

EPA Green Enterprise

Project: Green Teams Recognition Scheme

Company: Consulteco • Reference: 2015-ET-CP-72

Project Objective:
To develop and pilot a green teams recognition scheme for organisations in Ireland.

Amount Of Grant Aid Awarded: €82,295



Background:

Consulteco is a consultancy based in Dublin which works on environmental issues, focussing on technical, management and behavioural aspects of improved environmental performance of organisations and businesses.



The improved performance of companies and organisations is a key factor in moving Ireland to a reduction in carbon dependency, meeting climate change and sustainability targets, and moving to a circular economy approach. A whole-organisation approach is vital in this and the use of green teams is a well-proven method of achieving improvements.



Project activities:

As part of the project, Consulteco in partnership with Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) developed a 'Green Teams Recognition Scheme'. This green team support system was tested under the project in two organisations initially, WIT and Rosderra Irish Meats Group.



The overall project aim was to support green teams in organisations. From experience, Consulteco realised that green teams in the public and private sectors, which started out well from grassroots or individual initiatives, sometimes fell away without the ongoing backing of high-level management.

One problem was that green teams were not always integrated within the organisational structure, and the overall goals of the company. This led to the perception that they were not contributing to the purpose of the organisation – they didn't have the recognition they needed to function effectively.

The development of a green teams recognition scheme aimed to overcome this barrier to more sustainable behaviour in organisations. A training and support programme was developed and piloted in two organisations to achieve the goal of putting them on a more formal footing and demonstrate their effectiveness in line with overall organisational goals.

Training and learning materials were developed and tested. The delivery of the programme was streamlined into the Moodle open source learning management system (LMS). A *Green Teams Champions Handbook* was developed and is now available.



THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY PROGRAMME
The Driving Force for Ireland's Move to a Circular Economy



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Project Outcomes:

Since the project funding ended, Consulteco has worked with 40 high-level organisations, developing and embedding green teams in private sector companies and public organisations.

Thus the EPA's Green Enterprise Scheme has facilitated the development of an effective and proven green team support recognition scheme, which is now being rolled-out on a wider scale.



Next steps:

The accreditation of the green teams recognition scheme could lead to greater interest in the scheme from other companies, but that can be costly and difficult. The scheme continues to be developed by Consulteco with large public sector organisations and well-known private sector companies. Green Teams are required in public bodies in the government's Climate Action Plan 2021. A new roll-out of the programme is planned in 2022 with more online delivery.

For more on the EPA's Green Enterprise programme visit [here](#)

For outputs see: greenteams.ie or contact Brian McNamee at: bmac@consulteco.eu

