From Passion to Action

Social Enterprises – Examples of Best Practice
for the Faculty of Engineering and Computing

An Carn Community Association
Ireland | 1992

An Carn is a community association that was founded with the aim of regenerating the rural area of Sleacht Néill / Carn Tóchair in Co. Derry. An Carn has developed a range of different projects and enterprise ventures to support the regeneration of the community in a sustainable way.

Their main aim is to promote and restore the Irish language in the local area through their initiatives. Such initiatives include a café and restaurant, a nature reserve, an arts centre, and wind turbines. All financial surplus generated by these initiatives are reinvested into the community association. For example, the wind energy produced by the turbines is sold to the grid and the profits are reinvested into other ventures, such as the cafe and youth activities.

Related disciplines	Business, Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Health
Related UN SGDs	SDG 4 - Quality Education SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities SDG 13 - Climate Action

To find out more about An Carn, visit their website here.

Biolite
USA | 2006

Biolite is a social enterprise that develops advanced clean energy technologies and distributes them to off-grid households around the world. The organisation serves two distinct groups of customers; outdoor recreation users and off-grid households, and has designed their products to fit both markets.

The profits that are generated from the outdoor recreation user market are reinvested to manufacture and distribute more Biolite products to off-grid households in the developing world.

Related disciplines	Business, Humanities and Social Sciences
Related UN SGDs	SDG 4 - Quality Education SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities

To find out more about Biolite, visit their website here.

Bounce Back Recycling
Ireland | 2017

Bounce Back Recycling is a social enterprise that provides employment and training opportunities to people that face barriers to employment. It's a recycling company with the goal of stopping as many mattresses and furniture ending up in landfill. The organisation works with many different groups to recycle unwanted waste. Using a social enterprise model, the income generated is used to pay operating expenses to run the business and to pay wages to employees.

Related disciplines	Business, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Health
Related UN SGDs	SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities SDG 13 – Climate Action

To find out more about Bounce Back Recycling, visit their website here.

Camara Education Ireland
Ireland | 2010

Camara Ireland was established in 2010 to respond to the need to build the capacity of schools and youth education settings to use technology effectively, with a particular focus on bringing skills and training to schools in areas of social disadvantage. This social enterprise provides national programmes across schools and youth and community settings, including supply of IT hardware, such as computers and laptops, as well as IT professional development training for educators and community workers.

Related disciplines	Business, Education, Humanities and Social Sciences
Related UN SGDs	SDG 4 - Quality Education SDG 5 - Gender Equality SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production

To find out more about Camara Education Ireland, visit their website here.

Community Power
Ireland | 2012

Community Power is Ireland's very first community-owned renewable electricity supplier. The journey of Community Power began at the country's first community-owned wind farm, Templederry wind farm in Co. Tipperary. Since then, it has grown into a partnership made up of different community energy groups across the country that are working together to create a sustainable energy future that is community-led.

The electricity produced is sold to communities and the wider market. The profits generated are reinvested into the development of additional community-owned renewable energy generation facilities. As the organisation is community-owned, the surplus revenue stays within the communities, which helps contribute to a sustainable local economy.

Related disciplines	Business, Humanities and Social Sciences
Related UN SDGs	SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals

To find out more about Community Power, visit their website here.

Evocco
Ireland | 2017

Evocco is a mobile app that helps individuals buy the most nutritious food with the lowest environmental impact. It acts as starting point for people who want to contribute to the climate movement but aren't sure how.

Related disciplines	Business, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production SDG 13 – Climate Action

To find out more about Evocco, visit their website here.

Fairbnb.coop
Italy | 2016

Fairbnb.coop is a co-operative accommodation booking platform that aims to contribute to sustainable local development by supporting local projects and initiatives.

The co-operative has developed an alternative tourism model that is more equitable and sustainable. It achieves this by charging a commission, where 50% of this commission is used to promote and fund local community projects.

Related disciplines	Business, Humanities and Social Sciences
Related UN SDGs	Fairbnb.coop has committed to addressing the 17 SDGs, with emphasis on SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities.

To find out more about Fairbnb.coop, visit their website here.

FoodCloud
Ireland | 2013

FoodCloud is a social enterprise that transforms food surplus into opportunity by redistributing it from businesses and retailers to charities and community organisations.

FoodCloud facilitates the redistribution of food surplus using two different methods. The first is through FoodCloud Hubs, where surplus is delivered to for storage and subsequently sent out to FoodCloud charity and community partners. The second is directly through retail, where retailers and businesses can upload a description of the surplus food using their in-store scanner or the FoodCloud mobile app.

Related disciplines	Business, Humanities and Social Sciences
Related UN SDGs	SDG 2 - Zero Hunger SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production

To find out more about FoodCloud, visit their website here.

Grow Remote
Ireland	2018
Grow Remote is a social enterprise that strives to make remote work local. It connects individuals looking for remote work with organisations who offer remote work. It offers training courses in remote work to help individuals access new employment. It also provides advice and support for community leaders who want to connect remote workers together in their local communities in order to overcome one of the biggest challenges of remote work - isolation.

Related disciplines	Business, Education, Humanities and Social Sciences
Related UN SDGs	SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities

To find out more about Grow Remote, visit their website here.

JumpAgrade
Ireland	2017
JumpAgrade is an online teaching platform to provide educational support to second-level students, through personalised teaching experiences. This approach allows students to address their individual learning needs using personalised worksheets to enhance their learning. This social enterprise makes learning more accessible for second-level students from less fortunate backgrounds and underrepresented groups, addressing the growing educational inequalities in Ireland.

Related disciplines	Business, Education, Humanities and Social Sciences
Related UN SDGs	SDG 4 – Quality Education SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities

To find out more about JumpAgrade, visit their website here.

Ludgate
Ireland | 2014

Ludgate is a social enterprise and digital hub based in Skibbereen, West Cork. It provides space for businesses, start-ups and entrepreneurs to network, expand and scale their businesses. Ludgate provides services such as education programmes for preparing students for 21st century jobs, rural regeneration projects, start-up support and sustainability. They also host events related to financing and governance for start-ups and businesses in Ireland.

Related disciplines	Business, Education, Humanities and Social Sciences
Related UN SDGs	SDG 4 – Quality Education SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

To find out more about Ludgate Hub, visit their website here.

Refill Ireland
Ireland | 2017

Refill Ireland is an organisation that aims to eradicate the need for single-use plastic bottles. It does this by:
- Mapping the locations of publicly accessible drinking water taps across the country
- Encouraging businesses to provide free tap water to customers
- Making free tap water accessible at least every 400 metres in towns and cities
- Encouraging local authorities and water utilities refurbish and install public drinking water taps

The organisation is a not-for-profit that generates revenue by selling sustainable products, such as indoor and outdoor drinking water dispensers, and reusable water bottles. The surplus is reinvested into continuing to reduce waste pollution in Ireland.

Related disciplines	Business, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production SDG 13 - Climate Action

To find out more about Refill Ireland, visit their website here.

SkillLab
The Netherlands | 2018

SkillLab empowers people to turn their skills, qualifications and experience into careers. SkillLab aims to provide a service for people who face barriers to entering the labour market. This company uses artificial intelligence and gamification to allow people to capture their skills, explore careers and look for jobs.

SkillLab partners with organisations to support employers to use this app during recruitment processes. SkillLab reinvests a majority of profits to improve their product, grow their reach and ensure the fulfilment of the organisation's mission.

Related Disciplines	Business, Education, Humanities and Social Sciences
Related UN SDGs	SDG 1 - No Poverty SDG 4 - Quality Education SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities

To find out more about SkillLab, visit their website here.

Thriftify
Ireland | 2018

Thriftify is an online platform that enables charity shops to sell their products online to consumers who care. Since Thriftify was founded, the platform has grown rapidly and now works with over 95% of charity shops in Ireland to help them sell their goods online.

As an online platform, Thriftify increases the accessibility of the products on sale in charity shops, where individuals can see what's available in every charity shop all in one place online.

Related disciplines	Business, Humanities and Social Sciences
Related UN SDGs	SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production SDG 13 - Climate Action

To find out more about Thriftify, visit their website here.

Useful Simple Trust
UK | 2008

The Useful Simple Trust is made up of various design-based social enterprises and employee-owned organisations that work together to improve the human environment and drive sustainable change.

The Trust is made up of the following organisations:
- Expedition Engineering
- Think Up
- Thomas.Matthews
- Useful Projects
- Useful Studio

The organisations' work focuses on four main themes: 1) Work for Good, 2) More with Less, 3) Restore and Adapt, 4) Get, Set, Zero.

Related disciplines	Business, Humanities and Social Sciences
Related UN SDGs	SDG 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals

To find out more about the Useful Simple Trust, visit their website here.