

From Passion to Action

Social Enterprises – Examples of Best Practice
for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences



Airfield Estate

Ireland | 1974

Airfield Estate is a social and charitable hub, located in Dundrum, and is Co. Dublin's only urban working farm and gardens. The estate was left to the people of Ireland in 1974 by the Overend sisters, who strongly believed in self-sufficiency and sustainability.

The estate was completely renovated in 2014 and now serves as a place for people of all ages to engage in activities related to food and nature. They offer and run various events and programmes for children and adults, and educate visitors on the impact of their food choices on society and the planet.

Related disciplines	Business, Education, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 2 - Zero Hunger SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production

To find out more about Airfield Estate, visit their website [here](#).

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, Engineering and Computing, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	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	
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
Related disciplines	Business, Engineering and Computing
Related UN SDGs	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	
<p>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.</p>	
Related disciplines	Business, Engineering and Computing, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	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, Engineering and Computing
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.	

Carebright

Ireland | 1998

Carebright is a social enterprise that provides homecare services to support people to live in their own homes for longer in the community. These include older people, people with intellectual disabilities, people who require post-operative care, and people with dementia.

Related disciplines	Business, Science and Health
Related UN SGDs	SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being
To find out more about Carebright, visit their website here.	



Castlecomer Discovery Park

Ireland | 2007

Castlecomer Discovery Park is a social enterprise in Co. Kilkenny that was developed by a local community group. The park was created for Castlecomer locals, and people further afield to enjoy and engage in physical exercise and nature.

The discovery park was developed to attract tourists to the area, create jobs for the local community and regenerate the local economy. In addition, the development of the park aimed to bring members of the community together again. The park is home to a coal mining museum that pays tribute to the coal miners who worked in Castlecomer, as well as a craft courtyard. The park also offers educational programmes for primary and second level students. All profits generated go directly towards keeping the park open and developing it to create further social and environmental impact.

Related disciplines	Business, Education, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities SDG 13 - Climate Action

To find out more about Castlecomer Discovery Park, visit their website [here](#).

Certified Proud

Ireland | 2020

Certified Proud is an accreditation membership body for businesses and organisations that are LGBTQ+ friendly and accepting. Members of Certified Proud sign up to acknowledge that they proactively provide safe spaces for members of the LGBTQ+ community.

The accreditation process involves three components. The first part involves the commitment to embedding the seven Certified Proud principles within organisations. The second part is a yearly audit of these businesses and organisations to ensure that they are continuing to embed the principles to create safe spaces for the LGBTQ+ community. The third part is the membership fee that each organisation pays, where 40% of the fee is reinvested into the Certified Proud fund. This fund directly gives back to the LGBTQ+ community, by providing support to LGBTQ+ charities and non-profit organisations.

Related Disciplines	Business, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 5 - Gender Equality

To find out more about Certified Proud, 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, Templeberry 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, Engineering and Computing
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](#).

Deaf Enterprises

Ireland | 1987

Deaf Enterprises is Ireland's only dedicated employer of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. The organisation was set up to tackle the high rates of unemployment among Cork's deaf community. Since then, Deaf Enterprises has grown to provide employment training and placement opportunities. The services it provides include furniture design, manufacturing and restoration, a motor school for deaf people, as well as training for tutors and sign-language interpreters.

Money earned from these services is used to further develop the organisation and improve the facilities and services that Deaf Enterprises provides.

Related Disciplines	Business, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 4 - Quality Education SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities

To find out more about Deaf Enterprises, visit their website [here](#).



Delancey Street Foundation

USA | 1971

Delancey Street Foundation is an organisation that supports people who are struggling to turn their lives around. It helps former substance abusers, ex-convicts, homeless people and others who have nowhere else to turn to. It provides residency to these individuals for a minimum of 2 years. During their time at Delancey Street, residents receive academic and vocational training as well as a high school equivalency degree.

Delancey Street has facilitated the development of a number of social enterprise ventures, and has provided residents with the necessary skills to be able to work in these social enterprises. Such ventures include catering, handcrafted products, landscaping services and the Delancey Street Christmas Tree Lots. These ventures have supported the development and running of the foundation's training schools and rehabilitation centre.

Related Disciplines	Business, Education, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being SDG 4 - Quality Education SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities
To find out more about Delancey Street Foundation, visit their website here.	

Dunhill Ecopark

Ireland | 2000

Dunhill Ecopark is a social enterprise that was established by local community members in Dunhill, Co. Waterford to facilitate the growth of an entrepreneurial culture in the area. Dunhill Ecopark is home to a number of innovative initiatives focused on enterprise, environment, tourism, education, heritage and performing arts.

Related disciplines	Business, Education, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities
To find out more about Dunhill Ecopark, 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, Engineering and Computing, 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, Engineering and Computing
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 .	



Festina Lente

Ireland | 1988

Festina Lente is a not-for-profit organisation that provides equine and horticultural and community based learning, leisure, training, recreational and employment services. The organisation emphasises social inclusion, choice and personal development. It provides services to children, teenagers and adults from low socio-economic backgrounds and/or with a disability, to help them to achieve their full personal and vocational potential.

Related disciplines	Business, Education, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities

To find out more about Festina Lente, 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, Engineering and Computing
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 It Yourself (GIY)

Ireland | 2008

GIY supports people around the world to live happier, healthier and more sustainable lives by growing some of their own food. Their mission is to inspire and enable a global movement of food growers whose collective actions will help to create a fairer, more resilient and sustainable food system. GIY realises this mission through national awareness campaigns and programmes, selling educational resources and growing kits (GROWBoxes) to enable people to grow some of their own food at home and through running the GROW HQ café, kitchen garden and education centre.

Related disciplines	Business, Education, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 2 - Zero Hunger SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production
To find out more about Grow It Yourself, 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, Engineering and Computing
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.	



Irish Seed Savers Association

Ireland | 1991

Irish Seed Savers Association is a 20-acre farm with a mission to protect Ireland's food crop heritage for future generations. They focus on the conservation of heirloom vegetable seeds, maintaining the country's only public seed bank, as well as the conservation of Irish heritage apple trees, having over 180 unique varieties in their orchards.

Irish Seed Savers run educational workshops for different groups to raise public awareness about the vulnerability of Irish agricultural biodiversity. In addition, they collaborate with government departments, universities and gene banks across the world. They also have a cafe and shop where individuals can buy organic heirloom seeds and a range of other products.

Related Disciplines

Business, Education, Science and Health

Related UN SDGs

SDG 2 - Zero Hunger
SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production

To find out more about Irish Seed Savers Association, 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, Engineering and Computing

Related UN SDGs

SDG 4 – Quality Education
SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities

To find out more about JumpAgrade, visit their website [here](#).



Ludgate Ireland 2014	
<p>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.</p>	
Related disciplines	Business, Education, Engineering and Computing
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.	

Moyee Coffee Ireland 2016	
<p>Moyee Coffee is a coffee social enterprise that is trying to make the coffee industry more fair and sustainable, sharing more of the value from coffee with coffee growing countries, to avoid profits going directly towards a small number of large multinational companies. This has been called the FairChain model and is the first of its type in the world.</p> <p>Moyee Coffee set up its first roastery in Ethiopia and developed a roadmap for a living income for coffee farmers which also explored ways to protect and rejuvenate wildlife habitats on the coffee belt. As of 2016, an outpost in Dublin was established to bring Fairchain coffee to the UK and Ireland.</p>	
Related Disciplines	Business, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 1 – No Poverty SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production
To find out more about Moyee Coffee, visit their website here.	



Our Table Ireland 2016	
<p>Our Table provides training, work experience and paid employment for international protection applicants, refugees and for the wider migrant community in Ireland. They run a café and an accompanying garden. Our Table aims to enable people to learn about the Irish food industry as well as build an awareness of food in multicultural Ireland. Our Table was set up to provide a safe and empathetic space for people to discuss and learn about Ireland's asylum system, Direct Provision. This organisation seeks to raise awareness about Direct Provision among the Irish population, and the need to bring an end to this system.</p>	
Related Disciplines	Business, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 3 - Good Health and Wellbeing SDG 5 - Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities
To find out more about Our Table, visit their website here.	

PACE Organisation Ireland 1969	
<p>PACE is a voluntary sector organisation that aims to support the integration process of people with criminal convictions and bring about positive change in their lives, helping prevent further harm in the community. PACE helps to achieve this through a number of services, which includes Training and Social Enterprise. PACE Social Enterprise's mission is to create jobs for people who have previously been in prison or on probation and find it hard to secure employment.</p> <p>Initiatives that have been successfully created by PACE Social Enterprise include MugShot, a coffee and catering business, as well as a business for manufacturing handcrafted garden products, such as garden furniture and planters. These initiatives help prepare the social enterprise employees to progress into mainstream employment. In doing so, they aim to positively change the attitudes of potential employers and communities towards former prisoners.</p>	
Related disciplines	Business, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities
To find out more about PACE, visit their website here. More information about PACE Social Enterprise here.	



Pocket Forests

Ireland | 2020

Pocket Forests is a social enterprise that aims to plant small plots of native trees, shrubs and plants in urban areas, neighbourhoods and gardens to create biodiverse areas of land to help fight the climate crisis. The plot size ranges from the size of a car parking space to the size of a tennis court.

Pocket Forests works with communities, schools and residents and takes them through the process of how to design, implement and maintain biodiverse plots of land.

Related disciplines	Business, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities SDG 13 - Climate Action SDG 15 - Life on Land
To find out more about Pocket Forests, 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, Engineering and Computing, 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.	



Rethinking Rural Ireland

Ireland | 2020

Rethinking Rural Ireland is a social enterprise with the mission to rejuvenate small Irish towns and communities in rural Ireland, through creative solutions and innovative projects and initiatives tailored to the local communities.

Related Disciplines

Business, Science and Health

Related UN SDGs

SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth
SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities
SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities

To find out more about Rethinking Rural Ireland, visit their website [here](#).

Shuttle Knit

Ireland | 2001

Shuttle Knit is a social enterprise that was founded by a partnership of Traveller and settled women as a Company Limited by Guarantee. It was set up as a result of an identified need for training and development opportunities for Traveller women in the Wicklow area. The enterprise promotes social inclusion, provides employment to the Traveller community, and sells a range of handmade knitwear. Shuttle Knit is based in the CEART centre (Centre of Education and Resourcing Travellers).

Related Disciplines

Business

Related UN SDGs

SDG 5 – Gender Equality
SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth
SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities

To find out more about Shuttle Knit, visit their website [here](#).



SkillLab The Netherlands 2018	
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
Related Disciplines	Business, Education, Engineering and Computing
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.	

Speedpak Group Ireland 1995	
<p>Speedpak Group is a social enterprise that operates commercial businesses to support long term unemployed people get back to work by providing real work experience, accredited industry training, mentoring and tailored support.</p> <p>It aims to match local talent with available jobs and provides training staff with greater financial independence and job resilience through employment, education and training. The commercial services that SpeedPak provides include e-commerce order fulfilment, packing, labelling and barcoding, kit assembly, promotional packing and break bulk and pack.</p>	
Related disciplines	Business, Education
Related UN SDGs	SDG 4 - Quality Education SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth
To find out more about Speedpak Group, visit their website here.	



Spraoi agus Spórt Ireland 2010	
Spraoi agus Spórt is a social enterprise in Carndonagh, Co. Donegal that was established to provide social, recreational and educational activities for the local community, focusing on family development and bringing social and economic benefits to the area.	
Related disciplines	Business, Education, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being SDG 4 – Quality Education
To find out more about Spraoi agus Spórt, visit their website here .	

Sticks & Stones Ireland 2005	
Sticks and Stones is an anti-bullying programme for schools. The organisation offers a three strand approach for the whole school community, including anti-bullying workshops for primary and secondary students, training for teachers and training for parents.	
Related disciplines	Business, Education, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being SDG 4 – Quality Education
To find out more about Sticks & Stones, visit their website here .	

The Shona Project Ireland 2016	
The Shona Project is a social enterprise that celebrates women from all over the world. They visit schools around Ireland to talk to girls and encourage them to be kind to each other, and especially to themselves. The Shona Project gives young women a platform to share their stories to help others and to show that no woman is alone.	
Related disciplines	Business, Education, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 5 - Gender Equality
To find out more about The Shona Project, visit their website here .	



Thriftify Ireland 2018	
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
Related disciplines	Business, Engineering and Computing
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	
<p>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.</p> <p>The Trust is made up of the following organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expedition Engineering • Think Up • Thomas.Matthews • Useful Projects • Useful Studio <p>The organisations' work focuses on four main themes: 1) Work for Good, 2) More with Less, 3) Restore and Adapt, 4) Get, Set, Zero.</p>	
Related disciplines	Business, Engineering and Computing
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.	



WALK Ireland 1967	
<p>WALK is a social enterprise that aims to empower people with disabilities to live as continuing members in everyday life of their community. At WALK, they do this through employment services, training and education and support for community living. Their goal is to help people with disabilities maintain socially valuable roles and support networks in their community.</p>	
Related Disciplines	Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Health
Related UN SDGs	SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals
<p>To find out more about WALK, visit their website here.</p>	

We Make Good Ireland 2018	
<p>We Make Good supports people to develop skills in design and to gain employment in their craft. We Make Good provides training and employment opportunities for people who experience barriers to entering the workforce, for example, due to disability, ethnicity or time spent in prison.</p> <p>This company is a collaboration between different designers, makers and companies that provide training and employment. They sell a wide variety of products with the profits gained being used to help to create more employment opportunities for people who experience social disadvantage.</p>	
Related Disciplines	Business, Education
Related UN SDGs	SDG 3 - Good Health and Wellbeing SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth SDG 10 - Reduced Inequalities SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals
<p>To find out more about We Make Good, visit their website here.</p>	

