facilitate communities of young entrepreneurs.
2. Innovative business cases and arrangements to facilitate young entrepreneurs with low-cost and experimental space.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Give room to innovative young entrepreneurs.
2. Facilitate young entrepreneurs and use their ideas for renewal and transitions needed to build up a sustainable and climate.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 6 months and further

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Next 6 months and further

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 6 months and further

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

TBC

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 6 months and further.



## THE FOOD HUB



### Company Name

The Food Hub, Drumshanbo, Co. Leitrim

### Date of Interview

26.07.21 via Telephone

### Contact Person

Fergal McPartland

### Email

manager@drumshanbocu.ie



The Food Hub is a best practice food production and education facility based in Drumshanbo Co. Leitrim.

The site was previously occupied by Laird's jam factory employing over 100 people, but when the factory closed and lay idle for decades, local and national stakeholders and authorities decided to bring food enterprise back to

Leitrim in a more sustainable manor. In 2004 The Food Hub was founded as Ireland's premier artisan food production enterprise centre.

There is 14 production units over 26,000 sq ft of premium food production space and there is lots of innovative supports for food producers

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



NO DIRECT EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **130** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **17** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise / Education/ Food network development

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Tenants/SMEs

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

While sustainability was not the original mission of the Food Hub, community resilience is at the core of everything they do. When the closing of the Laird's jam factory cost the local community over 100 jobs, a decision was made to stimulate food entrepreneurship in the area and spread the job risk across multiple SMEs to ensure the local areas economic future.

The Food Hub was ahead of its time in integrating circularity into their processes, opening the first shared use community kitchen in Ireland, providing aspiring food entrepreneurs with key resources for expansion. The Food Hub continues to work with their tenants to design out unnecessary waste and share resources.





## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

A showcase unit was developed as a shared use interactive visitor experience for collaborative marketing and training. Pre Covid-19, the facility hosted artisan food masterclasses encouraging people to learn a new skills. One tenant, the Cheese Hub, facilitated the growing farmhouse cheese trend in Ireland, by providing a central ripening and packaging services.

The Food Hub was a leading partner in investigating a logistics and distribution project to strengthen the supply chain in and from the region to a national and international marketplace. Digital transformation – The Food Hub is linked with 3rd level educators to help food businesses transform operations through digital business models.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

The tenants in the Food Hub are consistently driving their own sustainability initiatives while support from the Food Hub's stakeholders. In particular, they tap into key programmes such as

the Lean for Micro programme of Local Enterprise Office, Leitrim and Origin Green, Ireland's pioneering food and drink sustainability programme.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

Since 2010, over 175 unemployed people have graduated from The Food Hub's 42-week Hospitality Operations QQI accredited course jointly by Department of Social Protection, SOLAS & Leitrim Development Company. 85% of the

course participants have used this professional development to progress a career in the culinary sector, both as employees or as new food entrepreneurs. 5% have progressed to further education.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

- 130 people are now employed across 8 different companies at The Food Hub
- Successfully retrofitted an older building, continuing the buildings contribution to the economy into the 21st century.
- Through engaging with tenants they have successfully redirected waste, into a resource for others. The waste hot water from a

distillery now feeds a Keifer production unit, saving energy. The spent grain from that same distillery is now fed back to farmers for agricultural completing a loop of waste and resource.

- The Taste Leitrim has brought together 80 food producers and places to eat into a high profile food network and civil society.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

- The time share production kitchen resulted in multiple food SMEs accessing their first food production facility.
- The Food Hub was a leading partner in investigating a logistics and distribution project to strengthen the supply chain in and

from the region to a national and international marketplace.

- Digital transformation The Food Hub is linked with 3rd level educators to help food businesses transform operations through digital business models.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Greater in-house expertise in sustainability and climate change as an infrastructure resource and to provide greater guidance to the food community
2. Continued need for funding resources to realise further and climate smart expansion
3. Shared resources and knowledge between similar centres would be very useful.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Engage with your tenants and use them as a resource for ideas and expertise.
2. Be aware of the business case to improving efficiencies, and help tenants work towards this. Focus on the easy wins first.
3. Build strong relationships with funders.
4. Communicate your success.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

2 to 3 years

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

2 to 3 years

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

within next 6 months

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

1 to 5 years

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

1 to 5 years



## THE JUNCTION



### Company Name

The Junction Tullamore (Offaly Innovation & Design Centre CLG)

### Date of Interview

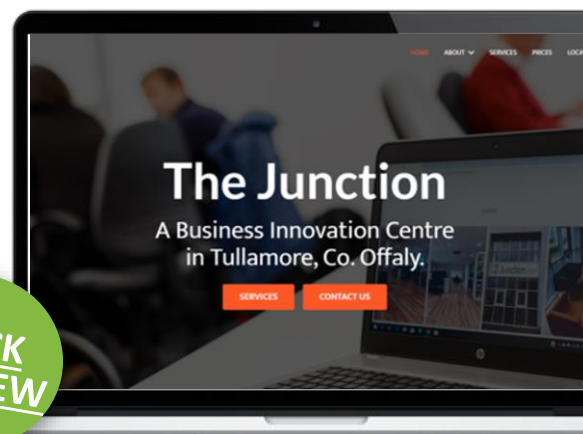
21/07/2021 via video call

### Contact Person

Caitriona Montgomery, Business Development Manager, stream BIRR

### Email

info@thejunctionoffaly.ie



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TO VIEW

The Junction Business Innovation Centre in Tullamore (population of approx. 14,607 (2016) located in Ireland's midlands) is one of several funded projects of Offaly Innovation & Design Centre CLG (supported by LEO Offaly and Offaly County Council). Offaly Innovation & Design Centre CLG was established in June 2013. It was established as a collaborative multi-agency and community initiative and its remit is to develop innovative supports for enterprise in Offaly, with regional impact. The Junction Business Innovation Centre, The Junction Office Suites, E-hive and stream BIRR are all initiatives of the CLG.

In July 2014, The Junction Business Innovation Centre was officially launched (Phase 1). The Junction Business Innovation Centre is a 390.1928 sq. metre facility, designed and fitted out as a dedicated high spec co-working space. It is a multi-functional space, providing affordable incubation space for startups, high speed internet access, training / board room hire and hot desk facilities.

This is supplemented by ongoing business supports from the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Offaly, with regular engagement with the Midland Innovation Research Centre (MIRC), Athlone, Enterprise Ireland and other stakeholders. In setting up The Junction, the Directors decided on a particular focus and so targeted the following sectors: software, design, new product development, multi-media and renewable energies.

Building on the success of The Junction, the Company (with support funding from Enterprise Ireland and Offaly County Council) has expanded as follows:

1. The Junction Office Suites (Phase 2) – 4 additional offices with meeting room/canteen facilities have been developed in an industrial unit adjacent to The Junction Business Innovation Centre.
2. stream BIRR: The company successfully applied to the Enterprise Ireland Regional Development Fund and was awarded €458,240 to deliver stream BIRR.
3. E-Hive: Offaly Innovation and Design Centre CLG partnered with Offaly County Council to manage E-Hive, a next generation co-working hub in Edenderry.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



2 EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN 50 PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST 7 YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise/ Educational establishment (training facilities)/ Community (engaging and supporting the local community to thrive)/ Research and Innovation.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- SMEs/ Micro Enterprises/ Sole traders/ Start-ups (The Junction is an incubation hub for businesses).

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

The Junction aligns with the objectives of the Midlands Regional Enterprise Plan to ensure that, amongst other objectives, that the Midlands is well positioned to address the challenges posed by the transition to a low carbon economy, leverages the opportunities in big data and data analytics from iLOFAR (the Irish station in a European-wide network of state-of-the-art radio telescopes, used to observe the Universe at low frequencies) and enhances the collective offering of the Midlands as a place to live, work, and invest in.

This focus supports a decrease in commuting activity and congestion, supporting improved health and wellbeing locally, climate action through the reduction of unnecessary GHG emissions from commuting, and strives towards a sustainable and resilient community, supporting decent work and economic growth locally.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

The Junction encourages recycling and composting, has developed a food waste management plan, and only buys in A-rated appliances (SDG12). With every action and investment in the properties, there is a focus on ensuring this meets their sustainability ambitions. The buildings are modern, designed to support collaboration, energy efficiency and innovation (SDG9|SDG8|SDG17)

In conjunction with its sister hubs stream BIRR and e-Hive, the Junction holds virtual events for their tenants, can range from data analytics, to remote working tips and resources and support tenants businesses in staying on top of recent development, innovations and so forth (SDG4) The Junction is also a training facilitating again supporting activities in the community (SDG4|SDG8)

The Junction links with the wider network of Offaly based enterprise hubs (outside of their own network) via the Midlands Network of Co-working Facilities (MNCF) to support sharing and learnings locally and the development of a resilient hub network in the region (SDG11|SDG8)

The Junction with its sister hub Stream BIRR are partnered with the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies (DIAS) and have a PhD student on the team (SDG8|SDG17)The Junction has recently been able to upgrade to the fastest connectivity broadband (SDG9)

The Junction regularly engages its business tenants in funding developments, informing them of upcoming funding opportunities, and training opportunities (SDG8|SDG9). The Local Enterprise Office Offaly, Offaly County Council, TUS Midwest , Enterprise Ireland (REDF funding), Science Foundation Ireland, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

The Local Enterprise Office Offaly, Offaly County Council, TUS Midwest , Enterprise Ireland (REDF funding), Science Foundation Ireland, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

Mentoring has been accessed via the LEO Offaly. The Directors also bring highly valuable expertise. Stakeholders also provide valuable advice and mentoring where required.





## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

Several current and past tenants have participated in the New Frontiers programme in MIRC. One tenant (Future Ticketing) has transitioned from the LEO Offaly client portfolio to Enterprise Ireland as a High Potential Start-Up. The Junction has been cited (by the Department of Business Enterprise and Innovation (DBEI) and others) as a model of Best Practice.

Building on the success of The Junction, the parent company (Offaly Innovation and Design Centre CLG) with support funding from Enterprise

Ireland and Offaly County Council, has expanded as follows:

- The Junction Office Suites (Phase 2) – 4 additional offices with meeting room/canteen facilities have been developed in an industrial unit adjacent to The Junction Business Innovation Centre. This accommodates businesses that have outgrown the hot desking facilities of the Junction. The new office space opened in late July 2019 and all the four offices have already been rented.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

The Junction has applied for funding through the network of Connected Hubs, which will facilitate a range of improvements and enhancements at the centre supporting sustainability. This funding once delivered will be used with activities completed by the end of 2021. The Junction has also applied to the Just Transition Funding which will support larger energy efficiency projects and the expansion of the hub. This will be completed in late 2022. This funding will improve further the energy efficiency of their buildings.

The Junction is applying to the Local Enterprise Office Green For Micro funding to support their own ambitions onsite while also utilising all funding and sustainability supports to reinforce their own efforts to lead by doing. The ambition is to greatly increase the scope of activities onsite, and in doing so, act as a demonstrator for tenant businesses and the community.

From Autumn 2021, The Junction will be providing a programme of activities e.g. webinars, events, resources for home workers working locally, and for businesses interested in transitioning their workforce to fully remote or blended working. This will be undertaken in partnership with Grow Remote and the Local Enterprise Office in Offaly. The Junction are planning to explore circular economy opportunities.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Further training on the practical integration of sustainability measures - the 'how to'.
2. Funding to support sustainability and the transition of the centres and to support the tenant businesses.
3. The opportunity to have strategic support through collective conversations on sustainability, and to engage with other hubs to learn from and share with each other.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Develop relationships with your Digital Officer in your Local Authority.
2. Connect with your Local Enterprise Office to access training, funding and keep connected.
3. Look at what can be done, and scale up.
4. Look at the practical ways to introduce sustainability measures daily and strategically.
5. Hubs need dedicated staff. Every hub should have a full time Centre Manager/ Business Development.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Just Transition Fund (through the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications) will see works completed in early 2022

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Just Transition Fund (through the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications) will see works completed in early 2022).

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Just Transition Fund (through the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications) will see works completed in early 2022).

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Just Transition Fund (through the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications) will see works completed in early 2022).

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Just Transition Fund (through the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications) will see works completed in early 2022).



## UCC GREEN CAMPUS



**University College Cork**  
World's First Green Campus

### Company Name

University College Cork Green Campus, Co. Cork

### Date of Interview

16/07/2021 via Video call

### Contact Person

Darren Reidy, Acting Sustainability Officer

### Email

dreidy@ucc.ie

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University College Cork is located in the heart of Cork city (Ireland's second largest city, in the south-west of Ireland, population circa 210,000)). UCC was the world's first Green-Campus awarded by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), in 2010 and the world's first university to achieve ISO50001 standard certification for Energy Management Systems.

UCC has a student led, research informed and practice focussed approach on matters of sustainability with this ethos embedded across the entire university. In 2018, UCC became the first university in Europe to be awarded a Gold Star from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. In March 2020,

University College Cork celebrated 10 years since becoming the first University in the world to be awarded the Green Flag.

Green Campus involves a seven-step programme and a cycle of continual improvement. Campuses are fully reassessed, by a panel of external experts, every 3 years. UCC has successfully renewed its Green Flag 4 times. The University building stock consists of 250,000m<sup>2</sup> of buildings across 120 individual properties and 180 acres {73 Hectares} of land. Founded in 1845, UCC is proud to be ranked in the top 2% of universities in the world.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**2,700** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



**22,500** FULL TIME STUDENTS

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **15** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- University/ Educational establishment/ Public Sector body

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Students

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

UCC has a key strategic goal to increase the sustainability of the University through the embedding of sustainability goals and targets into all aspects of the University's educational, research, ancillary operations, infrastructural developments and interactions with the community. By doing so, UCC aims to maintain and improve their position as one of the leading green universities in Ireland and the world. UCC as a leading higher education institution, a major research institute, an employer, landowner, a significant cultural and heritage asset, and as a partner in civic and commercial life, is uniquely positioned to take an ethical and practical leadership role in achieving sustainability and resilience locally, regionally, nationally and beyond.

UCC is firmly committed to the principles of sustainability. Recognising that their activities impact upon the environment, society and economy through their education, research and operations, infrastructural development and influence on the wider community, UCC are cognisant of their responsibilities in local, national and global terms, and endeavour to implement a measured and documented programme of continuous improvement towards sustainability in all of their activities.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

**Digital Technology:** The university has developed an online guided tour of some of the many green initiatives on campus which have led to their position as one of the most sustainable campuses in the world. The app includes a guided audio tour, with additional video, image and web content. Click on a link to get the app: [Google Play](#) | [Apple](#) (SDG9)

Since being awarded Green Campus status (renewed 4 times), this student led initiative has been a key catalyser of initiatives on campus. Rewarding “long term commitment to continuous improvement from the campus community”, the student leadership central to the Green Campus award is widely recognised as pivotal to the momentum of behavioural change on-campus and amongst the student population (SDG11|SDG13)

UCC has a strong commitment, in keeping with its role in environmental teaching and education (SDG4), to reducing its environmental impacts. This has been addressed in recent years through the development and implementation of a documented Environmental Policy (SDG11|SDG13|SDG4|SDG7|SDG12|SDG 9) committing UCC to improving its environmental performance and forming the framework for environmental management on campus.

Every year the student members of the Green-Campus Committee (SDG17) together with the Environmental Society organise a Green-Week on campus, complimented by standalone events across the year. Events take the form of social, political, creative and charitable platforms and provide opportunity for discussion, debate and engagement from all students. (SDG17|SDG12|SDG13)

As a direct result of the Green-Campus programme new University wide modules on environment and sustainability have been developed. These are available to all students and cover topics such as ecology, environmental law, environmental health, philosophy and the psychology of climate change. Students earn academic credit upon completion of these modules. Over thirty other courses related to environment and sustainability are also offered to students.

### A number of the key areas of action:

- Sustainability in Waste Management Strategy (SDG12).
- Continuing to reduce waste.
- KSG Caterers launched Ireland’s first plastic-free cafe, the BioGreen Cafe, in 2018 onsite in UCC. The cafe has eliminated single use plastics in the kitchen, from suppliers and in the cafe for customers.
- UCC has bike parking facilities across the campus. And has installed additional secure and covered bike parking facilities (to be opened in Oct 21) (SDG11|SDG13|SDG17)

UCC has multiple different types of renewable energy infrastructure onsite. Photovoltaic panels provide 58,000 kWh per annum and a small wind turbine provides 5,000Kwh per annum. The Mardyke Arena uses a Combined Heat and Power Plant to generate heat and electricity to the facility. There are 3 geothermal heat pumps across the estate, utilising ground source water to supply heating and cooling to the buildings. 100% of the purchased electricity is supplied from renewable energy sources (SDG11|SDG7)

UCC has conducted a comprehensive review of its Carbon Footprint, including Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions. In response, UCC is in the process of developing a Climate Action Plan (as a public sector body) to hit the 55% reduction in carbon emissions target by 2030. (SDG13)

In 2016, UCC became the first University in Ireland to have fresh vegetables harvested from its own land and served in six of its restaurants. 80 to 100 tonnes of root vegetables are harvested throughout the winter months. The plot is managed by the family-owned “Waterfall Farms” who deliver the fresh produce to our catering company KSG. The vegetables also go into our soups which are served in 13 outlets across campus. In 2018 UCC published its first Biodiversity Action Plan, mapping 22 different habitat types across campus and highlighting areas important for conservation of biodiversity.





## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

The Sustainability agenda at UCC is driven by both “bottom-up” and “top-down” approaches. The Green Campus Committee (GCC), in operation since 2007, is the student-led element, which sits regularly throughout the year and runs events and campaigns with a sustainability theme. The GCC also has representation from academia and operations (B&E). The GCC is chaired by the Deputy President of the Student’s Union and the Chairperson of the Environmental Society.

The Green Forum (GF) was established in 2013 to play a more “strategic” role in the longer-term direction of sustainability activities within UCC. The GF is chaired by the UCC President and the

Director of Buildings and Estates. The GF has representation from operations, professional services, subsidiary companies, contractors, academia, and the Student’s Union. The GF sits twice per year. Finally, a Sustainability Review Group composed of key operational staff within the Buildings and Estates office and the Deputy President and Registrar meets every six weeks to review progress against the Sustainability Strategy. The Student’s Union appoint and Environmental & Sustainability Rep annually, and also engage with the Union of Students in Ireland’s Sustainability Manager.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

The UCC Green Campus Committee received guidance from An Taisce on how to develop and implement a successful programme on campus. UCC staff also receive training as a team in energy management, ISO140001, ISO150001, and training via the SEAI Energy Training Academy. UCC also receives training through the Environment Association of Universities and Colleges (EAUC).



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

In April 2021, University College Cork (UCC) was ranked 8th in the world by the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings, placing it as Ireland’s leading university for its impact in working towards creating a sustainable future. The evidence based THE Impact Rankings are the only global tables to assess universities against progress towards the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), providing a total of 18 rankings, one for each SDG as well as an overall table. Over 1,000 universities across the world from 98 countries were analysed in these rankings, which examine universities against their commitment to sustainability at an institutional, local, national, regional and global level. The teaching, research, public engagement and stewardship of universities are assessed to ascertain their alignment with the global challenges that our world faces.

**In the April rankings, UCC is ranked in the Top 20 globally in relation to 7 of the SDGs, among the findings were:**

- UCC moved from 32nd place last year to 8th in the world overall in 2021
- UCC finished in the world's top three for SDG12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG15 (Life on Land), Top four for SDG 14 (Life Below Water), top 6 for SG6 (Clean water & Sanitation) and Top 20 for SDG 2 (Zero Hunger, SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).
- UCC received praise for leading by example through research, and education (both formal and informal on campus and in the wider community).
- Global importance of higher education evident as 24 countries from six continents appear in overall ranking top 100.

Additionally: In September 2018, UCC was awarded a Gold Star from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE).

In 2021, UI GreenMetric World University Rankings, an international ranking which examines sustainability practices in universities across the world, has ranked University College Cork (UCC) at ninth in the world, the only Irish university to make the top 10 for environmental

At the very outset and during the period of 2010 - 2013 alone, campus recycling rate increased from 21 to 75 %, total energy consumption decreased by 9 %, the number of staff choosing to cycle to work- increased from 6 to 12 % across campus. €1,000,000 on waste costs was saved and a saving of over 7,50,000 m3 of water.

Under the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) UCC, as a public body, has been tasked with improving its energy efficiency by 33% by

the year 2020. Despite undergoing a significant increase in footprint since 2008 with the addition/expansion of buildings such as the Western Gateway Building, Tyndall National Institute, Mardyke Arena and Beaufort, UCC has achieved a 34.4% reduction(2018) of its total primary energy requirements (TPER), compared to a baseline of 2006-2008. The annual electrical consumption of UCC has decreased by 1.65 GWh/annum, the equivalent of the electrical energy to power over 350 homes for a year.

By embracing the student perspective and enthusiasm, UCC has established itself as a global leader in sustainable development in universities. UCC continues to review and improve its performance in accordance with the Green-Campus approach to sustainability. Having developed a successful template the UCC Green Campus Committee openly shares experiences, both positive and negative, with other institutions.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

UCC is regarded as Ireland's 'Green University' and in combination with the University's Strategic Plan 2017–2022, the implementation of the Sustainability Strategy will further enhance this reputation and performance. The strategy focuses on nine key areas, with specific objectives and KPIs under each theme. These categories mirror those of the Green Campus Programme. UCC aims to streamline sustainability management in the university through both of these processes and approaches.

### Key Areas for Implementation of the Sustainability Strategy

1. Sustainability Citizenship - the University commits to support and promote such sustainability citizenship amongst its student and staff population.
2. Teaching and Learning - UCC aims to make every student aware of sustainable development through both formal and informal learning.
3. Research - University College Cork is one of Ireland's leading research intensive Universities
4. Food, Health and Well-being - Students who are in good health, content and self-confident will be best placed to realise their academic potential during their time at UCC.
5. Landscape, Heritage & Natural Resources - The campus is home to a significant amount of biodiversity.
6. Recycling and Waste Management - The University is committed to reduce the volume of waste generated and to increase the proportion of that waste which is recycled.
7. Energy, Water and Climate Change - UCC is committed to reducing its Carbon Footprint. o support energy saving initiatives.
8. Procurement and Contracts - UCC by its nature procures a large amount of goods and services, and the environmental and wider sustainability implications of such expenditure can be significant.
9. Commuting and Business Travel - UCC has developed a comprehensive Commuter Plan. Led by a dedicated Commuter Plan Manager, this plan provides for active car park management and for alternative modes of travel.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. More resources. Public bodies are under-resourced and this needs to be addressed. Sustainability requires specialist skills across a broad range of areas, and it's crucial that organisations are supported to implement ambitious plans as we strive organisationally, regionally and nationally to meet our emissions reduction targets.
2. It's important to have a framework to work within, to guide action and support strategy development. In UCC the ISO5001 Energy Management accreditation and the UCC Green Campus initiative forms the backbone and framework for all activity on site.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. It's important to make the connections, bringing the various areas of activities and action together and show and communicate the impact.
2. The student voice and student activity is central to the success of the Green Campus. It's incredibly important to support and give platforms for this voice and engagement.
3. Building relationships is key. Your community has to believe in what you're doing. It's important that people are supported to participate, this can be active or passive.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Work in progress with a recent application for funding made to the SEAI EXEED programme. Improvements happen annually

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Annual improvements are made here. All 17 cafes are to transition to non plastics by 2023.

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

This is ongoing Climate Action Plan and updated Sustainability Strategy to be launched in the late 2021/ to early 2022. This is ongoing.

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Ongoing

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Sustainable transport commuter facilities (showers and changing locations to open by September 2021); Expansion of car charger infrastructure ongoing.



SCCUL



### Company Name

SCCUL Enterprises CLG

### Date of Interview

30.07.21 via Phone Interview

### Contact Person

Annette Hassett, Operations Manager

### Email

Annette@scculenterprises.ie



Founded in Galway in 2002, SCCUL Enterprises CLG is a registered charity set up by, but independent to St. Columba's Credit Union. As a not-for-profit social enterprise, SCCUL aims to champion societal change by promoting community, enterprise, wellbeing, and social inclusion. This is achieved through a number of successful initiatives operating from the west of Ireland.

SCCUL Enterprise Centre provide local SME's, social enterprises and community groups with the opportunity to develop and grow with their state-of-the-art infrastructure and support services. The SCCUL model relies on revenue generated from the provision of these commercial services in order to provide opportunities for local start-ups and the rest of the SCCUL initiatives.

Biz Mentors is one of SCCUL's free initiatives for business owners, start-ups, social enterprises and community groups. It aims to provide free access to pro-bono business advice for those who would otherwise not have access to this help.

SCCUL Enterprises also runs the Ballinfolle Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre which provides essential services to the local community in the form of sports facilities, meeting rooms, and mental health services.

SCCUL's model of reinvesting rent from their enterprise centre into their free initiatives maximises their impact on the local community helping them realise their vision 'To alleviate poverty and disadvantage by empowering positive well-being and growth.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**5** FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



**>1000** PEOPLE WEEKLY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

SINCE THE BEGINNING IN **2002**

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise/ Education/ Community Development/ Health / Non-Profit

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Charities / Students/ Public/ Micro-enterprises/ Community

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

SCCUL Enterprises CLG was founded with the community in mind and meets the sustainable development goals through its vision, mission, and values.

SCCULs vision is 'to alleviate poverty and disadvantage by empowering positive well-being and growth'.

Their mission statement is 'to facilitate individual, community and economic growth in a sustainable manner through socio-economic development and the provision of supports and infrastructure.'

In line with their organisation culture, SCCUL provides services that are; community focused, respectful, accessible, inclusive, empowering and innovative.





## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

SCCUL has taken an approach of clearly defining their values, vision and mission and creating a strategy to meet these that they review biennially. SCCUL consistently engage with local communities and stakeholders to see what else they can do to realise their vision.

The SCCUL Enterprise Centre was built in 2002 to the highest building standards at the time and constantly look to upgrade their systems to meet the rising expectations of energy efficiencies. As well as supporting local enterprise with their suite of hotdesks, business units, and training rooms, SCCUL utilised their network and two-tier social inclusion model to set up biz-mentors and biz-mentors international linking businesses up with pro-bono advisers. SCCUL also expanded into the therapy and rehabilitation space when they set-up their therapeutic Support Centre, SCCUL Sanctuary. Constantly looking to see how they can service the community and provide free to access resources, they set-up the Ballinfoile Castlegar Neighbourhood Centre providing sports, recreational and mental health services.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

Set up by, but independent to St. Columba's Credit Union, SCCUL Enterprises CLG is governed by an independent, voluntary Board of Directors who are responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of the organisation. SCCUL's [tenants](#) and network of partners include a number of associated charities and for-profit organisations. Local and national bodies such as Enterprise Ireland and Galway County Council also provide support for the development of SCCUL Enterprises services and have a vested interest in their contribution to the local community.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

Support for SCCULs actions has mostly come in the form of funding from local and national bodies as well as expertise from their growing network.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

Since their founding in Galway in 2002, SCCUL Enterprises CLGs model of reinvesting revenue into expanding their capacity and opening new free services has proved a great success, with over 1000 people accessing their buildings and services weekly. The infrastructure is maintained and upgraded for energy performance and the services provided sustains the local area. Their services support a number of user groups from local businesses, charities and aspiring entrepreneurs to members of the local community.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

SCCUL consistently look for where they can serve their community. Over the course of the next year SCCUL plans to invest 1 million euro into their infrastructure and add 9000 sq/ft onto their existing useable footprint through renovation upgrading. SCCUL also plan to upgrade their digital technology by implementing a hot desking and smart door system in their enterprise centre that will allow them to join the national connected hubs providing remote working facilities throughout Ireland.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Information on what funding streams are available, both nationally and in Europe for sustainable initiatives.
2. What support is available for implementing new initiatives.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Sustainable communities are an essential part of a sustainable future, focus first on the community and how the enterprise centre can serve it.
2. Invest the time to set out your organisation values, and from there build your vision and mission statement.
3. With a clear vision and mission statement it is important to build a strategy that aims to meet these. By taking this structured approach from the outset you can better articulate your ambitions when accessing finance to grow.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Within the next 6 months with the expansion of the SCCUL footprint by refurbishing / building 9000 sq/ft of additional space

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Ongoing

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Ongoing – this is built into the values of the organisation and SCCUL constantly look to serve the community

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

With the next 6 months – introduction of connected hubs and increased hot desking

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

1 - 3 years



## Mullingar Employment Action Group



### Company Name

Mullingar Employment Action Group

### Date of Interview

03.08.2021 via Phone Interview

### Contact Person

Michael Ward, Group Manager

### Email

mward@meag.ie



Mullingar Employment Action Group (MEAG) is a community supported 'not for profit' organisation in Westmeath in the midlands of Ireland. MEAG was formed after a public meeting held in 1986 was held to address the high level of unemployment present in the area. Since its inception, the Action Group has been responsible for the creation of over 3000 jobs in the Mullingar area and its surrounds.

A new purpose-built Enterprise Centre in Bishopsgate St. Mullingar opened its doors in 1990 comprising of 19 enterprise units leased at affordable rates. Each unit is self-contained, and fully serviced. Recognising the financial pressures that come with setting up a business, the Centre provides a low-cost option targeted towards small businesses and start up enterprises

Due to the success of the community enterprise centre, MEAG expanded their capacity in 2009 with the development of the 'Mullingar Enterprise Technology and Innovation Centre Ltd.,'. The new enterprise centre was built to facilitate the new era of enterprises and

accommodate larger businesses in their enterprise space stimulating job creation in Mullingar. Aside from fully serviced enterprise suites, MEAG also provides tenants with free confidential business advice and mentorship, strategic enterprise development support, and access to financial support and enterprise support agencies.

MEAG is also the main sponsor for community employment and Job initiative schemes in Mullingar. Community Employment is an employment programme which helps long-term unemployed people to re-enter the workforce by breaking their experience of unemployment through a return-to-work routine and personal training plan.

MEAG engages in several European Partnership programmes learning from other countries and organisations about best practices in developing supports for local enterprise. These projects provide supports for a range of areas including sustainable food and drink and the green economy.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**6** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **200** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

While Mullingar Employment Action Group has not been aligning their operations with the SDGs, everything they do is done to Future proof the region.

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise / Training / Education

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Tenants / SMEs

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

The continuing Aims and Objectives of Mullingar Employment Action Group are:

- To support the establishment and development of enterprises which provide viable employment
- To manage enterprise incubation space and support entrepreneurship and small and medium enterprise
- To create a central community image aimed at the promotion of Mullingar as a Town of enterprise and initiative
- To engage with organisations and individuals locally, nationally and internationally, to ensure that MEAG deliver services and supports according to established best practice.
- Through European Partnership Projects MEAG learns from countries and organisations throughout Europe about best practices in developing programs and supports.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

Founded from a meeting of concerned local stakeholders Mullingar Employment Action Group was founded on the premise of future proofing the region through the provision of jobs. Utilising the board and their connections they expanded their capacity in 2009 with the opening of the Mullingar Enterprise Technology and Innovation Centre to better position their community as a future focused town for work. The older building at Bishopsgate St. was also upgraded to improve the energy rating improvements through new windows, insulation and LED lighting. Recognising the importance of the green economy, MEAG have also taken part in a number of sustainability related European projects that provide better resources for their tenants and community.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

Mullingar Employment Action Group is a limited liability company and so is not reliant on any funding streams. Decisions are decided upon by the board. As an enterprise focused organization MEAG sometimes work with the [Westmeath Local Enterprise Office](#)



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

Born out of a public meeting of concerned local stakeholders, MEAG is a community led organisation. Support and advice is provided by the board who have diverse backgrounds and connections that benefit the group.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

1. MEAG have provided an efficient, community led, self-funded location for enterprise to flourish in Westmeath
2. They have successfully upgraded the original building in Bishopsgate St. to bring it up to the latest energy rating standards using insulation, window and LED light upgrades.
3. As local sponsor of the community employment scheme they have one of the highest progression rates in the country.
4. Since its inception, the Action Group has been responsible for the creation of over 3000 jobs in the Mullingar area and it's surrounds and currently provide a workplace for over 200 employees daily



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

As per MEAGs mission and aims, everything they do contributes towards a central community image aimed at the promotion of Mullingar as a Town of enterprise and initiative. Through this aim MEAG constantly look to see how they can improve and are currently undergoing an internal evaluation and drafting their new strategic plan for how to best position Mullingar for the Future of work.



# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. As a self-funded entity MEAG relies on the expertise of their board for support.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Start by talking to people who have done it already
2. The best starting point is to develop a strong board with a good broad range of skills and connections
3. When working in the community, word of mouth can be the most efficient way of growing, and so getting out there and connecting with the community is important

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

1-3 years

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Ongoing

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Ongoing

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

1-3 years

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 6 to 12 months.



# 04

## Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres

This section features case studies that have taken steps towards developing the workspace of the future to address and meet talent shortages.



1 [Alfa College](#)

2 [Business Innovation  
Centre Murcia](#)

3 [CO:WORX](#)

4 [Fermanagh Enterprise](#)

5 [HNK](#)

6 [ReDiscovery Centre](#)

7 [The Cube](#)

8 [The Green Exit](#)

9 [Wellant College](#)

10 [Bia Innovator Campus](#)





## ALFA COLLEGE



### Company Name

Alfa College - Volta2020 Hoozevee in The Netherlands

### Date of Interview

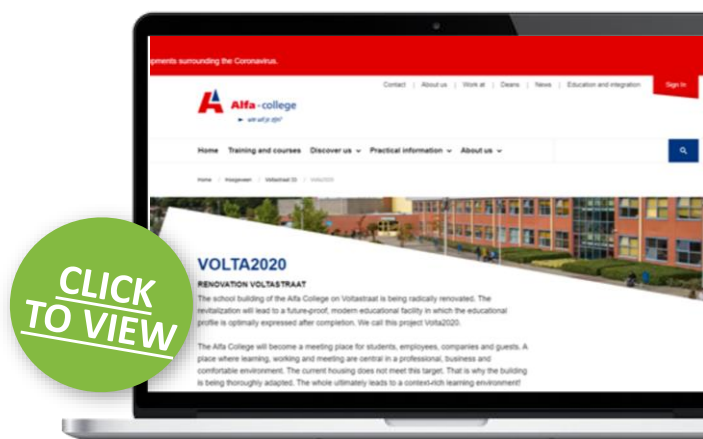
July 2021

### Contact Person

Klaas Berends - Training Manager

### Email

k.berends@alfa-college.nl



Alfa College is a Vocational Education and Training (VET) institute which trains young people and adults for the current society and the world of tomorrow. Educational programs are organised in collaboration with various regional partners. Alfa has 12 different school locations in the north and east of the Netherlands. The VET institute also provides lifelong learning and company training programs.

One of the schools is located at the Voltastreet in Hoozevee. This school, with approximately 2.600 students provides education in the field of Building and Infrastructure, Economics and Administration, Trade and Entrepreneurship, Catering and Bakery, ICT, Technology and Process industry, Tourism and Recreation, Transport,

Shipping and Logistics, Care and Welfare and Safety and Sport.

The old school building from the sixties has been renovated radically into a circular and sustainable building. The revitalization led to a future-proof and modern educational facility, a meeting place for students, employees, companies and guests. Also, a context-rich learning environment where learning, working and meeting are made possible with sustainable measures and materials. The project was called Volta2020.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**270** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **3000** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **5** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Vocational Education and Training

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Students and Lifelong learners.

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

### Vision

Circularity is fully included in the new strategic vision of 2019: 'together we create added value for a better world'. One of the sustainable projects that resulted from this vision was VOLTA2020. During this VOLTA2020 project the school building was transformed into a school for Circularity and Sustainability. It started with an idea for a renovation, which resulted in a sustainable renovation concept (Volta2020) in which the reuse of materials, the energy transitions (solar panels and no gas), sustainable design of practical work stations (e.g. green hairdresser's), sustainable employability and the concept of a healthy school were key issues.

### Strategy

Our strategy is to have involvement and commitment from students. The project has evolved into a Community of Practice in which teachers, students and companies in the region learn and work together on sustainable and circular concepts and solutions. Students worked on several projects during the renovation e.g. students developed a green book with all kinds of green ideas, they calculated the value the building has acquired through the reuse of existing materials and have developed a tiny house with different kinds of hydrogen technologies.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

The process started after an inspiring presentation from Mr Thomas Rau, at the start of the 2015-2016 school year. Mr Rau is a leading architect in sustainable and circular construction. After his presentation and idea for renovation of the building in Hoogeteven, the development of a sustainable innovation concept was developed. This concept included also the development of a new strategic vision and policy of the whole institute: we encourage our students and partners in the professional field to contribute to a sustainable, circular and healthy world.

**During the renovations, sustainable actions were taken regarding:**

1. Roof,
2. Solar panels,
3. Wall isolation,
4. Exterior glazing,
5. Ceilings,
6. Walls and doors,
7. LED lights,
8. Carpeting.

Students and partners worked together to find the best concepts and solutions to be implemented. Further information

[https://mbo.sustainabul.com/institution/uploads/9/53/MAGAZINE\\_Volta2020.pdf](https://mbo.sustainabul.com/institution/uploads/9/53/MAGAZINE_Volta2020.pdf)



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

1. External building partner named Hunebouw Hoogeteven <https://www.hunebouw.nl/nieuws/blik-op-de-bouw-volta-2020>
2. Advisor Northern Innovation Lab Circular Economy (NICE\_ <https://www.wearenice.org/>
3. ICS Advisors Zwolle: <https://www.icsadviseurs.nl/>
4. Hanze University of Applied Sciences: <https://www.hanze.nl/eng>
5. Team4 architects: <https://www.team4.nl/>



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

No, we learned together in a community of practice with experts, students and teachers and tried to find the best solutions together along the road.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

The renovation is ready. See also [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_5xFLg7cslc&t=93s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_5xFLg7cslc&t=93s)



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

The renovation is ready but we will go on working with students and partners to develop better solutions in the future.



# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Work together with several experts and regional partners.
2. Use the talents of young people.
3. Involve your staff, tenants and student in your sustainability projects. They can help to develop ideas and solutions with the experts.
4. Follow and evaluate the results of your actions e.g. energy usage level

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Define your ambitions and vision together with your stakeholders
2. Take these ambitions as leading sustainable/circular principles for your renovation.
3. Try to apply these principles to every design and decision you need to take. Do not take any proposal for granted.
4. Take your decisions step by step.
5. Learn together. Not all solutions are already available.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 6 months and further.

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Next 6 months and further.

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 6 months and further.

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 6 months and further.

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 6 months and further.



# CENTRO EUROPEO DE EMPRESAS E INNOVACIÓN DE LA REGIÓN DE MURCIA (Business Innovation Centre of Murcia)



## Company Name

Business Innovation Centre of Murcia

## Date of Interview

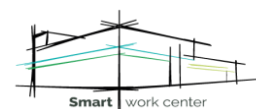
08/04/2021 via Face to Face Meeting

## Contact Person

Esther Peñalver Ibarra - Manager

## Email

info@CEEIM.es



The Business Innovation Centre of Murcia, is working every day in the support, encouragement and promotion of entrepreneurship, especially on high technology fields, innovation and creativity. CEEIM is accustomed to create and implement new and innovative methodologies in the field of business creation, support and consolidation, specifically meeting start-up needs.

CEEIM position makes possible the interaction with stakeholders, what means positive and active influence in action plans and policies developments and is part of different national networks: Regional from the Economy Ministry, ANCES, Punto PIDI... CEEIM is promoting entrepreneurship and innovation on society by means of different kind of events, training, workshops, courses and projects.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**10-20** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **120** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

38 REGULAR HUB CLIENTS

WITHIN LAST **1** YEAR

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Private & non-profit foundation

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Tenants /SMEs

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

Smart Work Center (SWC) is a concept that combines work and life while leveraging ICT to increase productivity through collaboration and sustainable practices. In the SWC, its users have at their disposal not only a physical space, but also a virtual space, thanks to a wide variety of ICT services available.  $ICT + COLLABORATIVE WORK + SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES = SWC$  The design of a SWC is generally organized in the form of open spaces and shared furniture, where users can work individually or in teams. It also includes areas for concentration and creativity, meeting rooms and relaxation areas.

SWC seeks to promote smart labour and business practices that are compatible with the 3 aspects of sustainability: economic, social and

environmental. In a climate emergency context, our proposal involves including good practices that promote the 3 aspects of sustainability (Economy, Ecology and Society).

**Emphasizing the development of the following areas:**

- Eco-efficiency: Water savings, energy efficiency, responsible supplies, use of natural resources, noise pollution.
- Circular Economy: selective collection and recycling systems.
- Responsible consumption: Saving resources, sustainable mobility, sustainable events.
- Awareness: Training, communication, promotion of sustainability and inclusion.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

### Phases of the activity:

1. Diagnosis on the implementation of the SWC model: Preparation of questionnaires and conclusions.
2. Preparation of the Implementation Plan of the SWC model
3. Identification of technologies and actions (to be determined)
4. Advice on the implementation and application of methodologies and technologies. (to be determined) During 2020 we have been able to develop phase 1 | Diagnosis and phase 2 | Preparation of implementation plans.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

None



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

We have received support from Ricardo Estévez, CEO of ECOINTELIGENCIA



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

- The diagnostic questionnaires have made it possible to outline the objectives of CEEIM with respect to the SWC model.
- The conclusions of this diagnosis have served to identify the strengths and the points for improvement, being the basis for the proposed implementation plans.
- This diagnosis has been presented and shared with managers and the CEEIM team.
- Preparation of implementation plans.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

**First objective:** awareness and dissemination. Actions: Develop a specific SWC section on the CEEIM website, where the project will be explained) and schedule talks on sustainability and evaluate acceptance..

**Second objective:** Eco efficiency. Actions: Water savings and energy efficiency through the ticketing system to obtain information on improvements and upgrades in the centre.

**Third objective:** Circular Economy. Actions: Selective waste collection, responsible consumption and sustainable events

**Fourth objective:** Increase productivity. Actions: Development of a Digitalization Plan, a Teleworking Plan and an updated catalogue, with web services to facilitate transparency.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Economic Financing.
2. Include the project in the programs to be executed through The Next Generation recovery funds
3. Training/Advice on the application of the new instruments.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. You must get the involvement of the entire team, for this it is very important to start with the communication and dissemination actions of the project.
2. Have the collaboration of an expert in the field external to the organization.
3. Communication / Training in the benefits that the actions entail and what their implementation reports for the improvement of the company's brand.
4. Increase in synergies between the companies housed in the centre.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 1 to 3 years.

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Next 1 to 3 years.

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 1 to 3 years.

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 1 to 3 years.

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 1 to 3 years.





## CO:WORX



### Company Name

Co:worx

### Date of Interview

29/07/2021 via video call

### Contact Person

Clare McEnroe, EEH clg Director // Ronan Fitzpatrick, Architect, Craftstudio Architecture

### Email

hello@coworx.ie



CO:WORX is a landmark building in Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford. Edgeworthstown has a population of 2,072 (census, 2016), with a regional commuting population of approximately 24,000.

CO:WORX will open in Q4, 2021. The building is a protected heritage structure and ceased operating as a bank in 2017. It was then acquired by a local voluntary group, Edgeworthstown Enterprise Hub CLG with a view to creating a Digital Hub in Edgeworthstown. The new facility will provide vibrant collaborative and co-working

spaces, acting as a launch pad for innovative start-up businesses, new entrepreneurs and remote workers in the local community.

CO:WORX is being developed for the local and remote community and will be a financially self-sustaining enterprise for the benefit of all, allowing people the opportunity to work, live and to participate in the local community. The project is supported by Longford County Council, Enterprise Ireland and LEADER.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**3** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **50** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **1** YEAR

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise/ Training/ Community Development/ Educational establishment (Athlone Institute of Technology)
- Learning Gate)

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- SMEs/ Start-ups/ Community
- Stakeholders on the project range across: Longford County Council/LEADER Longford/ Enterprise Ireland/ Regional Skills Forum

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

CO:WORX ambition statement is "By 2024, our co-working hub will be positioned as a transformative, sustainable initiative enabling the growth of the region's economy in Edgeworthstown and beyond". Co:Worx, a community organisation and digital working hub has been created to be a transformative, sustainable initiative enabling the growth of Longford's regional economy. The aim of CO:WORX is to stimulate economic growth in the locality, providing the latest technological advances allowing people to return to work in their community, increase spend in the local economy and strike a better work/life balance.

**Digitisation is a powerful force for change for a rural community. Co:worx will lead this change through:**

- Promoting the uptake of digital services for local businesses.
- Providing tailored digital literacy and digital skills.
- Promotion and awareness of remote working opportunities to our diverse community.
- The facility will provide multi-functional space providing high speed broadband, hot-desk facilities, dedicated desks, office suites, business training, mentoring and facilities for people to develop ideas and business.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

The co:worx CPD (Development) centre will function primarily as a training, education and development centre. The provision of an Athlone Institute of Technology (AIT) Learning Gate in CO:WORX together with tailored courses provided by Longford Westmeath Education and Training Board (LWETB), Skillsnet and other training providers will provide reskilling and upskilling opportunities and allow co:worx to become a gateway to education & employment and wellbeing (SDG4|SDG8|SDG11)

The CPD Centre will accommodate 25 people for training purposes. This will be a 120m2 centre with high speed internet and catering facilities (SDG4)

Refurbishment works are ongoing to the existing building and have already included the upgrade to the thermal fabric of the building through the use of breathable wood fibre based board, adding insulation. The floors have also been re-laid to improve the insulation value while the roof has also been insulated and repaired. An air to water heat pump has been installed. A building energy management system has been installed to support ongoing monitoring of energy usage. There is an electric car charge point situated at the front of the centre. The use of this otherwise derelict building supports the regeneration of the town (which has a commercial vacancy rate of 26.9% - the third highest in Ireland) supporting the heritage of the town and survival of its unique character while also re-energising the built environment. CO:WORX will, in tandem with its co-working and educational functions, be a demonstration site to tenants and the community

on the use of sustainable materials and alternative energy and heating technology (SDG11|SDG7)

Covid 19 has accelerated the digitalisation in the workplace by 5-8 years, however in local communities, it has advanced the digital divide further. When operational, CO:WORX will provide commuters and start-ups/entrepreneurs/ remote workers with the opportunity to relocate to a workspace close to where they live and allow them to live, work and participate locally. CO:WORX and its extensive network will provide an opportunity for networking and the creation of new opportunities for businesses to develop in their local community, playing an important role in the economic recovery from Covid-19 and supporting the community to become more sustainable (SDG11|SDG8|SDG17)

Regionally, CO:WORX is an active member of Midlands Network of Co-Working Facilities, which comprises over 20 facilities in the Midlands region, with the aim of providing 600 desk spaces giving an opportunity to the 24,000 workers currently commuting out of the region to work locally and create an opportunity for second landing spaces to be developed for large companies in the region. Nationally, co:worx is also an active member of National Association of Community Enterprise Centres and Connected hubs and Grow Remote. CO:WORX director has also set up the Grow Remote Longford Chapter, bringing remote working to regional communities and schools (SDG17)



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

Longford County Council Regeneration Team / LEADER Longford / Longford County Council/ Enterprise Ireland/ Longford Local Enterprise Centre/Midlands Network of Co-Working Facilities/ Grow Remote Longford Chapter/ Athlone Institute of Technology/ Regional Skills Forum/ Skillsnet/ Guinness Enterprise Centre/ Upper Shannon Erne Future Economy Project (USEFE) / National Association of Community Enterprise Centres (NACEC) / Irish Manufacturing Research (IMR)



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

No formal training. Support, advice and guidance has been gained along the way from other hubs in the network, which has been very valuable.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

CO:WORX digital hub wins €9,000 in Medium Town (2,500 – 5,000 population) category at the .IE Digital Town Awards 2021. CO:WORX is a member of the Digital First Communities pilot – Digital Ireland Network. The second part of this pilot will be the link to the Heritage Council and the inclusion of Edgeworthstown in the Collaborative Town Centre Health Check Programme to support the revitalisation of commercial activity in the town.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

- CO:WORX will open in Q4 2021.
- The Centre will have 1gb connectivity.
- The facility has been constructed and designed to be a flexible space and can be reformed to suit future needs.
- The Centre will act as a vector for development, economic and community activity in the region.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Distillation of the vast quantity of information available to be tailored for the needs and scope of the enterprise centres. Translation of the SDG's to everyday life
2. Ongoing support (peer groups) for hub managers would be useful, for example, support and guidance on where to access relevant information and updates
3. Training on sustainability, on the 'How To' for sustainability and energy efficiency would be very useful.
4. Ongoing support for collaboration is key, supporting the opportunities to learn from each other (hubs)

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Create a win - win. Create a location that attracts people in, that is comfortable as well as a highly functional space.
2. The ability to apply the training and knowledge to embed sustainable practices in our everyday decision-making processes which will support the enterprise centres, their clients and local communities and create a ripple effect.
3. Seek out the opportunities to re-energise existing infrastructure in your town centre
4. The ability to communicate and translate the SDG's as they apply to their organisations work practices, to create an achievable and practical plan

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

CO:WORX will open in Q4 2021

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

The Centre will open in Q4 2021 with an Energy Management System installed.

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

This is ongoing and the centre will open with a Training Centre.

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

The Centre will open with 1Gb connectivity

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

The Centre will open as a state of the art facility with flexible and adaptable design to support changing functionality and spacing orientations demands.





## FERMANAGH ENTERPRISE



**Company Name**  
Fermanagh Enterprise

**Date of Interview**  
July 2021 via Telephone

**Contact Person**  
Rodney Malone

**Email**  
info@fermanaghenterprise.com



Fermanagh Enterprise Limited was set up in 1985 as one of the first Local Enterprise Agencies in Northern Ireland. The Organisation represents the vision of a dedicated group of local professional and business people who sought realistic solutions to the problems of unemployment, through promoting the establishment and development of small businesses. The Organisation is based in the Enniskillen Business Centre, 21 Lackaghboy

Road, Enniskillen and also works in close co-operation with a network of other Enterprise Centres and a range of Partnership Bodies at a Local, Regional and Cross Border level. The Agency is a member of Enterprise Northern Ireland, an association of Enterprise Agencies which exists to make Northern Ireland more enterprising and innovative

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**10** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **200** PEOPLE WEEKLY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **10** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Tenants & SME's

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

Fermanagh Enterprise aims to strengthen the economy of Fermanagh through encouraging, assisting and advising individuals wishing to move to self-employment and set up and grow their own business, to relieve poverty through stimulating economic prosperity.

For Sustainable development/Climate actions, the business has started looking at their 4 business premises on how they can be improved in line with SDGs, adding solar panels and recycling bins in all premises. Recently all staff have had the option to work from home.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

Kept the staff involved in all discussions with improvements to building. To support working from home have software in place to host virtual meetings and purchased laptops so staff can remotely work.

We are constantly planning ahead and managing our buildings and looking to make improvements for the future.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

Staff & Tenants.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

N/A



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

1. No Commute Means Fewer Emissions
2. Less Paper Usage
3. Less Plastic Usage
4. More productive staff
5. Achieve better work-life balance



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

1. Become more aware of Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres
2. Minimising waste and maximising reuse
3. Look at other Enterprise Centres to see what systems they have in place
4. Minimising energy use in all buildings

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. A place where we can see current trends in Northern Ireland and other regions
2. Guidance on older building how to make them greener without investing a large amount of money
3. Training and resources.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Take time to make decisions and research
2. Connect communities and people
3. Consider all stages of a building's life-cycle
4. Look for funding options

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

1 to 3 years

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

1 to 3 years

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

1 to 3 years

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

6 -12 months

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Ongoing



**HNK**



### Company Name

HNK, Ede, The Netherlands

### Date of Interview

23.07.21 via Telephone

### Contact Person

Annemarie de Leeuw – Head of Asset Management

### Email

info@hnk.nl



The name of the building “HNK”, stands for “Het Nieuwe Kantoor” (=The New Office). In The Netherlands, there are 12 HNK office centres. Main objective is to offer an inspiring and professional working place. Owner of the HNK-office centres is NSI (= Nieuwe Steen Investments)

Sustainability is an integral part of NSI’s value creation strategy. Their business model is geared towards offering and developing future-proof buildings, minimizing their carbon footprint, and creating inspiring, flexible working environments articulated around the health and well-being of their occupants.

NSI recognizes that our industry significantly contributes to the global carbon footprint, and they are committed to reducing their impact on the environment. By making their spaces more efficient, developing in a sustainable

way, and always looking for new and better ways of doing things they deliver on their ESG targets while offering the very best experiences for their customers.

NSI participates in the worldwide sustainability benchmark for office owners GRESB and has reached 5 stars. It aims to create healthy, inspiring and flexible working environments for its tenants and promotes a healthy way of working for its employees. Moreover, NSI aims to have a positive impact on the community. It considers an active lifestyle important to the health and well-being of its employees, and it therefore promotes physical activity, healthy nutrition and a healthy work-life balance.



# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**5** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ?

(eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **100** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **15** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Agrofood sector.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Small and medium sized enterprises, active in the Dutch Food Valley Region

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

### Vision

Future-proof buildings should be designed for future-proof exploitation and therefore should be flexible in usage or suitable for potential transformation. The focus should be on circularity (choice of materials), both in the construction and exploitation phase. Furthermore, Future-proof buildings have a positive impact on their community and have a minimal impact on the environment.

### Strategy

Our ESG strategy is built around three focus areas addressing the most relevant environmental and social trends to create value for our stakeholders: Future-proof buildings, Energy & Carbon and Health & Wellbeing. Improving our ESG performance has been an integral part of our long-term value creation strategy.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

Energy & Carbon is one of the three main themes in the NSI ESG programme. Our ambition is to achieve carbon neutrality of our real estate portfolio by 2035. Key measures that will be taken to reach this goal is improving energy efficiency and transitioning to renewable energy sources throughout the entire lifecycle of our assets. One of the key steps that NSI has taken in 2020 towards realising this goal by 2035 is finalizing its Paris Proof roadmap. This roadmap provides a step by-step guideline over time that allows for pragmatic climate action in energy efficiency and carbon neutrality, including measurable targets towards energy reduction and climate neutrality. For example, NSI aims to stop using natural gas in its existing portfolio by 2032. In 2021, NSI will identify which investments are required on asset level according to the Paris

Proof Roadmap, including investigating which assets are suitable for thermal storage units. The roadmap is key for this strategic theme on which the relevant targets are based and will be used as a framework to collaborate with our tenants and supply chain to achieve energy reductions.

The importance of Health & Well-being came in particular more in focus in 2020, due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. In its responsibility as employer and as a landlord, NSI took multiple actions to safeguard the health, safety and well-being of its staff and tenants as much as possible.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

Main owner is NSI. This company was founded in 1992. The HNK in Ede was originally built with support from the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fishery.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

Not Applicable.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

In September 2019 NSI was awarded the EPRA sBPR silver award and sBPR most improved award. You can view our EPRA sustainability performance measures here [EPRA Sustainability Performance Measures](#)

NSI N.V. has achieved a five-star rating in the annual GRESB Real Estate Assessment. This is the highest GRESB rating possible and recognition for being an industry leader.

The result of 88 points (out of 100) is NSI's best score so far and a significant improvement on last year's score of 71 points and an initial score of 49 points in 2018.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

We proceed our work and are preparing a new location at an old military complex nearby.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

The following link brings the reader to our sustainability report:

<https://nsi.nl/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/NSI-Sustainability-Report-2020.pdf>

Our ambition runs much higher and we have plans in place to make a further push. We are committed to deliver on our duty to contribute to a more sustainable world.

Our ambition level Our ESG strategy is built around three focus areas addressing the most relevant environmental and social trends to create value for our stakeholders: Future-proof buildings, Energy & Carbon and Health & Wellbeing. Improving our ESG performance has

been an integral part of our long-term value creation strategy. Over the past years, the implementation of the NSI ESG program had a pragmatic approach to each sustainability theme. NSI appreciates the importance of continuous improvement of the ambition level against market developments and trends. In 2020, the progress towards reaching our strategic ESG targets in the long-term was re-assessed, which resulted in a recalibration of our targets and implementation plans for each ESG theme. In theme sessions, we improved the process, ambition level and targets to better reflect the actions that are needed to achieve our long-term sustainability and future-proof ambition.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Car sharing
2. Ventilation improvements
3. People counters
4. Solar panels on our roofs

These are four goals we work on, now and in the future!

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Many sustainability aspects have to be realised during the construction. So pay attention to this during the design phase.
2. Look for general or more specific certifications. Being certified, increases the attractiveness of the centre and it helps to make a checklist for all kind of aspects. For example, see [www.BREEAM.nl](http://www.BREEAM.nl).
3. Calculate costs and benefits from your SDG investments. Make calculations for the long term..
4. We present ourselves as a company with attention to SDGs. This is part of our marketing. Pay attention to effective marketing of your centre/

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Construction of a new building in Amsterdam, made with wood: 1-3 years  
Our ambition is to achieve carbon neutrality of our real estate portfolio by 2035

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Ongoing improvement of savings on energy, by monitoring light and temperature: 1-3 years  
Installation of over 3000 solar panels: 6-12 months

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Insight in people management (Crowd management): 1-3 years  
NSI therefore promotes physical activity, healthy nutrition and a healthy work-life balance: 1-3 years

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Update of existing facilities toward better internet (Glass fibre will be installed in Wageningen in the coming year: 1-3 years

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Stimulate sharing electric cars and e-bikes and increasing car charging stations: 1-3 years  
Some reconstruction of the building to make it more flexible and attractive for smaller tenants: 1-3 years



## THE REDISCOVERY CENTRE



### Company Name

THE REDISCOVERY CENTRE, Co. Dublin

### Date of Interview

21/07/2021 via video call

### Contact Person

Sarah Clear, Head of Education

### Email

[education@rediscoverycentre.ie](mailto:education@rediscoverycentre.ie)



The Rediscovery Centre is the National Centre for the Circular Economy in Ireland. A creative movement connecting people, ideas and resources to support greener low-carbon living, and is located in Ballymun, an outer suburb of Dublin, at the northern edge of the Northside (population of 21,626, census 2016).

As the National Centre for the Circular Economy, it brings together the skills and expertise of artists, scientists, designers and crafts people united in a common purpose of sustainability.

Located in a bespoke demonstration eco-facility, The Rediscovery Centre supports four reuse social enterprises; Rediscover Furniture, Rediscover Fashion, Rediscover Paint and Rediscover Cycling. These

businesses use unwanted materials for new product development and design demonstrating effective resource efficiency, reuse and low carbon living. The Rediscovery Centre is located in the repurposed Boiler House in Ballymun.

The building has undergone a major green revamp and it is now a state of the art facility with a focus on sustainability and reuse. It is perfect for meetings that require a unique setting and that have a focus on sustainability and the protection of the environment. The facilities at the centre are suitable for conferences, workshops, meetings, team building events and exhibitions.



# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**22** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **150** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **15** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Social Enterprise/ Education/ Community / Circular Economy/ Environmental

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Students/ Local and wider community groups/ Social Enterprises and Micro-Enterprises/ Large Corporates/ SMEs/ Funders

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

The Rediscovery Centre is the National Centre for the Circular Economy in Ireland. A creative movement connecting people, ideas and resources to support greener low-carbon living. The Centre is based in the repurposed Boiler House in Ballymun which was developed as a prototype '3D textbook' a new concept in experiential learning and the first of its kind in Europe. The centre demonstrates best practice building design, construction and operation and defines the building and environs as an educational tool to effect positive behavioural change with respect to resource management and efficiency.

The Centre has been driving the green revolution since ideation in 2006. Since the concept's inception, and becoming a registered company in 2009, The Rediscovery Centre has been a leading voice and example of environmental practices, education and training in Ireland. The Rediscovery has been driving innovative thinking and circular design since the project initiation in 2006.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

Completed in 1966, the boiler house in Ballymun was the largest civic heating scheme in Ireland and the United Kingdom, which supplied heat and water to 3,000 flats in the town. When the regeneration of Ballymun necessitated the demolition of the flat complex, the Boiler House was also scheduled for demolition. This changed however in 2014 when the Rediscovery Centre, Dublin City Council and the European Commission (under its Life+ funding programme) joined forces to save and repurpose the iconic building. The aim was to repurpose the building as a prototype '3D textbook' a novel concept in experiential learning which capitalizes upon the educational value within the built, natural and cultural environment. The building completed in early December 2016. The re-imagined building resulted in an exemplar eco-centre which won the National 'Green Construction Award' in 2017 and SEAI's Green Building award in 2018. It is now the Rediscovery Centre's headquarters and an international eco-destination. (SDG11|SDG4|SDG17|SDG13|SDG12|SDG9|SDG7)

The reuse of the old Ballymun Boiler House showcases the environmental and economic benefits that come from seeing waste as an opportunity. The building is a novel interactive experience and learning environment designed to stimulate curiosity in the natural, physical and cultural environment. (SDG11|SDG4). Throughout the project, opportunities for reuse were given preference. The original concrete and steel flooring was maintained, and a staircase and upstairs floor built using Irish fir and plywood respectively. The outside of the building was finished using recycled brick, and clad with old louvres from the original boiler house.. (SDG12|SDG11)

Thermal and PV solar panels were fitted to the roof with the aim of ensuring 80% energy self-sufficiency. The building fabric for the east and south facing walls were constructed using hempcrete (a mixture of hemp and lime) which creates a breathable membrane that also efficiently retains heat. The west elevation was developed using timber frame and insulated with salvaged sheep's wool (SDG13|SDG7|SDG9).

Whenever possible materials were specifically selected based upon their ability to demonstrate best practice reuse, recycling or recovery (SDG12).

### The building has a number of sustainable features that include but are not limited to:

- Optimising orientation for solar gain
- Heating and electricity from alternative, renewable and sustainable sources
- Rain water harvesting and grey water recycling
- Composting toilets & Onsite reed bed system
- The incorporation of green roofs and a green living wall
- Materials selection having regard to their reuse, recycled, natural sustainable properties
- Urinal waste water collection and use for plant nutrition within the internal comfrey wall(SDG13|SDG11|SDG14|SDG15|SDG12|SDG9|SDG7)

The Rediscovery Centre engages with schools and communities on an ongoing basis and as part of their core activity. As an example of this work, the Centre recently initiated a STEM and Sustainability project. The project includes the delivery of free education workshops and programmes for DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) schools. (SDG4). The Centre also offers specialised workshops for national STEM and environmental awareness weeks and events (SDG4). The Rediscovery Centre is also home to a unique Eco Store that sells sustainably made products from over 20 independent Irish suppliers and from our own reuse social enterprises (SDG8)

(Social Enterprise) Rediscover Fashion - The Rediscovery Centre has created a space where the circular fashion model can be brought to life through training, lectures and by developing innovative products that highlight circular design principles. These products are then sold in our Eco Store. Rediscover Furniture creates training opportunities for the long term unemployed and all revenue generated from its activities are reinvested back into the enterprise. As the National Centre for the Circular Economy, the Rediscovery Centre runs a 'Circular Economy Conversations' series.. (SDG4|SDG11)



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

The concept was successfully brought to fruition through The Rediscovery Centre, Dublin City Council and the European Commission (under its Life+ funding programme), Waste Regions (Midlands, Southern and Eastern). The Circular Economy Academy is delivered in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency's National Waste Prevention Programme. The National Waste Prevention Programme is a Government of Ireland initiative, funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment. The STEM and Sustainability project is funded by Science Foundation Ireland under the SFI Discover Programme. The Rediscovery Centre has recently initiated a partnership with Dulux paints allowing the Centre to expand the recycling and reuse of paint social enterprise.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

Ongoing training, for staff (circular economy, social inclusion, compost (tackling food waste), expert sessions and training/ info provision. Upskilling and learning is ongoing.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

The renovation of the old Ballymun boiler house showcases the environmental and economic benefits that come from seeing waste as an opportunity. The WISER LIFE project has transformed the Boiler House into a 3D textbook: an experiential learning environment designed to stimulate curiosity in the natural, physical and cultural environment and promote sustainable living within a circular economy. The building provides a new centre for the community, and is an exemplar in sustainable development and a source of social enterprise and employment.

Since March 2017, more than 7,000 people have visited the site as part of eco skills training courses or building tours. In the same time period, the Rediscovery Centre's education programme has delivered courses to more than 8,000 students (from all levels) both on and off-site. The Centre and project has been nominated for LIFE 2020 awards, and featured on the EU Commission website.

Building is A2 rating which is incredibly rare and hard to achieve for a retrofit of an old industrial building. The Centre hosted Ireland's first Circular fashion conference in April



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

The Centre will continue to expand its national Circular Economy Academy programme. Supported by Dulux, the reuse and recycling of paint social enterprise will expand nationally. The Centre also wants to expand the programme of community engagement with the principles of the circular economy. This activity is set to grow through events, competitions, seminars etc.

The activities are evolving all the time, and have grown over the years with partnerships a key enabler of this growth. The Centre is always looking for opportunities to enhance the public realm and community space in the locality. The Centre is exploring opportunities to expand activities and scope of the Centre.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Mentorship support is key - a mentorship programme to upskill staff could be very influential and a big help in supporting businesses to transition.
2. Funding can be very disjointed - this should be improved.
3. A networking database of organisations which shares information on 'who's working on what' instead of duplication, which can happen. This would be really helpful.
4. A yearly sustainability conference which supports networking, sharing and learning
5. A 'How To Guide' for Enterprise Centres could be incredibly helpful. A Lot of times the 'How' is the stumbling block.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Start small and with manageable activities and action. Small actions can make a big difference too.
2. Partner with other organisations and avail of mentorship opportunities.
3. Get expert advice to support you in your efforts.
4. Start with what you're passionate about, it'll make the next action easier.
5. Lead by example, where possible be a demonstrator of what can be achieved.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

This is ongoing. There is a funding application awaiting a response to support additional activities.

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

This is ongoing. There is a funding application awaiting a response to support additional activities.

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

This is ongoing.. The school programme will expand from September 2021. The business CE Academy programme expansion is ongoing as is the expansion of the paint recycling project.

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Ongoing

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Ongoing



## THE CUBE CENTRE



### Company Name

The Cube Centre, Co Laois

### Date of Interview

16/07/2021 via Video call

### Contact Person

Niall Kelly, Director

### Email

info@cubecentre.ie



The CUBE is a Midlands-based national centre of excellence focussed on facilitating economic growth, innovation and education in the Low Carbon and Renewables industry. The Cube is situated in Portlaoise, a county town of County Laois, and is in the south midlands in the province of Leinster (population of 22,050 (census, 2016).

The Cube is a multipoint national centre of excellence that will merge the national low carbon agenda with the economic potential present in the low carbon economy. The Cube offers support and services in the following: to Design and Scale, Finance and Funding, Education and

Training, and High Potential start-up and Research Incubation.

The Cube is Strategically positioned in the Midlands as this region is uniquely positioned to deliver a cluster of Low Carbon-based activity that will stimulate growth, innovation and investment into the region and Ireland into the future. The CUBE is funded by Enterprise Ireland under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF).



# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**1** EMPLOYEE

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



OPENING DECEMBER 2021

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **1** YEAR

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Public Body/ Local Enterprise

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- High potential start-ups/ SMEs/ Community/ Training providers/ Consultants

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

The Cube's vision is to create a globally attractive location for the establishment of sustainable focussed business, through a world class cluster of skilled personnel, sustainable innovation development, design and infrastructural capabilities that will provide regional competitive advantage in the Low Carbon economy of the future.

The Cube links existing and emerging industries and top-class education to ensure Ireland has the technical knowledge and the skills necessary to excel in the transition of the industry to carbon neutrality. The Cube has a network of partners in place that deliver internationally accredited, best in class training and services to an industry that will help to future proof Irish industry and create a competitive advantage as we transition to a net-zero economy.

Through partnerships, The Cube will offer a suite of educational programmes that will both inspire revenue-generating activity and carbon efficiencies, while also offering the opportunity to develop bespoke programmes tailored to deal with the intricacies of a particular business.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

The Cube building is due to open in December 2021. Currently there are a number of activities taking place with courses being delivered online (SDG4)

The building has been designed and constructed to be a showcase of best practice in retrofitting and energy efficiency. The building had been idle for 15 years, and has now been completely rejuvenated embracing new technologies and materials to ensure energy efficiency but also to showcase this to visitors and tenants as a tangible representation of what is being promoted by the centre. This is also key from a sustainable cities and communities perspective as the building is located in the heart of Portlaoise town and had been lying derelict. The refurbishments of an old building in the heart of the town has re-energised the town centre. This aligns with the wider Laois County Council Project 2040 strategy. The centre strives to be an exemplar of what can be achieved (SDG11|SDG7|SDG4)

The Centre has multiple partnerships in place to support the delivery of the full suite of services and ambitions of the centre (SDG17)

The Cube has links to university research centres around the country of particular value to startups (SDG4)

The Cube building will open with rooftop solar pv for onsite energy generation, and a heat pump system to ensure efficiencies (SDG11|SDG7)

A waste management plan will be in place across the site, with environmental practices core to all activities i.e. in the cafe, office spaces etc. The Cube will link with an anaerobic digestion facility locally to ensure the reuse of waste to energy (SDG12)

The Cube will be state of the art to the highest specifications when completed (SDG9). The technologies onsite will have adaptability for customers/ tenant businesses requirements. There will be remote access and bluetooth access supported via the Louth County Council partnership with SIRO.

The member benefits of those businesses engaged with the centre are numerous across (SDG4|SDG7|SDG9|SDG13|SDG8):

### Exclusive One to One Mentorship

- Participation in Innovative Accelerator Programmes
- Off The Shelf and Bespoke Low Carbon Training Programmes
- Introduction to Low Carbon & Renewables Experts
- Introduction to Science Foundation Ireland & Enterprise Ireland Research Partners
- Introduction to Long & Short Term Funding Entities
- International Business Development Online Platform
- Consultancy for Climate Change, Carbon Footprinting and Carbon Emissions.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

The Cube has high level partners in place to deliver world class Pre-Accelerator and Accelerator programmes, delivering both tailored and established programmes from inception and beyond. The Cube has an extensive network of potential collaborators established and waiting to work with businesses or social projects. These include Industry experts, Funding Entities, Consultants, Research, Entrepreneurs and Government agencies e.g Enterprise Ireland, SEAI, Laois County Council.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

No training was required. All of the understanding and knowledge was in place beforehand.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

The Cube is yet to open however there are activities ongoing currently. Training courses and accelerator programmes are being delivered. The Cube is supporting SMEs in addressing their own requirements onsite to transition to a low carbon economy through advice and consultancy

support. SMEs are being supported in the identification and development of onsite renewable energy projects/ energy efficiency projects. Though not open yet, The Cube has exceeded their KPI target in this area.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

The centre aims to open by December 2021. The Cube will always have a focus on growing partnerships and activities, also on maintaining and increasing the efficiencies of the centre through the application of emerging technologies.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. A pool of expertise for Enterprise Centres, centrally managed, would be hugely beneficial from an access to specialist skills and cost perspective. If contracts were centrally held, it could create an economy of scale and support the affordability of expertise. Supporting centres around the country to access skills and knowledge.
2. Funding and resourcing is a constant challenge. The ability to deliver training/ support through internal capacity would be hugely beneficial to centres.
3. A joined up approach instead of any type of competitive landscape between enterprise centres is important. Centres should work together.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Look at your own building/ operation first to see what you can do.
2. Share your expertise learned through efforts to transition the Centre with businesses and the wider community.
3. Get buy-in from the community.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

This is ongoing and will continue to evolve over time with new technologies being explored, as relevant.

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

The Centre will open in December 2021 with solar panels and heat pump technology.

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Training, skills and partnerships will continue to evolve and grow.

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

The Cube will open with the highest specification of technology to support businesses. This will continue to evolve over time.

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

The technologies onsite will evolve over time.



## DE GROENE AFSLAG (The Green Exit)



### Company Name

The Green Exit in Laren in The Netherlands

### Date of Interview

July 2021

### Contact Person

Lucas Mol - Director

### Email

doejeding@degroeneafslag.nl



'De Groene Afslag' (The Green Exit) is an Impact HUB for the World of Tomorrow. A hangout where sustainable frontrunners and change agents can meet and inspire each other. A place to eat and drink, work, meet, learn, celebrate and have fun. De Groene Afslag is located in an old prison and refugee centre along highway A1 in Laren between Amsterdam and Apeldoorn in The Netherlands.

Several tenants 'are living' at the Groene Afslag. Other tenants use the flexible workplaces only for the time they need it. The tenants have several backgrounds and services but are all committed to a green and sustainable future and are investing in the Sustainable Development Goals.

### Main activities:

- Renting out different kind of workplaces
- Event location with meeting rooms of different sizes
- Café and restaurant with vegetarian and vegan food
- Sustainable events like presentations, markets, etc.
- School for Change
- De Groene Afslag



# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



8 EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN 300 PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST 2 YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Sustainability & Greening Events/Training.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Tenants start-ups and scale-ups

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

De Groene Afslag is the meeting place for the change agents of the new green and sustainable society. A common playground for people who realize that we will have to change a number of things in our lives, one way or another. The Groene Afslag is the 'village pump' where those change agents meet. Their mission: "We show that the world can become greener and you can too". This is the greater purpose they believe in and that underlies everything they say and do.

Their approach is to keep it simple and on a low profile. The world is already complicated enough. Sustainability needs to be closer to ourselves and not abstract and far away in the media. It also needs more action today and sometime less in the future.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

1. The entrance of the building has been changed by adding a container.
2. The interior of the building and rooms is realised by artists with used and cheap circular materials and art, based on waste. For example, the ceiling is decorated with chairs and the wash basins are now used as planters. The interior is a sustainable exhibition by itself.
3. Creating a café and bar with a vegetarian/vegan menu. "Within our café and restaurant there is always something green between your teeth."
4. The building is also a shelter for big old plants.
5. Creating different kinds of event room with a sustainable or green theme. For example, a room of change or the board room with a complete interior of cardboard or a room with old cinema seats. See: <https://degroeneafslag.nl/kamersenzalen>
6. Introduction of The school for Change, with a program of master courses and masterclasses regarding System transition, Economics, Branding, Ecology and Finance: <https://schoolforchange.nl/>
7. Organising different kinds of events to inspire people for their own transition from sustainable thinking to going green. <https://degroeneafslag.nl/programma>



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

Additional to the tenants and artists, the Green Exit has several partners which supports the initiatives, like:

1. The DOEN foundation supports initiatives in the field of green and inclusive economy,
2. Council of 100 people who invested 5K euro or more,
3. Supporters who donate in kind,
4. Volunteers invest their time and knowledge.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

We got support from our own network, but no training. We are a community of practice, working and learning together with the same ambition.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

Together with our stakeholders and tenants we have reached many people during the last couple of years and inspired them with our environment and rooms, events and our community. As a result of COVID we had to cancel the events for a couple of months. No figures available. See our first birthday party: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGejJC9o-jA&t=20s> and our latest news <https://degroeneafslag.nl/nieuwtjes>



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

We proceed our work and are preparing a new location at an old military complex nearby.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Inspiring people who want to donate their knowledge and time,
2. Inspiring people with their simple and smart ideas,
3. Inspiring waste materials.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Keep it simple. The world is complicated enough.
2. Don't judge others but try to inspire them to think about sustainability and renew their actions.
3. Give room to innovative young entrepreneurs
4. Facilitate young entrepreneurs and use their ideas for renewal and transitions needed to build up a sustainable, climate neutral society.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 6 months and further

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Next 6 months and further

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 6 months and further

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

TBC

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 6 months and further



## WELLANT COLLEGE



### Company Name

Wellant College Dordrecht, The Netherlands

### Date of Interview

07.08.21 via Telephone

### Contact Person

Machteld Vroom - Project Manager Housing

### Email

mbo.dordrecht@yuverta.nl

**wellantcollege**



Wellant MBO Dordrecht is a small-scale VET school with a wide range of modern green educational programs. It provides education on vocational level in the areas of Animal care & Management, Green & Styling, Gardening, Food, Liveable City and Climate, Nature, Water & Recreation and Equine, Sports & Management. The Care program is unique, because the care for animals is combined with the care for people.

The school is part of a larger educational institute with almost 30 locations (12.000 students) with programs on vocational and pre-vocational level and lifelong learning programs. Wellant will merge this year with two other Dutch Educational Institutes. The new name of the merged institute is Yuverta.

Wellant MBO Dordrecht is situated in a new very modern and sustainable school building with the highest Dutch Energy label A++++. This means that the energy efficiency of the building and the installations is optimal according the current Dutch standards. The energy label is awarded on the basis of the energy performance coefficient (EPC) of the building. Apart of the building, the landscape surrounding the building is also designed in a sustainable way and to strengthen the biodiversity.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**50** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **500** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **12** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Educational establishment /VET school

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Students, teachers and staff

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

Sustainability and the SDGs are guiding the choices of Wellant in their Educational programs, Business operations and relationships with SME's and society. They believe that sustainable thinking and acting is important for all employees (teachers and supporting staff ) and students. That is why they became the most sustainable VET-school of the Netherlands in 2020. <https://wellant.nl/duurzaamste-mbo-school>.





## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

Sustainability was the leading principle guiding the design of the new school building in Dordrecht. Goal was that the building and its surroundings would be an inspirational learning environment for students and teachers.

See [www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyTloYvN4gw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyTloYvN4gw)

The building is completely energy neutral with the highest Dutch energy label A+++: it has an energy efficient construction, is gas free with solar panels on the roof. Most of the furnishing of

the building is also sustainable with for example furniture that is made of waste materials. The school has good facilities to separate waste.

Also during designing the outdoor space, explicit attention was paid to stimulate biodiversity and climate adaptation. Examples: good drainage to the groundwater, use plants which attract insects, filter the air or absorb heat.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

Architect Erik Schotte van LIAG was responsible for the design of the building (<https://www.liag.nl/team/erik-schotte>) Arcadis (Timo Cents) is responsible for the landscape design surrounding the building.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

No specific training. Only support of external experts.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

The VET school building was opened in August 2020 as one of the first sustainable buildings of the Green Campus in Dordrecht. The Green Campus is now being developed further with other sustainable school buildings and a park that will act as a practical field lab for SME's, where students work together on innovative solutions in the field of greening, water, animals, recreation and circular economy.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

Regarding business development and operations, Wellant has the ambition to work on CO2 reduction, both within their school buildings and in the surroundings of the school, in cooperation with other schools and businesses.

In 2030, Wellant will save 55% energy compared to 2012 and has the ambition to stimulate its stakeholders to act sustainably as well.

**This means that they want to focus on:**

1. SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy,
2. SDG 11. Sustainable cities and communities and SDG 13 Climate action.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. The Whole School, Approach to Sustainable Development  
<https://wholeschoolapproach.lerenvoormorgen.org/en/>
1. The natural step approach  
<https://thenaturalstep.org/>

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Don't act alone, cooperation with local and regional stakeholders and experts is needed to develop solutions.
2. Use the energy and ideas of the youth..
3. Work from an integral and interdisciplinary point of view in which the whole school or business is involved.
4. Start with awareness and build up a movement that is 'natural' part of the DNA of your organisation.
5. Develop a clear vision and strategy for the next five years with smart/measurable goals.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 1 to 3 years

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Next 1 to 3 years

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 1 to 3 years

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 1 to 3 years

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 1 to 3 years.



## Bia Innovator Campus

Bia Innovator Campus CLG

24/06/21 via in person interview

Elaine Donohue, General Manager

[Elaine.Donohue@biainnovatorcampus.ie](mailto:Elaine.Donohue@biainnovatorcampus.ie)

The Bia Innovator Campus CLG is a not-for-profit CLG company which is co-located at Teagasc (agri-food state agency) in Athenry in the West of Ireland. When complete in 2022 the Bia Innovator Campus will launch a new era for food innovation and incubation in Ireland West. At the moment in Ireland there is a recognised gap where the west of Ireland does not have enough food incubators to match the large potential of the natural resources of the region.

Once complete in 2022, The Bia Innovator Campus will benefit a number of key groups for the agri-food sector in Ireland West:

- Food start-ups seeking supports
- Scaling food SMEs
- Farming community looking to add value to their primary produce
- Food industry educators and training educators

The Bia Campus will provide their support across 4 key areas:

**Bia Eolas** is all about providing access to powerful food industry knowledge and skills in one place with a powerful mix of technical innovation and commercial support

**Bia Obair** fulfils a real need and tackles a bottleneck in scaling our regional food companies. It consists of 9 independent own door starter units, 3 independent own door HPSU growth units, and 4 unique co-working food incubators (Dairy, meat, seafood and Multiproduct)

**Bia Blas** will become a centre of food culture and foodie experiences in Galway and the Hidden Heartlands region. BIA Blas will give tourists, be they individuals, families or groups a new all-weather visitor experience to enjoy and a dedicated space for our culinary talent to showcase their work and earn income.

**Bia Luas** will provide a much-needed continuum pathway structure to support food businesses to grow and scale up



# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**4** FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



WHEN OPEN THERE WILL BE **360** JOBS ACROSS 40+ BUSINESSES

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

SINCE ITS INCEPTION

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise and Education

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Tenants, SMEs, and Students

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

The BIA Innovator Campus recognises the important role it plays as a facilitator of food innovation in the west of Ireland, and as an ambassador for the preservation of the region's natural resources. Bia fosters entrepreneurship and development among local communities and encourages resident food SMEs to preserve and respect nature and consider all of our impact on climate change.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

The founding organisations recognised a gap in Ireland West where there are not enough food incubators and worked hard since 2017 to raise 7 million euro to build a state-of-the-art facility to fill this gap. The Bia Innovator Campus is located in a unique region of natural beauty and resources. As an ambassador and facilitator for the growth of the Western region of Ireland's agri-food sector as a sustainable industry, The Bia Innovator Campus strives to be best in class in terms of sustainability for food hubs. They are achieving this by carefully considering sustainability at every step and taking the following measures among others:

- The campus is being built to an energy efficiency rating of A
- Using a modular building system, the campus can be modified and upgraded for future expansion
- There will be an e-charge point on site
- The campus utilises on site rainwater harvesting
- Most importantly, every effort is being made to encourage and support a sustainable culture on campus among all users and food producers



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

BIA Innovator Campus CLG is a not-for-profit CLG company benefitting from a high profile, high performance voluntary Board of Directors that reflect a multi-agency economic -sectoral development – community - education balance. The founding organizations include [Galway Country Council](#), [Teagasc](#), [GRETB](#), [Local Enterprise Office](#), [SCCUL](#), [WDC](#) and [Athenry County Council](#).



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

The Bia founders have worked hard to raise the capital needed to launch this state of the art project. The campus benefits from a highly experienced and diverse board who provide their insight which insures the project reaches it's potential. The Bia Innovator Campus benefits from its board and organisational partnerships. Co-located on the grounds of Teagasc , they have provided a food technologist to provide businesses the necessary expertise.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

The Bia Innovator Campus has funding secured and a state of the art facility that is due to be completed in 2022. With a board in place and companies signed up to set up their operations on the campus they are well on their way to successful implementation. As part of their BIA Eolas, they are already taking part in some impactful EU projects.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

The Bia Innovator Campus is planning for its opening in 2022. They are building their tenant base and look forward to welcoming small and scaling businesses to their premises. In terms of sustainability they are currently working on a Campus Sustainability Guide which will help the tenants get on board with Bia's sustainability ambitions.

It is key for the campus to establish a strong sustainability policy from the outset and engage with tenants and surrounding producers. Once the campus is up and running at full capacity the Bia team plan on integrating sustainability throughout their operations through Bia Ealos, Bia Obair, Bia Blas and Bia Luas



# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. For large projects funding is always a key challenge but with a robust feasibility study and the goodwill of our founding partners the Bia Innovator campus makes a compelling case across a number of funding streams
2. Continue to build the team with Bia Innovator campus and upskill the existing team to make them as climate literate as possible and drive our green mission

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Identify where your niche within the sustainability issues lie and see what you can do to improve from there
2. Build an experienced and multi-sectoral board that will ensure your plans are meeting the needs of the region
3. Develop a clear strategy and use that to build the connections and support you need to make a difference
4. Invest in a wide scoping feasibility study – it will be the foundation of your SDG plans and will help to convince your team and other stakeholders of the value of your project.
5. Give yourself longer to realise SDG changes than originally envisaged.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 1 to 3 years

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Next 1 to 3 years

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 1 to 3 years

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 1 to 3 years

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 1 to 3 years.



# 05

## Sustainable Infrastructure Buildings

This section showcases enterprise centres that are taking actions towards passive building principles that design for performance with smart low-carbon materials, retrofitting and heat and energy management, eventually working towards a zero/near-zero carbon footprint.

1 [Antrim Enterprise](#)

2 [BIC Euronova](#)

3 [CIDO](#)

4 [Cloughjordan Ecovillage](#)

5 [Cookstown Enterprise](#)

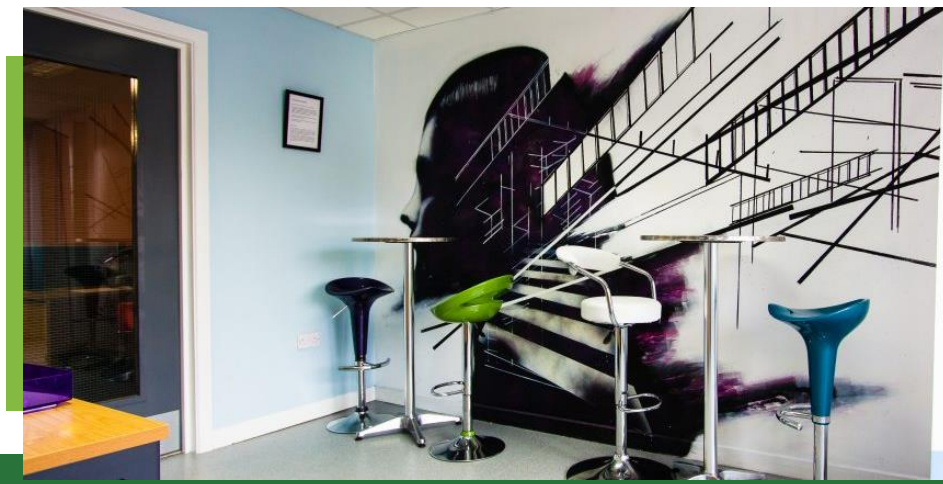
6 [HET Cambium](#)

7 [Plus Ultra](#)

8 [Wexford Enterprise](#)

9 [Lisburn Enterprise Organisation](#)





## ANTRIM ENTERPRISE



### Company Name

Antrim Enterprise

### Date of Interview

23.08.21 via telephone call

### Contact Person

Jennifer McWilliams – Enterprise Manager

### Email

admin@antrimenterprise.com



Located in Antrim Co Antrim Northern Ireland. Omagh Enterprise Company's aim is to promote enterprise and support start-up, growth and social economy businesses in the area. The company's vision is to be a world-class local enterprise agency for the entrepreneurs and small businesses of the region.

The company was established in 1991 as the local enterprise agency for the then Antrim Borough Council area (now Antrim and Newtownabbey borough). The organisation is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee with charitable status with a strong voluntary board of 10 directors.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**10** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **150** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **10** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Tenants and SME's

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

As an organisation Antrim Enterprise probably tries to play our part in approx. 12 of the 17 SDG goals.

Focusing on SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities, SDG13 Climate action: SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy, SDG12 Responsible consumption, SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production, SDG17 Partnership for the Goals, SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth, SDG13 Climate action, SDG 9 -Industrial innovation and infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

Keep up to date with research, actively look for funding opportunities and learn from others to continue to improve the buildings infrastructure.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

Board of Directors, Staff, Sub Contractors and Government Bodies



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

Not Applicable



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

- Good health and well-being – progressive in promoting health and wellbeing among staff and entrepreneurs through our Healthy Entrepreneur programmes we have been running for 8years
- Empowering Women - actively involved in a number of female programmes from networking to HER SHE'd
- Clean Energy – use of solar panels
- Water – use of water butts to water our plants on site
- Decent work and economic growth – actively promote equal pay, family friendly policies, promote non harassment in the workplace, ensure that we use suppliers who we know offer minimum working wages
- Infrastructure – nature of the enterprise centre is the small-scale affordable industrial space including hot-desking space so individuals do not need to have premises unnecessarily and reduce carbon footprint



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

- Additional co- working facilities
- Potentially new build which we would like to be as green as possible



# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Council and private sector assistance to realise
2. As above + funding opportunities
3. Better collaboration among enterprise centres
4. Research Funding Opportunities

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Firstly read <https://sdgs.un.org/>
2. Set simple and achievable targets and build on them
3. Seek guidance from those who have gone before on what is achievable

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Within next 6 months

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

6 -12 months

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

1 – 3 years

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

6 -12 months

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

1 - 3 years



## BIC EURONOVA



### Company Name

BIC Euronova

### Date of Interview

15/05/2021 via Face to Face Meeting

### Contact Person

Angel Pozo Ballesteros, Consultant

### Email

info@bic.es



BIC Euronova, the European Business and Innovation Center (CEEI) of Malaga, is a company formed by public and private capital, founded in 1991 on the initiative of the Commission of the European Communities, to support the creation of innovative SMEs, to promote the implementation of new innovative activities in existing SMEs and the Public Administrations.

Bic Euronova is a company formed by public and private entities, under the model of the European Commission for European Enterprise and Innovation, in order to promote the endogenous generation of wealth and employment in Andalusia, with professional and competitive advice to entrepreneurs for the creation of innovative SMEs, existing for the development of new activities and innovative public administrations.

The company is made up of 10 employees, although it currently has a daily flow of about 250 people, including employees of incubated companies, training courses taught in the building, as well as external users of the cafeteria.

BIC Euronova has been supporting sustainable policies and actions since its creation, adjusting to the model that suited each period of time. It has involved all incubated companies, imposing energy and environmental sustainability standards and policies, training employees of both BIC and incubated companies, and adapting the facilities to the required sustainable needs.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**10** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **180** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **10** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- SME's

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

All infrastructures and buildings in the business world operate under a management system that produces a continuous waste of energy. Therefore, at BIC Euronova we are committed to the environment and we want to be a participant and an example of an evolution towards a more technological and sustainable system. Our strategy is composed of a series of actions to implement sustainable development. To achieve the transformation of the entire current business infrastructure towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly one, it is necessary to act in all areas. Our line of action must range from employee training and awareness to the final implementation of these actions, including the adaptation of buildings and the creation of a sustainable ecosystem. In this way, we will be able to ensure a sustainable business space for the future.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

### Sustainable infrastructures:

- Regeneration. Changes to the roof of the building through the installation of photovoltaic panels. The aim is to be as self-sufficient as possible, energetically speaking.
- Sharing. Through the common use of resources, spaces and building furnishings, achieve energy savings and lengthen the life of the building's fixed assets.
- Loop. Reuse of materials and furniture from companies that have been installed, thus reducing the impact caused by this type of waste.

### Sustainable ecosystems and collective action:

- Installation of renewable energy sources for self-consumption, such as photovoltaic and solar thermal panels or small wind turbines. - Installation of new faucets for greater water savings.
- Installation of electric gas stations and availability of electric cars through car sharing to encourage their use.
- Placement of new recycling containers for electronic devices.

### Energy and resource efficiency:

- Change of LED lighting fixtures.
- Change of air conditioning equipment. Installation of solar panels in meeting rooms.

### Digital technology for sustainable business centres:

- Alternation in workstations, causing a considerable decrease in energy and resources consumed.
- Digital meetings to reduce energy consumption in those rooms where they were previously held, as well as fuel consumption in case of having to travel.
- Fully digital storage of documentation, which implies a reduction in paper expenses and waste generation.

### Sustainable futures for business centres:

- Elimination of individual workspaces to encourage greater use of furniture and resources.
- Virtual incubation service, allowing companies to take advantage of our services without the use of a physical space.
- Continuous employee training for a better use of all the building's resources.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

The European Business Network (EBN) and the National Association of Spanish BICs (ANCES) have provided us with important support thanks to their experience. Thanks to these networks we are in contact with other CEEIs that had already undertaken actions of this type or are currently carrying out this type of changes.

This has helped us to have a guide or reference as to the path to follow, in addition to the importance of being able to get professional and experienced answers or suggestions when any

doubt or problem arises in the process. The great involvement and commitment of all the building staff has been fundamental in making these changes.

The flexibility and ease shown by the suppliers of equipment and necessary material has been essential for the implementation of these practices.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

Talks and seminars on the correct use of resources and energy to avoid waste and use them as efficiently as possible. Training on the new systems and technologies installed in the building to learn about their operation and utilities. This training has been carried out for both office employees and maintenance

managers, with the training of the latter being the most important. They have had to receive specific training for the correct care of these new systems. Awareness of the important impact on the ecosystem, both of the good use of resources and their misuse



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

1. Through regeneration, we have achieved a 48% saving in energy consumption. Through the loop and sharing, we managed to extend the life of the furniture and workspaces, thus also reducing the generation of waste from them.
2. With the changes to LED lighting fixtures we achieve up to 90% savings, in addition to facilitating the cooling of workspaces. With the new air conditioning equipment and the installation of solar panels, we have achieved greater energy savings and eliminated the consumption of fossil fuels.
3. Reduced water losses by 70% thanks to the installation of new faucets. With the installation of electric gas stations and
4. electric car sharing, we will contribute to reducing CO2 emissions. Reduction of the polluting impact of the high generation of electronic waste.
4. Reduced energy and resource consumption thanks to the alternation of workstations and the holding of virtual meetings. Reduction of paper expenses by 90% with the digitalization of documents.
5. Co-working and virtual incubation services reduce the number of offices and the use of resources and furniture and, therefore, the generation of waste.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

At BIC Euronova we want to continue with our commitment to the environment by being a technological, innovative and sustainable reference. We seek to implement the aforementioned services and systems in the entire building and spaces where they can be applied. In addition, we are in a constant search for new practices that are being carried out in the

most cutting-edge places on the planet in terms of technology and innovation. Our idea is to show the satisfactory results of the implemented actions and to be able to serve as a reference for other companies or business centres. We want to be part of the evolution of infrastructure and business techniques towards a completely sustainable and technological future.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. A properly trained and aware staff regarding the use and implementation of new elements and more sustainable services.
2. The awareness of the rest of the companies about the importance of the change in their infrastructures and services towards sustainability.
3. The support of local and regional public administrations is essential
4. Awareness of society in general, not only of employees, since this would facilitate the implementation of these changes.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Conduct a comprehensive analysis of your infrastructure and services to be certain of what changes can be made and where the greatest savings can be achieved.
2. A complete training of your employees to know the operation and the different practices.
3. To have a good relationship with its service and material suppliers in order to carry out this technological and sustainable transformation in the most efficient way possible.
4. To have total confidence in these advances, even if in the first years they do not get a return on their investment,

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 6 months

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Next 12 months

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 6 months

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 12 months

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 2 years





CIDO



### Company Name

Craigavon Industrial Development Organisation (CIDO)

### Date of Interview

13.08.21 via Telephone

### Contact Person

Cara Dallat

### Email

[info@cido.co.uk](mailto:info@cido.co.uk)



CIDO operates as a not-for-profit Local Enterprise Agency in Craigavon, established in 1983 to promote local business start and enterprise among SMEs. As a registered charity the organisation manages a considerable portfolio of commercial property, aimed at small businesses across a range of sectors, as well as providing a range of business support services, ranging from formal revenue generating training programmes to ad hoc business consultancy/advice/services funded by CIDO.

CIDO's aim is to encourage innovation, to incubate and accelerate business for the good and growth of the economy, Craigavon and beyond by providing exceptional support for our clients in the form of premises, training, guidance and advocacy

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**7** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **100** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **7** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Tenants & Local SME's

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

We plan to include SDG actions in our next capital build development which will include the creation of new basic industrial units for rent to start-up businesses as well as modern office pods which can be relocated if necessary.

Any future buildings will adopt a low carbon emissions policy as we previously carried out on our Innovation Centre which was built over 10 years ago. These measures include solar panels on the roof, sufficient building insulation and heating sourced from air derived energy. Regular maintenance of the buildings is vital to ensure maximum energy conservation.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

We have engaged a local architect to design the new industrial units with energy efficiency and sustainability in mind, whilst using locally sourced materials where possible and to engage local builders to carryout the work which will also keep carbon emissions lower.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

Board of Directors, Staff, Sub Contractors, local architects, local building firm.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

Only advice from local architect and local Council regarding planning and building control.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

### Building:

- Solar Panels to reduce fuel consumption
- Thermostats in each office of Innovation Centre to reduce heat waste
- Building insulated to reduce heat waste
- Air derived underfloor heating
- Recycling of waste materials

### Staff/Tenants

- Allow Home working for staff to reduce carbon footprint
- Provide Hot desk facilities for tenants to reduce carbon footprint



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

Work with architect to ensure SDGs are incorporated into plan for new Buildings  
Develop a building that is innovative in design and flexible to the future needs of companies

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS**?

1. Information on access to grants with regards to sustainable energy sources
2. Resources that we can share with tenants to help them keep their costs down and reduce their own carbon footprint
3. Shared information with other enterprise agencies to see what good practice they have already adopted

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Talking to other businesses & organisations to see what works well for them
2. Consider SDGs early in planning stage of any new build
3. Engage consultants to assess existing buildings and how they could be improved to enhance sustainability and efficiency
4. Keep abreast of any grants or funding available for new sustainability projects.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Next 6 months

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

1 to 5 years

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Ongoing

04

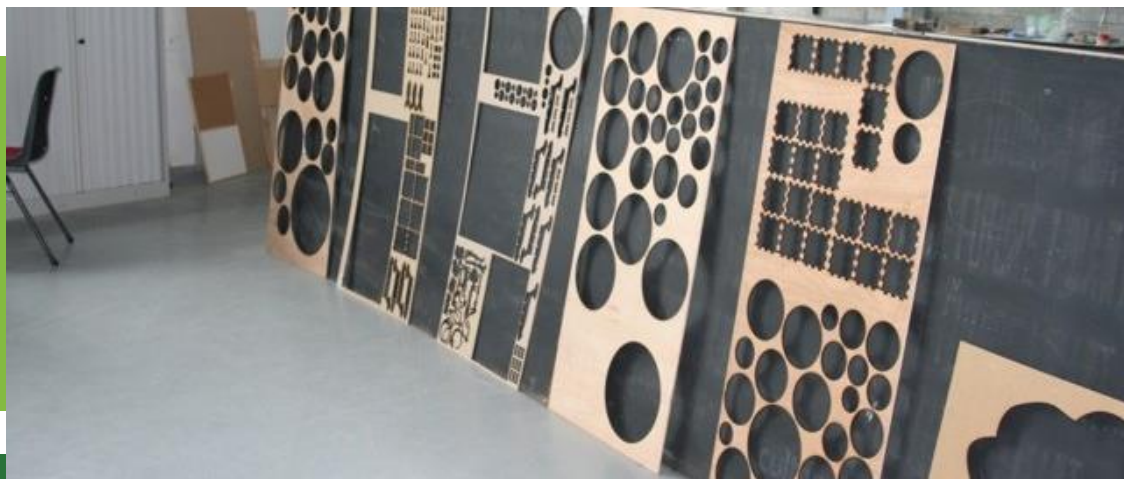
**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

3 to 5 years

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Ongoing



## CLOUGHJORDAN ECOVILLAGE



### Company Name

Cloughjordan Ecovillage: WeCreate Enterprise Centre

### Date of Interview

17.08.21 via video call

### Contact Person

Davie Philip – Community Resilience Manager

### Email

info@wecreate.ie



WeCreate is based in Cloughjordan Ecovillage in North Tipperary, an award-winning community pioneering in green building, renewable energy and local food. WeCreate supports digital fabrication projects in these areas and aims to share open-source hardware and software solutions that enhance community resilience by providing employment opportunities as the region transitions away from extractive economic activities.

WeCreate allows individuals to work in a unique creative and technological workspace located in the Cloughjordan Ecovillage and offers access to a Fab Lab, work space units and co-working spaces.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**5-10** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **200** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **9** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise/Education

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Co-Workers, Learners and SMEs

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

The Ecovillage is a pioneer in sustainable living in Ireland, with 'Building Sustainable Community' being the founding mission statement over 20 years ago. The WeCreate Enterprise Centre, which operates as a separate entity within the community, contributes towards this ecosystem by promoting employment opportunities and facilitating remote working creating a more resilient rural community. The work and impact of WeCreate stretch further than the Ecovillage by providing opportunities and education for people from the wider region. WeCreate uses the Ecovillage biomass district heating system, while the buildings are built as efficiently as possible. WeCreate also commits to education and training and providing replicable, sustainable practices for communities across Ireland.





## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

Setting up WeCreate within the Ecovillage provided an opportunity to develop job opportunities for the wider community. It also provided an opportunity to invite people into the community and share the learnings of the Ecovillage with people hoping to implement sustainable initiatives in their communities



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

WeCreate is a part of a larger ecosystem of sustainable communities and organisations. Founded initially as the North Tipperary Green Enterprise Centre with support from Enterprise Ireland and LEADER, WeCreate is managed by Cultivate <http://www.cultivate.ie/about-cultivate-new>.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

The Cloughjordan Ecovillage is a pioneer in the space of sustainable communities in Ireland and so have forged their own way with their wealth of expertise from their network of contributors. The Enterprise Centre was funded with help from Enterprise Ireland and LEADER. From the outset, support was forthcoming from Local Enterprise Office.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

WeCreate is a successfully functioning enterprise centre in a sustainable community in rural Ireland. They're energy efficient and provide a shared resource work place for co-workers and SMEs. They also provide conference facilities for many national agencies and run a number of training courses out of their facilities where they share their learnings on sustainable living with people from around Ireland.

Ireland's first Fab Lab is located on their premises, providing an important resource for the local economy. The Fab Lab provides a range of digital fabrication equipment based on the MIT Fab Lab model which are designed to let people make almost anything. This equipment combined with workshop space is available to rent to Makers, developers, artists and many others. sustainable initiatives.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

WeCreate is working on adapting the building for a post-covid mixed approach to work and learning by upgrading the conference rooms with cameras and microphones. In all of their plans they are considering the future growth of the community and how they can best provide for them.

WeCreate and the EcoVillage is working on a Food Hub for the area which would consist of training facilities as well as a digital farmers market. WeCreate strives to share their knowledge with communities and cities that must now try to implement their own sustainable initiatives.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS**?

1. Information on what funding streams are available, both nationally and in Europe.
2. What support is available for implementing new initiatives.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Think about regenerating and restoring your local community and environment more so than sustaining it.
2. Focus first on what you can do to add value to, and strengthen your local economy and provide meaningful work.
3. Look at how you can help to shorten supply chains.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Within next 6 months

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

6 -12 months

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

1 – 3 years

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

6 -12 months

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

1 - 3 years



## COOKSTOWN ENTERPRISE



### Company Name

Cookstown Enterprise

### Date of Interview

02/07/2021 via phone call

### Contact Person

Jim Eastwood – General Manager

### Email

info@cookstownenterprise.com



Cookstown enterprise Centre (CEC) was established in 1991 and is centrally located in the Mid Ulster Council District and in the heart of Northern Ireland. CEC is a social enterprise with charitable status and is a non-profit taking ISO 9001 quality accredited organization. While successfully operation the business for the last 30 years, the company is primarily concerned with business start-up and growth in Cookstown and its immediate hinterland.

A small team of core staff deliver high level professional business support services to local entrepreneurs with the provision of business property and bespoke training and mentoring among the core services provided.

Within Northern Ireland, Mid Ulster is well known for its 'entrepreneurial flair' and the region boasts business start-up statistics only surpassed by Belfast. The regions has historically not benefited from much inward investment and therefore indigenous small businesses are responsible for employment and wealth creation locally.

The voluntary board of trustees, management and staff of CEC are fully committed to assist with the creation and growth of successful and sustainable businesses which have their roots in the local economy.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



7 EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ?

(eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN 150 PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN 3 TO 5 YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- SMEs

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

CEC is conscious of the need to take sustainable actions and the Board is committed to ensuring this core objective is achieved. All current and future capital building projects will incorporate design and construction features to address the reduction of the carbon footprint. Currently as light fitting become worn out all units are being replaced with low voltage LED equipment. CEC has always considered its employees to be its most valuable asset.



WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

The company has always ensured that its staff are properly rewarded for their work and that the issue of poverty is addressed by ensuring that salaries are well above the recommended national living wage levels.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

As well as the Trustees and staff of the company, CEC has a range of stakeholders who are consistently consulted in all decisions and actions surrounding sustainability. Tenants, programme clients, conference room users and suppliers as well as economic development partners are also

at the forefront of this consultation process. Mid Ulster District Council, Invest NI, Enterprise NI and Enterprising West are engaged in this consultation regularly.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

While no formal training was received, the management of CEC has ensured that the organisation is kept abreast of the necessary actions required to ensure future sustainability.

Through effective collaboration CEC shares important information and learn from others in respect of good practice in these matters.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

The decision to replace all current light fittings with LED Units and the upgrade of building insulation on a phased replacement programme have already been implemented. Currently the directors are researching the installation of solar panel on selected roof areas. This could make a significant contribution to more efficient energy production for the company and its tenant businesses.

The development of a new 'pilot' facility to allow employees of larger public and private organisations to work 'nearer to home' is currently underway. This will allow employees to reduce their commute time and hence will contribute significantly to reducing their carbon footprint and environmental pollution. The company has funded the necessary hardware and software to provide CEC staff with the option of spending some more time working from home.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

To ensure that all CEC stakeholders are fully conversant with the need to incorporate sustainable action into their everyday business-related operations.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS**?

1. Information, training, and support to better understand sustainability.
2. Access to sources of funding which will assist us to meet our objectives.
3. Modern technology and communication methods to share good practice.
4. Learn from other enterprise centres which are recognised leaders in this field.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Collaborate with likeminded organisations.
2. Have confidence to share information and regularly consult stakeholders to gain valuable feedback.
3. Agree and strategy and set realistic and achievable sustainability objectives.
4. Regularly measure progress and take corrective action where appropriate.
5. Demonstrate leadership to ensure an appropriate culture is developed within the organisation

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

1 – 2 years

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

2 – 3 years

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

2 – 3 years

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

12 – 18 months

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

1 – 2 years





## HET CAMBIUM



### Company Name

HET Cambium

### Date of Interview

12.07.21 via Telephone

### Contact Person

Denise - Communication Manager

### Email

denise@cmc.nl



The name of the building “Het Cambium” refers to wood. It is the place in a tree, where new cells are made. It is well chosen. The building has a lot of wood and the idea that this place can lead to new activities, is also in line with this name. The building is from 2006. Characteristic is the use of wood. The original owner was “Triodos Vastgoed” (= real estate). Triodos follows antroposophical principles in building.

In 2006, Het Cambium was one of the first offices, which received the “groenverklaring utiliteitsbouw” (= green certificate for utility construction). The building was mainly used by organisations SKH and SHR which are specialists in research in the use of wood. The total office space is 2500 m2.

Special sustainability measurements were taken. It was possible to save energy by improving isolation and recovery of heat. As a result of that the energy performance coefficient was 30% lower as necessary for normal buildings.

Now, in 2021, the building is 15 years old and it is interesting to see that the condition of this building is still good. Although small repair and maintenance were necessary, it has a long life ahead. Present contact is CMC brokerage, on behalf of the owner.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**5** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **80** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **15** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Mainly used by organisations SKH and SHR which are specialists in research

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Tenants

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

### Vision:

The vision of the original owner was clear: use as much as possible, natural building materials, with the focus on different types of wood, such as larch and pine. It was also the wish to save energy. This has been realised with efficient isolation and reclaim of heat.

### Strategy:

The building as such was also a kind of experiment: how long the wood will stay in a good condition.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

Isolation gave an interesting problem. On one hand, it was necessary to isolate. On the other hand, for the condition of the wood, it was necessary to have a good ventilation. It asked for special technical measures. Wood needs more maintenance, but also after 16 years, the building is still in a good condition. Also the orientation of the building to the south and the regulation of humidity were necessary aspects during the construction.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

Main owner was “Triodos Vastgoed”. Triodos follows the antroposophic ideas for building. Also the organisation Senter Novem, related to the Ministry of economic affairs, was directly involved.

### Further partners were:

- Development: Bouwfonds Asset Management,
- Construction: Zegersbouw
- One of the tenants: Stichting Hout Research



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

Not Applicable.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

Apart of general measures, such as monitoring light and energy, also recovery of heat was realised, leading to an overall reduction of energy consumption of 30%. Monitoring of water consumption will follow.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

In general, the ongoing maintenance in a sustainable way is important for a building like this. Also, an effective marketing to attract new tenants, is essential. The architecture and the sustainable aspects are important in this marketing.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. We need some new tenants! We will intensify our marketing (CMC)
2. Ongoing advisory about the condition of wood on the longer term.
3. Long-term planning of activities to increase savings on energy and light
4. Investments in facilities for electric cars and e-bikes.
5. Upgrade of the green area around the building towards more sustainability.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Many sustainability aspects have to be realised during the construction. So pay attention to this during the design phase.
2. Look for general or more specific certifications. Being certified, increases the attractiveness of the centre and it helps to make a checklist for all kind of aspects.
3. Calculate costs and benefits from your SDG investments. Make calculations for the long term.
4. Pay attention to effective marketing of your centre. This is an ongoing process.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Maintenance of the building: 1-3 years

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Monitoring light and temperature: 1-3 years  
Control of humidity in the building: 6-12 months  
Installation of solar panels: 1-3 years

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Redesign green areas around the building towards sustainable gardens: 1-3 years  
Analysis of canteens, to reduce plastic waste and to re-use coffee residues: 1-3 years

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Update of existing facilities toward better internet : 1-3 years  
Ongoing activities to improve data protection: 1-3 years

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

More facilities for electric cars and e-bikes (at least 10% of all places): 1-3 years  
Some reconstruction of the building to make it more flexible and attractive for smaller tenants: 1-3 years



## PLUS ULTRA



### Company Name

Plus Ultra, Wageningen - Kadans Science Partner

### Date of Interview

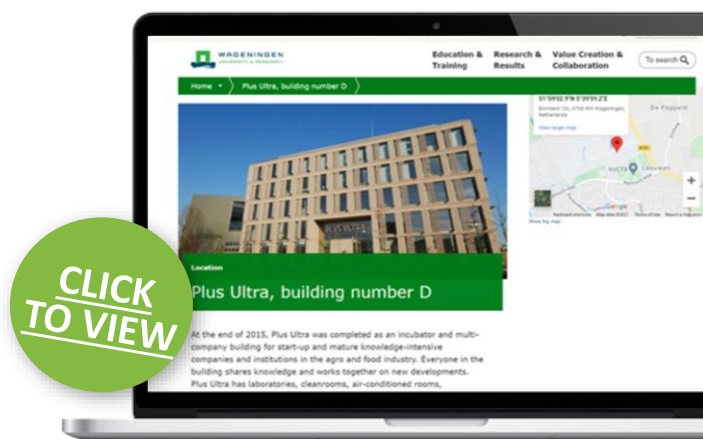
12.07.21 via Face to Face Meeting

### Contact Person

R. Wijngaard – Property Manager

### Email

r.wijngaard@kadans.com



Plus Ultra is one of the buildings on the Campus of Wageningen University. It hosts 24 starting and knowledge intensive companies and organisations, with the focus on health, food and education. Construction was ready in 2015. It has a unique architecture and an inspiring environment. Plus Ultra has 7.500 m<sup>2</sup> for laboratories, clean rooms, pilot plants, conditioned rooms, multifunctional research rooms, techno halls, meeting rooms, presentation rooms and offices.

The open and transparent character of the building stimulates contacts between the different companies. "Plus Ultra" means "Always further" and want to facilitate ongoing innovation. Plus Ultra is designed and built according the BREEAM guidelines. BREEAM stands

for "Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method" and is used in over 80 countries worldwide. With this certification, Plus Ultra has high sustainability characteristics. On the roof of the building are 200 solar panels and during the construction, mostly natural materials were used, such as glass, wood and concrete.

After the success of Plus Ultra, a second identical building was completed in 2020. Its name is Plus Ultra II and it can be found on the Campus as well.



# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**5** EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **150** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **6** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Agro Food

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Combination of start ups ("techno starters") and bigger companies such as DSM.

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

From the beginning on (2014) sustainability was a leading topic. The vision from the owner is:

1. To facilitate tenants to work on knowledge intensive developments in the green sector in a sustainable, stimulating and healthy environment,
2. To have an open and transparent working place, to stimulate communication among the tenants, leading to "cross-breeding".
3. To make exploitation not only sustainable, but also cost reducing, compared with more traditional buildings.





## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

**Design:** Open design, with a big central staircase.

**Construction:** Use of natural materials, such as glass, concrete and wood. Related to SDG 9 and 11.

**Energy:** Solar panels on the roof. LED lights, monitored by sensors. Temperature per room monitored. Related to SDG 7.

**Human factor:** Shared meeting rooms and little canteens for coffee and tea. Outside: gardens with little demand for water and maintenance. Parking with facilities for electric cars and bicycles. Related to SDG 17.

**In general:** The building got a BREEAM certification See [www.BREEAM.nl](http://www.BREEAM.nl). This certification asks for sustainability in all phases: design, construction and exploitation.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

### Main stake holders:

- Kadans; estate agent and owner. This company owns more buildings at the Wageningen Campus as well as in other cities. Sustainability and flexibility for future users are key words for Kadans.
- Wageningen UR is owner of the Campus, is also tenant.
- Architect: "Proof of the sum".
- Construction company: Hendriks Bouw, Oss.



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

Not Applicable



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

Plus Ultra has been opened in 2015. Since then, about 25 companies and organisations have found their place. Companies come and go. Some grow fast and leave for a bigger place. Others are not successful and stop. And a group stays for a longer.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

Plus Ultra is very popular among tenants. That is why Kadans decided to build a second, comparable building. This plan has been realized: Plus Ultra II opened on the 4th of May 2020. The second building is 1.5 times bigger.

Main tenants are Wageningen University & Research and One Planet Research Center. But, also some smaller companies found their way. Latest developments: Plus Ultra III is planned. The model can already be admired in the central hall of building.

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Financial resources
2. Good communication with local government
3. Marketing tools
4. Advice about sustainable gardens around the building.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Install monitored LED light.
2. Install monitored heating systems
3. Discourage the use of elevators
4. Have a good contact with the tenants. They also come with valuable suggestions.
5. Anticipate on the future growing use of electric cars.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

For the development of building III, the same procedure will be followed: sustainable construction materials, inside and outside the building: 1-3 years

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Light and temperature monitoring are essential. Also, the water consumption is monitored 24/7 per working room. Looking at more options in next 1-3 years

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

All results of monitoring and are discussed with the tenants on a regular basis. Once per year, the analyses are used to make improvements: 6-12 months

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

Digital technology is used for monitoring. Digital safety has priority. Patch closets can only be opened with a digital code. Digital data protection is an ongoing process: 1-3 years

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

In the future.



## WEXFORD ENTERPRISE



### Company Name

Wexford Enterprise

### Date of Interview

23rd July 2021 via video call

### Contact Person

Brendan Ennis, CEO

### Email

enquiries@wec.ie



Wexford Enterprise Centre is an independent, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to nurturing emerging and existing Start-ups and SMEs for sustainable job growth in Co. Wexford (County Wexford is located in the South East of Ireland, population circa 149,722, 2016 census).

Established in 1986 as part of the wider Wexford Enterprise Association (WEA), Wexford Enterprise Centre is based on a Social Enterprise Model of Commercial

Sustainability, Social Enhancement and Entrepreneurial Development. WEC is recognised nationally for their innovative and proactive approach to business development, mentoring and training. Datagroup, Recycling 2000 and TradeBridge are also divisions of Wexford Enterprise Association and located in Wexford Enterprise Centre.

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



**28** EMPLOYEES INCLUDING FULL TIME & PART TIME

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN **200** PEOPLE DAILY

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

WITHIN LAST **27** YEARS

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise/ Micro-Enterprise/ SMEs/ Community/Environment/ Information Management/ Internationalisation and trade development

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- Employees/Tenants/ Wexford County Council/ Wexford Local Enterprise Office/ Enterprise Ireland
- Wexford Local Development Association
- Pobal
- IDA

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

Wexford Enterprise Centre was established in 1986 to help combat high levels of local unemployment, social exclusion and marginalisation. The Centre's mission is to 'To support the creation of sustainable employment through the encouragement and stimulation of private and co-operative enterprise in County Wexford and to impact positively on the social fabric of the County.'



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

The Enterprise Centre is serviced with multiple high speed fibre lines from a number of different broadband suppliers ensuring constant and uninterrupted supply. The Centre hosts a one-gig and three 150mb fibre lines within the building. These lines are located in a secured and monitored central communications room with CAT 5E connectivity direct to each individual unit /office. Each unit/office is fitted with a communications cabinet connected to various workstation points. The Centre's IT architecture and infrastructure delivers interconnectivity between all units within the Centre thus enabling a company's rapid expansion to additional units with minimum disruption. The Café, Meeting and Conference Rooms are serviced by fast and efficient free Wi-Fi (SDG8|SDG9)

To support Wellbeing and Health onsite, the WEC has a fully fitted outdoor Exercise Zone. Tenants can take a break, exercise, have some down time and help manage the stresses of the working day (SDG11)

Through Datagroup, (an WEC enterprise) which manages data for large organisations, WEC is supporting employment for individuals with a disability in their community (over half of staff have a form of disability (SDG9|SDG11). Datagroup is another revenue generator for the centre.

WEC has grown from 1858.0608 sq meters to 6503.2128 sq meters since its opening (SDG8|SDG9)

WEC works with its community, supporting people with disabilities and supporting local Youth Mental Health services (SDG11)

The main WEC building is from the 1940's, and has an unusual footplate. The corridors take up nearly 20% of the building and so were a hugely intensive focus of energy usage in the WEC. WEC working with the Sustainable Energy Association of Ireland (SEAI) scoped out the options to reduce this energy usage. Through applying sensor technology, timers, dimmable LEDs, WEC were able to reduce their energy for lighting in the corridors by 92% (SDG13|SDG7|SDG11)

The centre only uses 100% renewable electricity and while the centre does have a backup generator (necessitated to support their tenant businesses) which is run from oil, this is very rarely used. Their ethos is to be green and to support green (SDG13|SDG7)

The centre has solar panels on the roof which generates 10% of their building energy needs (SDG13|SDG7)

The Centre hosts training sessions as partners with the Local Enterprise Office Wexford to deliver training (SDG4)



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

Partners and stakeholders are inclusive of: Wexford County Council/ Wexford Local Enterprise Office/ Enterprise Ireland/ Wexford Local Development Association/ Pobal (Pobal works on behalf of Government to support communities and local agencies toward achieving social inclusion and development)/ IDA (IDA Ireland is the agency responsible for the attraction and retention of inward foreign direct investment (FDI) into Ireland)/Savannah Economic Development Authority USA/Georgia Southern University (USA).

The Wexford Enterprise Centre is governed by a voluntary body of Wexford-centered professionals with a broad range of local, national and international business experience and community involvement. The Board of Management gives freely of their time and expertise and alongside the Executive work towards the goals and objectives of the organisation. Wexford Enterprise Centre develops sustainable job creation initiatives with the support of and alliances with Strategic Partners



## DID YOU RECEIVE ANY KIND OF TRAINING OR SUPPORT REGARDING YOUR ACTIONS?

The training has been on the job. Where there is a need for expert advice, WEC engages externally seeking guidance and expertise, and see this as an opportunity to work collaboratively within the community and within other businesses in the community. WEC works on the basis of understanding your market, by talking with your market and directly engaging the expertise and knowledge.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

Over the past three decades, Wexford Enterprise Centre has developed into a leading, purpose-built and professional business environment that specialises in nurturing Start-Ups and SME companies. During that time, WEC has helped to create over 1,500 jobs and continue to plan for future advancement. The Centre is 82-85% self-funded through its own enterprise activity.

Since engaging and supporting Youth Mental Health services, counselling sessions have now doubled with more people being able to avail of services. The Centre initiated the Schools Enterprise Awards Scheme to support early stage entrepreneurial teaching and education at secondary school level. WEC initiated this activity in 1995, it was then rolled out nationally and then at the request of the EU, a curriculum was developed for use across Europe. WEC sees their role very clearly as adding value to their community.



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

WEC are in the process of formalising an Environmental, Social, and Governance framework for their reporting. A new stakeholders report will launch at the end of July 2021. This will then be followed with targets, objectives, measurements and will evolve on an annual basis.

WEC are looking into the various mechanisms to support a heating and insulation retrofit for the building. This is a work in progress. WEC are looking internally at their own waste sources and waste generation.



# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. Continued focus and funding for network support and collaboration is key from our government bodies.
2. Collaboration with Local Enterprise Centre is hugely valuable when it comes to training needs and this should remain a central government focus.
3. Centres can be fearful of being seen to generate revenue themselves, in case their government funding and support is cut. This should not be the case, instead centres should be encouraged and supported on these endeavours

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Your network is key, build those relationships and make sure that they're two-way (that you are an important link to your contact and vice versa).
2. Develop scale, develop independence and develop commerciality (to be self-sustainable)
3. Engage your tenant business in your future plans.
4. Look at your centre as a hub of enterprise and entrepreneurial development.

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

Ongoing: Heating and retrofit project scoping is in progress.

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Same as above.

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Waste management project scoping is in progress.

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

The Centre is adding a new MB internet capacity in July 2021.

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

This is an ongoing focus



## Lisburn Enterprise Organisation



### Company Name

Lisburn Enterprise Organisation (LEO)

### Date of Interview

10/11/2021

### Contact Person

Martina Crawford – Chief Executive

### Email

[martina@lisburn-enterprise.co.uk](mailto:martina@lisburn-enterprise.co.uk)



Lisburn Enterprise Organisation (LEO) was established in 1990 with the main objective of promoting an entrepreneurial culture, supporting business start-up and providing the mechanisms needed to encourage existing businesses to grow. LEO is an independent, not for profit organisation offering support in the form of guidance and advice, premises, conference facilities, administrative support and virtual office services. LEO's focus is not only on business creation but also business development at

both a strategic and operational level. The Organisation benefits from a dedicated Board of Directors representing public and private sector interests. This voluntary Board has overseen the effective running of LEO since its inception. Partnership is also a key priority of the Organisation and strong working relationships exist with Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, South-Eastern Regional College, Enterprise Northern Ireland, Princes Trust and Invest NI to name a few

# ORGANISATION PROFILE

HOW MANY STAFF IS DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY THE ORGANISATION?



5 EMPLOYEES

IN ADDITION TO STAFF PRE COVID, HOW MANY PEOPLE ACCESS THE BUILDING ? (eg tenants, students, members of the public etc)



MORE THAN 500 PEOPLE DAILY (Pre-Covid)

HOW LONG HAS THE ORGANISATION BEEN DRIVING A GREEN REVOLUTION/ INTRODUCED SDG POLICY'S OR ACTIONS?

SINCE 2010

WHAT SECTOR/S IS THE ORGANISATION ACTIVE IN?

- Local Enterprise

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MAIN STAKEHOLDERS OR OCCUPANTS?

- SMEs / Micro-businesses

## GOOD PRACTICES



WHAT IS YOUR VISION AND STRATEGY RELATED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT/CLIMATE ACTIONS?

Lisburn Enterprise Organisation aims to promote an entrepreneurial culture which will strengthen the local economy and boost economic development. They work tirelessly by providing sustainable, long term supports for business start-up and business growth. In terms of sustainable development they provide low cost office space, through their phase 7 development they have implemented sustainable approaches.



## WHAT ACTIONS DID YOU TAKE?

LEO provide low cost office spaces as part of their Phase 6 development. In 2018 they opened their new Phase 7 development, which provides more sustainable, low cost, modern office spaces for tenants. LEO had in depth discussions with developers and architects around the planning and development of the Phase 7 development. Throughout these consultations LEO were advised on the best course of action to ensure a sustainable, green and climate friendly build. These included ensuring locally sourced, sustainable products were used within the building, the inclusion of solar panels to decrease use of gas heating. In addition to this the Phase 7 building has motion activated lights which are programmed on a timer schedule, this reduces electricity consumption. Finally LEO have employed a waste management company who handle the recycling of waste, easing the burden on landfills, conserving natural resources, and saving energy.



## WHICH PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED?

- Local Architects
- Building Consultants
- Waste Management Co.



## WHICH RESULTS DID YOU ACHIEVE ALREADY?

1. Reduced use of Gas heating through solar panels
2. Reduced electricity use overall through motion sensors
3. Recycling implementation
4. Reduction of landfill use
5. Energy saving
6. More sustainable overall Phase 7 building & learnings which will inform future development



## WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS?

LEO plans to learn from the Phase 7 build and apply this in relation to any new development undertakings in the future. They will continue to encourage their licensees to utilise the recycling, waste management scheme in order to minimise overall environmental impact

# RECOMMENDATIONS



## WHAT KIND OF **HELP AND TOOLS** DO YOU NEED TO REALISE YOUR **FUTURE GOALS?**

1. As a self-funded entity MEAG relies on the expertise of their board for support.

## WHAT ARE YOUR MOST IMPORTANT **TIPS & ADVICE** TO GIVE TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS TO IMPLEMENT SDG WITHIN THEIR BUSINESS?

1. Start by talking to people who have done it already
2. The best starting point is to develop a strong board with a good broad range of skills and connections
3. When working in the community, word of mouth can be the most efficient way of growing, and so getting out there and connecting with the community is important

## WHAT **SUSTAINABLE GOALS** WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPLEMENT IN THE FUTURE?

01

**Sustainable Infrastructure/Buildings** – SDG11 Sustainable cities and Communities and SDG13 Climate action:

1-3 years

02

**Energy and Resource Efficiency** – SDG 7 Affordable and clean energy and SDG12 Responsible consumption and production:

Ongoing

03

**Sustainable Eco-systems and Collective Action** – SDG4 Quality Education, SDG12 Responsible consumption and production and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Ongoing

04

**Digital Technology for Sustainable Enterprise Centres** – SDG8 Decent work and Economic Growth and SDG13 Climate action:

1-3 years

05

**Sustainable Futures for Enterprise Centres** – SDG 9 - Industrial innovation & infrastructure and SDG17 Partnership for the Goals:

Next 6 to 12 months.