

Minus 3%

The European project “Minus 3%” ended in September 2011. This project was managed by Codema, Dublin City Council’s sustainable energy advisors. Dublin City Council was an active contractual partner.

The project was a great success for Dublin. A savings of 13,446MWh was achieved, or in other words a 6% total savings. These savings far exceeded the projects target of 3%.

One of the main activities in Dublin City was the implementation of a behavioural campaign called Switch Off, organised by Codema. This campaign encouraged Dublin City Council employees to switch off lights and appliances such as computers, photocopiers and printers in the workplace. By participating in the campaign, employees helped reduce their offices’ energy bills.



Indeed this campaign was nominated for a ManagEnergy Award. Mr. Günther Oetlinger, European Commissioner for Energy presented an award to Codema and Dublin City Council at a special event in Brussels in April 2011.



Through Minus 3% activities, Dublin Civic Offices saved 9% of energy in 2010 compared with 2009, amounting to a cost saving of €20,479/yr.

Dublin City Council worked with 5 other cities and their energy advisors: Derry City Council, City of Malacky (Slovakia), City of Graz (Austria), City of Maribor (Slovenia) and Teruel Town Council (Spain). Together, a total savings of 21,707 MWh was achieved.

The ten key findings of the Minus 3% project were:

1. Energy saved in the first year amounts to 20,707 MWh with a value of €1,957,052
2. It is possible to reach the 30% target by 2020, but it will not happen all by itself
3. The greatest opportunity for energy savings is found in improvements to buildings
4. The energy saved per euro invested is better for some measures than others
5. Energy efficiency has multiple benefits for cities
6. Energy Contracting helps to reduce up-front investment
7. An inter-departmental energy management process is key to successful implementation
8. Early involvement, early stage planning is important and requires a long term perspective
9. Behavioural measures are very important (in addition to purely technological measures)
10. Choice of instruments is a key factor for success in mobilising the energy efficiency measures