

## Solar Powered Parking Meters



### Summary

Introduction of solar powered parking meters for on-street parking in the town centre. Previously parking discs, purchased from retail outlets in the town, were in operation. In addition to representing a high visibility renewable energy technology in the town centre, the parking meters provide a convenient method of payment for parking.

### Description

The parking meters require no external electrical power source. Photo-voltaic solar energy cells located on the upper surface of the parking meter case collect energy from the sun during the day. This energy is converted to electrical energy and stored in an internal battery. The battery has a storage capacity large enough to operate through a 24 hour cycle. The solar powered meters capital costs are marginally more expensive than traditional meters requiring an external power source. However, the increased costs are largely off-set by reduced installation costs as electrical power supply cables are not required. This has the added benefit that disruption to footpaths and areas where the meters are located is minimised and large lengths of pavement excavation are not required.

### Objectives / Achievements of measure

Savings in fossil fuel produced electricity are achieved. The savings are not large as the power consumption of conventionally powered meters is relatively small. Nevertheless, a contribution to CO<sub>2</sub> reductions is achieved. Two of the main benefits of the solar powered meters are the reduction in disruption to the town during installation and the positive message sent to members of the community regarding the use of renewable energy sources.

### Macroom in facts and figures

Region: Munster (South-West)  
Population: 3,250

### eea® in Macroom Town Council

Programme entry: September 2003  
Last Audit Date: November 2005  
Overall Score: 59%  
Possible points: 300  
Achieved points: 176

### Classification of the measure

Renewable Energy  
Fossil Fuel Displacement  
Example to Community

### Date of Implementation

2006

### Contact person

Macroom Town Council:  
Name: Kevin Curran (Town Clerk)  
Address: Town Hall, Macroom  
Co. Cork, IRL

Phone: +353 (0)26 41545  
Fax: +353 (0)26 42178  
Web: <http://www.macroom.ie>  
Email: [mudc@eircom.net](mailto:mudc@eircom.net)

### eea Awarding Ceremony



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