

Superquinn gets "GreenLight" for energy efficiency programme

Sustainable Energy Ireland has today announced that Superquinn has become a member of the GreenLight Programme, a voluntary EU pollution prevention initiative encouraging non-residential organisations to install energy-efficient lighting in their facilities.

Launched by the European Commission Directorate General Energy & Transport, the objective of the GreenLight Programme is to reduce the energy consumption from lighting in the public, commercial and industrial sectors throughout Europe, thus reducing polluting emissions which contribute to the impact of climate change. The objective is also to improve the quality of lighting and therefore working conditions in participating organisations, while saving money.

Superquinn is the first company from the retail sector in Ireland to join the GreenLight Programme. In total, there are 97 members in the Programme throughout Europe. Sustainable Energy Ireland is responsible for the promotion of the programme in Ireland.

Superquinn, which has a policy of using energy efficient lighting where possible, has upgraded the lighting fixtures in its new distribution warehouse in Blanchardstown, Dublin. Two hundred and sixty existing lighting fixtures have been replaced with energy efficient light fixtures, the main features of which are:

- A 50% reduction in lighting load
- low running costs,
- daylight monitoring (where the light fixture will dim in response to available daylight),
- occupancy monitoring (where the light fixture will dim if there is no activity underneath it) and
- instant switch on.

The Superquinn upgrade project, which has been initiated by Ciaran Coffey Technical Services Manager, will result in a 70% reduction in lighting energy use on site. The project is being financed from the energy savings achieved over the first two and a half years.

Commenting, Chris Hughes, Sustainable Energy Ireland, said, "We are delighted to announce Superquinn's membership of the GreenLight Programme. Lighting use accounts for almost 40% of electricity consumed in non-residential buildings so investing in an energy efficient lighting system which can reduce lighting bill by up to 50% can have a significant impact on a company's bottom line. . In return for its investment in this programme, Superquinn will not only benefit from financial savings, but will also play a role in helping to combat the impacts of climate change on our environment. As this is Energy Awareness Week I would ask other companies out there to consider how they could reduce their energy use and play their part in helping the environment while at the same time benefiting from substantial cost savings".

Eamonn Quinn, Deputy Chairman, of Superquinn, said, "Signing up to the GreenLight programme was part of Superquinn's ongoing commitment to the environment and sustainable development programme. The installation at our distribution centre shows that it's possible to create a benefit for the environment and reduce cost at the same time.

Sustainable Energy Ireland is a statutory authority charged with promoting and assisting the development of sustainable energy. Sustainable Energy Ireland is funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2000-2006 with programmes part financed by the European Union.

For further information on GreenLight, please visit www.eu-greenlight.org.

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