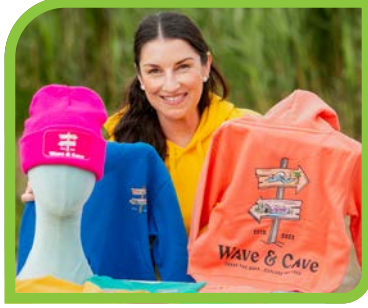
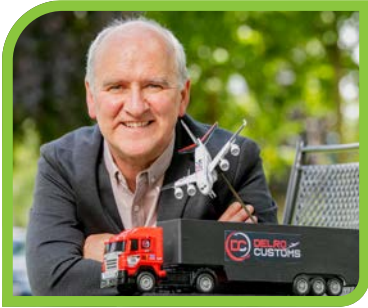


# LOCAL ENTERPRISE VILLAGE



  
Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil  
Local Enterprise Office



## INSIDE:

◆ **EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EXPLORING THE LOCAL ENTERPRISE VILLAGE AT THE NATIONAL PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025**

◆ **MEET THE MAKERS, DESIGNERS, FOOD PRODUCERS, AND INNOVATORS POWERING IRELAND'S ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT**

◆ **HOW SMALL BUSINESSES TURN AMBITION INTO ACHIEVEMENT**

◆ **LEARN HOW MENTORING AND EARLY-STAGE SUPPORT FROM YOUR LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE CAN HELP START-UPS THRIVE**

# Supporting your business journey

Kieran Comerford, Chair of the Network of Local Enterprise Offices, on how you can go from start-up to success with your Local Enterprise Office



Kieran Comerford

## Contents

04-09

### Meet Ireland's brightest local brands

Discover the inspiring entrepreneurs bringing passion, creativity, and innovation to this year's Local Enterprise Village, all supported by their Local Enterprise Office

10-11

### LEO success stories: from start-up to scale-up

How local businesses are growing with LEO support

12

### Building skills, fuelling growth

You're the Business and Ireland's SMEs

13

### How mentoring helps small businesses grow big ideas

Why every entrepreneur needs a mentor in their corner

14

### Supporting startups: how LEOs help turn great ideas into thriving businesses

Helping new business ideas get off the ground

15

### How mentoring helps small businesses grow big ideas

Why every entrepreneur needs a mentor in their corner

**A BeCreative**  
Editorial Production  
[www.becreative.ie](http://www.becreative.ie)

**Editor:** Shauna McCrudden

**Advertising:** PJ Banville,  
[pj.banville@mediahuis.ie](mailto:pj.banville@mediahuis.ie),  
(086) 027 43 04

**Design:** Mediahuis Ireland  
Design Studio, Belfast

**Repro:** Mediahuis Ireland,  
Independent House, 27-32,  
Talbot Street, Dublin 1

*The content of this magazine is sponsored*

**E**very great business starts with a single idea. A spark of potential that, with the right support, can grow into something truly impactful.

Across Ireland, the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) have become the trusted, accessible, and expert partner for thousands of entrepreneurs, start-ups, and small businesses seeking to turn ambition into action.

With 31 offices embedded in local authorities nationwide, the LEOs offer a gateway to business support that is rooted in local knowledge, while being connected to national and global opportunities. Our mission is clear: to support you on your business journey, from that initial spark right through to scale-up success.

#### Supports

We begin with Start-Up Supports that help entrepreneurs take those important first steps. Whether it's through Start Your Own Business training, access to market research tools, or personalised one-to-one mentoring, we're here to help lay strong foundations.

Our clients benefit from tailored guidance from experienced advisors who understand local challenges and opportunities. Because LEOs are part of local authorities, we're in a unique position to offer practical, real-world advice that's closely connected to the community.

As businesses move forward, they often need funding to hire staff, develop new products, or enter new markets. That's where our financial supports - such as the Priming Grant, Business Expansion Grant, and Feasibility Study Grant - come into play.

These investments are more than just funding; they're a vote of confidence in your potential.

#### Development

But financial supports are only part of the story. Our development programmes are designed to build entrepreneurial skills and leadership capacity.

From innovation vouchers to growth accelerators, our training helps business owners manage change, spot new opportunities, and build sustainable businesses. We also focus on peer learning, so our clients can grow within a strong, supportive business community.

Recognising the evolving challenges facing today's businesses, the LEOs have developed a suite of specialist supports, delivered in partnership with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, and Enterprise Ireland, to help small businesses compete and grow in a rapidly changing global economy. These strategic supports are focused on four key areas: Lean, Green, Digital, and Exporting.

LEAN for Micro is designed to help small businesses become more competitive by introducing lean business principles. Through the support of expert consultants, companies learn how to identify waste, improve productivity, and enhance the flow of work, which ultimately increases profitability. Whether it's a manufacturer seeking to reduce downtime or a service provider looking to optimise processes, LEAN for Micro helps businesses do more with less.

Green for Micro enables businesses to take meaningful steps toward sustainability. Participants receive an environmental audit and a bespoke action plan to reduce energy costs, cut emissions, and explore eco-friendly practices. As climate responsibility becomes central to competitiveness, this programme helps businesses become greener while boosting their reputation with customers, investors, and regulators.

Digital Start and the Grow Digital Voucher Scheme are vital tools in helping businesses embrace the digital economy. Whether it's improving online sales, adopting cloud-based



*Celebrating Business Excellence. Alan Dillon, T.D., Minister of State for Employment, Small Business and Retail with NEA Final Winner 2025, Neill Dunwoody and Daragh Donohoe from SPRYT with LEO Monaghan representatives & Kieran Comerford, Chair of the Network of Local Enterprise Offices*

systems, or introducing automation, these supports are tailored to help micro and small enterprises navigate digital transformation. Our goal is to help businesses prepare for the future, improve efficiency, and find new ways to grow in today's digital-first world.

Export Development Supports assist businesses ready to take their product or service beyond Irish borders. Through export mentoring, market research, and participation in international trade events, LEOs help clients take their first steps into overseas markets. We also connect businesses with Enterprise Ireland programmes, ensuring smooth, ongoing support as they grow and expand into global markets.

What makes the LEOs exceptional is our ability to combine this local delivery model with national reach. Through our national programmes and flagship events, we celebrate entrepreneurship, champion innovation, and inspire the next generation of business leaders.

#### National events

Local Enterprise Week, held every March, brings together thousands of entrepreneurs for a week of learning, networking, and inspiration. The Local Enterprise Showcase at Showcase Ireland places client products in front of buyers from all over the world.

National Women's Enterprise Day highlights the power and potential of female entrepreneurship and provides a platform for women-led businesses to connect and grow.



**Supporting the Next Generation:**  
**Student Enterprise Award Winners 2025** – Senior Winner – Cannon PC set up by Jack Cannon from Clonkeen College in Dún Laoghaire.  
Intermediate Winner – Suet & Song, a business set up by Michael O'Keeffe from St. Kieran's College in Kilkenny/  
Junior Winner – Bumblebees, set up by Antonia O'Looney, Sophie Gilard, Guilianna Keane and Katelyn Murtagh from Drumshanbo Vocational School in Leitrim, with Teri Smith from Enterprise Ireland & Gareth Evans, Student Enterprise Programme Committee

(L-R) Adam Brennan from Sona Sensory, Eniola Salami from Joyof, Minister Niamh Smyth TD, Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, Kieran Comerford, Chair of the Local Enterprise Offices, Cera Ward, Google Ireland, Anna May McHugh, NPA Managing Director, Fiona Lynch from Almond Rose Design, Mike Clancy from Lough Ree Distillery, and Christine Scully from Home Glow Soy Candles at the launch of Google's partnership with the Local Enterprise Offices for this year's Local Enterprise Village at the National Ploughing Championships



It's that time of year again when the tractors are polished and the wellies come out, because the fields of Scraggan, Tullamore, Co Offaly, are being transformed into one of Ireland's biggest and most beloved events, the National Ploughing Championships. The annual event now attracts over 250,000 visitors, making it the largest outdoor event of its kind in Europe.

And at the heart of it all is Anna May McHugh, Managing Director of the National Ploughing Association, who has been part of the Ploughing story for over seven decades. She first began working with the NPA in the early 1950s after founder JJ Bergen asked her father if she could help in his office.

Anna May became Secretary of the Association in 1956, the same year the NPA was transformed into a limited company, and in 1973 she was appointed Managing Director, a role she still holds today.

Over the decades, she has overseen extraordinary growth, from modest beginnings with just 25 exhibitors to today's sprawling 700-acre event and still working full-time, every day, to make sure every year is better and better.

#### A festival for everyone

"This year's event marks another exciting chapter in our long-standing, community-focused tradition," says Anna May, who took over as Managing Director in 1973. "It brings together people from across rural Ireland and beyond, and that sense of togetherness is at the heart of what makes it so special."

While staying true to their core traditions, such as the ploughing competitions and the machinery/livestock exhibition, Anna May says they have continued to grow and offer even more. From farming and agri-tech to food, fashion, baking, house and home, education and family attractions, there truly is "something for everyone to enjoy".

And it really has come a long way.

"The growth has been extraordinary, from humble beginnings to now over 700 acres!"

"When I first got involved, there was very little tractor ploughing, and I remember when we had just 25 exhibitors and a very small area of land. Over the years, the exhibitions have grown beyond anything we could have imagined."

"We introduced the brown bread baking competition back in the 1950s, and that's still going strong. By 1984, we held our first fashion show, and now we run three shows every day during the event. We've always looked to include something for everyone, young and old alike. What drives me is the incredible role it plays in celebrating agriculture and rural Ireland."

#### Bigger and better every year

So, what can visitors expect in 2025? A lot!

"Every year, we work to bring in new elements while preserving the traditions that make the event unique. There's a real sense of innovation while staying rooted in our agricultural heritage."

The event has added everything from machinery demonstrations to pony games, Arena Hunter Trials (where riders and ponies tackle a course of natural obstacles, like fences and water!), as well as the Innovations Arena, an Enterprise Ireland showcase where Irish

agritech companies present new ideas to help make farming more efficient and sustainable.

They've also added Shopping Pavilions covering everything from house and home to lifestyle, health and wellness, along with a dedicated government departments area, the Local Enterprise Arcade, the Midlands Flavours Pavilion, and lively Cookery Demonstrations showcasing the very best of Irish food and produce.

Visitors can also enjoy live radio and television broadcasts, meet international exhibitors and buying delegations, attend current affairs debates, see exciting product launches, and catch the prestigious Machine of the Year Award. And that's only the beginning!

#### Small businesses making a big impact

One of the highlights is always the Local Enterprise Village, which has become a real showcase of Ireland's creativity and small businesses.

Anna May says, "It gives small Irish businesses an incredible platform to showcase their products to completely new audiences. I'm always amazed at the creativity and innovation on display. This year, I'm especially excited to see sustainable brands and new food producers. There's such colour and diversity in what's presented."

And Anna May says the Local Enterprise

Offices play a vital role in getting these businesses where they are, "The Local Enterprise Offices are doing fantastic work in mentoring and supporting small businesses. It gives entrepreneurs a real opportunity, one they might not otherwise have, to get their name out there and connect with customers and buyers."

"It is one of my hopes for the future that NPA can find some funding sources to 'mentor' this sector even more. Our food industry is rooted in agriculture, and it's very important to NPA that we are giving this sector every opportunity."

The benefits of the Local Enterprise Village don't stop at the gates either. It gives small businesses a proper stage to showcase their products, build their networks and access new markets. That visibility can change the course of a local business.

"It's a way of lifting communities and encouraging entrepreneurship in rural Ireland. It's a win not just for them, but for the broader economy."

#### An annual holiday

Ask Anna May what makes the Ploughing truly special, and her answer is simple: the people.

"For many people, especially in rural Ireland and even for those overseas, it's the highlight of the year. It's more than an event; it's an annual

holiday of sorts. The Ploughing brings people together in a way that nothing else does."

That sense of pride, community and connection is something she's incredibly proud of. And the moment she looks forward to most? "There's nothing like seeing everyone go home happy and healthy after the three days. That's when you know it's been a success. I always look forward to the ploughing competitions, there's real camaraderie among the competitors and it's a showcase of skill and tradition."

Even after more than 70 years in the NPA, Anna May's passion hasn't dimmed. "The event never feels stale, and it continues to attract new audiences. I hope that we keep evolving while continuing to honour the roots of rural Ireland."

"The heart of the Ploughing has always been the people, and I hope that never changes."

So, grab your boots and head to Tullamore this September, because as Anna May says, there really is "something for everyone to enjoy".

**Turn the page to meet the brilliant businesses taking part in this year's Local Enterprise Village at the National Ploughing Championships in Scraggan, Tullamore, Co Offaly, from Tuesday, 16th to Thursday, 18th September 2025. Find out more at [npa.ie](http://npa.ie)**

## Fields of fun – why this year's National Ploughing Championships are a must-see

*Shauna McCrudden chats with Anna May McHugh, Managing Director of the National Ploughing Association, about the magic of the National Ploughing Championships, the rise of the Local Enterprise Village, and why this year promises something for everyone*

Carlow:  
Home Glow

Cavan: Delro Customs



Clare: Creative Clay



Cork City: Wave &amp; Cave Clothing

### Home Glow

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Carlow

Christine Scully, the creator behind Home Glow, puts heart and soul into every single candle she makes. Working from her studio in the small village of Tinryland, Co Carlow, Christine hand-pours soy wax candles, melts and diffusers in gorgeous scents like Vanilla & Salted Caramel and Blackberry & Bay. Each candle comes in a stylish glass jar with a clear label so you can enjoy the warm flicker of the flame from all sides.

The idea for Home Glow came to life during lockdown, when Christine rediscovered her childhood love for candle-making. A few melted wax leftovers later, and by June 2021, her business was born.

Today, her range includes everything from cosy gifts to pet-friendly candles, all made with natural soy wax, top-quality fragrance oils, and lots of care. Best-sellers include her three-wick 'Big Glow' candle, seasonal favourites like Christmas Pudding and Blueberry & Jasmine, and diffuser refills that keep homes fresh all year round.

Home Glow is about bringing a little comfort, a little light, and a lot of joy to your space.

Visit [homeglow.ie](http://homeglow.ie), call 083 357 5100 or call [homeglowsocandles@gmail.com](mailto:homeglowsocandles@gmail.com)

### Delro Customs

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Cavan

Based in Bailieborough, Co Cavan, Delro Customs is a trusted customs clearing agent helping businesses move goods smoothly across borders. Whether it's cargo, bulk loads or personal and commercial vehicles, the Delro team handles all the essential customs clearance paperwork so clients can focus on doing business.

With over 14 years of combined experience, Delro specialises in managing import/export declarations (UK, Ireland and international), ENS notifications, GMR and PBN documents, CHED forms for agri-food products, and more. From food to freight, they ensure everything is compliant and ready to go with no delays and no fuss.

Now owned and operated by Cyril Keegan, Delro Customs is well-known for its efficient, responsive service and expert handling of complex customs requirements. They're not just about ticking boxes; they're about making sure your goods keep moving.

So, if you're importing a vehicle or exporting across borders, Delro's experienced team is ready to help.

Visit [delrocustoms.com](http://delrocustoms.com), call (049) 43 55969 or 086 7371221 or email [accounts@delrocustoms.com](mailto:accounts@delrocustoms.com)



Cavan: Breda O'Flaherty Studio

## Meet Ireland's brightest local brands

Discover the inspiring entrepreneurs bringing passion, creativity, and innovation to this year's Local Enterprise Village, all supported by their Local Enterprise Office

### Breda O'Flaherty Studio

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Cavan

Breda O'Flaherty from Virginia, Co Cavan, is an artist who finds beauty in the forgotten corners of Ireland. Through her original artwork, Breda captures the charm of derelict buildings, the wonder of local wildlife, and the peaceful charms of Irish landscapes.

Her collections, ranging from pastel drawings of abandoned farmhouses to beautiful bird portraits, are inspired by Ireland's heritage and natural world. Pieces like her 'Abandoned Village, Dunquin' series, watercolours of old stone churches, or her detailed cockatiel and hoopoe bird studies are favourites with collectors. Breda has been drawn to art all her life, from sketching album covers as a teenager to chasing a creative dream that never left her. In 2010, she left her desk job to follow that passion and went on to found Breda O'Flaherty Studio.

Today, her work includes framed originals, fine art prints, and soft velvet cushions, all proudly made in Ireland. Whether you love old stone ruins or bright puffins, there's a piece of art ready to bring joy to your home.

Visit [bredaoflahertystudio.com](http://bredaoflahertystudio.com), call 087 125 7820 or email [breda@bredaoflahertystudio.com](mailto:breda@bredaoflahertystudio.com)

### Creative Clay

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Clare

Raquel Walton is the heart and hands behind Creative Clay, a ceramic studio in the countryside of Sixmilebridge, Co Clare. Inspired by the colours, textures and wild beauty of the Burren, Raquel crafts one-of-a-kind ceramic pieces that bring a little bit of nature indoors.

From flower-adorned vases to butterfly wall plaques and delicate candle holders, each item is handmade with care and decorated with her signature touch - a tiny ladybird symbolising the little joys in life. Using traditional coiling and slab-building techniques, Raquel creates pieces that are both beautiful and meaningful.

Her collections include the Burren-inspired vases in fuchsia, lily and poppy designs, as well as wildflower wall plaques and framed pieces that celebrate Irish nature.

Her journey from fashion student to ceramic artist has taken her around the world, but it's in her rural studio that she truly found her calling. Since launching Creative Clay in 2015, her work has been bringing comfort, creativity and colour into Irish homes.

Visit [creativeclayireland.com](http://creativeclayireland.com), call 086 6017185 or email [info@creativeclayireland.com](mailto:info@creativeclayireland.com)

### Wave & Cave Clothing

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Cork City

Born in Cork and inspired by the great outdoors, Wave & Cave Clothing is a sustainable Irish label bringing colour and comfort to wardrobes big and small. Founded by Laura-Jane Redmond, the brand creates organic cotton hoodies, t-shirts, and accessories for children and adults who love to chase waves, explore caves, and live life to the full!

Each piece is designed with adventure in mind with bold colours, comfy fits, and a strong commitment to sustainability. What started as a fun idea for kids quickly expanded to include grown-ups too. Bestsellers range from the bright yellow and French navy hoodies to the kids' 'Cool Coral' and 'CJ' designs. Accessories like cosy beanies and colourful bucket hats complete that laid-back, outdoorsy look.

Wave & Cave is a clothing brand that celebrates adventure, nature, and life's simple joys. So, if you're climbing a hill or even crabbing in Caherdaniel, there's a Wave & Cave piece made for you.

Visit [waveandcave.com](http://waveandcave.com), or email [hello@waveandcave.com](mailto:hello@waveandcave.com)



Cork North & West: SOMEGA



Cork South: Origin Xero



Dublin City: Joyof



Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown: Grá Cashmere



Fingal: Clémence Prosen Art & Design

SOMEGA

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Cork North & West

SOMEGA is a family-run Irish business creating high-quality food supplements, all based on a simple idea: to make better health achievable for everyone. Founded by food scientists Paula and Mark Gaynor and based in Bandon, Co Cork, the company brings over 30 years of nutrition and food science experience to every product.

Their range includes Omega-3, Vitamin D, Collagen and Liposomal blends, all designed to support energy, immunity, brain health and more. The supplements are easy to take, gentle on the stomach, and suitable for both adults and children aged two and up. Best of all, they contain only what’s needed with no extras.

For example, their Omega-3 supplement comes in a natural peach-mango flavour and provides 450mg Omega-3 and 200IU Vitamin D3 per 5ml serving. You can enjoy it straight from the spoon or add it to smoothies, yogurt and more.

Paula and Mark were inspired by their own search for effective, trustworthy supplements and created SOMEGA to help others feel their best too. And with recyclable packaging and ethical practices, sustainability is a big part of their mission.

Visit [gosomega.com](https://gosomega.com) or call (0)23 885 4944

Origin Xero

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Cork South

Origin Xero is Ireland’s first certified all-in-one carbon management platform, helping businesses and landowners take real climate action. Based in Midleton, Co Cork, the company connects buyers directly to verified Irish nature-based carbon removal projects - from forests to peatlands and beyond.

Led by Eoin O’Riordan, the Origin Xero team is passionate about restoring and regenerating Ireland’s natural ecosystems. They believe in the true value of nature, something often overlooked, and use smart technology to measure, certify and unlock that value. By doing so, they help drive real investment into climate action, community engagement and better livelihoods.

For buyers, the platform offers access to high-quality carbon credits and a personalised dashboard to track impact. For landowners, it opens up new income opportunities by helping manage, validate and monitor nature-based projects.

Whether you’re a business working towards net zero or a landowner wanting to make the most of your land, Origin Xero makes taking climate action simple and meaningful, right here in Ireland.

Visit [originxero.com](https://originxero.com) or call 087 061 2676

Joyof

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Dublin City

Joyof is a Dublin-based food brand bringing the bold taste of West Africa to kitchens across Ireland. Founded by chef Eniola Salami, Joyof makes it easy to enjoy authentic Jollof dishes without the hours of prep – just scoop, mix, and enjoy!

Crafted in small batches using chef-developed recipes, their ready-to-use Jollof Cooking Sauces come in both spicy and mild varieties. Whether you’re new to Jollof or a lifelong fan, Joyof has rich, comforting flavour in minutes.

Made in Dublin and 100pc plant-based, Joyof products celebrate traditional taste while keeping things modern and accessible. They’re perfect for busy foodies, home cooks, or anyone who wants a shortcut to delicious. For example, the Jollof Cooking Sauce Mild is packed with peppers, garlic, ginger and spices. Simply add the sauce to a pot with water or stock. Mix in washed rice and simmer for 30-35 minutes. You’ll have a tasty, warming dish ready to enjoy. From Jollof wings to rice, spaghetti, and more, Joyof is here to spice up your mealtime with a lot of flavour.

Visit [joyoffoods.com](https://joyoffoods.com)

Grá Cashmere

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown

This premium knitwear label based in Dublin, blends Mongolian heritage with a lot of Irish heart. Founded by Munguntuul Duggerjav, the brand was born from a lifelong love of craft and a desire to create timeless, meaningful pieces.

From the steppes of Mongolia to the streets of Blackrock, Grá Cashmere tries to honour its roots by working with natural fibres like yak and cashmere, supporting local artisans, and embracing mindful, ethical production. Each piece is carefully crafted to be part of your ‘forever wardrobe’.

The collection ranges from everyday staples to standout layers, such as the ribbed coat in cream, a forest-green dress, or the V-neck cardigan that works perfectly as an autumn cover-up.

Sustainability and care for nature are at the heart of every piece, inspired by Munguntuul’s childhood and her father’s respect for the land. With its slow-fashion approach and small-batch collections, Grá Cashmere is bringing a new meaning to luxury, one thoughtfully made jumper, skirt, or scarf at a time.

Visit [gracashmere.com](https://gracashmere.com) or email [hello@gracashmere.com](mailto:hello@gracashmere.com)

Clémence Prosen Art & Design

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Fingal

Clémence Prosen is a French-Irish artist and designer based at Ardgillan Castle in North County Dublin. Her work blends Celtic heritage, Irish landscapes, and moments of calm to create fine art prints and illustrations that bring a sense of serenity into everyday life.

Each piece is inspired by Clémence’s love of nature and her belief in the power of art to help people pause, breathe, and reconnect. From Irish road sign prints to her Celtic Zodiac series, Clémence’s collections celebrate identity, stillness, and the joy of simple moments.

Her County Map Art Prints celebrate landmarks such as Benbulbin, Croagh Patrick, Trim Castle, and Newgrange. Her seascapes and landscapes, from the Cliffs of Moher to the shores of Achill, are calm and reflective, while her robin prints are favourites for gifts and keepsakes.

Clémence also offers mindful art classes and creates personalised work for gifts, retailers, and commissions. All her designs are created with care and a deep respect for nature, storytelling, and mental well-being.

Visit [clemenceprosen.com](https://clemenceprosen.com) or email [prosen.artist@gmail.com](mailto:prosen.artist@gmail.com)

Galway:  
Score Factor

## The Local Enterprise Village brings together Ireland's brightest business talent, all creative, innovative, and supported by their Local Enterprise Office

### Score Factor

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Galway

Score Factor, an innovative new sports game promoting physical activity and skill-building, will launch at this year's National Ploughing Championships – Block 4, Row 12, Stand 250. Designed for schools, clubs, and homes, both indoors and out, it's suitable for all ages.

Founded by Michael Gill from the West of Ireland, Score Factor is proudly manufactured with high-quality, ergonomic materials. The flagship game features a galvanised frame with a rebounder net, five Bluetooth-connected sensor plates, and an electronic scoreboard powered by a rechargeable battery.

Players score by hitting sensors within a timed round, with live scores displayed, encouraging friendly competition. Already popular with schools, GAA and soccer clubs, and families, Score Factor supports health and wellbeing through active play.

A tiered range includes:  
SF Lite – for homes and schools,  
SF Pro – for clubs and secondary schools,  
SF Pro Max – for elite training and gyms.

Now available nationwide.

Visit [scorefactor.ie](https://scorefactor.ie), email [info@scorefactor.ie](mailto:info@scorefactor.ie) or call 098 21188

### Muckross Irish Gin

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Kerry

Crafted in the heart of Killarney, Muckross Irish Gin is a premium botanical gin inspired by the wild beauty and heritage of Killarney National Park. Founded in 2020 by Andrea Kissane and Martin Wray, Muckross Wild Irish Spirits Co combines their love of nature with a passion for spirits.

Each batch is distilled with hand-selected botanicals, including wild-foraged herbs from Kerry. The result is a smooth, citrus-led flavour with a floral finish. Vegan-friendly and gluten-free, Muckross Irish Gin has even earned international recognition, including a Gold Medal and 'Ireland Gin of the Year' at the 2025 BISC Awards, along with Silver Medals at the London Spirits Competition.

The bottle itself is a celebration of Ireland, featuring etched glass, bespoke labels, and hidden toasts that make it a keepsake, while the mobile Tuk-Tuk Gin Bar brings the spirit of Muckross to weddings and events nationwide!

So, whether enjoyed neat, with tonic, or as part of a cocktail, it is the true taste of Ireland's wild spirit.

Visit [muckrossirishgin.com](https://muckrossirishgin.com) or call 086 452 3371



Kerry: Muckross Irish Gin

### SIÓG Botanicals

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Kildare

Founded by friends Lorna Frawley and Joanna Brien-Sammons, SIÓG Botanicals is an Irish flower art studio dedicated to preserving life's most meaningful moments. From weddings and memorials to thoughtful gifts, SIÓG transforms real flowers into lasting pressed flower art.

Based in Ballitore, Co Kildare, the studio uses expert preservation techniques and sustainable practices to create framed pieces, greeting cards, coasters, and more. Popular designs include seasonal prints such as 'An tEarrach' and 'An Fómhar', Saint Brigid-inspired artwork, and pressed wildflower greeting cards. The range also features Irish Christmas candles, luxury flower presses for DIY art, and notebooks that honour Ireland's botanical heritage. All pieces are made with care, using Irish-made wooden frames, biodegradable packaging, and a net zero studio.

With over 10 years' experience and seven preservation methods, SIÓG offers custom commissions, workshops, and a growing product line, all inspired by Ireland's wildflowers, heritage, and biodiversity. Whether you're preserving your wedding bouquet or giving a unique gift, SIÓG helps capture the moments that matter.

Visit [siogbotanicals.ie](https://siogbotanicals.ie) or email [hello@siogbotanicals.ie](mailto:hello@siogbotanicals.ie)



Kilkenny: Sona Sensory



Laois: Angelina George Skincare



Kildare: SIÓG Botanicals

# Ireland's enterprise story starts here

### Sona Sensory

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Kilkenny

Created by teacher-turned-engineer Adam Brennan, Sona Sensory makes eco-friendly sensory toys that spark calm, focus, and fun for children. From his base in Castlecomer, Co Kilkenny, Adam 3D prints each toy with a mix of imagination, education, and clever design.

Blending teaching know-how with cutting-edge technology, Sona Sensory creates playful tools that support children's development, all while being kind to the planet.

Inspired by students with ADHD who responded positively to sensory tools, Adam saw an opportunity to design thoughtful, sustainable alternatives to imported toys. Today, Sona Sensory makes a wide range of Irish-made products, from articulated dinosaurs like the Skeleton T-Rex and Spinosaurus to fidget-friendly favourites like the Scaled Snake, Happy Frog, and Chill Turtle.

Every toy is made from plant-based materials, printed in bright colours, and designed with moving parts that make play fun while helping kids learn and relax. Sona means 'happy' in Irish, and these toys are all about happy, playful fun with a purpose.

Visit [sonasensory.com](https://sonasensory.com), call 087 051 7747 or email [info@sonasensory.com](mailto:info@sonasensory.com)

### Angelina George Skincare

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Laois

Angelina George Skincare, founded by husband-and-wife team Angelina Thai and George Pham in Portlaoise, Co Laois, is an award-winning natural skincare brand. Inspired by their own family's sensitive skin needs, they created a range of gentle, plant-based products made without harmful chemicals.

Made with biochemist-led expertise, the range uses a smart delivery system to help skin absorb active ingredients such as hyaluronic acid, peptides, and collagen. Bestsellers include the Micellar Toner Cleanser, Anti-Ageing Serum, and Restoring Facial Oil, which are created to leave skin healthy and glowing.

Vegan, cruelty-free, and made in Ireland, the brand also keeps things green with recyclable packaging and a handy refill programme. As proud members of the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, they're helping shape a circular economy in beauty.

Their mission is skincare that works, feels good, and cares for both you and the planet.

Visit [angelinageorgeskinicare.com](https://angelinageorgeskinicare.com), call 057 862 1750 or email [info@angelinageorgeskinicare.com](mailto:info@angelinageorgeskinicare.com)



Leitrim:  
Pathfinders  
Custom  
Conversions

Limerick: EcoDry Canopy Clothes Lines



Longford:  
Lough Ree  
Distillery



Mayo: Hiddenbed Ireland



Louth: Almond Rose Designs – PetCards.ie

■ Pathfinders Custom Conversions

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Leitrim

Based in Kinlough, Co Leitrim, Pathfinders Custom Conversions is a family business turning vans into cosy, practical homes on wheels. Founded by Elliot Kearns, with Lorcan the electrician/gas technician and Garret the carpenter, the team combines creativity, skill, and solid craftsmanship to deliver campervans loved all across Ireland.

From luxury VW T6 campers to rugged Land Rover Defenders, clever 2-berth micro campers, or even mobile workshops, Pathfinders can make it happen. Their services cover everything from full van fit-outs and custom cabinetry to certified gas and electrics, diesel heaters, and mobile office builds.

Every build is handcrafted with quality materials and fully certified systems, so your camper is safe, stylish, and ready for the road. If you're a solo adventurer or a family chasing van life, Pathfinders creates conversions made for every journey.

Visit [pathfinderscustomconversions.com](http://pathfinderscustomconversions.com), call 087 859 0308 or email [info@pathfinderscustomconversions.com](mailto:info@pathfinderscustomconversions.com)

■ EcoDry Canopy Clothes Lines

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Limerick

Located in Murroe, Co Limerick, EcoDry is an Irish-owned company with a clever fix for Ireland's tricky weather. Founded by Michael McAuliffe, it was born from the everyday struggle of trying to dry clothes in the rain. The answer is a canopy-covered clothesline that keeps laundry drying year-round while cutting down on tumble dryer use.

EcoDry's sturdy lines use UV-resistant roofs and steel frames to shield your laundry from rain, sun, and even birds, while still letting the air flow through. Available in five sizes (6ft to 14ft), they're built to last, cut energy bills, prevent damp indoors, and help clothes stay fresher for longer.

You can even gift EcoDry vouchers and there's an installation guide plus financing if you want to spread the cost. Made in Ireland with durable materials, EcoDry is a low-maintenance, eco-friendly solution that saves households money while supporting sustainable living.

Visit [ecodry.ie](http://ecodry.ie) or call 087 283 3078

■ Lough Ree Distillery

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Longford

This family-owned craft distillery in Lanesborough, Co Longford, was founded almost 10 years ago by siblings Peter and Mike Clancy and their sister Sheila Mullen. Blending tradition with innovation, they produce award-winning Irish whiskeys, gins, and vodkas, now enjoyed in over a dozen countries worldwide, proudly putting Longford on the map.

From Sling Shot Gin, the first Irish gin made with peat, to the Bridge Whiskey Series and Zesty Citrus Vodka, every small-batch release is full of character. Visitors can also step into the distillery's Gin School, a hands-on experience where you get to create your very own spirit.

On the banks of the River Shannon at Lough Ree, the distillery offers tours and tastings that highlight local flavour and careful craft. They also release limited editions and seasonal cask finishes, often snapped up quickly by fans.

Rooted in community, Lough Ree Distillery proudly showcases Irish craft and spirit.

Visit [lrd.ie](http://lrd.ie) or call 043 332 1542

■ Almond Rose Designs – PetCards.ie

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Louth

Founded by graphic designer Fiona Lynch in Co Louth, this business brings a 'paw-sitively' fun twist to Irish-made greeting cards. Each design celebrates the special bond between pets and their people, with a playful and sustainable collection for every occasion.

Printed on eco-friendly FSC-certified paper with green inks, every card is designed in-house with love. From witty birthday cards like Cockapoo Wahoo! to sweet romantic notes like Puppy Dog Love, there's something for every pet fan. They also create personalised cards, wedding invites, and even branding for pet businesses.

The team even includes two collie mascots, Lexie and Leia, and part of each sale supports Irish animal rescue charities. Now stocked in shops across Ireland and seen at events like Showcase Ireland and, of course, the National Ploughing Championships, PetCards.ie is spreading smiles, and wagging tails, nationwide.

Visit [petcards.ie](http://petcards.ie)

■ Hiddenbed Ireland

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Mayo

In Aghamore, Ballyhaunis, Co Mayo, this Irish business is rethinking how we use our living spaces. Founded by Michael Lynskey, it specialises in smart, space-saving furniture, from pull-down and Murphy beds to patented desk beds that flip from work mode to sleep mode in just three seconds.

Perfect for student rooms, home offices, studios, or guest spaces, Hiddenbed Ireland has a smart solution for every need. Options include the Majestic Hiddenbed, Elegant Pull-Down Bed, Splendid Hiddenbed, and the ultra-compact Ritzy. Their newest design, the Academic Hiddenbed, is made with students and small spaces in mind.

All Hiddenbed products are made in Ireland and come with a 5-year guarantee, free delivery, and professional installation. Customers can also avail of free 3D design consultations, with plenty of custom options, from colours and shelving to wardrobes, headboards, and even USB ports.

With over 35 years of experience, Hiddenbed Ireland helps people make the most of their space, without ever losing out on style or comfort.

Visit [hiddenbed.ie](http://hiddenbed.ie) or email [info@lynmore.com](mailto:info@lynmore.com)



Meath: URBÓ Milk

■ URBÓ Milk

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Meath

URBÓ Milk is a premium protein-packed milk drink made with fresh whole milk from grass-fed cows on a family farm in the Boyne Valley, Co Meath. With no artificial sweeteners and only real, natural ingredients used, each bottle gives you 15g of protein, your full daily dose of Vitamin D, and over half your recommended calcium, all in one delicious drink.

The idea began when farmer Pat Farrelly took over the family farm 10 years ago. Spotting how milk had disappeared from the convenience drinks shelves, he set out to make it 'fashionable' again as a grab-and-go option. With the help of his sister Aine, cousin Peter, and friend Pierce Fleming, the team combined their skills in accountancy, engineering, and agricultural science to launch URBÓ Milk.

URBÓ comes in tasty flavours like Cold Brew Coffee, Bourbon Vanilla, and Chocolate. It's low in lactose and packed in fully recyclable 250ml cans. Since launching, URBÓ has secured listings in over 70 stores across Leinster, with plans to expand further. At its heart, the brand keeps animal welfare, sustainability, and traceability central to everything it does.

Visit [urbomilk.com](http://urbomilk.com) or email [info@fouracresfoods.ie](mailto:info@fouracresfoods.ie)

■ Glass Innovations Ltd

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Offaly

Founded in 2000 by Gretchen Donovan and based in Ferbane, Co Offaly, Glass Innovations Ltd is a specialist in transforming plain glass into branded products with real shelf presence. Serving the drinks, home fragrance, body care, and food sectors, the company works with both Irish and international clients, with customers including Lidl, Aldi, Dunnes, Handmade Soap, Fragrances of Ireland, and Max Benjamin.

With over two decades of experience, the team offers everything from custom colours and logos to full decoration services. They can even supply glassware and accessories, providing an all-in solution delivered straight to a client's door.

Glass Innovations helps both start-ups and established brands stand out. Centrally located in the Midlands, they're perfectly placed to serve businesses across Ireland and beyond.

Visit [glassinnovations.ie](http://glassinnovations.ie) or email [info@glassinnovations.ie](mailto:info@glassinnovations.ie)



Roscommon: GRG Sports



Offaly: Glass Innovations Ltd

■ GRG Sports

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Roscommon

Set up by former Mayo GAA players Shairoze Akram, Cian Hanley, and Tom Parsons, GRG Sports has quickly become a go-to name for custom sportswear in Ireland. From their base in Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon, the team creates bespoke gear for GAA clubs, schools, colleges, and businesses nationwide.

GRG puts quality, personalisation, and customer care at the heart of everything they do. They offer free design support, seamless crest and sponsor integration, and low minimum orders. Their line-up covers training gear, jerseys, leisurewear, and full teamwear packs, designed by players, for players.

They create everything from GAA training shorts and playing jerseys, to hoodies, polo shirts, and quarter-zips.

They also supply soccer, basketball, and gym wear designed to match each club's needs.

The team works closely with clubs to showcase their identity and even helps set up online shops to boost visibility. With more than 100 teams already kitted out, GRG Sports is growing fast creating game-ready gear.

Visit [grg-sports.com](http://grg-sports.com) or email [info@grg-sports.com](mailto:info@grg-sports.com)



Roscommon: Solas Desserts



South Dublin: Flaunta

■ Solas Desserts

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Roscommon

Solas Desserts is a premium Irish patisserie brand based in Castlerea, Co Roscommon, specialising in elegant, ready-to-serve desserts for hospitality, retail, and gifting. Founded in 2023 by pastry chef and entrepreneur Claire Harney, the company's mission is to make fine-dining quality patisserie more accessible through beautiful frozen creations that are both practical and indulgent.

The collection features delicious mousse domes, mini cheesecakes, entremets, eclairs, tartlets, and dessert sleeves in flavours like Baileys & Chocolate, Lemon & Raspberry, Chocolate & Hazelnut, and Salted Caramel & Pecan. Their Coffee Shop Collection offers baked favourites such as pistachio and raspberry cakes, pear and almond tarts, and chocolate Guinness loaves.

Solas also owns Roscommon Chocolate, a luxury range of hand-painted chocolates perfect for hampers, retail, and seasonal gifting. Already served in some of Ireland's top hotels and restaurants, Solas is quickly gaining a reputation for quality in Irish desserts.

Visit [solasdesserts.ie](http://solasdesserts.ie) or email [contact@solasdesserts.ie](mailto:contact@solasdesserts.ie)

■ Flaunta

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: South Dublin

Flaunta is a luxury Irish handbag brand founded by sisters Angelina and Hope Sheridan, designed to empower modern women with stylish yet practical accessories. Inspired by their own busy lives balancing work, travel, and motherhood, they set out to create minimalist handbags that combine elegance with everyday function.

Their bestselling Modern Tote Bag includes a padded 14" laptop sleeve, dual cup holders, a keychain, multiple compartments, and even a suitcase sleeve, making it perfect for work or travel. The Elite Crossbody Bag comes with adjustable straps, bottle and tablet holders, and sleek detailing for day-to-day use. Flaunta's range also features Essential Purses with crossbody straps and personalised Card Holders made from chic vegan microfibre leather.

Designed in Dublin and shipping worldwide, Flaunta is making lots of waves in practical luxury, with features on Ireland AM and over 50 million views across social media.

Visit [flaunta.ie](http://flaunta.ie) or email [customercare@flaunta.ie](mailto:customercare@flaunta.ie)

# Ireland's bright business future

*The entrepreneurs showcasing their talent and innovation at the Local Enterprise Village, with the support of their Local Enterprise Office*



Tipperary: Galtee Honey Farm



Wexford: The Hair Doctor



Wicklow: Aartha Organics



Waterford: Mac Safety Signs Ltd



Westmeath: Human + Kind

Galtee Honey Farm

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Tipperary

Based in Glengarra Wood, Galtee Honey Farm is a multi-generational family business devoted to protecting the Native Irish Black Honey Bee. Founded in 1970 by Micheál Mac Giolla Coda and now run by his daughter Aoife, the farm is known for producing award-winning raw Irish honey and natural beeswax gifts, all with a focus on sustainability and education.

Home to over 200 colonies of native bees, the farm produces a variety of honeys including Wildflower, Ivy, and Heather & Ivy. Each jar is raw, unpasteurised, free from added sugar, and fully traceable back to the farm. Their beeswax is also made into eco-friendly candles, balms, food wraps, and gift sets.

Beyond production, Galtee Honey Farm runs tours, workshops, and beekeeping courses, while actively supporting conservation through the Native Irish Honey Bee Society and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan.

Visit [galteehoney.com](http://galteehoney.com) or email [galteebees@gmail.com](mailto:galteebees@gmail.com)

Mac Safety Signs Ltd

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Waterford

Mac Safety Signs Ltd, in Williamstown, Co Waterford, is a trusted Irish manufacturer and distributor of high-quality safety signage and has been keeping Ireland safe with clear, durable signage for over 30 years. The Irish-owned company manufactures and supplies everything from roadworks and traffic control signs to construction, fire safety, hazard, security, and farm signage.

Using advanced silk screen printing, their signs are UV-resistant and built to last outdoors.

Working across industries such as construction, agriculture, education, and hospitality, Mac Safety Signs is known for quality, value, and customer care. Whether you're a large company or a local farmer, they make sure you get the signs you need.

Visit [macsafetysigns.com](http://macsafetysigns.com) or email [macsafetysigns@gmail.com](mailto:macsafetysigns@gmail.com)

Human + Kind

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Westmeath

Human + Kind in Mullingar, Co Westmeath, is part of Zeon Healthcare Ltd and has grown from creating vitamins and supplements into a leading Irish skincare brand. Known for being natural, vegan, and cruelty-free, their products are made to be gentle on skin and kind to the planet.

With 92-99pc natural ingredients, recyclable sugarcane packaging, and eco-friendly production, sustainability is at the heart of everything they do. Bestsellers like their 2-in-1 Orange Body Soufflé, Grapefruit Body Scrub, Wash-Off Facial Cleanser, and the Deep Cleansing Cloth & Wash-Off Set combine quality with affordability and strong ethical values.

Every product is designed with a simple philosophy: kind to skin, kind to the planet, and kind to people. Human + Kind also supports wider sustainability projects, including work with Reforest Nation.

Visit [humanandkind.com](http://humanandkind.com)

The Hair Doctor

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Wexford

Hairstylist Keara Howard founded The Hair Doctor, an award-winning Irish haircare brand created to solve a problem many clients didn't even know they had - hard water. Keara drew on her years of salon experience and her deep understanding of common hair concerns, to develop the brand's signature 20-stage shower filter, which removes impurities, reduces frizz, protects colour, and restores scalp and hair health.

Since then, the range has expanded to include favourites like popular styling brushes, detangling tools, nourishing shampoos, and keratin-infused treatments. Every product is designed to deliver salon-quality results in practical, everyday ways.

Now stocked in salons and pharmacies across Ireland, The Hair Doctor is helping more and more people enjoy softer, stronger, and shinier hair.

Visit [hairdoc.ie](http://hairdoc.ie) or email [info@hairdoc.ie](mailto:info@hairdoc.ie)

Aartha Organics

Supported by Local Enterprise Office: Wicklow

Founded by Ana Maria Preda in Newtownmountkennedy, Co Wicklow, Aartha Organics is about natural skincare with purpose. The idea sparked when Ana's daughter developed eczema, and she set out to make safer, water-free (anhydrous) products that nourish without the nasties.

With 20 years in beauty and business, plus a diploma in organic formulation, Ana created a range that's as gentle as it is effective. Think Luxurious Plumeria & Vanilla Body Oil, Tropical Coconut & Lime Body Scrub, Rolit & Lovit Eye Serum, and Glossy Mandarin & Cocoa Lip Balm. Every product is handmade in small batches with rich botanical oils, antioxidant butters, and essential oils, then wrapped up in eco-friendly packaging. Everything is EU-certified, cruelty-free, and dermatologically kind. 'Aartha' means 'purpose' and that's exactly what drives this family-friendly brand.

Visit [aartha.ie](http://aartha.ie) or call 087 339 9907

# LEO SUCCESS STORIES: FROM START-UP TO SCALE-UP

## From the pitch to production

Former athletes Cian Hanley and Shairoze Akram founded GRG Sports in Roscommon, using LEO support to grow and deliver custom sportswear

**G**RG Sports is a sportswear company based in Ballaghaderreen, Co Roscommon, specialising in custom-made sportswear and accessories for clubs, schools and organisations.

They design and manufacture everything a sports team needs, from jerseys and shorts to hoodies and jackets, offering customisation options such as club crests, sponsor logos and individual initials to meet each team's specific needs.

The company's approach is simple: listen closely to what players and clubs want, then deliver high-quality gear that performs on and off the pitch. This focus has helped GRG build strong relationships across grassroots sport in Ireland and beyond.

### Designed by players, for players

Unlike off-the-shelf options, Game Ready Gear (GRG) Sports is designed by players for players. It was established in 2018 by Cian Hanley, a former AFL footballer with the Brisbane Lions, and Shairoze Akram, a Mayo GAA senior player.

Both founders brought first-hand knowledge of the demands placed on sportswear at the elite level. They knew what athletes valued most, which is comfort, durability, and the ability to represent club identity with pride. This has shaped every product the company creates.

Their product range covers sports such as GAA, soccer, athletics, and more, including school PE uniforms. GRG's high-quality



Tara Phillips and Shairoze Akram of GRG Sports Ltd

products are made from a wide range of materials and available in various styles and colours, with a low minimum order quantity, making bespoke gear accessible to all teams.

This flexibility has been particularly valuable for smaller clubs and schools, which often struggle to access affordable custom kits. GRG has worked to make the process straightforward, offering design support and

quick delivery timelines.

GRG Sports collaborates closely with clubs to design unique kits and helps set up online club shops, creating a 'One Club' mentality and supporting their Family 15 loyalty programme.

The Family 15 initiative rewards clubs and members for their loyalty, ensuring the benefits of each purchase go back into the community. By providing online club shops, GRG also reduces the organisational burden on club volunteers, who would otherwise spend time collecting orders and handling payments. The company's mission centres on collaboration, quality and service, with a growing team dedicated to providing gear that players want to wear.

### Driving growth with LEO support

Since its earliest stages, GRG Sports has been an ambitious, progressive company that has accessed the full range of LEO services to support business growth. They have used Green for Business and Energy Efficiency Grants to identify and implement ways to make their processes more sustainable.

This has included reviewing energy use in their facilities, exploring more eco-friendly fabrics, and adapting their packaging to reduce waste. Sustainability is becoming increasingly important in sportswear, and GRG is positioning itself as a leader in this area.

Recently, GRG Sports invested in both customisation and manufacturing processes in its new premises in Ballaghaderreen,



Enda Cannon, Senior Enterprise Development Officer, LEO Roscommon

supported by a Local Enterprise Office Business Expansion Grant, ensuring local quality and quick

turnaround for their clients. This move has allowed the company to increase production capacity, improve turnaround times, and keep more of its manufacturing local, benefitting both customers and the wider community.

GRG is also currently undertaking a digitalisation programme supported by the LEO Digital for Business Programme to increase automation in the design and customer engagement processes.

The future looks bright for GRG Sports. Their journey shows how sporting insight, hard work and Local Enterprise Office support can turn a good idea into a successful business.



SINCE ITS EARLIEST STAGES, GRG SPORTS HAS BEEN AN AMBITIOUS, PROGRESSIVE COMPANY THAT HAS ACCESSED THE FULL RANGE OF LEO SERVICES TO SUPPORT BUSINESS GROWTH.

## From local start-up to global ambitions

Waterford entrepreneur Finbarr Power has grown his business, Sampla, with help from the Local Enterprise Office

**S**ampla, a Waterford-based business producing unisex shoes for casual wear, is crafted from a mix of sustainable materials. These include water-resistant apple-derived leather, natural crepe rubber for the soles, and recycled polyurethane sourced from the automotive industry. The result is stylish, durable footwear with sustainability at its heart.

The company was founded by Waterford native Finbarr Power.

"Growing up, I was always interested in design, especially footwear," says Finbarr.

"When I was about 15 or 16, I got a job in my local shoe shop in Dungarvan, and that really cemented my interest. Later, I studied marketing and design, and eventually came to a crossroads: would I try to work for one of the big European footwear companies, or create something of my own? I felt there wasn't a brand making shoes that were both sustainable and ethically produced with innovative materials, so I decided to try it myself."

The journey was far from straightforward. Finbarr spent several years developing prototypes, testing materials, and finding the right manufacturing partners. In 2020, they finally launched through a Kickstarter campaign.

Over four weeks, they sold to 19 countries and hit €45,000 in sales, and that was before



Finbarr Power, Sampla

they even had production finished.

"That gave me the confidence to push on."

### Support from the Local Enterprise Office

From the start, the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) in Waterford played a big role in Sampla's journey. "Going in at a very early stage was such a big help," says Finbarr. "The team in Dungarvan were fantastic. They laid out clearly what supports were available and guided me step by step."

"I also had mentoring, which helped me structure the sales side of the business. For a new company, that support meant a lot."

In 2021, Sampla was awarded a Priming Grant, which supported early business costs, including consultancy and innovation. Digital

development was another key focus, and in 2024, Sampla received a Trading Online Voucher.

"That voucher was a huge help," says Finbarr. "Our website connects directly with our logistics centre in Portugal, and the grant meant we could bring in a developer to build the technical side. It's a big step for a small company."

LEO's support also helped open doors. Sampla was a finalist in Google's You're the Business competition. "That brought brilliant exposure and support. I'm still in touch with the Google team, and we're working on future projects together. They've given us access to new technology and AI tools that have been a real boost."

Finbarr adds, "Any time I've ever picked up the phone, the LEO team has been there with a solution."

Jacqui Gaule, Senior Enterprise Development Officer, says, "It's been a real privilege to work with Sampla and see their journey unfold. Their passion for creating beautiful, sustainable footwear is matched by their dedication to doing things the right way."

"It's been especially rewarding to help them make the most of the Local Enterprise Office supports available, and to watch a local brand with such strong values gain recognition at home and abroad."

### Growing the team and brand

Today, Sampla has four people involved, with plans to expand. He says they are a small but committed team, and they are constantly testing materials and exploring new ideas.

Sampla's shoes have already earned



Jacqui Gaule, Senior Enterprise Development Officer

recognition for their mix of innovation and craftsmanship.

But for Finbarr, growth is about more than sales. "I want Sampla to always stand for sustainable, ethical production. That's been the focus since day one."

The next stage for Sampla is expansion into international markets, with a particular focus on France, Germany, as well as the UK. The company is also participating in Amazon's accelerator programme, which is helping open doors across Europe.

For other entrepreneurs, Finbarr has clear advice: "The Local Enterprise Office should be your first stop. They've been fantastic, whether it's mentoring, grants, or just guidance. They've always been in our corner, and I'd encourage anyone starting out to go in and see what support is there."

For more, visit [sampla.ie](https://www.sampla.ie)

## How local businesses are growing with LEO support

# LEO Cavan: Supporting success stories

*Gillian Madden, Senior Enterprise Development Officer at Local Enterprise Office Cavan, on supporting Nuálach Automation from idea to growth*

**A**s someone who has worked closely with the promoters of Nuálach Automation since the early stages of their journey, I can confidently say their success is no accident.

From day one, they were open-minded, driven, and always willing to listen and consider options. They were prepared to put in the hard work and reinvest in the business at every opportunity. Their commitment to learning, adapting, and collaborating was clear in every interaction.

Their willingness to engage with the support structures available and their strong cooperation with the LEO Cavan team made our partnership productive and rewarding. Their proactive approach and genuine desire to deliver the best outcomes, not just for their business but for clients, have always been their driving force.

The company's growth is a testament to what can be achieved when talent, determination, and support come together, and I look forward to seeing what the future holds as they scale further with Enterprise Ireland.

The story of Nuálach Automation shows exactly what's possible when ambition meets the right supports.

### From idea to engineering excellence

Driven by a shared vision, mechatronic engineers Kealan O'Connell and Evan Roarke brought their idea to life. The result is Nuálach Automation, a rapidly expanding firm specialising in Electrical, Mechanical and Robotic Engineering and Design. By

creating smart, tailored solutions that improve productivity and efficiency, the company helps clients tackle complex challenges while maintaining rigorous standards of quality and safety.

At every stage of their journey, Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Cavan played a pivotal role. Early on, LEO provided mentoring around the practicalities of setting up, covering structures, planning, compliance, and market entry strategies. With this guidance, the founders applied for a Priming Grant, which helped fund early-stage investments in branding, marketing, and essential equipment.

"Being involved with the Local Enterprise Office has been massive for our business," says Kealan O'Connell, Operations Director. "Without them, I don't think we could have scaled and grown the way we have."

"The mentoring, the grants, and being nominated for awards gave us exposure and momentum. You genuinely feel like they're in your corner and working as hard for your success as you are yourself."

### Support from the Local Enterprise Office, Cavan

As the business matured, Nuálach Automation continued to lean on LEO's support, engaging in mentoring in areas such as financial planning, leadership, and recruitment. In 2024, with a solid model and growing customer base, the business secured a Business Expansion Grant to help hire staff and invest in advanced equipment.

Reflecting on their growth, Kealan explains: "Our progression from two people to a



The Nuálach Automation team and LEO staff with Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment Niamh Smyth, TD

15-member team reflects the scale of each step taken. Every salary, every piece of equipment, and every move into bigger facilities was a big leap. Without the support, it wouldn't have happened as swiftly or effectively as it has."

Recognising its strengths, the company sought to complement its technical skills with outside expertise. With LEO Cavan's help, the company boasts a high-calibre team of Mechanical, Electrical, Mechatronic, and Robotic Engineers, as well as graduates gaining hands-on experience.

Their growth hasn't just been internal, as their client base and contract portfolio have expanded. Their reputation for innovation and precision engineering has opened doors, and they are now working with clients on increasingly complex and high-value projects.

### Hitting milestones

Thanks to this momentum, Nuálach Automation is now transitioning to the Enterprise Ireland High Potential Start-Up (HPSU) programme, a major milestone that marks its potential. "What excites us most

about the next phase is the opportunity to productise our solutions and scale their impact in both our domestic and export markets. We're looking at the UK, the US and Canada. That means more opportunity to scale, more space, more people, and more clients abroad. It's the next big step."

Recognition has followed their achievements. In 2023, Nuálach Automation was awarded Best Start-Up Business at the County Cavan Enterprise Awards and went on to become Regional Winners at the National Enterprise Awards.

Kealan adds, "I always say to other startup businesses: get back into the Local Enterprise Office and talk to the right people. Regardless of size, the mentorship and opportunities are there, and they can add huge value."

The story of Nuálach Automation shows what's possible with vision, resilience and the right support. If you're ready to grow your business, your first call should be to the Local Enterprise Office, Cavan.

Visit [nualachautomation.com](http://nualachautomation.com) for more

# Sweet scale-up – the rise of SOS Cookies

*How a passion project became a national treat and how the Local Enterprise Office helped it scale*

**S**OS Cookies started with a simple idea. To make the soft, doughy cookies people actually dream about. Today, the beloved Irish bakery bakes all kinds of indulgent creations, from classic chocolate chip elevated with Kinder, Milkybar and Dairy Milk, along with deep-dish cookies, brookies (cookie and brownie), cookie pies and cookie cakes. If it's like a cookie, they probably make it.

You'll find SOS Cookies in six retail stores, supplied to 40+ cafés, and online for e-commerce, corporate gifting and events so there are plenty of ways to enjoy a cookie.

### How it began

Founder Sarah O'Sullivan completed a Master's in Food Insights & Innovation with Bord Bia through Maynooth University. In order to be selected onto the programme she had to demonstrate her passion and enthusiasm for the food industry. She then did a placement in new product development at Silver Hill Duck as a new product developer, and worked with WGSN as a food and drink trends analyst.

Then, she followed her sweet tooth. She started baking, set up an Instagram account, and discovered lots of people wanted the same soft, gooey centre she did.

Behind-the-scenes bakes, flavour drops and



Sarah O'Sullivan, SOS Cookies

new product launches on social media helped cafés and shopping centres spot the brand early. The community grew, and so did the queues.

### Big new steps

Recently, SOS Cookies landed in two high-footfall spots: Terminal 1 at Dublin Airport and Dublin Zoo. Two locations with one mission

which is to spread joy, one bite at a time.

At Dublin Airport, SOS Cookies is now offering travellers a sweet start to their journey. The new outlet invites passengers to grab a cookie (or six!) before takeoff. With a wide selection of freshly baked treats, it's quickly becoming a favourite among those looking for a comforting snack on the go.

Meanwhile, over at Dublin Zoo, SOS Cookies is part of a broader initiative to enhance the visitor experience by teaming up with popular Irish food and beverage brands.

SOS Cookies brings its signature cookie magic to one of Ireland's most visited attractions. Whether you're on a family day out or a casual stroll through the zoo, a cookie stop adds a delicious twist to the adventure. This dual launch marks a significant milestone for SOS Cookies, showcasing its growing popularity and commitment to bringing joy through baked goods to more corners of Ireland.

### LEO support

The Local Enterprise Office backed SOS Cookies with a Priming Grant and later a Business Expansion Grant. This is the kind of support that turned a busy kitchen into a bustling bakery.

The funding let the team invest in the business-changing appliances: blast chillers (for fast, food-safe cooling and better texture), a larger-capacity oven, a commercial freezer, and reliable prep and packaging gear. The result



Helen Ryan, Senior Enterprise Development Officer, LEO Limerick on far left with the SOS Cookies team picking up the Entrepreneur of the Year award

was more batches, more consistency, fewer bottlenecks and the ability to supply multiple stores, cafés and online orders without quality slipping.

It wasn't just hardware they received. SOS Cookies were awarded the prestigious Entrepreneur of the Year award at the National Enterprise Awards, Limerick County Final 2025. Through LEO, Sarah also completed mentoring and training, including Management Development, which tightened up the business side. Training and mentoring focused on production planning, timings and checks in place so every cookie comes out perfect, every time. It also sharpened costing and margins, leading to smarter pricing and helping with day-to-day operations, stronger customer service, and food safety and compliance.

With strong systems, a helpful community and LEO support behind them, SOS Cookies is set to keep the good bakes rolling.



Alistair Jeje  
of Socafro  
Kitchen in  
Waterford  
with Minister  
Damian  
English at  
the Launch of  
the inaugural  
YTB



Jasmine  
Feehan  
founder  
of Dóchas  
Design  
Studio, 2024  
Winner

# Building skills, fuelling growth

*You're the Business and Ireland's SMEs*

**T**hrough You're the Business, Google, Enterprise Ireland, and the Local Enterprise Offices have helped thousands of Irish SMEs maximise the opportunity of doing business online – improving search discoverability, e-commerce, and early AI adoption.

According to research from the Central Statistics Office, SMEs make up 99.8pc of all enterprises in Ireland, employing around 68pc of the workforce, and generating over 40pc of national turnover, making them critical engines of local and rural employment and cross-sector innovation. For these businesses, digital capability is essential for growth, competitiveness, and long-term success.

From building a strong presence in search results to embracing the opportunities of artificial intelligence, the SMEs that adapt fastest are best placed to thrive, yet the journey to becoming digitally confident can still be daunting.

## The €9.5 billion opportunity

Research commissioned by Google looked at the challenges facing SMEs digitally. The Bridging the Gap report found that 62pc of Irish SMEs considered themselves “less than halfway” on their digital journey, with only 55pc having their own website and only 53pc using social media or video platforms. These statistics are significantly lower than international counterparts. The research also highlighted the opportunities, estimating that investing in digital skills could contribute an extra €9.5 billion to Ireland's GDP.

It was against this backdrop that Google, Enterprise Ireland, and the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) came together to launch You're the Business, a free, nationwide digital upskilling initiative designed to help Irish SMEs get online, grow online, and expand internationally.

Since launching in 2022, You're the Business has provided practical training to help businesses develop the skills and confidence to succeed online. Delivered through an online platform [g.co/yourethebusiness](https://g.co/yourethebusiness), the training is open to all SMEs, from those taking their first digital steps to established companies



looking to export.

The initiative also features a national competition recognising SMEs that have demonstrated exceptional commitment to digital. Businesses submitted a short video or PDF entry telling judges how they were using digital tools to enhance their business, all via the You're the Business website.

Selected businesses received bespoke support from Google, including Google Ads credit and one-to-one expert mentoring. In its most recent year, this also included access to AI-powered business tools such as Gemini Advanced and NotebookLM, along with a one-year subscription to Google Workspace Business Standard.

Since its launch, You're the Business has engaged over 1,000 SMEs across Ireland

through training or competition participation, with more than 60 businesses receiving money-can't-buy prizes.

## Impact you can measure

One such winner is Sarah Timony, founder and CEO of ADAPTA FASHION in Donegal, which specialises in adaptable, inclusive clothing.

“Participating in the You're the Business competition was a fantastic experience,” says Sarah. “The programme provided me with invaluable support and resources that directly contributed to the growth and success of ADAPTA FASHION.”

“I'm so grateful for the opportunity and would encourage fellow founders to participate in initiatives like this to see how far digital can bring you on your growth journey.”

Stories like Sarah's show that digital skills aren't just about technology, they're about creating opportunity. The initiative is designed to support founders like Jasmine Feehan of Dóchas Design Studio, helping them grow online and reach wider audiences. By boosting retail visibility and enabling artisan food producers to expand into international markets with targeted campaigns, You're the Business has empowered Irish SMEs to transform ambition into action.

## Meeting the AI moment

By 2025, You're the Business has evolved to address the next big shift in the digital economy: artificial intelligence. Winners had the chance to work with Google experts to design a bespoke AI-powered advertising



Sarah Timony, Founder of  
ADAPTA FASHION

SME founders attending  
dedicated YTB training in  
Google HQ



campaign, a first for the programme.

Reflecting on the initiative's impact, Cera Ward, Managing Director of Google Ireland, said, "We know that AI has the power to revolutionise the way we do business, which is why we made it a key focus in the most recent year of You're the Business."

"Over three years, we've been privileged to hear the stories of Irish SMEs, their challenges, and their digital ambitions. Our goal has always been to give them the tools and confidence to take the next steps on their digital journey."

#### Partnership in action

The success of You're the Business has been built on collaboration. Google contributed its global expertise, training, and mentorship, while Enterprise Ireland and the LEO network offered vital local support and connections, from grants and advisory services to on-the-ground encouragement. Together, they've shown that with the right partnership, SMEs can bridge the digital divide and thrive in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

Now in its fourth year, You're the Business continues to demonstrate what's possible when SMEs have access to expert training, practical tools, and strong partnerships. The result is more resilient businesses, more confident founders, and a growing community of entrepreneurs who view digital as a driver of opportunity.

For more information, visit [yourethebusiness.withgoogle.com](https://yourethebusiness.withgoogle.com)

# How mentoring helps small businesses grow big ideas

*Why every entrepreneur needs a mentor in their corner*

**R**unning your own business can be exciting, but also pretty exhausting. There are highs, there are lows, and there are moments where you think, "I wish I could just ask someone who's been through this before."

That's exactly what the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Mentor Programme is for. It pairs small business owners with experienced professionals who have already navigated the ups, downs, and unexpected twists of running a business. These mentors aren't here to give you generic advice, they offer practical tips that work in the real world.

"LEO mentoring empowers entrepreneurs with the clarity, confidence, and connections they need to grow," says Eleanor Forrest, Business Development Manager at Enterprise Ireland. "It's not just about advice; it's a partnership that helps turn ambition into achievement."

#### How the Mentor Programme works

It all starts with a conversation. You meet with your Local Enterprise Office team, talk about where you're at, and figure out what help you need. Maybe you're stuck on pricing, maybe you need to polish your social media, or maybe you're not sure what the next step for your business should be.

Once the LEO team understands your needs, they match you with a mentor who's the perfect fit. That mentor then works with you one-to-one, giving you independent advice, fresh ideas, and strategies that you can actually put into action.

Mentors can help with all sorts of areas:

- Business planning and strategy
- Money matters from cashflow to costing
- Finding your customers and keeping them
- Pricing your products or services
- Social media and AI tools
- Tax and compliance advice

"With a fresh perspective and independent insight, mentors help business owners navigate challenges, make informed decisions, and move forward with confidence," says Sandra Regan, Senior Development Officer at LEO Galway.

#### Mentoring in action

In 2024 alone, over 16,000 mentoring assignments were completed through LEOs across Ireland. That's thousands of entrepreneurs getting the tools, confidence, and support they need to grow their business ideas into real success stories.

And the best part is the programme is open to both brand-new start-ups and businesses that have been running for years.

For Asia Mahealani McDonagh, founder of Mahealani Pastries in Galway, mentoring has been a turning point for her business.

Asia is a brilliant pastry chef but she admits social media was never her strong point.

"Being paired with a social media and marketing mentor was a valuable experience," says Asia. "This was an area I had really struggled with, and her guidance made a huge difference. While I still don't love social media, thanks to my mentor, it no longer feels like such a chore or such a headache."

Through the LEO Mentor Programme, Asia was paired with a marketing expert who gave her practical, easy-to-use tools, like a content planner, to make managing social media less overwhelming.

Then came the big moment when Asia won the Irish Patisserie Championship. Her mentor suggested it was the perfect time to make a splash in the media. That's when she met "PR Pam" through another mentoring session.

Pam didn't just hand her a press release template, she worked through it with her line-by-line, explaining every edit, and helped her



Asia Mahealani McDonagh created Mahealani Pastries



Eleanor Forrest, Business Development Manager, Enterprise Ireland

send it out with confidence.

"She didn't just walk me through generic lessons; she took the time to understand my goals and guided me through the entire process of crafting and sending a press release. Her mentorship was not only impactful, but it's also already led to real, tangible results."

#### Why mentoring works

Asia's journey sums up why the programme

works so well. You get personalised help in the areas you need it most, along with tools you can put to use straight away. You gain the confidence to tackle things you've been avoiding, and you start to see real results, from attracting more customers to improving how your business runs.

"Each mentor brought clarity, practical tools, and genuine support, resources I'm deeply grateful for," says Asia. "I simply wouldn't be where I am today without them."

#### Getting started with a mentor

If you're running a small business in Ireland, connecting with a mentor through your Local Enterprise Office is straightforward:

- **Contact your Local Enterprise Office** – Have a quick chat about your business and where you want help.
- **Get matched with a mentor** – Someone who knows your sector and can give you practical advice.
- **Work together** – Learn, plan, and take action with your mentor's guidance.

It's open to both new and existing businesses, so whether you're starting out or scaling up, there's something in it for you.

Your Local Enterprise Office mentoring programme is about more than just advice; it's about having a partner in your corner who wants to see you succeed.

*If you're ready to take your business to the next level, or even just take the next step, visit your local LEO or go to [localenterprise.ie](https://localenterprise.ie)*



# Supporting startups: how LEOs help turn great ideas into thriving businesses

*Helping new business ideas get off the ground*

From kitchen tables to shopfronts and studios, the journey from idea to enterprise is one that many Irish entrepreneurs embark on each year. Behind many of those journeys stands a Local Enterprise Office (LEO), offering the practical support and guidance needed to turn vision into reality. The Local Enterprise Office is the first-stop shop for anyone with a business idea or considering starting their own business.

The Start Your Own Business (SYOB) programme is one of the cornerstone supports provided by the Local Enterprise Office. The programme is delivered by the 31 Local Enterprise Offices across Ireland and is designed to guide participants through every stage of starting a business and help them assess whether their idea is viable.

## Learning the essentials of starting a business

The course runs part-time, with daytime and evening options to suit those balancing work or other commitments. The sessions are delivered in small, interactive groups by experienced trainers, fostering a supportive and collaborative learning environment.

Participants explore all key areas of business start-up: how to assess the viability of an

idea, prepare a business plan, choose a legal structure, manage cash flow and payments, understand HR and employment legislation, access finance, set pricing strategies, and develop marketing plans.

Legal considerations and market research are also included, giving a clear, practical picture of what's involved in launching a business.

Many participants say that one of the most valuable elements is the chance to work directly with experienced mentors who understand the challenges of starting small and thinking big. Practical exercises, real-life case studies, and shared experiences help bring theory to life. It's not just about learning the steps,

but about building the mindset to keep going when things get tough.

"The Start Your Own Business programme equips participants with practical skills and, crucially, the confidence to take their next steps," says Gearóid Sheridan, Business Advisor, Local Enterprise Office Laois. "They leave the course with a stronger understanding of their idea's viability, and the knowledge needed to either pursue their business idea or pivot in a new direction."

## Turning ideas into action

In 2024, over 5,000 aspiring entrepreneurs completed a Start Your Own Business

programme with Local Enterprise Offices nationwide, showing the strong demand for local training that helps people explore the path to self-employment.

Eleanor Forrest, Business Development Manager at Enterprise Ireland, adds, "The Start Your Own Business programme plays a vital role in developing Ireland's entrepreneurial pipeline by ensuring early-stage founders have access to structured support at the local level."

The programme is designed not only to educate, but to give participants the confidence to turn ideas into reality. Many participants arrive with the beginnings of an idea and, following completion of the programme, possess the clarity and confidence to take the next step. For some, it marks the beginning of a business, while for others, it provides reassurance to refine their plans or take a new direction.

The value of learning from others is another key feature of the programme, with

many developing informal peer networks that continue well beyond the course. These connections can be as impactful as formal learning, creating a community of encouragement and shared experience.

## Start with a conversation

While the SYOB programme is often a starting point, many entrepreneurs begin with a simple conversation. The Local Enterprise Office offers free one-to-one advice clinics for individuals at the very early stages of exploring a business idea, even if they haven't yet started trading.

These confidential sessions are a chance to ask questions, test ideas, and get clear on the next steps. Some participants use them to check if their idea has market potential, while others seek advice on funding, marketing, or regulations.

Whether someone goes on to join the SYOB programme or access other supports, that first conversation can be the step that turns uncertainty into action. Many of the businesses featured in this year's Local Enterprise Village at the National Ploughing Championship began their journey with a visit to their Local Enterprise Office, often beginning with a course or just a conversation.

Gearóid Sheridan adds, "The Local Enterprise Office is not just there for businesses that are already trading. We are here from the very beginning, to help people explore and shape their ideas."

**For more information on the Start Your Own Business Programme, visit [localenterprise.ie](http://localenterprise.ie)**



*Gearóid Sheridan, Business Advisor, Local Enterprise Office Laois*



THE START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME EQUIPS PARTICIPANTS WITH PRACTICAL SKILLS AND, CRUCIALLY, THE CONFIDENCE TO TAKE THEIR NEXT STEPS

# How small changes are making a big difference for local businesses

*How small businesses are cutting costs and carbon with a little help from the Local Enterprise Office*

**F**rom composting coffee grounds to switching on smarter lights, small businesses across Ireland are making clever changes that are good for the planet, and great for their pockets too.

Thanks to support from the Local Enterprise Office (LEO), more and more business owners are finding out that going green doesn't have to mean big costs or big changes. Sometimes it's the little things, like upgrading your freezer or using less plastic, that can have the biggest impact.

## Green for Business

The journey to energy efficiency begins with the Green for Business programme. It's a free support service that gives businesses two days with a green expert who'll help you figure out how to reduce waste, cut energy use, and become more eco-friendly overall.

You'll get a tailored Green Report that highlights what's working, what could be improved, and what practical changes you can make right now. Once that's complete, you're eligible to apply for extra funding to help you take the next step.

## The Energy Efficiency Grant

That next step is called the Energy Efficiency Grant, and it can make a real difference.

If you've completed Green for Business, GreenStart or an SEAI Energy Audit, you can apply for this grant to help fund upgrades to your equipment or systems. The grant covers up to 75pc of costs, with funding available from €1,000 to €10,000.

What kinds of things does it cover?

- Here are just a few:
- LED lighting and smart heating controls
  - Better freezers, cold rooms, or hot plates
  - Food waste and composting systems
  - Coffee machines and energy-efficient equipment
  - Meters to track electricity, water, gas use, and more



If it helps your business use less energy and produce less waste, it could qualify. The equipment must have a better energy rating than what you already have, and in some cases, second-hand equipment (up to five years old) can qualify.

It's worth noting that some items aren't covered, such as solar panels (funded under a separate SEAI scheme), insulation, biomass boilers, heat pumps for space heating, and waste treatment systems.



Kathleen Prendergast of Tipperary County Council

It was all ending up in general waste bins, adding to landfill and increasing waste bills.

After joining Green for Business, the café made a few small changes that had a big impact:

- Added separate food waste bins
- Switched to biodegradable cutlery
- Let customers take home coffee grounds for their gardens

These tweaks made a big impact. They now save around 3,080kg of food waste from landfill every year, which is over 3 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions avoided. They've also kept 120kg of plastic cutlery out of incineration or landfill.

They're also now saving about €477 a year by composting coffee grounds instead of sending them off with the general waste.

The Green for Business programme helped the café realise how small changes could make a big difference, raising awareness and improving how they ran things day-to-day.

## Benefits of going green

Energy-efficient upgrades don't just reduce your carbon footprint; they can also save you money, improve how your business runs, and even make your workplace better for staff and customers.

And with the LEO's support, you're not doing it alone. The Green for Business and Energy Efficiency Grants make it easier by supporting investment in technology and equipment that lowers costs and makes your business more competitive.

"Across all 31 Local Enterprise Offices, we're seeing strong interest in the Energy Efficiency Grant from sectors like retail, hospitality, and food production," says Kathleen Prendergast, Administrative Officer/Economic Development Officer, Economic, Community and Rural Development Section, Tipperary County Council.

"These are practical, tangible changes, from upgrading freezers to installing smart heating controls, that not only cut energy use, but also make day-to-day operations more efficient and cost-effective for business owners."

The impact of these supports is already clear. So far this year, 442 Energy Efficiency Grants have been approved nationally at a total value of €3.6 million. In 2024 alone, when the

grant was launched, 294 grants were approved with a total value of €2.28 million. That's hundreds of business owners saving money, improving efficiency, and putting less strain on the planet.

Whether you run a café, a hair salon, a bakery or a workshop, there's support available to help you save energy, reduce costs, and do your bit for the planet.

**Visit [LocalEnterprise.ie](https://www.localenterprise.ie) to find your local office and get started today**



## Ready to get started?

The Green for Business and Energy Efficiency Grant is open to small businesses across Ireland with 1-50 employees, earning over €30,000 a year, and trading for at least six months. It's available to many sectors, from shops and cafés to food producers, manufacturers, and service providers. Costs are only covered if they happen after you apply.

## How it works

**Step 1** – Sign up for Green for Business. Get two free days with a green consultant who'll prepare a custom report for your business.

**Step 2** – Apply for the Energy Efficiency Grant. Use your report to apply for funding to upgrade equipment, reduce energy use, or improve waste systems.

**Step 3** – Make the changes and enjoy the benefits. You'll get lower energy bills, reduced waste, and a greener reputation.





# SAVE TIME, MONEY, AND ENERGY

with your Local Enterprise Office.

From reducing packing time by 45% to lowering energy bills by 95%, businesses across Ireland are partnering with their Local Enterprise Office to stay competitive and boost productivity—and you can too.

Visit [allinadayswork.ie](https://allinadayswork.ie)

Supported by



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Enterprise  
Ireland



Rialtas Áitiúil Éireann  
Local Government Ireland