



At the launch of the SMILE Resource Exchange website, from left, Michelle Green, SMILE; Dave Cody, Cork City Enterprise Board; Tim Lucey, Cork City Council and Mary Stack, Cork County Council. (Pic: Supplied)

SMILE AND BE GREEN

Macroroom E invites budding entrepreneurs to participate in the twin programmes, SMILE Resource Exchange and Greenshoots. These are free services to businesses and both aim to support economic development. The initiatives are aimed at all businesses in Cork.

SMILE encourages the exchange of resources in order to reduce costs and help the environment by diverting waste from landfill. SMILE offers regular networking events, an online exchange facility, as well as ongoing support to businesses in making exchanges happen. Much of the waste that is identified on the SMILE website, www.smileexchange.ie, has the potential to be turned into a resource and that is why SMILE is encouraging people to think creatively and to try and identify ideas for potential business opportunities on the website. In order to build up a database of the waste that businesses in Cork have, SMILE is also calling on these businesses to register on the website for free and to upload their waste, which someone might be able to reuse for a business opportunity and thus take off their hands. Much of this waste may be already, needlessly, going to landfill at a significant cost to businesses, a cost which is set to rise in the coming months - up to €50 per tonne from 1 September 2011; to €65 from July 2012 and to €75 per tonne from July 2013. To register for free, simply log onto www.smileexchange.ie or contact Michelle Green, Project Manager at mgreen@smileexchange.ie SMILE is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency, Cork County Council, Cork City Council and Cork County & City Enterprise Boards.

Greenshoots is now accepting applications from all start-up businesses and businesses that have been in operation less than five years wishing to diversify, grow, explore new markets or export. It is not limited to those who wish to operate in the green economy. For more information, log onto www.greenshootscork.ie or contact Programme Manager, Catherine Costello at ccostello@macroroom-e.com to discuss your business or business idea. Greenshoots is funded by South Cork Enterprise Board and Cork County Council. Both programmes are managed at Macroroom E Enterprise Centre.



At launch of 2011 Greenshoots programme, from left, Lucy Hyland of Food for Living, Conor O'Donoghue of Newport Geographic and Catherine Costello, Greenshoots Programme Manager. (Pic: Supplied)