

Environment and sustainability

PAUL MOONEY

Clem Jacob Hire is committed to sustainability and reducing their carbon footprint. As part of that commitment, they've opened a new, dedicated training centre that is completely energy self-sufficient with roof-mounted solar panels which feed into storage batteries which power the building, as well as charging forklifts, powered access machinery and other equipment used by the centre, as well as providing charging capacity for five electric vehicles.

Clem said they looked at their carbon footprint and sustainability five years ago, which started with a big change – moving from using standard diesel in their machinery, vehicles and equipment, to HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) a low-carbon biofuel that works as a direct replacement for regular diesel, which does not release any additional carbon emissions into the atmosphere.

"All our diesel engines now run on HVO. It's safe. It's better for the environment," Clem Jacob explained to The Munster Express.

"They say it's 95% less carbon emissions, which is pretty amazing.

"If there's a spillage of HVO

on a street, in a factory or wherever – machines, no matter how old or new they are, a pipe could burst in them and there could be a spillage. HVO is totally safe. It can be actually washed down the drain without any environmental issues, as it is totally biodegradable.

"It's a bit more expensive – it's costing us more money and we've had to invest heavily in storage facilities for it, but we wouldn't ever go back to using diesel. I think it's worth it."

On top of that, Clem Jacob has been investing over the last number of years in battery and electric equipment.

"We're trying to get away from diesel engines as much as we can. That's an expensive

road to go down – the equipment is a lot more expensive, but again, I think it's worth it and our clients certainly appreciate it, especially in the likes of the pharmaceutical industry. They don't want noisy diesel smoking engines in their places. The more hybrid and battery equipment they can get, the better."

Clem said their new energy self-sufficient training centre facility, operated by his son Sean, is getting busier.

The solar panels on the roof of the training centre helps to power the lighting and heating in the building, but also provide energy for other machinery and equipment.

"Coupled with the battery storage, we're able to work all the standards, lighting,

heating, but we're also able to charge the electric equipment that we use in the training facility, like the hoists and the forklifts and all that – they're all charged from the solar panels, which is pretty amazing. On top of that, we have five electric and hybrid cars and vans on the road and every one of them are charged from the training centre and it's absolutely costing us nothing. It's been a big investment but I can see the return every month, it's just incredible."

AWARD

In recognition of its sustainability, which highlights years of investment, planning, and commitment to



General Manager Ray O'Sullivan with Clem Jacob.

reducing environmental impact across the business, Clem Jacob Hire has been nominated for a prestigious Sustainability Award at the upcoming World IPAF Summit, taking place in Turkey in October. The World IPAF Summit is regarded as one of the most significant global events in the powered access industry.

IPAF (International Powered Access Federation) promotes the safe and effective use of powered access equipment worldwide. It is a world training organisation especially for working at

heights in access equipment. Clem said because of the work they've done in their new Training Centre and in the company in general, they've been nominated for this award.

"We're up against a big crane company from Saudi Arabia, a French manufacturing company, and a Chinese manufacturing company. Our small-run family company from Waterford are up against those three multi-billion dollar manufacturing companies. To be shortlisted for this award was fantastic," said Clem.



Waterford Chamber
Advancing business together

Clem champions 'Think Waterford First' as key to vibrant economy

When it comes to supporting local, some businesses talk about it and others simply get on with it. Clem Jacob falls firmly into the latter.

For over two decades, Clem has been at the helm of Clem Jacob Hire, building not just a successful business, but a reputation as someone deeply committed to Waterford and its future. A local man with local ambitions, he has long understood that strong communities are built when businesses support one another.

That belief is reflected in his consistent backing of the Think Waterford First Gift Cards, an initiative designed to keep spending within the local economy. Each year, Clem Jacob Hire uses the cards as part of its staff rewards programme, ensuring that the benefits extend far beyond his own business and into the wider community.

It's a straightforward idea with meaningful impact. By choosing local, Clem is helping to support jobs, sustain small businesses, and contribute to a more vibrant local economy. The gift cards, which can be used across a wide range of retailers and services in Waterford, make it easy for both businesses and individuals to play their part.

Clem's commitment to the initiative has been widely recognised, not just for its consistency but for the example it sets. Known as someone who is always quick to support local causes and initiatives, he has become a



leading voice in encouraging others to think local first.

"Keeping spending local is one of the most powerful ways we can strengthen our economy and Clem is a huge advocate for that," said Gerald Hurley, CEO of Waterford Chamber.

"If every employee in Waterford received the full tax free amount of €1,500 through the Think Waterford First Gift Card, we could inject €45 million into the Waterford economy annually. That's a major boost for local business and a lifeline for local jobs.

"I would like to congratulate Clem Jacob on reaching 20 years in business, an outstanding achievement. Clem



has been a valued partner of Waterford Chamber across a wide range of initiatives, and his ongoing loyalty and promotion of the Think Waterford First Gift Cards is truly commendable. His leadership sets a strong example for others, and we are grateful for his continued support of the local business community.

"Stories like Clem's serve as a reminder that supporting local isn't complicated, it's a choice. And when that choice is made consistently, the impact can be felt across the entire community."

For more information on the Think Waterford First Gift Cards, see www.thinkwaterfordfirst.ie