

# Environmental News Update and “Greening” your Business.

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## Environmental News:

- EU Legislation. (EuP, REACH).
- Environmental Management Guidelines for Small Businesses (SFA).
- New EI e-zine: Environmental issues for Industry.
- EI 2008 Environment Directory.
- Award scheme for most energy efficient firms.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Phase CGPP – call for proposals.

## Eco-design of Energy using Products Directive

- A Framework Directive that introduces eco-design as a legal requirement for all energy using products.
- It forces designers of these products to consider environmental issues all the way along the products lifecycle from design to use to end of life disposal.
- The energy usage of the product during it's lifetime is a critical issue: products will not receive the CE mark unless it uses the minimum amount of energy possible.
- The Framework Directive has been transposed into Irish law, but this is just the beginning – a range of product groups are being targeted by this Directive.

## Current EuP work:

- Implementing Measure on standby/off mode – how much power a piece of equipment can use when in standby mode.
- Aim of 1 Watt.
- Study shows that 100 Terra-Watts of electricity would be used by equipment in standby/off mode in 2020 if current power consumption levels persist – equal to the yearly power consumption of the Netherlands.
- [www.ecostandby.org](http://www.ecostandby.org)
- [http://ec.europa.eu/energy/demand/legislation/eco\\_design\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/demand/legislation/eco_design_en.htm)

## You may feel the EuP will have no effect on you, but.....

- The EuP is driven by the EU's Integrated Product Policy (IPP) – a process of looking at every life stage of the product from design to end of life (cradle to grave) and reducing, to a minimum, the environmental impact of each stage.
- All life stages of an electronic product now have legally binding environmental controls.
- Although you may not be involved in the manufacture of electronic/EuP products, IPP will eventually be rolled out to ALL products.


## Product life cycle stages covered by Integrated Product Policy:

- Design – crucial area!!
- Raw material.
- Manufacture.
- Distribution.
- In-Service Use.
- End of Life.

## Environmental Management Guidelines for Small Businesses.

- Published by the Small Firms Association in association with AIB.
- Ten “*fact sheets*” on various environmental areas, e.g. waste management, water and waste water, chemicals, etc.
- <http://www.sfa.ie/Sectors/SFA/SFADoclib4.nsf/wvICS?OpenView&RestrictToCategory=Environment>
- Need to be a member of the SFA to access these.

# New EI E-zine on Environment



## EnviroCentre News

November/December 2007 Number 1

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Inside this Issue

- Editorial
- Website Update
- Environmental News Update
- Environmental Markets
- Spotlight
- Enterprise Ireland Regional Fora
- Upcoming Events

### EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first edition of EnviroCentre News – the newly updated Envirocentre website’s bi-monthly e-newsletter. There is no doubt that environmental policy has become prioritized by decision makers in government and business in recent times. The Envirocentre website is a free and regularly updated website designed to enhance environmental awareness in Irish industry.

Our aim is to improve your business with increased competitiveness, export growth and ultimately the bottom line - increased profitability. We hope to achieve these objectives through improved environmental performance, the development of products or services related to environmental protection and increased energy and resource efficiency.

This issue of our newsletter will focus on our recently revamped website and outline to our readers some of the areas that may be of interest and hopefully benefit to them.

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### WEBSITE UPDATE

Over the past number of months the **Envirocentre** website has been significantly updated and incorporates many new features. The ‘new look’ website complies with the latest guidelines for web accessibility and is extremely user friendly incorporating much improved search and navigation facilities.

Our database area now features four comprehensive and regularly updated databases:

- Environmental Consultants
- Waste Recyclers
- Eco-Design Resources
- Environmental Companies

Each database offers significant sources of information to Irish industry.

Our new **Environmental Exporters** section outlines Enterprise Ireland companies involved in the provision of a range of environmental products and services

1

## 2008 Sustainable Energy Awards

- Search for most Energy Efficient Firms.
- The Awards are intended to encourage, recognise and reward excellence in energy management in the industrial, commercial and public sectors.
- Deadline for receipt of nominations is April 25<sup>th</sup>.

## EI Environment Directory

- Directory of Irish SMEs involved in the Environment area; includes waste management companies, effluent treatment plant manufacturers, consultants, etc.
- See [www.envirocentre.ie](http://www.envirocentre.ie)

## Cleaner Greener Production Programme (CGPP) Phase 4

- The EPA has €2M available for the fourth phase of the CGPP to assist organisations to become cleaner and greener.
- Grants of between €10k and €200k available.
- EPA is looking for expressions of interest.
- There are a number of nationwide briefing sessions in Cork, Limerick, Galway and Dublin between 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of April, 2008.
- See [www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/cgpp](http://www.epa.ie/researchandeducation/research/cgpp) or [www.cleanerproduction.ie](http://www.cleanerproduction.ie)
- Contact is: Lisa Shiels – [l.shiels@epa.ie](mailto:l.shiels@epa.ie) or 01 2680100

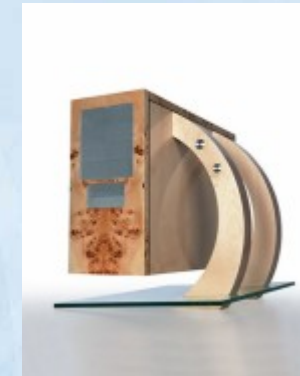
## Greening your Business.

- *“Waste is anything which absorbs resources but creates no value”*

Taachi Ohno, Toyota.

This idea can be applied to any area of a business: Product Design, Energy Usage, Waste Arisings, Water usage/effluent production, End of Product Life.

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



## Example from Walkers UK:

- Potatoes are purchased by weight – price paid per tonne.
- Farmers store potatoes in humidified sheds – potatoes take up moisture – less potatoes per tonne (*emissions from humidifiers and transport to processing plant.*)
- Walkers must fry sliced potato for longer to get rid of water (*higher emissions*)

## The Solution?

- Vary price by water content – lower water content = higher price.
- No commercial incentive to humidify potatoes – farmer saves on energy bill and emissions.
- At the processing plant, no need for longer fry time to drive off water. Walkers save on energy bill and emissions
- Courtesy of The Carbon Trust [www.carbontrust.org](http://www.carbontrust.org)

## In Conclusion:

- Please think about ways to make your business greener – many of the best ideas for doing this don't involve spending money, but do require a different way of thinking.
- Think in terms of a holistic approach; e.g. excess water usage results in more effluent, more energy required for treatment, more effluent treatment plant management.
- There's lots of help out there, much of it is free!
- See [www.envirocentre.ie](http://www.envirocentre.ie)
- Thanks for your attention!!