

Responsible Care case studies

Pioneering sustainable practices in biopharmaceuticals

Colt Schafer, Sustainability Officer and Karol Landziak, Energy Lead for, Janssen Sciences Ireland UC talk about the development of sustainable innovations, and charting a more sustainable future in the industry.

“Industry represents 17.8% of Ireland’s final energy use and over 10% of Ireland’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions¹,” says Karol Landziak, based at Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen site in Ringaskiddy, Co Cork, “so, it’s essential for industry to do their part.”

Johnson & Johnson has not only been at the forefront of medical innovation, but it has also taken great strides in environmental sustainability. Our biologics site in Ireland, as Colt Schafer, the Sustainability Officer, says, “was established in 2005, manufacturing medicines in oncology and immunology. We have a workforce of about 1,300 people at the site.”

Colt says Johnson & Johnson has a responsibility towards the environment and the communities they serve. The site’s sustainability strategy is a key aspect of delivering on this responsibility.

Colt says, “Johnson & Johnson has been setting and achieving sustainability and carbon reduction goals for more than two decades, and our site tries to go above and beyond these goals. For example, part of Johnson & Johnson’s climate goals is to have 100% renewable electricity in our operations by 2025, but our site achieved 100% renewable electricity in our operations by 2021 through our on-site wind turbine.

“The turbine produces on average about 30% of our site power with the remainder from a power purchase agreement with wind farms in Co Kerry and Clare.”

¹ *National Energy Balance | Key Publications | SEAI*

Improving operations

The company's progress over the last decade has been significant. Karol Landziak highlights the adoption of the ISO 50001 standard. This is a standard that provides a practical way to improve energy use, through the development of an energy management system.

"We were one of the early adopters back in 2014. This led to a successful energy management system and numerous energy-saving projects like the wind turbine which was a major improvement to our energy strategy."

Over the years, the Company's sustainability strategy has evolved to address multiple aspects of sustainability. The Ringaskiddy site has focused on key areas for sustainable development including reducing their carbon footprints, optimising waste management, supporting site biodiversity, and improving water circularity.

One major practice has been the collection of grey water - rainwater harvested from the facility's roofs.

"We've always had a rain harvesting system and it was expanded in 2018. We had a major expansion to on-site so we installed rain harvesting systems on those new buildings too."

This has been a pioneering step in sustainable water use. The collected water is used on-site, reducing their dependence on municipal water supplies.

Success in sustainability

Addressing their challenges and successes, Karol notes the sites' decarbonisation strategy.

"We started with a heat mapping study which led to a projects roadmap to decarbonise our operations," says Karol. "This roadmap is categorised into three phases, focusing on energy efficiency, electrification of low-grade heat, and finally, decarbonising steam generation."

"The biggest challenge when it comes to electrification is the maximum import capacity from the grid, but we are in the process of increasing ours to enable implementation of projects. We are also looking to decarbonise our location-based Scope 2 emissions through further integration of renewable energy sources on site."

All these initiatives at Johnson & Johnson have not only had an impact on the environment, but also on employees at the site and the community surrounding it. Karol says, "What we're doing in this area sets us apart and helps us to attract talent, particularly young talent who are more conscious of these challenges."

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Looking ahead, Colt Schafer mentions how the site is continually exploring new ways to reduce its environmental impact, improve resource efficiency and contribute positively to communities.

Johnson & Johnson has even been recognised for this work, as a World Economic Forum designated Sustainability Lighthouse site and these efforts set a benchmark for the industry and position them as a leader in driving progress towards a more sustainable future.

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