



Business in the

Community

Measure:

Business & Economic
Development

Promoters:

Business In The Community
& Donegal County
Enterprise Board

Title:

ASPECT

(Achieving Sustainable Progress
Through Environmental Commerce
Technologies)



Siobhan McLaughlin,
DML Site Assessments
and business mentor
Alan Thompson,
Alan Thompson Architects

The ASPECT Project has been successfully delivered by Business In the Community and Donegal County Enterprise Board.

The initiative was designed to encourage SMEs in the North West region, to get more actively involved in developing or adopting environmental practices as part of their day-to-day business development activities.

The project set out to help SMEs improve performance through the adoption of sustainable products, services and technologies. Businesses were also encouraged to seek ways to reduce waste and /or develop opportunities for recycling or utilization of recycled materials.

The project contained three key phases: Phase 1 involved completion of an environmental business review & the development of business action plans. In phase 2, mentors with the appropriate mix of skills and expertise were allocated to participating businesses. Using the findings of the environmental audit, businesses worked with their mentor to develop a sustainability report. Phase 3 involved providing the necessary support to participants to allow them to implement their business action plan. It also provided participants with access to grant assistance, to aid the development of environmental products and processes.

To maximise opportunities for learning, a series of best practice seminars were delivered. These events were open to all businesses in the North West Region and were used to create networking opportunities for business representatives in the area.

On completion, the project has successfully achieved the major targets set out in the original funding application. Feedback from participants and mentors clearly shows the initiative has had positive impact on business performance and competitiveness, with many businesses having begun to introduce improvements to environmental business practices.

Total Project Cost: €440,764

Grant Awarded: €330,574

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