

Reducing Energy Costs for Your Business

ESB's Smart Energy Services are driven by the belief that electricity holds the key to a brighter, more sustainable future. Its mission is to create a brighter future, powered by low-carbon energy that enables progress and possibility for everyone.

Working in partnership with large energy users across the UK and Ireland, ESB's aim is to help these companies deliver significant savings, revenues and carbon-emission reductions. No matter what your in-house capabilities may be, ESB's energy experts can help.

There are a range of services and solutions available that can work for your business and within your budget. From energy audits and financing, to

implementing and monitoring solutions across lighting, heating and cooling, battery storage, renewables, EV fleet charging and the Energy Management hub, ESB offers an end-to-end service designed to deliver continual return on investment.

Its collaborative approach assures transparency and results. Whether the requirement is for a single facility lighting retrofit; a multi-site, multi-technology overhaul; or designing a renewable, behind-the-meter

'ESB's aim is to help companies deliver significant savings, revenues and carbon emission reductions'

heating and cooling system from the ground up, ESB will work with you to deliver a bespoke solution that works for you.

With an Energy Services team that covers a range of disciplines and backgrounds, the company provides expertise in energy supply, sustainable technology, energy systems and project management – all tailored to the needs of your business.

ESB's Smart Energy Services recently delivered one of Ireland's largest ground-mounted solar projects in partnership with MSD, a leading global pharmaceutical company. The project involved the installation of a 7.3MW ground-mounted solar photovoltaic array. This

infrastructure is estimated to generate approximately 7.9GWh of clean, renewable electricity annually, meeting up to 20% of the energy requirements of MSD's site in Ballydine, Co Tipperary.

Contact the team today by visiting [esb.ie/what-we-do/smart-energy-services](https://www.esb.ie/what-we-do/smart-energy-services) or email at smartenergy@esb.ie to benefit from:

- Unparalleled energy expertise
- Project financing with no upfront investment required
- Innovative energy-saving technologies
- Advanced energy monitoring and analytics

By working together, ESB can deliver your vision to plan, design, build and finance a greener, brighter future.

Dublin Port Company and UCD Collaborate On World-First Eco-Engineering Initiative



Dublin Port Company (DPC), in partnership with University College Dublin (UCD), has launched an innovative initiative to enrich biodiversity along the Great South Wall, marking a significant advancement in eco-engineering and sustainability practices.

While artificial structures like seawalls and rock armour have been essential for protecting ports worldwide, they often lack the biodiversity of natural rocky shores, posing challenges for marine ecosystems. Recognising this, UCD researchers collaborated with DPC to pioneer a solution that combines ecological principles with engineering expertise.

Central to this effort is the deployment of large habitat units along the Great South Wall, strategically chosen for their potential to support marine life. These units, incorporating a natural topography design inspired by Ringaskiddy, Co Cork, represent a pioneering achievement in eco-engineering.

The design process drew from a comprehensive study conducted under the Ecostructure project, with Dublin Port's pivotal involvement. This study evaluated 32 natural

rocky shores and 32 artificial shoreline sites across Ireland and Wales, assessing both biological diversity and physical topography. Leveraging advanced techniques like photogrammetry, the project team developed 3D models to guide the creation of engineering-standard habitat units and wall panels.

Crucially, these habitat units integrate natural topography into eco-friendly concrete, reducing carbon footprint while maximising biodiversity potential. Collaboration with industry partners CubEX and MODULAR Cubed underscores the fusion of academic research with practical application.

UCD researchers will conduct thorough monitoring over the next two years to evaluate the effectiveness of these habitat units in enhancing marine biodiversity. By studying diverse species, including invertebrates and fish, the project aims to uncover valuable insights into large-scale eco-engineering approaches.

Despite losing its title as the world's longest seawall, the Great South Wall retains its significance as one of Europe's longest, symbolising a legacy of maritime engineering.

SMEs and Trends in Accounting in Ireland Today

Moore Ireland is a leading Irish provider of accountancy and advisory services for smart, commercially ambitious enterprises seeking the highest standards in client service and expertise. The firm is ranked in the Top 10 accountancy practices in Ireland, employing over 140 staff, with offices in both Cork and Dublin.

Specialising in servicing the SME sector, the firm is seeing ever-increasing complex requirements in this area as SMEs deal with challenges such as:

- The regulatory environment in which they operate
- Access to funds and the cost of funds
- General uncertainty due to geopolitical risks
- The well-known shortage in skills

Ned Murphy, Managing Partner, Moore Ireland, comments: "In this context we are seeing a strong demand for tax planning services in areas of succession, mergers and acquisitions, and general expansion.

"As SMEs face new demands, our service offering is increasing to meet these demands. We are now in a position to offer services in new areas which are becoming increasingly important. These include, for example, ESG, cyber security and gender reporting. This is in addition to all of the usual standard compliance requirements.

"Last year we partnered with our Moore firm in London, Moore



Ned Murphy, Managing Partner, Moore Ireland

Kingston Smith, and Waterland Private Equity and are pursuing a policy of expansion through the acquisition of accountancy practices in addition to our usual organic growth. We aim to be the number one choice of SMEs in Ireland and are already seeing the benefits of the partnership with Moore Kingston Smith.

"The environment in which we work is changing as a result of technological advancements, regulatory change and the service requirements demands from clients referred to above."

Embracing these changes, Moore is poised to capitalise on the prospects presented by its expansion, heralding a new era of growth and innovation in the accounting sector.

www.mooreireland.ie

Bank of Ireland: Supporting Farmers Through Wet Weather Challenges

Eoin Lowry, Head of Agri Sector, Bank of Ireland Business Banking

As the wet weather persists **Bank of Ireland** is encouraging under-pressure farmers to swiftly engage with their accountants, financial advisers or banks to explore the range of flexible financing options available to help them deal with the ongoing impact of sodden on-farm conditions.

We understand that this is a particularly challenging time for farmers coping with the unrelenting wet weather and Bank of Ireland is here to help.

As the leading lender to Ireland's agriculture industry, we know that farmers require a level of flexibility when engaging with their financial providers and we are keenly aware of the current concerns facing them including:

- Increased costs driven by a very long winter and inclement spring
- Cost overhangs from 2023 due to weak farm gate prices and ever-rising input prices
- Available cash balances used



Eoin Lowry, Head of Agri Sector, Bank of Ireland Business Banking

up – farmers now dealing with decreased cashflow

- Farmers forced to provide supplementary feeds to livestock, whilst the sowing of crops remains on hold as the country waits for a sustained dry spell

Bank of Ireland has an experienced team of agri advisers ready to assist and continues

to engage with key agriculture industry stakeholders to alleviate the pressures on farmers. Agri loan applications are being prioritised, speeding up the time from initial application to money hitting farmers accounts, and we also have a range of flexible financial supports on offer including:

- Providing overdraft extensions
- Offering flexible term loans
- Retrospectively financing previous investments made from cashflow

These measures are designed to help farmers, with targeted loans allowing increased financial breathing space and helping to spread the cost of additional inputs such as straw or fodder over an agreed and flexible term.

There are a range of ways to contact Bank of Ireland and I would underline the need for farmers not to panic and to continue looking after themselves and their families. The rain will stop falling eventually and, with the right financial plans in place, we can ensure that agri businesses nationwide can look forward to brighter days ahead.

For further details please visit www.businessbanking.bankofireland.com



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 An Coimisiún Toghcháin
The Electoral Commission

Ireland's independent electoral commission