

# ENERGY AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

## CASE STUDY

# Armagh Planetarium

## THE COMPANY

Armagh Observatory and Planetarium is a front-line research institute and exponent of key areas of astrophysics, the solar system and deep space. As Northern Ireland's oldest scientific institution, it is a prominent partner within the educational sector, delivering fun, interactive learning experiences for all ages.

## THE CHALLENGE

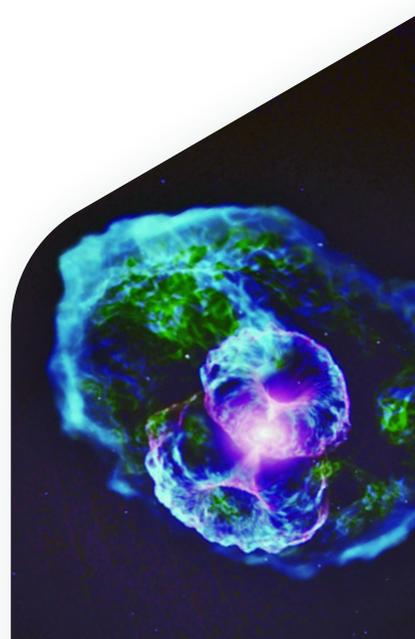
A recent upgrade of existing facilities posed challenges for management at the planetarium.

With a vast and eclectic array of decommissioned equipment and surplus items overwhelming storage capacity, the centre was under increasing pressure to begin disposal. A Resource Matching practitioner was invited to visit its workshop, where a range of items were observed and identified for reuse.

## THE SOLUTION

As a direct result of the site visit, the practitioner established introductions with:

1. Belfast Tool Library (BTL), a sustainability focused tool lending initiative that challenges conventional approaches to ownership. BTL was able to reutilise a large quantity of surplus tools and workshop equipment. This collaboration led to cost-savings of over £9000 and diverted 3 tonnes from landfill.
2. Social enterprise, incredABLE, availed of unwanted catering and electrical items. These are now fulfilling important roles across work skills projects for young adults with learning disabilities. The acquisition of these items realised cost savings to the value of £3410.



3. Sticky Fingers Art in Newry, salvaged and reused old lighting and other technical equipment in their theatre set-up, achieving cost savings of £1650.

## THE OUTCOME

Through the Invest NI Resource Matching service, Armagh Planetarium found sustainable reuse avenues which repurposed old equipment, achieved positive social impact and avoidance of disposal costs in the process. Partnering organisations, in turn, were able to make much needed cost savings on equipment, helping to strengthen their operational capacity and highlight the benefits of IS membership.

## THE SAVINGS



**COST  
SAVINGS**

**£15,035**



**CO2  
REDUCTION**

**47** TONNES



**LANDFILL  
DIVERSION**

**05** TONNES

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