**Sustainable Development Goals**

On September 25th 2015, countries adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years.

More information on http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/

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**Resource Efficiency Quick Wins Guide**

The Southern Region Waste Management Office has published a Quick Wins Guide which has a list of easy tips that a company could easily apply as relevant to their business. The guidance covers waste prevention, energy and water.

In the guide, the following is the General Guidance that applies to all aspects of resource efficiency:

**Quick Wins - General Guidance**

There are general management principles that are relevant to achieving efficiencies in materials, energy and water usage. The following are some pointers that can be applied in equal measure to each of these areas, leading to reduced carbon footprint and with significant potential for cost savings:

- **Lead by example**
- **Have a look at your utilities bill** – know the main sources of costs – e.g. usage charge and flat charges
- **Measure it to manage it**
- **Address the main aspects first** – follow the 80/20 rule where 80% issues are solved through focus on the main 20%.
- **Involve your staff** – promote awareness and ask them for ideas
- **Communicate your achievements**
- **Apply general good housekeeping practices**
- **Avail of the resources and guidance available** e.g. www.greenbusiness.ie, www.seai.ie
- **Implement continuous improvement**
- **This guidance is then followed by specific useful tips on waste prevention, energy and water efficiencies.**

The Quick Wins Guide can be accessed on www.southernwasteregion.ie.
SMILE Resource Exchange

www.smileexchange.ie

pakman awards winner 2017

Waste Prevention Business of the Year

SMILE was delighted to bring home the Waste Prevention Business of the Year Award at the recent Pakman Awards 2017, hosted by Repak Ireland.

The Pakman Awards seek to recognise complete excellence in the environmental approach taken by a business, organisation or community group in all aspects of their operations, from recycling and energy use to waste management.

The awards ceremony took place at the InterContinental Dublin Hotel and under the watchful eye of MC Claire Byrne of RTE, saw 400 representatives from leading businesses, organisations and community groups come together to celebrate their positive impacts on our environment.

Other Winners at the Pakman Awards

RTE was the Overall Winner of the Pakman Awards. RTE also won the Award for the Commercial Services Category.

ReCreate: Environmental Education & Awareness Initiative Award

Thortons Recycling: Waste Collector of the Year Commercial Award / Waste Recycling And Recovery Facility Of The Year Award

Clean Ireland Recycling: Waste Collector of the Year Household Award

Waste Matters: Innovation in Waste Management Award

Matthews Coach Hire Ltd: Green Transport of the Year Award

Lauralynn: The Battery Champion Award

Sligo University Hospital: Food Waste Management Award

SMILE’s recent Reuse Republic Event at Cork County Hall

To mark October Reuse Month, SMILE organised a Reuse Republic Event at Cork County Hall. There were twelve exhibition stands including many examples of re-use initiatives around Cork County.

In November 2017, the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Denis Naughten TD, launched the new National Recycling List for household mixed recycling.

The list will remove any confusion regarding what goes in the mixed recyclables bin. This will help to ensure better recycling and less contamination. The new website www.recylinglistireland.ie shows clear graphics on what can be included. Containers should be rinsed clean, shaken to dry, and placed loose in the bin. Glass needs to be kept separate – glass bottles / jars can be taken to the local bring/bottle bank.

www.recyclinglistireland.ie

new recycling list for household mixed recyclables

It continues to be the case that certain specified household waste streams, such as Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE) & Batteries should be kept separate and taken to either retailers or the local Civic Amenity / Recycling Centre.

Recycling Ambassadors Programme

Minister Naughten also launched the ‘Recycling Ambassadors Programme’ which is being co-ordinated by VOICE Ireland. The Programme is funded by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, the Regional Waste Management Offices and REPAK. Under this initiative, recycling workshops are being run right across the country for various groups. Further information is available on www.voiceireland.org/rap

Recent Green Business Events

Presentations from recent events run by the national Green Business Programme are available on www.greenbusiness.ie

These include the events held as follows:

25th October in association with Zero Waste Cashel
26th October in association with Tipperary Green Business Network
28th November in association with Carlow County Council

Remember to check out the Resource Efficiency Tree – an online Tool for SMEs available on www.greenbusiness.ie.

www.greenbusiness.ie

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