

Guaranteed Irish Members Sustainability Guide

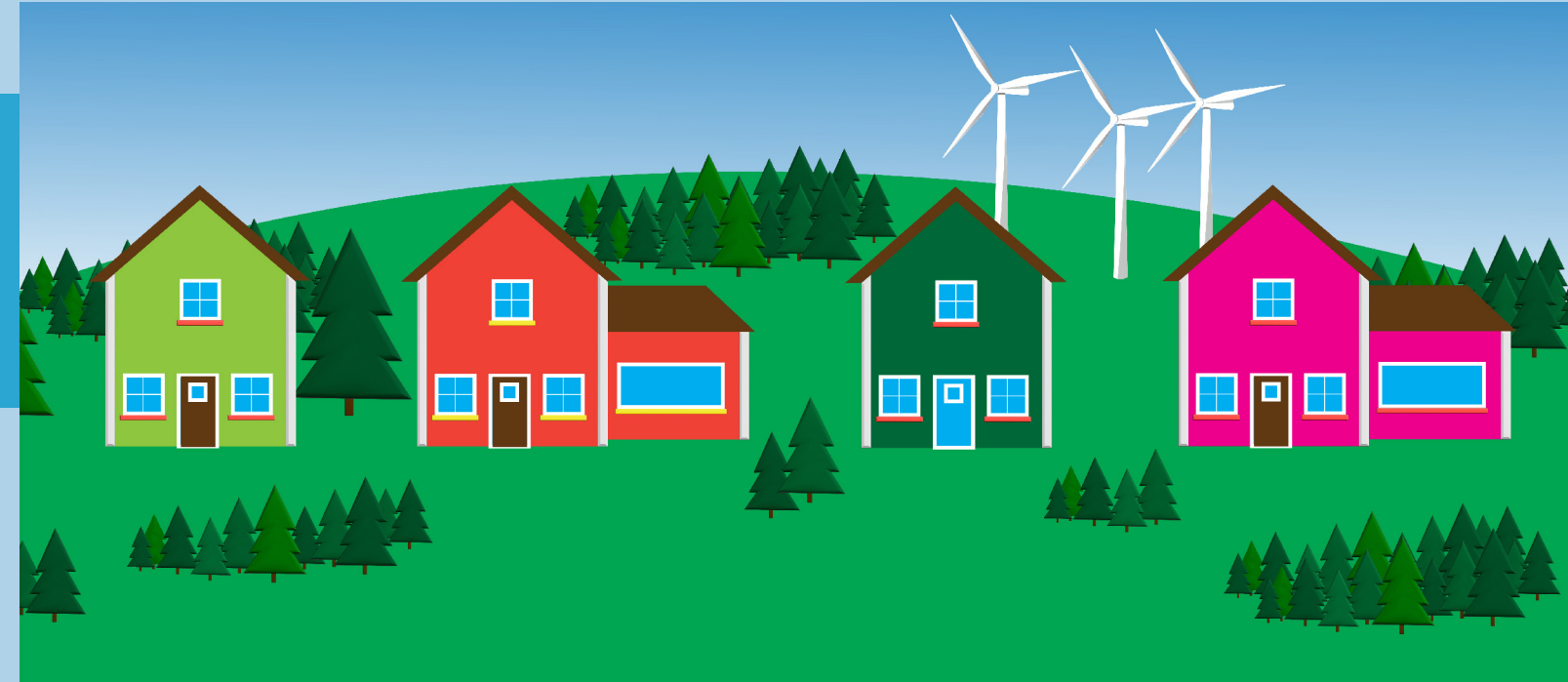


Guaranteed Irish
All together better

WELCOME

Guaranteed Irish is encouraging its members to play their part in sustainability throughout 2022. The almost 50 year old iconic national organisation that stands for Trust and Provenance in business sees its role expanding to support its members and help them to remain competitive and shorten supply chains. The national not for profit organisation has ambitions to work with their members to reduce their impact and minimise collective carbon emissions over the next decade and beyond.

Guaranteed Irish has dedicated 2022 to "Sustainability" and is inviting members to consider working together to proactively reduce carbon emissions, increase the biodiversity of the natural environment, encourage climate action engagement and improve public health and wellbeing, to make Ireland an #AllTogetherBetter place to live and work for future generations.



Climate Action Plan 2021

The Climate Action Plan sets out a framework for the country to reach our 2030 targets. "The science is indisputable and the effects already clear. Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent, with increased risks for global food supplies and security. We know we have to act, and by acting now we can build a cleaner greener economy and society, which creates opportunities for us all."

To limit the Earth's temperature to 1.5 degrees, collectively, all members of Irish society must dramatically reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. In the Programme for Government and the Climate Act 2021, Ireland has committed to halving greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and reaching net zero by 2050 at the latest.

Guaranteed Irish believes that by taking action now and aligning with the national Climate Action Plan our communities will be healthier, enjoy cleaner air and water, and our homes will be warmer and cheaper to heat. With further action, we will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and produce our own power from indigenous renewable resources.

A new Ireland will emerge from this action with thousands of jobs which will be created in new areas like offshore wind, native forestry and cutting-edge agriculture. Society will benefit from inclusive walking and cycling infrastructure, with increased access to public transport. This transition will require individuals, communities and businesses to play a significant role in Ireland's climate action ambitions.



Get Started Today

The Guaranteed Irish Sustainability Guide will help members to start their decarbonisation journey. Guaranteed Irish believes businesses of all sizes have a major part to play and are key to sustaining local communities and local jobs. The government’s recently launched Climate Toolkit 4 Business highlights the importance of businesses becoming climate conscious, starting from the products they sell, to the energy they use, and services they require. Guaranteed Irish members have the opportunity to adapt and make a difference. This new Toolkit offers Irish businesses a sustainability plan of simple and practical actions to become a climate resilient company. The actions will help businesses to reduce consumption and bring cost savings.

The Benefits

Why should Guaranteed Irish members make a sustainability plan for their business?

Climate Conscious Customers

Customers are more aware now than ever before of what is good for the planet. By taking steps to reduce your carbon emissions, you will add value to your product or service. Transparency is critical when communicating your carbon reduction measurements, as customers will value your efforts however big or small they may be.

Purpose For Your Staff

By becoming a sustainable business that cares about the impact your business decisions make on the environment, you will provide your staff with a sense of purpose. Developing a “Green Team” internally will motivate staff members to do the right thing and encourage environmental training, benefitting your business goals with new skills and a fresh knowledge base. Actions such as these will help attract new staff, while retaining your existing staff members.

Cost Saving

A sustainability plan will improve the efficiency of your business with step-by-step actions to reduce materials, energy used, transport costs and packaging, all of which will help your bottom line.

Sustainability — A Competitive Advantage

For your business to succeed in the long run, adapting to market changes is essential. By taking the step to join the low carbon economy this year, you will gain a competitive advantage in the market. Now is the time to act.





Next Steps

Taking the next step and investing in a more sustainable business model can be expensive, however, there are grant supports available. Guaranteed Irish have compiled a list of sustainability grants and sustainability training currently being offered to businesses and organisations in Ireland.

Climate Action Grants

Enterprise Ireland are providing businesses with The Climate Enterprise Action Fund . These are a range of financial supports for businesses starting their climate action plans. The Climate Action voucher is available to eligible businesses for technical or advisory services. The voucher is worth €1,800 and aims to help businesses plan for the low-carbon economy.

The GreenStart grant aids businesses who wish to hire a sustainability consultant or trainer to guide their business through the climate action transition. The grant will help cover the costs of the consultant or trainer and is valued at up to €5,000. The GreenPlus grant can support up to 50% of your sustainability plan. The funding can also cover up to 10 sustainability staff. Visit the Enterprise Ireland website to check eligibility.

Energy Efficiency Grants

Government grant support from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland is available to help you start your energy efficiency journey.

Energy Audits

The first step for any business wanting to act on their energy consumption is to conduct an energy audit. An energy audit will identify areas where your business can save money, save energy, and enhance your brand. An energy audit is a three-step process that investigates your businesses energy usage in your buildings, processes and systems. Preparation will be required for an energy audit and it will include a site visit from a qualified energy engineer. The final stage of the audit will involve measuring your energy usage, with the findings being detailed in an energy audit report. This report will include:

- how much energy your business uses
- the equipment and processes that use the most energy
- what actions you should take to save energy, and their estimated cost and impact

Visit the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland website for more information on energy audit grants.

EXEED Grant Scheme

The Excellence in Energy Efficient Design (EXEED) grant scheme is designed for organisations who are planning an energy investment project. Grant support of up to €1,000,000 per project is available to private businesses who are planning an upgrade or re-purposing of existing buildings and facilities, for manufacturing processes, or for brand new buildings and facilities. Learn more about the EXEED Grant Scheme on the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) website.

Accelerated Capital Allowance

Promoting investment in energy efficient products and equipment, the Accelerated Capital Allowance (ACA) is a tax incentive scheme. The ACA scheme aligns with the “Wear and Tear Allowance” for plant and machinery. Under the ACA scheme, a company can deduct the full cost of the equipment from their profits in the year of purchase. Visit SEAI’s website for more information.

Renewable Energy Grants

To further your organisation’s decarbonisation, the next step is to implement renewable energy technologies. There is grant funding available to help you install renewable energy sources for your premises.

Support Scheme for Renewable Heat (SSRH)

The Support Scheme for Renewable Heat (SSRH) is a government funded scheme to encourage the uptake of renewable energy heating systems. The initiative is designed to upgrade old fossil fuel heating systems with new renewable energy alternatives such as biomass boilers, biogas boilers and heat pumps. For more information, visit SEAL's website [here](#).

Circular Economy Grants

Cut down on your waste and think of a circular model for your business. The circular economy means none of your resources are wasted, keeping the value of the materials in the economy for as long as possible. Circular economy activities include reuse, repair, and recycling.

Green Enterprise: Innovation for a Circular Economy

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) introduced the Green Enterprise: Innovation for a Circular Economy. The EPA funding initiative encourages businesses to develop innovative solutions that prevent waste and stimulate the circular economy. Projects linked to the following categories will be considered for funding:

- Plastics
- Construction and demolition
- Food

- Resources and raw materials (electrical and electronic equipment, textiles, furniture)
- To learn more about Green Enterprise funding, visit the EPA website [here](#).

Sustainability Training

To better understand sustainable practices and gain further knowledge in sustainability, Guaranteed Irish have listed training and mentoring programmes that are currently available for businesses.

Green for Micro

This free training programme is available for small businesses (1-10 employees) and is run over two stages. Firstly, a webinar will showcase best practice examples of sustainable initiatives, along with their associated benefits. The second stage consists of a two-day mentoring programme with a sustainability consultant who will recommend the most appropriate sustainable solutions for your business. For more about the Green for Micro programme, visit the Local Enterprise Office website [here](#).





Climate Ready

The Climate Ready initiative is a new 5-year programme run by Skillnet Ireland. The Climate Ready programmes are available to businesses and employees across the private sector, offering training in:

- Climate action
- Sustainability
- Corporate social responsibility

An online learning platform helps you develop sustainability awareness, while learning about sustainability best practice. A free 12-week online workshop is also available where you can learn about reducing energy waste, delivering cost savings, and protecting the environment. Visit the Climate Ready Insights website for more information.

Water Conservation

To help businesses in Ireland conserve water, Irish Water have developed an online information hub. The hub encourages businesses to reduce their water waste with useful tips through videos, fact sheets and 'how-to' guides. The Water Conservation for Business hub provides sector specific advice for the following:

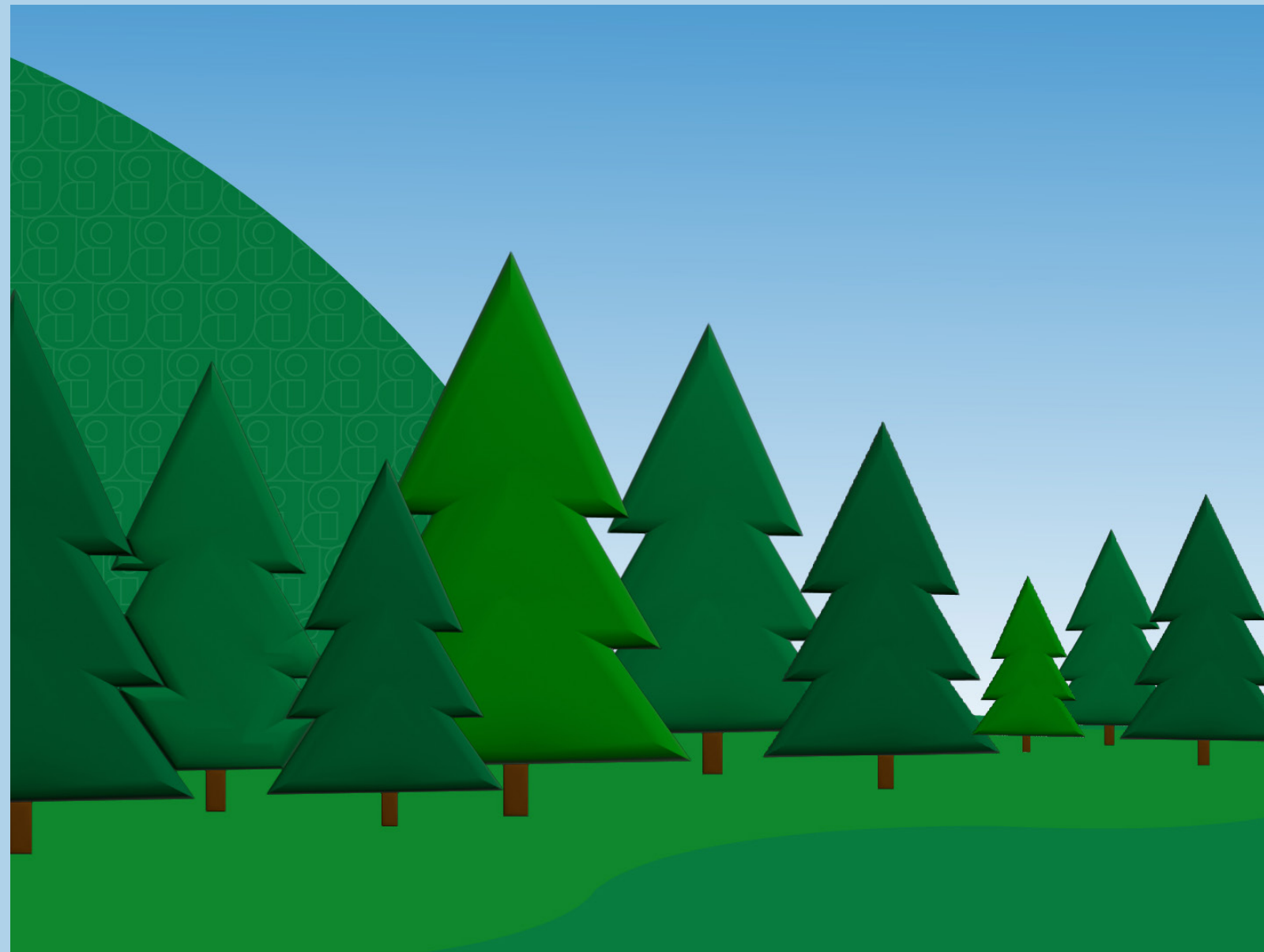
- Hospitality
- Agriculture
- Manufacturing
- Pharmaceutical

SEAI Energy Academy

The SEAI Energy Academy is an e-learning service to help businesses on how to become energy efficient. It also showcases how energy efficiency practices in your business can reduce your energy waste and lower your carbon footprint. The SEAI Energy Academy provides an opportunity to upskill your staff on energy efficiency, leading to behaviour change within your business.

Climate Jargon Buster

With many confusing terms in the sustainability world, a Climate Jargon Buster has been developed by The Department of the Taoiseach, Comhairle na nÓg, EPA and NALA to help explain common climate action terms. Check out the Climate Jargon Buster here for further guidance.





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