

CIBSE BUILDING PERFORMANCE AWARDS

LAWLER CONSULTING Walks the Talk

Lawler Consulting has won the Building Performance Consultancy of the Year award for a second year running at the CIBSE Building Performance Awards 2021 which were recently held on a virtual platform. The award recognises companies that meet and exceed client expectations, and share their knowledge and best practice for building performance in the industry.

A strong focus must be placed on measured building performance, and Lawler Consulting has adapted its service offering to reflect this, using its 40-year design experience to offer turnkey energy and sustainability projects. It now uses new energy performance business models to finance energy investment from energy savings, while also maintaining savings through a strategic long-term site partnership approach.

The judges commended the Kilkenny-based practice on its outstanding contribution to the delivery of buildings with high levels of measured energy



Owen Keegan CEO, Dublin City Council with Jim Gannon, Commissioner at the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), Gerry Wardell, former CEO of Codema and Daniel Ring, Managing Director, Lawler Consulting.

performance for work done and achievements to date on a number of projects, including the following:

- Dublin City Council, Energy Performance Contract 1 (2016-2024): Three leisure centres contributing to annual energy savings of 41%;
- Dublin City Council, Energy Performance Contract 2 (2019-2028): Seven leisure centres contributing to annual energy savings of 35%;
- Office of Public Works (continuous): Lighting upgrades to government



offices contributing an electricity reduction of more than 50%;

- Meubles (2019): Lighting upgrade at furniture store contributing to 61% savings on electricity costs.

While designing energy-efficient buildings is what Lawler Consulting does best, the focus on improving energy performance throughout the building lifecycle by encouraging an "energy in use" approach allows a wider understanding beyond design and commissioning, and will be key to meeting ambitious decarbonising targets.

Often, the initial contact with a business is around the strategic mapping of its approach to achieving net-zero carbon, and one area in which Lawler Consulting is seeing a greater interest is the technological aspect (such as renewables, EV charging and energy storage).

Daniel Ring, Managing Director, said: "It is a great endorsement for our attempts to really try and improve building performance and provide measurable evidence of this, too.

"It gives us great confidence in pursuing 'non-traditional' solutions across technology, organisational boundaries, and service offerings which sometimes in the initial stages creates complexity. We, therefore, commend our clients who have taken the time to listen to new approaches and embark on uncharted territories with us."

The extensive range of sustainability services now offered is indicative of the commitment to a zero-carbon future by reducing carbon emissions and protecting the environment.

Green building certifications such as BREEAM, LEED and EDGE are all services offered in-house by the firm as businesses now look at new ways to reduce their carbon emissions while increasing their building asset values and yields.

As per the Excellence in Design for Greater Efficiencies (EDGE), commercial buildings yield up to 8% higher tenant incomes, while green homes have sales prices of 4-10% higher, selling as much as four times faster. As such, Lawler Consulting has seen a greater appetite here.

The CIBSE judges awarded the multidisciplinary practice for "walking the talk" when it came to demonstrating high levels of occupant satisfaction in their own buildings with the implementation of WELL, Fitwel and



Decathlon's flagship Dublin store achieved a BREEAM "very good" rating.

RESET standards throughout their office environments. This is part of an ongoing effort to improve the comfort and wellbeing of its own staff.

With the current COVID-19 pandemic, this is extremely relevant as more and more businesses look to improve the health and wellbeing of their building occupants.

It is not just important to design a low-carbon and energy-efficient building. It is also important to consider the environmental and health factors of a building such as the fresh supply of air and daylight.

This award is seen as a significant confidence builder for businesses that are looking to access proven approaches that deliver competitive advantage, reduce carbon emissions, create climate purpose and stimulate the green economy.

There is no "Planet B" and the need to be carbon neutral is high on everyone's agenda. For building services firms like Lawler Consulting, looking at ways to reduce embodied carbon and achieve net-zero is how they will play their part in meeting climate targets. ■



Meubles furniture store in Kilkenny where the lighting upgrade saved 61% on annual electricity costs.