

Secretary General,  
Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources,  
29 - 31, Adelaide Rd.,  
Dublin 2.

Our Ref:

Monday, 27 November 2006

**Re: Energy Green Paper, Recognition and Support for Local Energy Agencies**

A Chara,

Cork City Council welcomes the Departments Energy Green Paper as an important step forward in the development of sustainable energy in Ireland. The comprehensive approach to energy is welcomed.

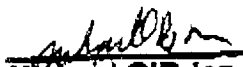
Cork City Council also wishes to support the submission on the Green Paper being made by the Association of Irish Energy Agencies (AIEA). Cork City Council has a proud record in the implementation and promotion of energy related projects. Please find an accompanying list of some of the activities which have been motivated by the work of Cork City Energy Agency which is funded by Cork City Council.

It is worth noting that Cork City Council in partnership with the Dept. of Education is developing and delivering energy and sustainability modules at the newly restored Waterworks now known as Lifetime Lab. The Council, through the Cork City Energy Agency sourced funds several years ago in the order of €5.5 million to develop a teaching and training resource for primary schools. This has been a welcome development in Cork and it furthers Cork City Councils commitment to sustainable development into the future.

The promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable development are of the utmost importance to Cork City Council and we strongly feel that increased funding to the local energy agencies will greatly help the Councils and Local Authorities in pursuing sustainable development and greatly help national and international targets as set out by the Kyoto protocol for example.

I would be grateful therefore, if the aforementioned request to set aside sufficient funding could be acceded to, in order to sustain and develop Local Energy Agencies whose roles and responsibilities are ever increasing.

Mise le meas,

  
Michael O'Brien  
Senior Engineer  
Environment  
City Hall

## Cork

The Cork City Council under the auspices of Cork City Energy Agency has spearheaded many energy initiatives as listed hereunder:

- (1) Utilisation of Landfill gas to supply electricity to 1500 homes in Cork. This involves a Public Private Partnership with Irish Power Systems in collecting Landfill Gas and converting same into Electricity.
- (2) Conversion of 17 Cork City Council vehicles to run on vegetable oil. In this EU part-funded project, Cork City Council's fleet is operating in Sustainable Environmental manner. This is the largest operated bio-fuel fleet in the country.
- (3) Provision of Combined Heat and Power plant to provide Heat and Electricity to a major Leisure and Pool Complex at Bishopstown, Cork.
- (4) Provision of heat to a Leisure Complex at Churchfield using geothermal heatpumps to abstract heat from the ground.
- (5) Provision of Green Electricity to approximately 100 Cork City Council Electricity Accounts using a small hydropower plant adjacent to Lifetime Lab on the River Lee.
- (6) Provision of geothermal space heating to the new Civic Offices adjoining City Hall and a refurbish Public Library.
- (7) Installation of Solar Thermal Systems to 24 dwelling units in the Glen Refurbishment Scheme. This is one of the largest such schemes undertaken by Local Authorities in Ireland.
- (8) CCEA has facilitated retrofitting cavity wall insulation to approximately 150 dwellings in Cork City over a three-year period.
- (9) CCEA was the Regional Co-ordinator for the Munster region during the recent SEI-commissioned Domestic Energy Audit Project.
- (10) A Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources part-funded Project enabled us to deliver Heat Energy Rating (H.E.R.) training to the Technical staff of Munster Local Authorities.
- (11) A part-funded ALTENER project enabled us to provide the first Nationwide Training and Certification course for solar/Thermal Installers and Contractors.
- (12) In association with UCC we have undertaken geothermal research of the Lee Valley area. This research has indicated a major geothermal resource in the Cork region. Arising from this research, buildings such as the Glucksman Art Gallery UCC, Lifetime Lab etc have been heated geothermally from this resource.
- (13) CCEA has provided advice to various stakeholders in Cork City in regard to the best use of energy and other sustainable issues such as Waste Management, Water Conservation etc.

(14) In addition to the above, Cork City Council in association with USC secured part funding from EFTA to develop Lifetime Lab at the Old Water Works, Lee Road, Cork. The Cork City Energy Agency will operate from the Information Centre at this facility.