



Irish Fencing Services

SECURE • ENHANCE • PROTECT

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY 2024



Environmental Policy

Many of our actions and policies predate statutory requirements, and some are simply natural factors of our business and location, but they give us a sound foundation to continue our journey.

We believe in reducing our Carbon footprint and the effect of our business on the environment. The Directors, Sarah and Shane drive this from the position of being parents to young families and the social as well as legal demands to make it a core principle of Irish Fencing Services business model.

Like most companies, the concepts of gearing a business toward a positive reduction policy are relatively new.

Doing the simple things that now appear obvious was difficult and required buy-in from staff and suppliers.

Many of our raw materials and components come packaged in cardboard or plastic, so ten years ago, we arranged with our waste disposal company Thorntons to supply us with a compactor, amazingly the benefits in a reduction in bin use, time saved, and general environmental improvement far outweighed the compactor cost. Creating and encouraging rubbish separation in a busy work environment takes sustained effort but pays off in time and has many fringe benefits.

Steel, our primary raw material, is one of the most recyclable items on this planet. The gate we make today may contain part of an 1830s railway track. Offcuts and scrap have always gone to recycling but steel for fencing has an extensive lifespan. 200-year-old railings are common in our cities. They are still there because they were frequently painted. Since our inception 50 years ago, we have always Galvanised our products, and shortly after, in conjunction with UCD, we were the first company to develop a system for Powder coating over Galvanising (Plasgalv®). Many of the jobs completed at that time are still in use and have never required Painting which has eliminated harmful VOCs. Our products are often resold or recycled at the end of their life and can be repaired if damaged.

The location in Dublin 8 of our manufacturing facility enables more of our staff to use public transport for their commute and over 50% cycle to work, 80% of the projects we complete are within a 25-mile radius of our factory. This reduces the fuel usage and carbon emissions associated with transport to the site.

We realised that if we wanted to succeed on this continued journey we needed advice and guidelines. We signed up with EcoMerit in 2019, they provide a programme of improvements and assess our performance through annual surveillance Audits. We have adopted the old principle "If You Can't Measure It, You Can't Manage It" we have an environmental policy to reduce our carbon footprint as much as possible. We aim to do this by,

- Ensuring all environmental laws are abided by.
- By measuring our carbon footprint and monitoring our overall environmental performance.
- Continuously improving our environmental performance.



- We encourage our suppliers and customers to be more environmentally aware by leading by example.

From our carbon footprint analysis, we have identified that the main environmental impacts arise from the fuel that our vehicle fleet consumes, and the electricity used for heating and lighting. To minimise this, we have already added an electric vehicle to our fleet and are looking to roll this out further in the coming years.

In 2023 The roof of our Dublin manufacturing facility was fitted with solar photovoltaic (PV) panels to generate electricity for our production and office needs and to contribute to the grid. We have also changed all our internal and external Lighting to LED lights to reduce energy consumption.

We now monitor our fuel consumption for all our vehicles to ensure we are tracking our emissions and measuring our electricity output along with all our waste which is segregated and disposed of appropriately that complies with environmental laws.

We have our forestry of 1.5 hectares in County Wexford using approx. 5,000 Native trees Oak, Birch, Alder and Scotch Pine. One tree, over the course of its lifetime, will absorb one tonne of CO². We hope to extend this Forestry during 2024/5.

In all our activities, we aim to be an environmentally responsible member of the community we serve.

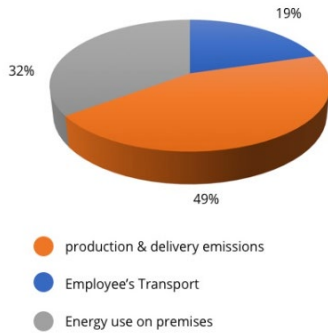
Signed

Sarah Wilson
Financial Director



Environmental Certification

Irish Fencing Services recognises that as we are in the steel manufacturing industry, we directly impact the environment. We embarked on an EcoMerit certification. EcoMerit helps us to improve our environmental performance, reduce costs and enhance our standing as an environmentally responsible business.



Environmental Goals

Our primary goal at Irish Fencing Services is to be an environmentally friendly company with the necessary procedures to back it up. We care about the environment and showcase that with our actions.

Our environmental goals are:

1. To be as environmentally friendly as possible. We aim to reduce our carbon emissions by 15% by calculating and reducing our overall emissions.
2. We plant a tree for every tonne of CO₂ used by us; we want to offset our emissions to be greener.
3. We have long-term goals to reduce our fossil fuels by adding further electric vehicles to our fleet.
4. In 2023, the company installed solar panels to have up to 65% of our energy renewable.

Environmental Goals

