

# REDUCE YOUR USE



## Marine Institute

Sustainability is at the heart of the Marine Institute's research, scientific advice and economic development services. Energy management is a key part of action on sustainability and the institute's energy strategy focuses on the national Research Vessel fleet, Laboratories, Office/IT equipment and Facilities. Behavioural change is also critical to the success of the programmes and the Reduce Your Use initiative provided a timely reminder of the need to respond to the energy crisis over the Winter period 2022-23.

The 'Get Greener' team continues to engage with staff to promote efficiency in energy usage and encourage more sustainable operating practices. Staff engagement along with modifications to existing plant and equipment, use of innovative mechanisms, advanced energy efficiency and renewables, are all actions that are delivering measurable savings through the Marine Institute's energy strategy.



**10.3% electric savings**  
(Oct – Jan 2022/23 vs. pre-COVID)



**9 buildings and  
2 research vessels.**



Newport Research Facility

## Heating and lighting



- Turned off heating and utilities outside building operating hours.
- Set internal space heating temperature to 19 degrees C.
- Shut down heat in office buildings 2 hours before building close.
- Provided energy efficient infrared portable heaters (20W) instead of oil filled portable radiators (2kW), to offices where temperatures were below 19 degrees.
- Optimised water heating to save energy.
- Drained external water feature to reduce the need to power the pump.



- Reduced unnecessary use of lighting.

## Control and scheduling



- Optimised core and extended hours of operation.
- Ensured that operational control is appropriate to hours of work and services delivered.
- Weekday building closure bought forward by 2 hours from 10pm to 8pm.
- Reduced weekend access – Oranmore building now closed on Sundays to save energy.
- HQ closed from 23rd December to 3rd January with all plant and equipment switched off (frost thermostats activated as necessary).
- Full review of BMS in Oranmore to ensure controls are operating efficiently.



Virology Lab, Fish Health Unit. One of 54 labs at Oranmore HQ



Oranmore HQ



## Facilities assessments in HQ and Newport buildings

- Energy efficiency assessment/audit carried out.
- Out-of-hours walk-throughs carried out.
- Operations and Maintenance Audit carried out.
- Operational control and measurement process implemented.
- Manual checks carried out in offices where no BMS/thermostat controls exist.
- Metering measurement and verification in HQ building (Oranmore).