

Irish Energy Research Council

An Energy Research Strategy for Ireland 2008-2013

Coillte response

Coillte welcomes the strategy and affirms its on-going commitment to playing its role in the achievement of the targets set by Government and the EU in relation to the timely deployment of renewable energy technologies in Ireland.

In particular, Coillte welcomes the proposed actions establishing an R&D capacity in the area of Sustainable Bioenergy. There are significant scientific challenges to be addressed to enable the commercialisation and faster deployment of biofuels from woody biomass. Coillte has an immediate role in this area and wishes to become involved in research capable of supporting innovation in related products and services and eventually the development of commercial spin-offs.

While the strategy rightly identifies biofuel production as a potential research topic we would also suggest that production of bio-products or co-products have a critical role in any sustainable bioenergy deployment scheme and would urge that these topics are included in any research programme.

We welcome the recognition in the strategy of the need for close contact between the energy research community and the energy related business sector. We await details of the mechanisms for such links and register our interest in being part of that dialogue.