

## **Packaging Waste Goes Organic with Glenisk**

- **Glenisk Organic Dairy win Repak Recycling Award with:**
  - **45% reduction in waste going to landfill**
  - **Internal recycling rate of 97%**
  - **Paper yogurt pots sourced from sustainably managed forests**
  - **Reduction in use of plastic packaging from 33% in 2006 to 12% in 2007**
- **Symantec expand their sales of on-line downloads to 3 million resulting in millions of euro in packaging savings**
- **Mircosoft reduce Mac Office packaging by 70%**
- **Glenlo Abbey rewarded for their 'Packaging Free Breakfast'**
- **Wicklow County Council commended for unique Recycling Centre Charity Shop initiative**

**Dublin 09.10.08;** Glenisk Organic Dairy was awarded the Repak Best Practice Award for outstanding achievements in the reduction of Packaging Waste. Glenisk was one of eleven winners which were presented with their awards by the Minister for the Environment John Gormley in recognition of their environmental best practices last night at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Repak Recycling Award ceremony in the Four Seasons Hotel in Dublin. Other winners on the night included Glenlo Abbey for their innovative 'Packaging Free Breakfast' and Wicklow County Council for their installation of a charity shop on the site of their

Civic Amenity Centre to allow for the re use of discarded household items that arrive at the centre.

Additional award winners included technology companies Symantec and Microsoft. Symantec increased their recycling rate up to 80%, and increased their online product sales to over 3 million products resulting in the prevention of 345.6 metric tonnes of paper, plastic and cardboard packaging. Microsoft re-designed their Mac Office packaging in 2007 which reduced the packaging weight by 70% leading to a reduction of 210 tonnes of packaging resulting in a 30% reduction in number of trucks need to deliver the same product.

**Glenisk Organic Dairy** has been endeavouring to make their packaging as environmentally friendly as possible to coincide with their organic food ethos. In 2007 they:

- changed larger yogurt pots from polyesterene PS to Cardboard,
- changed lids of pots from PET to paper
- changed secondary packaging to new shelf ready packaging which removed the need for outer plastic shrink wrap.
- reduced the amount of plastic packaging they use from 33% in 2006 to 12% in 2007
- widely moved the remaining plastics from PS (polystyrene ) to PET packaging where possible, (which is more readily recyclable in Ireland).
- Their new paper pots are sourced from sustainable managed forests.
- recycled over 97% of their own back door waste
- reduced their overall packaging waste by a phenomenal 45%.

**Glenlo Abbey** won the Best Practice Hospitality Award for ongoing a persistent work on minimising the use of packaging and improving recycling rates. They now have clearly marked recycling bins in each guest room and one particularly innovative scheme is their 'packaging free breakfast' whereby all food items are

ordered in bulk to cut down on packaging and eliminating the need for individually wrapped butter sachets and jam jars.

**Wicklow County Council** won the Civic Amenity Centre of the Year Award for large range of items recycled and introduction of an innovative 'Five Loaves' charity shop.

All waste is collected entirely indoors within a 20,000 square feet of industrial space which sees 3,000 vehicles through its doors every week and its popularity is mainly due to the large range of recyclable goods that can be accepted at the site. One particular unique initiative they have undertaken is to install a charity shop on site to take in any household products which can be resold on to other people who may have use for them. The funds raised by "the Five Loaves" charity shop are put back into local social needs programmes e.g. homeless etc. The centre also incorporates a resource centre for school teachers as well as a conference centre and workshop venue. There are many other initiatives such as second hand school book shop, book & video exchange and a compost display area which make this civic amenity an exemplar.

The complete list of category winners on the night included were:

- **Symantec Ireland** who won Repak Member of the Year 2008,  
Sponsored by Arthur Cox
- **Glenisk Organic Dairies** who won Repak Best Practice Award sponsored  
by the EPA
- **Microsoft** for Best Packaging Prevention Initiative Award 2008,  
Sponsored by EPA
- **Musgrave Group** won the Repak Excellence Award 2008,
- **Glenlo Abbey Hotel** who won the Repak Best practice Award 2008 –  
Hospitality Sector, sponsored by Rehab Recycling
- **Thornton's Recycling**, 2008 Recovery Operator of the Year Award –  
Large, sponsored by Tetra Pak

- **Clean Ireland Recycling**, 2008 Recovery Operator of the Year Award  
Small to Medium Company, Sponsored by Manvik
- **Fingal County Council** won 2008 Local Authority of the Year Award,  
Sponsored by REHAB Recycling
- **Murphy's SuperValu Supermarket, Castletownbere, Co. Cork** who  
won Best Practice – Independent Retailer Sector 2008
- **Tashinny National School, Ballymahon, Co. Longford**, Repak in  
association with An Taisce, Recycling School of the Year

**Tashinny National School** also had one particular interesting reuse initiative in their school when they put old election posters to good use by creating a hen run out of the posters.

The awards were presented as part of Repak Recycling Week 2008 at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Repak Awards ceremony. The Awards serve to recognise and commend both businesses and schools that are exemplars in packaging minimisation, prevention and recycling and that are actively seeking to make a difference to recycling and to the environment in Ireland.

Commenting Dr Andrew Hetherington, CEO Repak said "We are delighted to see the range and quality of initiatives undertaken by Irish business and schools increase this year. Over the last number of years we have implemented a number of programmes to help increase recycling rates and also to improve packaging prevention measures which have resulted in financial and environmental gains for these companies. In order for Ireland to meeting its ever increasing recycling rates we need to be innovative in all areas of packaging development, usage, design, manufacture, reduction and recycling."

The awards were sponsored by RPS Consulting, Manvik, Tetra Pak, Rehab Recycling, Environmental Protection Agency and Arthur Cox Solicitors.

The awards judges were Hugh Stevens of Enterprise Ireland, Andy Fanning of the EPA, Alan Sherlock of the SFA, Roger Gillespie of KPMG, Danielle Conaghan of Arthur Cox and journalist Fearghal O'Connor.

**Ends**

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**Notes to Editor:**

## **Repak Recycling Awards Citations**

### **1. Repak Member of the Year 2008**

#### **Symantec Ireland - Winner**

Symantec Ireland is the Irish operation of this major US multinational, the leader in the field of IT security globally, and employs over 1,000 people at a state of the art facility in Blanchardstown, outside Dublin. The company has invested heavily in implementing best practice procedures in all areas of waste

management and identified 26 separate waste streams in its 2007 waste programme. They list Corporate and Social Responsibility as a core value of the company and are immensely proud of their record in this regard. Symantec brought their recycling rate up to a commendable 80% in 2007.

Symantec are exemplary members of Repak and are previous winners of the Repak Prevention Award in 2006 and were runners-up for the Member of the Year Award last year. In 2007 Symantec continued to expand their on-line download service, where customers could purchase anti-virus software without any accompanying packaging. Over 3 million products were bought on-line in 2007. This resulted in the prevention of 345.6 metric tones of paper, plastic and cardboard packaging. The estimate of financial savings for this product is many millions of Euro in 2007. Recent projects have including moving from a carton style pack, to a much smaller DVD style pack, and reducing the size and amount of cardboard in the remaining cartons.

### **Glanbia Ingredients Ltd – Virginia, Co. Cavan - Finalist**

A key part of one of Ireland's largest milk processors, this plant in Virginia has a workforce of 100 and handles 75m litres of milk annually to produce 50m kgs of milk powder and all the cream that goes into Baileys Cream Liqueurs. They have excelled in waste management and recycling by switching to bulk containers in favour of smaller unit packaging wherever possible. All of their waste paper, plastics and wood packaging goes for recycling, making the site a virtual waste free zone.

### **Heatons Ltd – Department Stores - Finalist**

Heatons have grown their department store chain to 64 outlets nationwide and compete in the fashion and homewares market.

Heatons have simplified their logistics by introducing a "single pick" system for distributing stock from their Northern Ireland warehouse to the majority of their stores located in the Republic. By so doing they have clocked up huge operational efficiencies, not to mention the substantial savings made by eliminating most of the packaging from their day to day distribution activities.

## **2. Best Practice, Hospitality Award 2008**

### **Glenlo Abbey Hotel, Galway - Winner**

The Glenlo Abbey Hotel is a luxury, family run boutique hotel in Bushypark, Co.Galway. The Hotel has 46 bedrooms, a fine dining restaurant, bar, extensive banqueting facilities and a nine-hole golf course. This five star hotel provides the feeling of relaxation in luxurious surroundings. The Hotel has an excellent waste management structure in place that involves all the staff and prides itself in fulfilling and indeed, going beyond, its statutory obligations. This comprehensive approach has seen The Glenlo Abbey work in conjunction with Galway County Council in order to tutor other businesses in the locality on their waste management methods. They have introduced a range of impressive waste prevention initiatives, including introducing the 'Packaging Free Breakfast' which has eradicated the need for butter and jam packaging, receiving food deliveries in bulk and providing clearly marked recycle bins in guest rooms. The hotel constantly strives to achieve the very highest standards in recycling and have been steadily increasing their recycling rate over the past number of years. The Glenlo Abbey Hotel has an absolute commitment to very highest standards waste management, a policy that it pursues with vigour and great enthusiasm.

### **The Clarion, Cork - Finalist**

The Clarion Hotel Cork is a 191 bedroom hotel, located on Lapps Quay in Cork city centre. The hotel has a very impressive waste management structure in place, with a dedicated green team responsible for increasing staff awareness, setting targets and devising and implementing action plans. The Clarion Hotel Cork has significantly reduced waste by lobbying their suppliers to deliver in reusable packaging and in bulk / concentrate form. The hotel segregate and send for recycling all packaging waste and have an impressive recycling rate. The Clarion Hotel Cork uses the Greening Irish Hospitality best practice and was awarded the Green Failte Silver Award in recognition of their approach to waste management.

### **The Tower Hotel - Finalist**

The Tower Hotel is located in County Dublin. It has 118 bedrooms, a restaurant, bar and leisure centre. The hotel is committed to responsible waste management, as indicated by its highly efficient waste management structures and the introduction of numerous initiatives aimed at reducing or eradicating packaging being placed on the market. The Hotel has a dedicated waste management team leader with a good strategic vision and an action plan to match. All packaging wastes are segregated and sent for recycling and many items are reused within the hotel. In 2008 The Tower Hotel set a target of 30% reduction in waste management charges, which they are well on the way to achieving.

### **3. Best Practice Award 2008**

**Glenisk Organic Dairy – winner**

Glenisk have been producing organic yogurt and milk in Offaly for more than twelve years. They have a vision for an organic Ireland where the future health and wellbeing of all our children is assured. Glenisk have decided to make their packaging as environmentally sustainable as possible, to complement their organic product range. They continuously seek methods of improving their packaging materials while producing new designs and product innovations for their customers. They have as a result of many of their projects reduced the amount of plastic packaging they use from 33% in 2006 to 12% in 2007. They are also widely moving the remaining plastics from PS to PET packaging where possible, the latter which is more readily recycled in Ireland than PS.

### **Bulmers Ltd – Finalist**

Bulmers are based in Annerville, Clonmel and have been producing cider in Ireland since 1936. Their brands include Bulmers, Magners Stag and Ritz. Previous award winners, Bulmers continue to find opportunities to lightweight their packaging while also improving the environmental performance of their packs. In 2007 they reduced the weight of their aluminium can preventing 91 tonnes of packaging going on the market and reduced the weight of their foil materials saving a further 3 tonnes per annum. They are currently working on projects that will have a major impact on the weight of their packaging in 2009. Their internal packaging recycling rate stands at about 95%.

### **Tesco Ireland – Finalist**

Tesco is Ireland's leading food retailer, serving over 1 million customers weekly from its 106 stores throughout Ireland. Tesco have previously been Repak award winners and in 2007 they launched their "Strategy on the Environment and Carbon Reduction". This strategy has brought particular focus on packaging recycling and prevention as well as other prevention initiatives. The strategy has

led to a steep increase in the levels of packaging being recycled, as well as a reduction in the amount of food waste being produced in its stores. Their packaging recycling activity has increased from 12,043 tonnes in 2006 to 14,018 tonnes in 2007, an increase of 1975 tonnes. Overall, they increased their recycling by 4,000 tonnes in 2007 taking account of food and packaging recycling. This brought their recycling rate (both food and packaging) from 64% to 75% in 2007. Meanwhile they and other retailers are working with Retail Ireland, and Repak and other Irish retailers to produce a retail agreement to prevent packaging.

#### **4. Best Prevention Initiative Award 2008**

##### **Microsoft – Winner**

Microsoft first opened its doors in Ireland in 1985 with a small manufacturing facility. Since then, Microsoft Ireland has grown to encompass four distinct operations at its campus in Sandyford, and employs over 1,900 full time staff. Microsoft re-designed their Mac Office packaging in 2007 using less material and reducing the weight of the pack by 70% and the volume by 69%. The production of these units led to a reduction of 210 tonnes of packaging in 2007, a 320% increase in pallet utilization, resulting in 30% less trucks being needed to deliver the same product.

##### **McDonalds - Finalist**

McDonald's Restaurants has been operating in Ireland since 1977 and now has 74 restaurants and 5 McCafes around the country. McDonald's employ over 3,500 people in Ireland and all of McDonald's restaurants are members of Repak since 1997.

McDonald's have shown an impressive commitment to packaging prevention during the past year and have removed 176 tonnes of packaging in the process.

### **Glanbia - Finalist**

Glanbia Ingredients Ballyragget is the largest integrated dairy processing facility in Europe employing over 250 people. In 2007 Glanbia implemented a strategy to prevent packaging arising on-site.

This resulted in savings of over 81 tonnes of paper and plastic material and has now been extended to energy and water reduction. These strategies are all reducing the carbon footprint of the company as a whole.

(64 words)

## **5. Repak Excellence Award 2008**

### **Musgrave Group - Winner**

The Repak Excellence Award recognises and honours Irish companies which have demonstrated outstanding achievements in the environmental field.

The Musgrave Group, Ireland's largest grocery distributor, has demonstrated strong leadership in the protection of the environment through its strategy to address crucial environmental concerns through recycling, packaging reduction and sustainable energy use.

Musgrave's environmental achievements include

- Energy and natural resources management initiatives
- A proactive environmental management system

- Development of a sustainable head office building
- Support for Tidy Towns
- Participation in the EPA Cleaner Greener Programme
- Company-led packaging optimisation and minimisation initiatives
- First Irish company to produce an annual environmental report

The award recognises the substantial support which the Musgrave Group has made to Repak's best practice programmes through membership of the Packaging Prevention Steering Group, participation in best practice seminars and case studies, and support for the Repak Recycling Awards. Musgraves have also

## **6. 2008 Recovery Operator of the Year Award - Large**

### **Thornton's Recycling - Winner**

Thornton's Recycling was founded in 1979 by Pdraig Thornton and has waste collection services in Dublin, Meath & Kildare in the domestic, public and private sectors.

The company employs over 280 staff, handling 350,000 tonnes of waste per annum across sites in Dublin, Kildare and Meath. They have a large Material Recovery Facility based at Killeen Road and have encompassed a number of different areas of waste management including servicing Civic Amenity Sites for local authorities, composting, End of Life Vehicles, confidential shredding and Liquid waste business. In addition the company also operates material sorting and contract marketing of dry recyclables for Cork County Council and Galway County Councils. A rigorous procedure is in place for the exporting of all dry recyclables which complies with the Trans Frontier Shipment Directive and all relevant legislation and which also includes quality checks and photographing materials before it leaves the site. Thorntons Recycling ensures that there is full "cradle to the grave" reporting and accountability in place at all times for the

export of all dry recyclable materials. The company operates to high international standards for Quality, Health & Safety together with environment management and have recently been accredited with ISO standards 9000, 1400 and 18001.

### **Greenstar Limited - Finalist**

Greenstar is a provider of integrated waste management solutions. Established in the late 1990s the company is a subsidiary of National Toll Roads. The company collects household, commercial and industrial waste. Their larger commercial customers have onsite recycling facilities manned by Greenstar staff which maximizes the level of segregation. They operate household kerbside dry recyclable collection schemes and service both civic amenity sites and bring bank facilities on behalf of Local Authorities. The company currently employs over 500 employees in 35 locations nationwide.

### **Panda Waste Services – Finalist**

Panda Waste Services (Panda's parent company is Nurendale) was established in 1973, however the purchase of the company by Eamon Waters in 1990 brought about great change in the company, growing from a 2 truck operation with no premises to a company with 3 facilities. Panda Waste Services currently employ 254 people across three facilities.

In 2006 Panda Waste Services entered the domestic sector in Dublin which instigated change in this market. In 2007 Smurfit's Recycling, since renamed Irish Packaging & Recycling in Ballymount, Dublin was acquired by the parent

company to facilitate the companies planned expansion into the recovery of dry recyclables and waste packaging recycling. Panda provides kerbside dry recyclable service to in excess of 40K domestic customers.

## **7. 2008 Recovery Operator of the Year Award Small to Medium**

### **Company**

#### **Clean Ireland Recycling – Winner**

Clean Ireland Recycling is a recovery operator based in the Mid-West in Creegh, Kilrush, Co. Clare. The company is a family run business owned by two brothers Michael and John O' Donoghue. Established in 1991, it employs 60 staff and provides a full range of waste management services to both domestic and commercial customers. With a strong focus in technology; it has invested in tracking and traceability equipment that is installed in all its collection vehicles.

Clean Ireland Recycling also provide services in the public sector at the five Civic Amenity Sites in the Clare County Council region these include Ballyduff Beg Inagh, Lisdeen, Scariff, Ennis & the newly opened Shannon CAS. They also service bring sites in the Limerick City & County areas collecting steel cans and collecting plastic bottles.

#### **D.G.D. Papers Ltd – Finalist**

DGD Papers Ltd is 10 years in business in September 2008. The company was set up by Liam Garvey and Mark Doupe who recognised a gap in the market for Security Shredding and Recycling Company in the Mid West. The company operates at a 15,000 square foot purpose built warehouse in Raheen Business Park. DGD Papers Ltd offers an offsite security shredding service and mobile shredding to Government Departments, financial institutions, local authorities, Multi Nationals, professional bodies and many more too numerous to mention.

plus a mobile shredding truck The company also offers a one stop solution to commercial customers' who generate recyclable waste and landfill waste by installing and servicing large compactors and balers

In 2007 DGD Papers Ltd achieved ISO 9000 quality standard and are registered with NOA.

### **McElvaney Waste & Recycling – Finalist**

Mc Elvaney's Waste & Recycling is a family-run business established back in 1985, located and operating in Co Monaghan. They provide a waste and recycling service to over 7,000 domestic households, 1,000 commercial customers, and 41 schools throughout the County. McElvaney's are principally a domestic Waste Contractor and were one of the first to introduce the pay by weight system in Ireland. The facility acts as a transfer station for the kerbside dry recyclables, which are processed at another larger MRF. In partnership with Monaghan County Council, Mc Elvaney's operates the local authority's MRF and CA Site at Scotch Corner, Co. Monaghan, where 48 different recyclables are accepted, including a vast range of packaging materials, WEEE, waste oils, etc. Schools tours are a regular feature at the CA site.

### **8.Recycling Awards-Civic Amenity Site/Recycling Center of the Year Award**

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#### **Wicklow County Council – Winner**

The Bray Recycling Centre is located in an industrial zoned estate. The Center is housed completely indoors having taken over the use of the building from the previous owners/ tenants, a chemical company that ceased trading. It is the fifth link in a chain of recycling facilities managed by Wicklow County Council.

The total catchments area is circa 50,000. The site experiences up to 3,000 vehicles per week using the site. The popularity of the site is due to the range of material accepted including difficult material such as Expanded Polystyrene (EPS).

The facility is very innovative in that, all waste is collected entirely indoors within a 20,000 square feet of industrial space. The design of the centre, with its spacious layout, together with the assistance of trolleys to move large items from householder's vehicles, has been very successful. Materials accepted at the centre, include all the regular dry recyclables packaging waste such as, glass bottles, aluminium & steel cans, plastic bottles and wrapping. Other materials accepted include the WEEE, batteries, light bulbs, mobile phones and textiles.

Over 1,700 tones of recyclables were processed through the centre in 2007, of which nearly 40% was packaging waste. Health & Safety is an integral part of the centre for both the public & staff through its layout, plus signage. Loading & unloading of recyclables from large vehicles is kept away from the general public. The centre uses a large semi automatic baler that produces mill size bales, adding value to recyclables and reducing the need for storage space.

Another feature of the centre is the location of an on site charity shop "The Five Loaves"; it generates revenue through promoting reuse of household items, clothing, etc. The funds raised are put back into local social needs programmes e.g. homeless etc. The centre also incorporates a resource centre for school teachers as well as a conference centre and workshop venue. There are many other initiatives insitu such as second hand school book shop, book & video exchange and a compost display area.

## **Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Co Co- Ballyogan Recycling Park (BRP) - Finalist**

The Ballyogan Recycling Park (BRP) is a purpose built waste management facility situated in Carrickmines Dublin 18. The facility includes a waste transfer station and a Civic Amenity Site. The site is managed by Greenstar through an operating contract with Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. Dun Laoghaire has a population of c.195,000.

A one-way system is in operation throughout the facility which ensures efficient traffic flow. Efforts are continuously made to improve the site and to encourage the public to use the site.

The average number of users of the facility is 22,500 per month. The total amount of waste collected for 2007 was approx 15,000 tonnes of which 1,800 tonnes was packaging waste. The waste included batteries, oils, TVs, Computers, Fridges, paints, gas cylinders, fluorescent tubes, waste medicines and aerosols. The site is open 7 days a week.

New initiatives for 2007 including the collection of flat or plate glass, book collection, a drum crusher for paint containers, have all proved to be successful.

## **Clare County Council-the Shannon Civic Amenity Site (CAS) - Finalist**

Clare County Council opened the Shannon Recycling Centre in July 2007. This recycling centre serves the population of Shannon and surrounding areas with a population of up to 18,000.

The site is built on a green field site and is split into two levels, the upper level for light materials such as glass, cans, paper. The lower level is for much heavier materials such as wood, scrap metal and large WEEE items. Safety for

employees and customers is a major feature. Signage is very visible, and manual handling is greatly reduced using the split level system. The upper level contains a central island where traffic flow is via a one way system.

A vast array of materials is accepted at the site, all packaging types including used beverage cartons and Expanded Polystyrene. They have a large storage & baling shed under cover that produces mill size bales that can be stored and collected in large quantities by other service providers, thus reducing collection frequency and traffic. The site has proved very popular with the locals with vehicle numbers averaging almost 1000 a week. Over 600 tonnes of recyclables were processed through the centre in 2007, of which nearly 45% was packaging waste.

The on-site water system is powered by solar panels mounted on the roof of the main office.

## **9. Recycling Awards - 2008 Local Authority of the Year Award**

### **Fingal County Council – Winner**

Fingal County Councils administrative area encompasses 88,000 households and services a local population of 240,000 approx.

The authority demonstrates an all round good performance in terms of availability of local collection facilities for the general public to bring dry recyclables too. Packaging waste that is difficult to manage such as Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) is now accepted at their Civic Amenity Site. The collected EPS material is sent to Rehab Recycle at the Navan facility for further processing. In 2007 the bring collection system yielded 11% more recycled tonnage than the previous year. All households within Fingal are serviced by kerbside collections

for dry recyclables and residual waste collection. This service has now been expanded to include the third bin (compost).

Enforcement of the waste packaging regulations is good. New "Major Producer" companies within the council area once informed of their obligations by the enforcement unit of the council demonstrate compliance by joining Repak or self complying without the need to resort to prosecutions.

Awareness, education and marketing programmes undertaken by the Council are exemplary. Partnering with Repak in joint campaigns as well as undertaken specific campaigns such as Fingal Beach Clean Up, Anti –litter campaigns and very active participation in the Green Schools programme.

### **Louth County Council - Finalist**

Louth County Council main office is located in Dundalk and serves a population of 92,000 people. The Environment section in the Council was staffed in 2007 by up to seven people – some of which were part time having other duty assignments.

The Council owned and managed collection infrastructure in 2007 which consisted of a reasonable distribution of bring banks complimented with the services of two Civic Amenity Sites. 85% of all the households in the county are serviced by private sector Recovery Operators who are permitted by the Local Authority. Enforcement activity by the Council was good considering that due to insufficient staff resource funding; full time activities in this were curtailed.

Louth County Council is actively engaged with all aspects of awareness, education and marketing using a range of media to address and communicate with different audiences very effectively.

### **Galway City Council – Finalist**

Galway City had a population within the region of 74,000 people in 2007. Galway City Council provided kerbside collection to 25,000 households in the City. The doorstep bin collection service is a "Pay per Weight" charging mechanism with each householder given the opportunity to reduce their waste bills by optimising their use of the dry recyclable bin and now using the third bin, "brown bin" for compost to divert residual waste destined for landfill towards recovery and recycling. The Council have undertaken awareness, education and marketing to promote this service such as "Slim your Bin" campaigns. In addition, the Council offer some bring facilities and two Civic Amenity Sites for the public to bring material too to be recycled. The Council have pioneered composting within the City and have a windrow compost farm in operation.

Enforcement activity within the administrative region of the City Council is satisfactory, with many visits and inspections being undertaken. Galway City Council is heavily involved in the Green Schools Programme and nearly has a 100% participation of all Schools within their functional area. In the Tidy Town competition the Council won best new entrant in 2007.

## **10. Best Practice – Independent Retailer Sector 2008**

### **Murphy's SuperValu Supermarket, Castletownbere, Co. Cork - Winner**

Murphy's SuperValu Supermarket in the port town of Castletownbere is run by Lorraine Murphy, a daughter of the proprietor. Lorraine and her well trained staff go the extra mile to drive recycling rates to new and dizzy heights and have achieved a superb recycling rate of 90% in 2007. They also managed to keep the increase in their waste costs to a net 3% whilst waste volumes climbed by 7%. Other environmental initiatives include operating a paperless office, all store lighting is on timers, all doors are self closing saving heat and fridges lighting is on timers. They also constantly promote in store promoting the theme "Reduce,

Reuse, Recycle" and entered a float in local parade based on this theme, which won first prize.

### **Quish's SuperValu, Ballincollig, Co. Cork - Finalist**

This superb supermarket of some 20,000 sq ft under the management of Dave Tarrant displays as good an example of best practice as you are likely to find anywhere in Ireland. Major emphasis is placed on waste management best practice in all areas of the supermarket and in-store bakery. The key to their success is undoubtedly in good staff training and Quish's place huge emphasis on this aspect. Good waste management makes good sense but the real payback for Quish's is in the significant monetary savings they made in 2007 by pursuing an aggressive waste management policy

### **McInerney's SuperValu Supermarket, Loughrea, Co. Galway - Finalist**

This flagship supermarket of 16,000 sq ft is the major supermarket in the growing Co. Galway town of Loughrea. The store has an active and planned waste management programme under the expert guidance of Lorraine McLoughlin who looks after all aspects of staff recruitment and training. McInerneys have achieved a commendable recycling rate of 79% in 2007 and are leaving no stone unturned to raise this even higher. They also managed to keep their waste costs on a par with 2006 despite an increase in their waste volumes of over 9%.

### **11. Repak, in association with An Taisce, Recycling School of the Year**

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## **Tashinny National School, Ballymahon, Co. Longford- Winners**

Tashinny National School is a three teacher primary school in Longford with 44 students. With Principal Elspeth Hall and Green-Schools Coordinator Yvonne McHugh leading the way, they have been involved in An Taisce's Green-Schools programme since 1999 and have been awarded a very impressive four Green Flags for their work on environmental issues. Recycling has been a way of life in this school since they commenced the Green-Schools programme eight years ago. They carry out a waste review at the start of every term and then introduce various recycling projects. They use scrap paper and junk mail in the classrooms for drawing and cutting activities. Unused paper is shredded and used for bedding for a family of rabbits. Paper was also used in a wormery as the worms enjoyed eating damp shredded paper! All banana skins, apple cores, orange peels and tea bags are composted and used in the school gardens. Batteries, milk cartons, clothes, shoes, bags, bed linen, mobile phones and ink cartridges are all recycled in the school. Boxes, plastic bottles, toilet roll tubes, newspapers and Christmas cards are used in Art & Craft classes to make all sorts of wonderful creations! This school used to keep hens and make a hen run out of old election posters, they are hoping to bring the hens back this year after they make a bigger hen run from recycled materials!

## **St. Mary's Boys National School in Ballsbridge – Finalist**

St. Mary's Boys National School in Ballsbridge is a 13 teacher school with 130 students. They have been involved in An Taisce's Green-Schools Programme for many years and have been awarded the Green Flag an impressive three times! Principal Maeve Brew and Green-Schools Co-ordinators Margeret Irwin and Anne O'Hanlon have incorporated the Reduce, Re-use, Recycle mantra into everyday

life at this school. The school have even constructed a large and true to life model of the ideal "Eco-Village" to live in. They went into great detail even including a replica of the "spire" found on Dublin's O'Connell Street. St. Mary's held a Fashion Show where everything was made from recycled products, old CD's, paper and rings. Everything that can be recycled is recycled here! Paper, stamps, aluminium cans, batteries, plastic, rings, fabric, packaging, CD's and green waste to name a few! "Haddiers Green Army" collect green waste for composting from each classroom and fallen leaves are collected and stored in a bin made from re-used timber pallets. When the leaves decompose the mould is used to add nutrients to soil and flowers. The school also recycles mobile phones, which are sent to the Jack and Jill Foundation to help sick children. Through Art classes, historical collages are created using fabric from a variety of materials such as; satin, cotton, denim, Hessian, velvet, wool, leather, twine and even pieces from a teachers wedding dress!! During the festive season, Christmas cards are recycled to make Christmas decorations.

### **St. Conleth's Infant School, Kildare – Finalist**

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St. Conleth's Infant School is situated in Newbridge, Co Kildare and has 20 teachers and 440 students. With Principal Ann Dempsey and Green-Schools coordinator Ellen Quaid leading the way.

This school has been awarded the Green Flag an amazing four times! They recycle everything from mobile phones, ink cartridges, batteries and old stamps to used paper, food waste, staff room recyclables and cleaning recyclables.

St. Conleth's are strategic in their approach to recycling!! They colour code and label their recycling bins in each classroom, and they have a central collection container point that is child friendly and not too high up. They have also made the Battery Recycling Facility accessible by locating it in the main thoroughfare.

The mobile phone and ink cartridge containers are easily recognisable by the children.

In this school recycling is promoted in a variety of clever ways! They came up with the great idea of having a designated month for each item e.g. October is Battery Recycling Month! They also arranged visits to the local recycling facility and use notice boards, intercom messages, assemblies, poems, Action Days, lessons, slogan competitions, poster competitions and questionnaires to promote recycling inside and outside the school!