

Transforming Irish Industry

Eco-efficiency Assessment

Cost Savings through Improved Environmental Performance

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Eco-efficiency Assessment.

Enterprise Ireland and Sustainable Development.

What is eco-efficiency:

The term eco-efficiency is a combination of economic and ecological efficiencies. In effect this means producing more goods and services but consuming less energy and natural materials. Eco-efficient businesses produce less waste, pollution and emissions and strive to maximise economic growth with minimum environmental degradation.

Definition:

$$\text{Eco-efficiency} = \frac{\text{Product or service value}}{\text{Environment influence}}$$

Essentially, eco-efficiency relates the economic gain (turnover, production etc) to the environmental impact (energy consumed, tonnes of carbon dioxide emitted, waste generated, packaging consumed etc). This ratio provides a quantitative measure of progress in the key sustainability indicators such as energy, waste, water and packaging. It highlights areas where improvement should be made.

Our Objective:

To promote the *sustainable development* of Enterprise Ireland companies - specifically its core companies - through the continuous improvement of their environmental performance. This is the key for good business performance and profitability.

It generates cost savings through improved environmental performance.

The methodology Enterprise Ireland uses is based on the one developed by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), “Measuring eco-efficiency: a guide to reporting company performance”. www.wbcscd.org

The Environment and Green Technologies Department offer an *eco-efficiency assessment* programme to ensure that the operation of its client companies strives to address the principles of sustainable development.

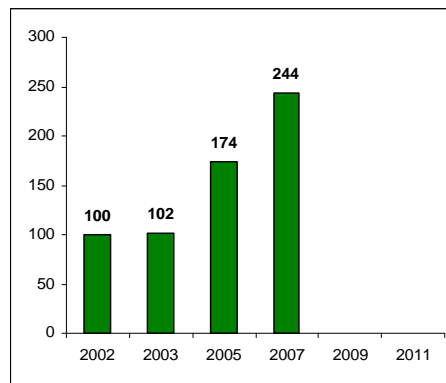
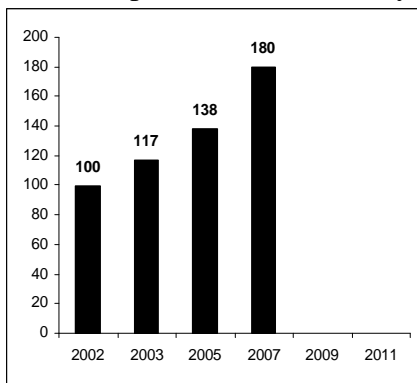
This service is free to all Enterprise Ireland companies and comprises the following:

- Completion of a questionnaire by the company requiring quantitative information concerning the basic environmental indicators (energy, water, waste etc).
- Processing of the eco-efficiency report by Environment and Green Technologies Department.
- Issuing the report to the company showing its performance in each of the relevant environmental indicators.
- One to one feedback to discuss the results, identify the trends and assist with correctional measures, if required.
- Updating of the information and reports every two years (or more frequently if requested).

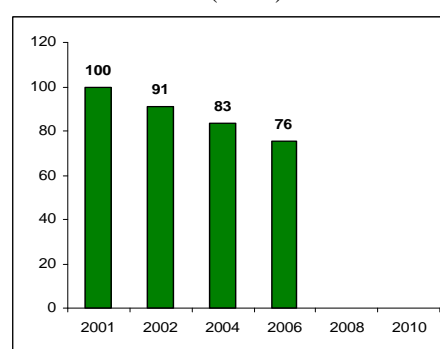
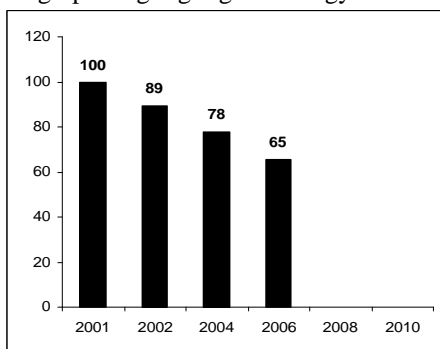
Benefits:

The benefits to Enterprise Ireland companies participating in the programme are as follows:

1. Highlight environmental impacts – **energy, waste, water and solvents reduction**, and **packaging** consumption per unit of manufacturing or service output.
2. Generate significant cost savings and improve environmental performance.
3. Using international recognised indicators to highlight unfavourable eco-efficiency trends in relation to turnover or sales. This gives an early warning of competitive decline. It allows a different overview of a company's performance to be obtained (see graphs below).
4. The eco-efficiency profiles are good promotional literature for a company and shows that it is serious about the general environmental impacts on its immediate surroundings.
5. It can stimulate creativity and innovation in the search for new technologies and practices. Processes can be redesigned and re-engineered to minimise raw material usage, reduce pollution and save on costs.
6. The report includes an analysis of all the raw data submitted.



These graphs highlight good energy consumption relative to Financial (*black*) and Production (*green*).



These graphs highlight excessive waste generation relative to Financial (*black*) and Production (*green*). (Essentially increasing graph heights are good and decreasing graph heights are poor).

Financial Support:

Environmental areas, which are identified for improvement, may be eligible for funding under Enterprise Ireland's **GreenTech Support** scheme.