

Sponsorship 2010

Comhar occasionally sponsors events and publications which help to support key objectives in the Comhar work programme, particularly where such sponsorship promotes a better understanding of sustainable development amongst stakeholders and the general public. Comhar SDC continued its programme of sponsorship for special sustainable development in the Tidy Towns and the Young Environmentalist competitions in 2010.

Young Environmentalist Award

Each year ECO-UNESCO runs the *Young Environmentalist Awards* a national competition rewarding environmental projects that raise awareness and demonstrate how to protect and improve our environment. In 2010, the Comhar Sustainable Development award went to Presentation Secondary School, Limerick City. The award ceremony was preceded by a showcase event in the morning with over 30 projects on exhibit along with activities and workshops to include a Bio Zone and a Chill out zone.

Further information is available at www.ecounesco.ie

Cultivate

Over a number of years, Comhar SDC has sponsored events and activities undertaken by the Cultivate Sustainable Living Centre in Dublin. Comhar SDC has provided funding for educational events and activities which are complementary to the work of Comhar SDC and which engage with a wide range of sectors and local communities. Comhar SDC contributed to the cost of Cultivate main conference, '*Convergence Sustainable Living Festival "Green, Smart and Resilient Communities"*' on 26 May to 1 June 2010. This, the fifteenth, Convergence festival featured talks, conferences, workshops and world café discussions on how urban and rural communities can adapt and thrive in these uncertain times.

The Convergence festival brings together people from a wide variety of sectors to rethink and strategise on how we develop the resilience of our communities. The events and seminars explored new ideas on how our communities can go green, demonstrating biodiversity, recycling, local food growing projects, and best practice in reducing carbon footprints.

Further information is available at www.cultivate.ie

Irish Green Building Council

In February 2010, a steering committee was set up to discuss the feasibility of establishing an Irish Green Building Council (GBC), and to guide the direction of that formation. As part of that work, a vision, mission, charter, scope, terms of reference and key objectives for the Council were drafted. The Council was invited to participate in the European Regional Network Meeting at the Consense Conference in Stuttgart on 23-24 June. Comhar SDC provided sponsorship for attendance at this meeting which provided an opportunity to meet other established and emerging Green Building Council members from across Europe. There were multiple sessions intended to progress the work of the Network and provided the Irish GBC with valuable information around capacity building, policy and education.

Involvement with British Council Challenge Europe Project

Challenge Europe (<http://challengeeurope.britishcouncil.org/>) is a three year project managed on the island of Ireland by the British Council in collaboration with Arena Network, Business in the Community NI, Comhar SDC, Cultivate and the Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Commission. The project aims to make a definite and lasting impact on the climate change debate. It brings together young influencers from 15 countries across Europe to work together as Climate Advocates to develop concrete ideas to reduce carbon use in their countries.

Peat extraction remote satellite sensing scoping study

Comhar SDC provided funding for a 'remote satellite sensing scoping' study of peat extraction undertaken by Friends of the Irish Environment in collaboration with UCC. The output from the proposed national element of this pilot project will be the 'most up-to-date, image derived, medium resolution, national map of the location of exposed peatland in Ireland currently available.

Sponsorship for the National Green Pages 2010

The 2010 Business Green Pages, was sponsored by Vodafone and was distributed free of charge to 100,000 business owner/managers in February 2010. Comhar SDC provided funding for publication and distribution costs.

The householder edition was supported on its accompanying website www.greenpages.ie. The business edition was supported online by

www.greenbizpages.ie

The sponsorship provided Comhar SDC with a wider, mainstream audience within the consumer and business sectors, and promoted / profiled Comhar as a key influencer and supporter of the Green Economy in Ireland.

'Destination Dublin' Sustainability Event

Comhar SDC provided funding for the 'Destination Dublin' sustainability event in the Civic Offices, Dublin on 1 July and in NUI Maynooth on 2 July 2010. This event was organised by RealEyes Sustainability Ltd.

This involved representatives from 3 international local authorities (Canada, Sweden, Italy) to visiting Ireland and presenting their innovative and award winning sustainable development planning processes. They presented a compelling case for Irish local authorities, in collaboration with businesses and community stakeholders, to put "sustainable" into the title of their master plans (eg Dublin City Sustainable Development Plan, 2011-2017). Discussions took place (arising from the presentations) on what learning is transferable, practical and valuable in the Irish context.

The visiting local authorities represent the very best in international best practice on integrated planning for sustainable development and have been recognised as such (UN awards, best eco municipality, Sweden, Sodalitas Social award, Italy). The Canadian and Italian examples inspired their respective municipal associations to adopt their approaches as best practice models for official community planning

ECO 10

Eco10 is a project seeking to reduce ecological footprints by a minimum of 10%, simultaneously creating a sustainable community. Comhar SDC provided sponsorship to Systems Pro towards the cost of their feasibility study in Glanmire Co. Cork. In particular, the funding was made available to cover the costs relating to engaging an intern to undertake the research and related work in consulting with stakeholders in the selected community. Comhar suggested the use of internationally recognized methodology for ecological footprint in the project to allow for bench-marking against best-practice elsewhere.

The overall proposal was to develop a sustainable community within a typical suburban housing estate that could serve as model of best practice for similar communities elsewhere in the country.