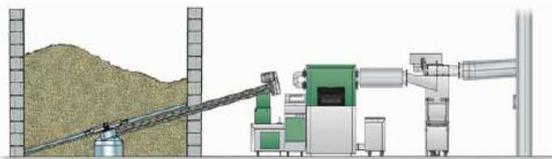


COILLTE SIGN SECOND FIVE YEAR BIOMASS SUPPLY CONTRACT WITH RADISSON BLU

The 4-star Radisson Blu hotel in Letterkenny comprises 114 rooms, a restaurant, a large open plan reception area with separate bar, a number of large meeting rooms, a ballroom and a comprehensive leisure and fitness centre with heated pool. The hospitality industry remains a competitive sector and energy savings remain a key focus area.



The hotel has successfully operated a biomass boiler for 10 years to provide all hot water and heating for the site. The managing director of the Radisson originally selected Coillte as the preferred fuel supplier and having developed a strong relationship over the years the decision to sign up to a further 5 year term was straightforward.



A 350kW Herz boiler was originally installed by Alternative Heat. This boiler comprises of a compact modular design with a separate combustion chamber and heat exchanger module. The surfaces of the standing pipe heat exchanger are

automatically cleaned during boiler operation using integrated turbulators, a mechanism which ensures a continued high level of efficiency between services by minimising heat lost to the exhaust. Ash and clinker build-up on the combustion grate is automatically removed by a vibrating plate and conveyed to external ash boxes via independent augers. A burn back protection device is included.



The boiler house and fuel store are located externally at the side of the hotel. Biomass is delivered to site and blown into the store using a specialist vehicle. Delivery takes 45 minutes and does not impact normal hotel operations.



Biomass feed stocks are sourced from Coillte's own forest resources and private sources in the North West region. Coillte is committed to a biomass strategy that matches renewable energy

requirements with local biomass supply. Biomass is supplied to strict specifications and each load is tested to ensure compliance. The client pays in Euros per gigajoule of energy delivered.



Having many years of operation of a biomass boiler under his belt, Paul Byrne, Director of the Radisson Blu hotel highlights some of the key considerations. “Our hotel energy costs dramatically reduced when we switched to biomass energy. The key decisions to be taken when considering a biomass installation are the location of the plant and how it will tie into the existing system. Fuel delivery is key and working closely with your supplier to ensure vehicular access, noise and dust are considered at the design phase are crucial. With growing competing demand for biomass, security of supply is essential and should not be underestimated.

A successful boiler installation will depend on a good working relationship between the client, the fuel supplier and the boiler installer and maintaining good quality fuel to a consistent specification is key. Just like any installation, problems can arise but so long as the systems are in place to efficiently deal with them the disruption is minimal”.

Security of supply from Coillte

Coillte operates its local biomass fuel supply hub in Letterkenny to supply the Radisson Blu and a number of other clients in the region. The depot comprises of a large secure log storage yard and storage sheds and is operated under contract by Ecowood Energy Systems.



Each regional processing hub operated by Coillte underpins a range of supply chain jobs in the local area.

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