

Green Seafood Programme

Project Outline:

The project is broken into three distinct work packages.

1. Resource Efficiency Supports

This project proposes to develop and facilitate a series of online sustainability webinars and workshops for delivery to the seafood processors sector. Sustainability topics will include:

- Energy Management
- Waste Management (including packaging and food waste)
- Water Management

This work package will provide information on established and emerging innovations and technologies around each of the sustainability categories listed above. Key learnings from relevant projects, case studies, data and reports commissioned by BIM since the establishment of the Green Programme will also be incorporated. Practical guidance for seafood processors on how to improve the day-to-day efficiency of their operations will also form part of these online sessions.

This project will also include the provision of personalised support to companies through online meetings to assist resource efficiency assessment carried out in-house (i.e. self-assessments), bill analysis, refrigeration maintenance, waste categorisation exercises etc. This will allow companies to carry out different components of the Green Seafood Business Programme resource efficiency assessments and allow the company to identify and develop action plans through this process.

Future webinars and workshops will include heat exchange. Engagement with these webinars has been high and have proven to be a valuable resource for industry.

2. Water Stewardship

One of the most significant and ubiquitously used resources in the seafood processing industry is water. However, water is a limited and fragile resource as both the quantity and quality of its supply is threatened on a global scale. In recognition of this the 'non-domestic water use tariff framework' based on usage volumes came into effect in 2021 directly impacting seafood processing companies. Thus there is a need for seafood processors to address the risks, challenges, and opportunities that sustainable use of water presents.

The programme specifically supports seafood businesses to reduce water consumption, lower costs, address water related risks and operate in a more environmentally sustainable manner. The programme is anchored on the "Five Steps to Better Water Stewardship", a framework that provides an actionable approach to rolling out water stewardship across industrial processing sites.

3. Climate Change

As committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021, Ireland is taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and is on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050. Within the Climate Action Plan, the focus on Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy is on increasing recycling and minimising waste generation by prioritising the prevention of waste at every opportunity from producer, processor, retailer and consumer through eco-design, reuse and repair, and increasing segregation. As 50% of total GHG emissions come from resource extraction and processing, focus on circular economy is an essential component of achieving net zero emission targets.

This project will support seafood processors to manage the business impacts of climate change and aid them in understanding and achieving set climate targets through developing the skills and resources required. This project will similarly support processors to adapt to the upcoming Seafood

Development Programme which will further specify target areas of climate action specific to the industry.

Project Objectives:

- To provide up-to-date and relevant information on emerging and innovative technologies, management solutions, best practice and resource guides on sustainability and the seafood processing sector through a range of different platforms and communications methods/channels.
- To provide one-to-one personalised support to seafood companies engaging in the Green Seafood and Water Stewardship Programmes.
- To identify knowledge gaps, build new tools and provide relevant reports and case studies to support the long-term sustainability of the seafood processing sector.
- To review the efficacy of previous support as a benchmark for improvement and the impacts of climate change.
- To create opportunities for knowledge sharing, peer-to-peer support and collaboration on overarching sustainability challenges faced across the sector.
- Continue to signpost, promote, and support engagement and awareness of sustainability and climate change related programmes and other relevant BIM programmes and supports available.

Expected Benefits:

- Reduce the carbon footprint and improve environmental performance of the seafood processing sector.
- Reduce the cost of utilities for seafood processors.
- Increase sustainability & resource efficiency knowledge within the industry.
- Increase industry adherence to climate change targets and actions set out in Climate Action Plan 2021 and Seafood Development Programme 2021-2027.
- Collect a baseline of data of industry improvement in the area of sustainability.

Projected Cost: €75,000