



EI Sustainability Capability Programmes

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The Sustainability Advantage

In **business**, **sustainability** refers to doing **business** without negatively impacting the environment, community, or society as a whole.

As the world aims for net zero emissions by 2050, the transition to a low carbon sustainable economy has become a defining force for business.

Enterprise Irelands Sustainability Plan - *80% of Enterprise Ireland supported companies have sustainability plans and are measuring their Scope 1 and 2 emissions in 2029.*

Sustainable Business Benefits

Competitive Advantage

→ Sustainable business and products lead to increased brand loyalty and reoccurring sales.

Cost Savings

→ Energy efficiency, adoption of renewable energy and lean methods drive cost competitiveness.

Value Creation

→ Development of new sustainable products to meet customer demand and new markets.

Attract and Retain Talent

→ Career professionals and graduates want to work for a company who value sustainability.

Attract Investment

→ Favorable to green and sustainability linked lending and investment capital.

Brand Reputation

→ Increased loyalty and trust with customers and wider stakeholders.

Compliance & Regulation

→ Meet requirements of upcoming reporting, regulation and supply chain

1. Sustainability Kickstarter Programme 2025

>20 workshops held to date since October 2023

>400 attendees from EI, LEO and Údaras na Gaeltachta companies

Free to attend for EI, LEO and Údarás na Gaeltachta clients

3-hour, online *Introduction to Sustainability* workshops – interactive, practical, outcomes focused content

For senior leaders and/or sustainability champions within their organisation. All sectors/ stages of growth

Key Takeaways for participants:

- Understand market drivers and regulatory context and clearly communicate the ‘Why’ of Sustainability
- Articulate the link between a sustainability strategy and a business strategy.
- Understand how to measure, monitor and report on Sustainability performance.
- Introduction to UN Sustainable Development Goals framework
- Build a Sustainability-Action-Plan to integrate sustainable business practices into business operations.

Registrations open now for the first 5 workshops commencing on 28 March:

For more information visit: [Improve sustainability | Enterprise Ireland](#)

2nd May - [Register Here](#)

16th May - [Register Here](#)

6th June - [Register Here](#)

2. Sustainability Leaders Programme

Facilitated by Skillnet Climate Ready Academy –
registrations open now for cohort commencing 8th of May:

<https://www.climatereadyacademy.ie/ei/>

- **FREE** to attend for EI clients only
- 12- week programme (6 sessions every week) 2-hour, online workshops – interactive, practical and outcomes focused content.
- For senior leaders or sustainability employees across all sectors and stages of growth.

Key Takeaways for participants:

- Develop comprehensive sustainability charter – to present to Senior Leadership team of business, and fellow peers on cohort and then deploy.
- Aligned to the UN Sustainable Development goals.
- Provides participants with a recognised sustainability credential for their business.



Enterprise Ireland's Green Transition Fund is designed to support companies to prepare for a low-carbon, and more sustainable future, whether a company is starting out on their sustainability journey or has already started.

The fund is comprised of two separate streams, which support the different aspects of the decarbonisation and sustainability journey for Irish enterprise.

- 1. The Climate Planning Fund for Business**
- 2. The Enterprise Emissions Reduction Investment Fund**

In detail: Sustainability Grant Supports

Climate Planning Fund for Business

Start Your Plan

Climate Action Voucher

€1,800 funding for advisory support to develop an initial decarbonisation/sustainability or circular economy action plan.

Begin Your Transition

Access Advice - GreenStart

Up to €5,000 to access advice to introduce sustainability best practice into your business, products and processes.

Improve Your Capability

GreenPlus

Up to €50,000 support for training projects to build capability.

Strategic Consultancy

Up to €35,000 support to assist projects of strategic significance.

Enterprise Emissions Reduction Investment Fund

Measure your emissions, track energy and water usage

Capital Investment for Energy Monitoring & Tracking Systems

Up to €50,000 for companies to put in place systems to monitor and track energy and water usage.

Reduce Your Emissions

Capital Investment for Decarbonisation Processes

Access funding to support the decarbonisation of manufacturing heating processes.

Innovate Through R&D

Innovation and R&D Grants

From €5,000 Innovation Vouchers to large scale R&D projects - to support the planning and development of new products, services or processes in the areas of sustainability and decarbonisation.

Energy and Environmental Aid

Funding to accelerate the adoption of low carbon, efficient and sustainable production practices in your enterprise.

Large Consumer foods
manufacturer

Size
Large

Sector
Consumer Foods

Building Capability
Kickstarter Programme

Grant support:
Green Plus (x3)
Strategic Consultancy

What we do

O'Brien Fine Foods is a family run business established in 2000 with manufacturing sites in both Ireland and the UK, which specialises in the manufacture and marketing of premium meats. A certified B-Corp, employing over 600 people, OBFF supply both branded and private label ranges, from three manufacturing sites. OBFF are also signatories of the Food Waste Charter.

Project Objectives

The objective of GP1 was to develop OBFFs sustainability strategy, GP2 to align to ISO 14001 & ISO 50001, GP3 to align to SBTi requirements. The purpose was to train key staff to implement sustainability best practice.

Key objectives included:

- Develop a sustainability framework, policies and action plan
- Improve employee engagement with the creation of Green team on site
- Align to ISO 14001 (Environmental management) and ISO 50001 (Energy management)
- Develop a decarbonisation roadmap in line with SBTi with FLAG (Forest, Land and agriculture) targets
- Prioritise sustainability issues, identify sustainability risks and opportunity, engage with stakeholders

Result

The following training was performed on how to:

- *implement Responsible Sourcing
- *implement sustainability best practice (Align to ISO standards and SBTi)
- *Calculate OBFF Carbon Footprint and set new SBTi net zero and FLAG targets
- *Engage with stakeholders, and communicate sustainability actions

Impact

“For instance, for our first Green Plus, we developed our sustainability strategy, and we got technical expertise to come in and support us with that development process. The second Green Plus, we got technical expertise to come in and support us in building proper environmental and energy management systems. And the current one we're using at the moment is to help us update our SBTIs (Science Based Targets initiatives), as well as then develop a decarbonisation roadmap, and how we can actually go about achieving that.”

- Nick Reynolds - Head of ESG, OBFF

VOYA

Global skincare and luxury
products brand

Size
SME

Sector
Health and Beauty

Building Capability
Sustainability Leadership
Programme
Kickstarter Programme

Grant support:
Green Start

VOYA

What we do

Voya is a global lifestyle brand which promotes sustainable organic luxury. In 2006 they became the world's first organic seaweed-based skincare brand. Voya products are sold globally in over 42 countries, primarily in spas, hotels, and retail outlets. Voya has considered sustainability from the offset of their products through their drive towards sustainably packaging and formulation processes.

Project Objectives

- B Impact Assessment (B Corp)
- Undertake a gap analysis based on initial score
- Develop improvement plans and scope initiatives and policies to improve ESG impacts

Result

Voya engaged a green service provider to analyse their current environmental and social impact, using the B Corp, B Impact assessment framework. This baseline assessment tool equipped the business with an understanding of its current performance against rigorous social and environmental standards. From there, the assessment was used to identify areas for improvement and how Voya could set about developing new products and services that are underpinned by sustainability areas.

The assessment uses a holistic methodology of scoring the following categories: Governance, Workers, Community, Customers and Environment. By using a Green Start, Voya identified 87 areas of potential improvement (within the 5 categories) to their overall B Impact score. Kickstarting their sustainability journey. Voya complemented this activity with the capability supports, to educate key members of their team about their sustainability journey.

KORE/Airpacks



Award-winning manufacturer,
designer and supplier of Expanded
Polystyrene insulation solutions

Size
SME

Sector
Construction Products and
Systems

Building Capability
Kickstarter Programme
Sustainability Leaders Programme

Grant support:
Green Start
Green Plus x 3
Energy Monitoring & Tracking

What we do

KORE is an established Irish cladding and insulation manufacturer based in Co. Cavan. Founded in 1997, the company has expanded to employ 76 people and has developed a range of insulation products and solutions. Kore has developed a fully certified, low carbon insulation product.

Project Objectives

Kore Insulation developed a net zero commitment for its business to work towards by 2050. To help achieve this ambition and develop internal capability, the company enrolled in the Skillnet/Enterprise Ireland Sustainability Leaders Programme. The key objectives of this course were to:

- Develop a holistic sustainability charter that identified opportunities for sustainability action.
- Increase internal sustainability knowledge and skills.
- Identify and prioritise sustainability related risks and opportunities to business
- Identify UN Sustainable Development Goals that can be incorporated into Kore's charter
- Define measurable targets, resource and impacts of proposed actions.

Result

Kore Insulation completed the programme and developed a comprehensive initial plan to achieve their Net Zero ambition by 2050. Their charter identified 7 environmental, social and governance related initiatives that aim to monitor and reduce scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions and increase their impact as a socially responsible business. Each initiative assigned a resource within the company and identified next steps, as well as short and long term targets. While Kore has long prioritised creating quality and certified sustainable products, the business now has a clear pathway and next steps to embed this charter and its wider sustainability objectives, within its own operational strategy.

Impact

"We became the first company in our sector in Ireland to obtain ISO 14001 Environmental Management Certification. Our new system helps us manage both immediate and long term environmental impacts our products, services and processes may have."

Sustainability Strategy,
ISO 14001, ISO 50001, ISO 14064-1
& Energy Metering

Sustainable Enterprise Webinar Series 2025

1. Sustainability Trends for Business 2025, 30th April 2025 (today)
2. Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation, 7th May 2025
3. ESG Policies, 14th May 2025
4. Understanding Green Public Procurement, 21st May 2025
5. Smart Metering - You can only manage what you measure, 28th May 2025
6. Sustainability Reporting for SMEs, 4th June 2025
7. EU Omnibus: What it means for businesses, 11th June 2025

– Available to watch back

1. What does a climate action journey look like?
2. SME Climate hub: Helping small businesses deliver on their climate goals
3. Green Financing for SMEs: Financing a sustainable transition
4. B Corp: Standard of social and environmental performance, accountability, and transparency
5. Sustainability Reporting & ESG
6. Policy, Regulatory and Business Focus on Net Zero Emissions
7. Green Skills: Skills for the Green Economy
8. Circular Economy: Closing circular innovation gap & accelerating net-zero carbon circular economy in Ireland
9. How to Develop Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan
10. Sustainability Standards – How to get one step ahead of legislative, regulatory, and social change
11. How to achieve net zero emissions in line with voluntary standards
12. How to measure Scope 3 emissions
13. Sustainability Data Quality: The good, the bad and the ugly
14. Social Sustainability – How to implement Responsible Business Practices
15. How to Prioritise Sustainability Issues – SMEs
16. The Business Case for Biodiversity
17. How to carry out a materiality assessment - Large Companies

Check out more client sustainability stories



EPS Water



CJ Sheeran



Portwest



Watershed Group



Next Steps:

1. Contact your EI Client advisor to book a 1 to 1 session with the Sustainability Solutions team to discuss next steps for your action plan and relevant supports or email (green@enterprise-ireland.com)
2. Visit Enterprise Ireland's [Sustainability Website](#) for more detail on the Green Transition Fund Supports & a resource library of webinars and case studies.
3. Register for upcoming training programs – [Skillnet/ EI - Sustainability Leaders Programme](#).
4. To commence a carbon footprint assessment visit [Climate Toolkit 4 Business | Zero Carbon Journey](#)