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brilliant company to work for, and there are very good people working here.”

Pat said his work at Clem Jacob Hire is varied and interesting, “so you would never be bored”.

Pats main focus at the moment is to push on with the generators and battery banks, because the company made a change several years ago, where every piece of plant machinery was switched from diesel, marked gas oil, to Hydro treated Vegetable Oil (HVO) – a vegetable oil that’s been refined from food stocks to make a more sustainable fuel. Clem Jacob Hire buys the HVO from local supplier Byrne & McGuire here in Waterford.

The carbon emissions produced using HVO instead of diesel can achieve a reduction of up to 90%, making it a more environmentally sustainable fuel. “There is a huge reduction in our carbon footprint as a result, so it’s a win-win,” said Pat.

“So, we then started to look at how we could reduce our carbon footprint further and, in turn, help our customers to do the same. We started to look closely into battery technology, not only by investing in fully electric and hybrid access equipment and road vehicles, but also battery energy storage systems.

“For example, when our 90-120 battery unit and HVO run generator is placed onsite in a hybrid set up we can reduce the runtime of the generator to 2 or 3 hours a day as appose to having a generator running 24 hours a day. Therefore, the generator runs for 2 or 3 hours and charges the battery unit. It then powers the site applications for the remaining 22 or 23 hours. The battery will only give out the energy needed to the site as it’s demanded, while a standalone generator will produce its rated KVA no matter what the site demands, which means a lot of the time there is a lot of wasted fuel burned.”

“We recently took delivery a mobile battery hybrid solar generator set that will charge its batteries from its 8 on-board solar panels, making it totally self-sufficient once set up. It’s used at the moment to charge a number of the electric and hybrid vehicles on our fleet. We are delighted to say that, as a result of this, and coupled with the solar set up on the Clem Training Unit, our EV’s are not using any electricity from the grid.”

“Some of the generators and battery banks are already being used in the event, pharmaceutical, construction and film industries.”

Pat said that when he was a truck driver delivering hire

equipment, I saw first-hand the impact of diesel on the environment.

“As time went on, I became more involved in the other aspects of hire and as Clem invested more and more in sustainable machinery, he began to take notice of what he was, and still is trying to achieve,” said Pat.

“But like all change and progression the switch to fully electric does not work in all scenarios and just isn’t always viable. So, we looked at all possible alternatives to fossil fuels and found HVO seems to be the best. We checked with our suppliers to make sure this fuel was compatible with the different makes and models that we use and there was a resounding ‘yes’ from all suppliers. Therefore, we quickly got to testing it out and found there was no problem using it in our machinery.

“We have had fantastic feedback from our customers once they found that we were investing in batteries and using HVO, with a number of them making the switch themselves. We are now looking at running our fleet of trucks etc on the road version of HVO to further lessen our environmental impact.”

Pat said Clem Hire aims to continue investing to keep up with changes in solar and battery technology and lead the way in the hire industry.



Colin Dalton and Clem Jacob. Colin has worked with Clem for over 30 years going back to the Sam Hire days and has been an important part of Clem Jacob Hire from day one.



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Mobile Units have obtained type approval with VCA