

Special EU Programmes Body

Project Case Study

CREST

Programme:
INTERREG IVA Programme

Theme:
Enterprise

Funding:
£761,896

Lead Partner:
South West College

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Geographical area:
Northern Ireland/Border
Region of Ireland.

The Centre for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technologies (CREST), is Ireland's largest green technology research and development and training facility.

Based at the South West College (SWC), Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, CREST is staffed by a multi-disciplinary team of sustainability and innovation professionals. The £1.5m facility provides specialist education, training and R&D support to help small and medium-sized firms compete in the multi-billion pound renewable energy and sustainable technologies sector.

CREST provides industry R&D, demonstration and testing facilities for new renewable energy products and sustainable technologies. The facilities include laboratory space, testing equipment, demonstration technologies and the assistance of technical staff to help bring ideas and concepts to the next stage of development.

The CREST Centre's dedicated R&D spaces and specialist equipment rank it highly among the UK and Ireland's top 'clean and green' training facilities. The

facilities are available to businesses or individuals within Northern Ireland, the border counties of Ireland and Western Scotland who have ideas for new products or process developments but who do not have the physical and/or technical capacity to develop, test and commercialise them.

The Centre was established through a unique collaboration which pools expertise, resources and know-how from four colleges that have led on sustainability training and innovation in the UK and Ireland: South West College, Cavan Innovation and Technology Centre, Institute of Technology Sligo and Dumfries & Galloway College in Scotland.

Key Project Outputs:

- **150 small businesses provided with R&D support to facilitate product or process innovation.**
- **25 new renewable energy and sustainable technology prototypes (i.e. 16% of all businesses developing a prototype).**
- **15 new renewable energy and sustainable technologies investigated.**
- **400 study visits facilitated for business and entrepreneurs at the Pavilion in South West College.**
- **Recruitment of 1 CREST Project Manager, 4 R&D Co-ordinators and 5 R&D Technicians.**

