

- a three-year environmental support  
and certification programme



# €coCert is a three-year environmental support an

The EcoCert Programme is a partnership between Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown, Laois, Offaly and Waterford County Councils, Waterford City Council, the Environmental Protection Agency and environmental consultants Econcertive.

## The EcoCert Programme enables businesses to:

- Save Money on Waste Costs
- Save Money on Energy Costs
- Save Money on Water Costs
- Improve Environmental Performance
- Become Environmentally Certified

## What will a participating business get from the EcoCert Programme?

- An environmental advisor who identifies savings that can be made in waste, energy and water management.
- Help to establish a simple system to continue to improve year on year.
- Once the system is in place a certificate to prove its environmental credentials.

## How to prepare for the advisor's visit

- Set aside half a day to find cost savings for your business.
- Be familiar with the energy, waste and water management of your business.

- Know the energy, waste and water costs for the previous year - verified by copies of bills.
- Be informed of the environmental performance and/or issues of concern to your business.

## What are the Certification requirements?

- An Environmental Policy
- An Improvement Plan
- Performance Monitoring (e.g. utilities usage).
- A commitment to pollution prevention.

## What does it cost to participate in the EcoCert Programme?

The financial backing and support from the partner organisations subsidises the EcoCert Programme to ensure it is cost-effective. Costs vary depending on the size of the business.

Employees per site	Year 1 Review & Certification	Year 2 & 3 Surveillance & Support
1 - 4	€250	€125
5 - 30	€400	€200
31 - 60	€600	€250
61 - 100	€800	€350

Year 1 fees come with a guarantee of identifying annual cost savings which will exceed the fee.

# d certification programme

A 50% refund of the fee will be given if this is not achieved.

Registered charities are granted a 50% discount but refunds do not apply.

Customised quote for businesses with more than one site or 101 employees.

## How to upgrade to other certifications

The Environmental Protection Agency and local councils oversee all certifications issued under the EcoCert Programme. The requirements are simplified and transparent so an independent auditor is not required. The EcoCert Programme uses the same basic principles as all recognised certification schemes for environmental management so EcoCert holders are well placed to upgrade their systems to suit any of these schemes.

## To apply for the Ecocert Programme

Fill out the application form and send it to Econcertive who will contact you to set up a visit or apply on line at [www.ecocert.ie](http://www.ecocert.ie)

## More information contact:

Phil Walker, Econcertive.

Tel: 086 255 9677 or Email: [phil@ecocert.ie](mailto:phil@ecocert.ie)

Margaret Coles, Green Business Officer, DLR County Council.

Tel: 086 8034921 or Email [mcoles@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:mcoles@dlrcoco.ie)

Log on to [www.ecocert.ie](http://www.ecocert.ie)



## Summary of €coCert Certification Requirements

### Management Controls

Environmental Policy in place and operating

Usually a one-page statement including commitments to environmental performance monitoring and improvement, legal compliance and pollution prevention. Help will be given to draft this policy, if required.

Performance measures in place and monitored

Appropriate measurements in place. As a minimum this will include energy, waste & water (if metered). May include other relevant items.

Improvement plan in place and active

Usually a list of planned improvements and target dates, actively managed, regularly monitored and renewed at least annually.

Assigned Responsibility

Someone in the organisation has clear responsibility for these issues.

### Energy

Utilities meters read and bulk deliveries recorded.

Electricity and gas meter readings taken regularly (normally weekly or monthly). Bulk deliveries (e.g. oil, bulk gas) recorded.

Energy usage monitored

Results logged or graphed and used for monitoring.

Heating, hot water, cooling system controls understood.

Someone in the organisation is familiar with these systems in order that they are used in the most efficient manner.

Assigned Responsibility

Someone in the organisation has clear responsibility for these issues.

### Water (if metered)

Meter(s) read and recorded

Regular readings taken (normally weekly or monthly).

Results monitored

Results logged or graphed and used for monitoring.

Annual leak test carried out

Usually done when water usage is zero or at its lowest (e.g. overnight or at weekends). Meter readings taken before and after, and any discrepancy investigated. Results logged.

Assigned Responsibility

Someone in the organisation has clear responsibility for these issues.

### Waste

Waste records kept

Records of waste may be based on contractor's invoices.

Waste quantities monitored

As a minimum log total waste quantities and record the amount landfilled and recycled. It may be done in the form of bin quantities.

Recycling materials segregated

Wherever practicable, appropriate arrangements in place to prevent waste and recycle waste materials rather than send them to landfill.

Hazardous waste segregated and disposed of appropriately.

Materials such as batteries, fluorescent tubes, oils, paints are classed as hazardous, and must be segregated for legal disposal.

WEEE segregated

Waste electrical and electronics items are segregated for legal disposal.

Waste contractor(s) licensed

Ensure all waste contractors are licensed for the services provided. Copies of licences to be checked and filed.

Assigned Responsibility

Someone in the organisation has clear responsibility for these issues.

### Pollution Prevention

Key risks identified

Foreseeable pollution risks identified (e.g. oil tanks, chemicals storage and use, fire risks)

Appropriate prevention / mitigation arrangements in place

Reasonable precautions, appropriate to the risk, are in place to minimise the likelihood of a pollution incident and/or to reduce the impact of such an incident if it does occur.

Assigned Responsibility

Someone in the organisation has clear responsibility for these issues.