

Submission from AIEA

Energy Green Paper Towards a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland



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1 Introduction

The Association of Irish Energy Agencies (AIEA) supports and welcomes the Green Paper on energy produced by the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources and are delighted with this opportunity to respond.

The AIEA and its members have been active in the implementation of energy actions supporting European and National policy at a local and regional level since 1995. The timing of the paper is important and the AIEA is of the opinion that the implementation of the final policy document and actions will require strong engagement with all stakeholders and actors in the energy market to achieve the targets envisaged.

1.1 Overview of AIEA

The Association of Irish Energy Agencies is an all-island body supporting the development and implementation of energy policy and best practice in an impartial and effective manner at local, national and EU level, through its own actions and by strengthening the capabilities of its members.

There are now 15 Local Energy Agencies (LEAs) in Ireland including 3 in Northern Ireland. The AIEA was officially launched by the Minister of State for Energy Joe Jacob, T.D in June 2000.

The objectives of the AIEA are to:

- Represent the interest of its members
- Identify key energy developments actions, tasks and projects at local level
- Provide a coherent and coordinated voice and influence policy at Local, National and European Level
- Collaboration and co-operation at Local, National and European level with other Energy Agencies and interested bodies
- Integrate energy and environmental policy through linking top-down policy and bottom-up consumer based practical initiatives
- Develop Regional energy plans
- Liaise with Government Departments

1.2 SÉANCE Project

The AIEA was the first National Association of Energy Agencies to be established in Europe and completed the SÉANCE project (4.1031/Z/02-069), in co-operation with other National Associations from Italy (Co-ordinator), Germany, Sweden and the UK in 2004.

The information and experiences exchanged through this project between the partners again highlighted the important work that the Local and Regional Energy Agencies are completing in the fields of renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean transport. However, it also reinforced the significant difficulties that Energy Agencies can experience to remain sustainable while also attempting to integrate with local, regional and national policy moves. The need for integration of approaches which provide maximum synergy between local action and regional, national and European policy was again highlighted.

As part of the SÉANCE project the AIEA produced an summary of projects with Local Energy Agencies (LEAs). This is provided in Appendix 1. In addition, the AIEA has now established a Secretariat which is hosted in the Tipperary Energy Agency. The Secretariat works with the AIEA offers to operate the Association. Part of this work is producing the AIEA newsletter. Copies of the 2006 newsletters are also included in Appendix 1.

1.3 Study of outputs, performance and future perspectives of SAVE energy agencies.

The EU Commission commissioned the above study which was completed in 2004. This report highlighted the significant work that LEAs complete at a local level but that many exist in a challenging environment. Part of this work highlighted key issues facing LEAs in the future. These included:

- Financial insecurity.
- Lack of role recognition by local, regional or national government.
- Political barriers.

Within the Country Report on Ireland key extracts include:

The growth of the agencies has been very limited, probably largely because there has been very little opportunity for additional funds beyond that provided by the county administrations, with the exception of one or two that have developed consultancy services and/or additional European projects beyond the core SAVE contract.

Another factor appears to be the lack of opportunity for local agencies to access national government funding – this has gone directly to the national agency, SEI, who have not in turn established any long term partnerships with the local agencies.

There are indications that this may be changing a little, with SEI managing some funds to which agencies (and others) can bid - such as the 'House of Tomorrow' programme. Overall, however, the local agencies have the perspective that their current and potential role is not as yet acknowledged in national policy.

It evident by the number LEAs that exist that the EU Commission and Local Authorities value their contribution but that there is a lack of integration with National Government and Policies in many cases.

Full copies of the EU Report can be found at the following location:

<http://www.managenergy.net/news/news0510.html>

2 AIEA Response

2.1 Recognition of AIEA and LEAs

The AIEA welcomes in principle the Green Paper and its attempt to cover the broad area of energy. It notes that it addresses the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy production, security of supply and cost. The Green Paper presents challenges to the entire energy sector in Ireland and will require considerable change in some sectors to ensure that the targets are achieved.

The AIEA wishes to note that it feels that a key fundamental change that will be required to ensure Ireland develops an appropriate energy supply and use profile. This change will require a re-balancing of energy policy to increase focus and action at a local and regional level. To date many policies and programmes in the field of sustainable energy have been centralised at a National level. The AIEA and its members are strongly of the opinion that local and regional action in coordination with National coordinated action will be the only way that real change can be affected.

The targets that are set within the Green Paper are welcome and LEAs have already contributed significantly to reaching many of these. A list of some key projects from each LEA is can be seen in the information provided in Appendix I. This provides an overview of what has already been achieved. However, LEAs and the AIEA feel that their actions and work at a local level is not fully recognised nor are the LEAs integrated into the energy structures and policy in Ireland.

The need for recognition is reinforced by the recent establishment of a Sub-Committee of the AIEA. The role of this Sub Committee, that includes Senior Management or Company Directors from all LEAs is to set a plan on how this issue can be addressed in a proactive and co-operative manner with relevant Government Departments..

The need for recognition and use of the LEAs is further supported by the following:

- County and City Managers Association (CCMA) submission to the National Climate Change Strategy (Extract Provided in Appendix 2)
- Addressed within a motion by Cllr Alan Coleman at Fianna Fail Ard Fheis 2006 (Appendix 3)
- Support from the following Regional Authorities including Western Regional Authority, South East Regional Authority, Mid West Regional Authority, South West Regional Authority (Sample included in Appendix 4)
- Extract from EU Commission Action Plan for Energy Efficiency: Realising the Potential {SEC(2006)1173} (Appendix 5)

2.2 LEAs Capabilities

The AIEA and its members, in the Republic, have the following capabilities which are of vital importance to the delivery of the objectives of this Green Paper:

- A combined staff of 30 with a mix of managerial, technical and administrative skills
- Ability to have immediate contact at a local level to a total population of approximately 2.4 million

- Experience in managing energy expenditure at Local Authority Level of approximately €150m per annum
- Energy expertise in the fields of buildings, renewables, energy efficiency, energy management, energy planning, transport and information provision and dissemination
- Ability to deliver education and training programmes to targeted groups at a local level

2.3 LEA Solutions

The AIEA and its members can bring the following solutions to the table to assist in reaching the ambitious goals of this Green Paper

- Development of local/regional energy balance and climate change strategies (e.g. Limerick/Clare Energy Balance and Climate Change Strategy, Galway Energy & Emissions Study, Tipperary Energy Balance and Climate Change Strategy)
- Delivery of coordinated information and awareness campaign at a local level (to assist in delivery of 20% energy efficiency improvement)
- Delivery of annual 1% Energy Savings within Local Authorities – delivering Value for Money and complying with EU Services Directive.
- Delivery of Energy Performance of Buildings Directive with Public Sector Buildings and Local Authority Housing, in addition to actions within the private sector
- Training of Building Energy Rating Assessors to implement the EPBD (in conjunction with Tipperary Institute and others)
- Promotion and implementation of renewable energy heat and transport projects within the public and community sector (to achieve 5% RES Heat and 2% Biofuels target)
- Development of Sustainable Energy Policy within County/City Development Plans, through an integrated approach
- Expertise in the delivery of energy measures to social housing within Local Authority design and build projects and supported by SEI House of Tomorrow Programme
- Delivery of services to commercial and other sectors to increase energy efficiency and introduce renewable energy

2.4 Need for Clarity regarding targets and language

The AIEA would wish to ensure that adequate clarity is provided when targets are set and communicated. It is important that the use of the term energy is used to replace electricity and vice versa. Targets need to be clear for each of the electricity, heat and transport sectors.

The targets for electricity from renewables and biofuels are clear e.g. 15% of consumption by 2010 etc. However, the target of 5% of heat purchases should be from renewables by 2010 (with 50% from biomass) is particularly ambiguous and it is unclear how it will be measured. It also does not support, for example, solar which has no fuel purchase. The AIEA would be happy to work with the Department to identify appropriate targets which could be set for the heat sector.

It is unclear how the target for energy efficiency (20%) will be quantified. It may not be fully valid to only use TPER versus GDP and the Energy Efficiency Action should provide further clarity on this.

2.5 Further Ambition

The AIEA has completed an initial review of the targets for renewables to compare to the targets in the EU White Paper on Renewables, as shown in the following Table.

% of TPER¹	Sector	2010 RES Target	2010 RES Target as % of TPER	2020 RES Target	2020 RES Target as % of TPER
33%	Heat	5%	1.65%	10% ²	3.3%
33%	Electricity	15%	4.95%	30%	10%
33%	Transport	5.75%	1.9%	5.75%	1.9%
		Cumulative	8.50%		15.20%

Table 1: AIEA review of RES Targets

The EU White Paper set a target of 12% of TPER to come from renewables by 2010. It is clear that with the current targets that this will not be achieved. Increased targets in the field of heat and electricity are possible. The transport sector provides the greatest challenge with the limited production capacity for biofuels in Ireland.

¹ Based on SEI data

² AIEA Assumption

2.6 Responses to Specific Questions

The AIEA has taken the approach of focusing on key areas within the Paper that are of most relevance to its resources, activities and local structure. It acknowledges the importance of all areas within the Paper but feels that other organisations and individuals are in a better position to respond to these areas.

2.6.1 Ensuring the Security of Energy Supply

In addition to enhancing the contribution of renewable energy, what actions could be taken to further diversify the fuel mix for electricity generation and reduce dependence on oil and gas?

Further investigation of alternatives in relation to hydrogen technology and supply which can be integrated into the Irish supply system. Hydrogen offers the opportunity to be produced using a number of technologies (renewable and non-renewable). Specific efforts should be made to review the opportunities for Ireland in this regard.

How can generation and transmission adequacy in the electricity sector be improved?

- Improved forecasting to deal with wind energy
- Further investment in the grid with a long term vision 50 years and beyond
- Implement transparent liberalisation in ESB structures, particularly in relation to grid access for Independent Electricity Producers, Auto-Producers and Micro-Generators.
- Improvement of generation technology
- Development of storage facilities to deal with wind energy production

What actions should be taken to create strategic storage capacity in the gas sector?

- Support for LPG Storage at Shannon Basin as a medium term security of supply strategy
- Reduce dependence in the long term on gas supply and storage, focus and support for all indigenous fuel supply and storage in the first instance, and develop in line with revision of this “Green Paper” policy on a regular basis

What are the challenges to greater participation by new players in the development and operation of power generation plant - and how should they be addressed?

- Improved competitiveness
- All price increases should be based on the generation proportion of the final unit cost of electricity to facilitate improved efficient plants being more competitive. Currently prices are based on standing charges, tariff structure items, etc, where all suppliers are obliged to charge same to end customer – all such charges should be standardised and reviewed by the CER only
- Reduce and cap ESB generation share to an appropriate level
- Improved Standards in grid access, connection and codes

- Regulator to address and focus its overall obligations to the customer, not to the technical requirements of the system (as advised by ESB)
- Fair access to all citizens of Ireland, with fair payment for product produced and transferred over the grid to final customers.
- Improved Capacity Resources to CER
- Strengthen and support the operations and activities of the CER, with defined responsibilities to the customers of the Irish Electricity System
- Engage an additional Head of Section at CER, with responsibilities to the promotion and development of the Renewable Energy sector only
- Improve access points to Grid
- Investigate decentralised grid network with regional ownership to assist and enable commercial/industrial and economic growth to all regions. Current focus at strengthened grid and generation areas
- Opportunities for purchase of older plant/sites for development of new generation plant

How, and over what timeframe, should Ireland pursue greater electricity interconnection with Europe?

The AIEA recommends that Ireland should pursue an interconnection with Europe within the next 5 years. 'Mainland' Europe with its greater integration provides a more stable electricity environment, although it is acknowledged that there are still some problems with this wider network.

The considerations for a super grid linked to offshore wind should be given further independent consideration.

What measures could be taken to encourage the exploration and production of indigenous energy resources?

The AIEA recommends that a review of supports for exploration should be completed with a view to balancing the need to encourage investment with return to the State. Future use should include specific requirements for producers to provide support to local communities affected by new developments.

See Section 2.4.2 for further references on renewable energy development.

Given the existing level of dependence on imported fossil fuels, what needs to be done to enhance contingency measures?

Further agreements are required with other EU member states to ensure that adequate supply is provided at times of need. This should be linked to further increases in storage capacity beyond the current level of 90 days. A target of achieving supply of 180 days within 5 years should be set.

Does the Green Paper generally set out the right policy directions for security of energy supply?

No. The AIEA welcomes the Green Paper as a starting point to developing a National Energy Policy in general, but feels that an even more ambitious vision is required e.g. Swedish Vision of 100% energy from renewables by 2020 (excluding transport). More conviction and true guidance is required. In the overall context of consultation on this Green Paper the AIEA would welcome an opportunity to discuss in detail the items raised in the section above.

The AIEA would also recommend that the All Island Energy Market be further supported through the development of other relevant All Island organisations. The AIEA is one such organisation with representatives in both Northern Ireland and the Republic. Support for the development of the AIEA should be provided to contribute to the All Island energy market.

While this document has been written mainly from the point of view of the LEAs within the Republic the AIEA acknowledges the significant work of the LEAs in Northern Ireland within their own policy and legislative framework. There are significant opportunities for exchange of expertise, knowledge and information at an All-Island level that requires National commitment and financial support.

2.6.2 Promoting the Sustainability Of Energy Supply

What can be done to improve the pace and range of development of renewable energy resources for electricity generation on a sustainable basis?

The development of renewable energy for electricity production to date has primarily focused on large-scale wind energy. Alternative Energy Requirement (AER) process is considered to be unsuccessful and it is hoped that the ReFIT programme will improve developments. There is a strong need to increase the contribution of other renewables, in conjunction with large-scale wind.

The other main options for electricity production from renewables include bioenergy, tidal and ocean/wave energy. The AIEA would make the following recommendations in regard to these alternatives

- A more comprehensive support programme is required for anaerobic digestion projects i.e. beyond the current ReFIT supports, to address its additional environmental benefits (waste management, agricultural etc.).
- A strong need to address how the target of 30% co-firing target can be met with a suitable fuel supply system. It is now necessary to move beyond demonstrations of technology and to facilitate the development of such supply chains in a real manner. The AIEA is also concerned about the efficiency of co-firing with the specific focus on peat only. Targets for co-firing should include CHP technology for improved efficiency and sustainability of wood as a valuable indigenous resource.
- The development of a comprehensive support programme for energy crops is vital and an immediate requirement. There has been considerable delay in delivering a pilot support programme **that** is proving frustrating for the sector.
- Specific support programmes for wood gasification and pyrolysis projects
- Specific support programmes for micro renewable electricity systems
- Revision of the ReFIT programme with a longer term Programme i.e. 10 year programme with specific targets for renewable energy sectors and annual review of price supports.

- Develop a specific CHP programme for the Public Sector with the Local Authority sector to be delivered via Local Energy Agencies.
- Support for Auto-production projects and addressing administrative and other barriers to such developments
- Local Authorities have ideal sites for developing Renewable Energy projects i.e. high level reservoir sites, on-shore treatment plants, landfills, etc. They also have the demand for the generated electricity. The big constraint is the “use of the electricity grid system” that prevails in this Country. There should be a mechanism in place where Local Authorities could generate electricity on one site and supply another site via the electricity grid with appropriate charges on the distance between sites. The Renewable Energy Projects would then become viable and sustainable.
- Electricity generation from landfill gas to be separated from the REFIT Programme. This category should not be included within the competitive process of REFIT, it should be administered by the DCMNR/CER on a project by project basis, with a standard plant construction, grid connect obligation and Design, Build, Operate (DBO) by the respective Local Authority. This would support generation of local revenue income. (Methane gas emissions abatement should take priority over displacement of carbon dioxide). There are a number of landfill sites ready for take-off if this process is simplified – e.g. Galway City, Limerick, Kerry, etc)
- More interconnection, with mainland Europe, to stabilise network
- Immediate Research and Development of Smart/net metering technology

In addition to electricity generation, what actions should be taken to develop renewable energy usage in the transport and heat sectors?

The AIEA welcomes the recent launch and introduction by the Minister of the Greener Homes Scheme, BioHeat and Biofuels Excise (MOTR) Programme. The AIEA in particular feels that it can make a strong active impact in relation to the heat market that has a direct and effective noticeable local impact. The following additional recommendations are made:

Heat Sector

- A further target for renewable energy heat should be set for 2020 of 25%
- Support the development and implementation of a Renewable Energy Heat Promotion campaign that can be delivered at a local level through supported actions of Local Energy Agencies.
- Support the roll out of similar projects to the Clare Wood Energy Project to all appropriate Local Authority areas. These should be cooperative projects between LEAs, LEADER Companies, Teagasc, the Forest Service and others.
- Establish Regional Bioenergy Groups to maximise local/regional opportunities and coordinate actions (e.g. MWRA Bioenergy Group and WDC Biomass Group)
- Support and facilitate the development of manufacturing of renewable energy heat plant and appliances – reduce export of investment and capital
- Establish procedures for implementation of EU standards for wood fuels through the NSAI
- Establish testing procedures for renewable energy heating technologies to ensure quality equipment is delivered to the market
- Establish quality assurance standards for installers and providers of renewable energy heating technologies
- Implement the Inspection and Verification and Technical Assessment Procedures under the Greener Homes Scheme.

- Roll out of Community Energy Initiative as piloted in Meath/Cavan/Monaghan/Louth area by Meath and Cavan/Monaghan Leader and Meath and Carlow/Kilkenny Energy Agencies and DKIT.
- Introduce a programme and target date for all Public Buildings to use biomass as a base load for heating buildings, swimming pools, etc – National and Local Authority leadership

Transport

- Supports to be provided to Local Authorities to address the fuel supply issues in relation to bio-fuels – enhancing existing LA schemes (e.g. Cork City Council, Galway City Council, Mayo County Council, North Tipperary County Council, Carlow Co Co and others) and facilitating other LA initiatives for demonstration and awareness at the local level.
- Full implementation of MOTR Programme and development of future programme to ensure sustainability of existing and future projects.
- Introduce a National Policy for LA procurement of vehicles – with high (50%) bio-fuel blends or conversion technology engine capabilities
- Training programme on bio-fuels to be delivered to relevant Local Authority staff.

What significant new initiatives could be taken to increase energy efficiency across the economy and in particular in households, businesses, the public sector, the transport sector and the built environment?

This area is one of particular interest and focus for the AIEA, since it links with the core activities of the LEAs. The need to reduce energy demand is vital and provides the greatest opportunity for least cost savings to be achieved. The AIEA recommends the following actions in this area:

Targets

- Development of local/regional energy balances and climate change strategies to set local targets for energy related CO₂ reduction, with individual responsibility indicators and targets (kgCO₂/person) – a natural progression to the successful DCMNR campaign “Power of One”. Collation and review of the balance to be the remit of the LA/LEA, with adequate funding and resources.
- Support for establishment of LEAs so that each Local Authority has access to the services of a LEA.

Information and Awareness

- Modification of the Power of One Campaign to include local awareness and information campaigns delivered through the Local Energy Agencies
- Financial support to LEAs for Energy Information and Training Workshops to large target audiences at local and regional level. The proposed structure and content of the training/workshops to be developed by LEAs in conjunction with DCMNR. This would support general awareness but also support implementation of relevant programmes e.g. Greener Homes Scheme, BioHeat etc.

Business Sector

- Specific programmes to target the SME sector who have had limited or no support in relation to energy (e.g. TEA Energy Check in Craft SME Project)
- Expand Energy MAP programme with practical delivery of education and training to commercial sectors.

- A modification of the Greener Homes Scheme for SMEs

Public Sector

- All relevant Government Departments to set energy efficiency measures to feed down to a local level – implementation of the EU Services Directive
- All relevant Government Department funding programmes to be reviewed for inclusion of/increased supports for energy efficiency measures e.g. Dept of Education Capital Grant Aid Summer Work Scheme, OPW buildings and facilities for the decentralisation programme, DoEHLG Central Heating Programme, etc
- Improve all LA buildings and housing, new build and existing to achieve a A-B Energy Rating, as part of the implementation of the EU Energy in Buildings Directive
- Increased promotion and development of PPP for renewable energy power and heat production at LA level, e.g. wind auto-production for water/sewage plants, bio-mass/solar heating to leisure facilities, etc

Built Environment

- Modification of Social Housing Funding to allow for continued and increased use of the current House of Tomorrow Programme Funding
- Immediate research into energy use and demand within the Commercial building sector to allow for energy efficiency measures to be targeted
- Introduction of energy efficiency retrofit programme for existing houses and commercial buildings (rented, owner occupied etc.) to bring all buildings prior to 2002 regulations up to current regulations.
- Revision of the SEI Public Sector Building Programme to an Open Call rather than on a limited restricted basis

Transport Sector

- Support of Walking Bus Campaigns via the Green Schools Programme (e.g. Meath Energy Agency)
- Implementation of National Spatial Strategy to reduce transport energy demand reduce commuting distances and increase access to public transport.
- Development of Rural Bus Schemes (such as www.ringalink.ie in Kilkenny)
- Development of safer cycle tracks around large regional towns and provision of secure bicycle parking facilities.
- Support of integrated analysis using GIS and other methodologies to support modal shifts e.g. MIDAS project in Cork Co Co.

What additional policy measures should be introduced to significantly expand energy RTDI and what are the priority areas of research, which need to be targeted?

The AIEA and its members are not directly involved in primary research or technology development however many Agencies are involved in delivery of European Projects under the Intelligent Energy for Europe Programme. These projects have assisted in the delivery of responses to non-technical barriers across a wide range of areas.

The AIEA recommends that a specific support system and programme be establish to overcome the significant problem of finding matching funding for such projects i.e. projects are currently only funded 50%.

In light of the Government's Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy, what needs to be done to radically expand the national energy research capacity?

The AIEA welcomes the Charles Parsons Programme and its potential to increase capacity in this area. The following additional proposals are made

- National support and facilitation of joint EU Projects and Research
- National funding to adequately disseminate results of all Research projects
- Support Energy Research Centres, in conjunction with National Universities and Institutes of Technology
- In conjunction with National Universities and Institutes of Technology fund and develop an Energy Engineering Discipline at Degree Level, leading to Masters and PhD level research programmes.

What are the key supply and demand questions to be addressed to underpin a fully cohesive National BioEnergy Strategy?

In contrast to wind and other renewable energy technologies many bioenergy projects are small scale and focused on the domestic and commercial sector. This creates significant local opportunities for job creation and diversification, in addition to reducing expenditure on imported fuels.

A range of relevant studies and reports addressed many of the questions in relation to supply and demand. These include:

- Bioenergy Strategy Group Report
- COFORD Strategic Study on Wood Energy (Electro Watt Ekono and Tipperary Institute)
- Bioenergy Training Needs Report (Tipperary Institute for Sustainable Energy Ireland)
- Biofuels Strategy Report (Sustainable Energy Ireland)

What is needed are specific actions which will increase capacity. There are a number of key issues that need to be addressed for bioenergy to expand on its current position as the primary renewable energy contributor to Ireland TPER.

Supply Chains and Regional Development

A key problem for all bioenergy projects is ensuring that the raw material (fuel) can be delivered to the point of use in the right quantities, quality and at an affordable price. None of the current supports (BioHeat Programme, Excise Programme etc.) adequately address this issue at present. Short supply chains reduce complexity and maximise local benefits. The AIEA would recommend the following actions in this regard:

- Development of Clare Wood Energy Project to extend to cover all other relevant regions by 2008 - typical investment of €250,000 per region per annum to support roll out**. This project is all about linking the fuel supply to demand and is exactly what is needed to make things happen with private forestry. This model can be applied to other sectors of wood fuel also.
- Fuel Production: Grant support for wood chip, wood briquette and wood pellet production at a local scale to include purchase of chippers, briquetting/pelleting equipment and other materials e.g. Galway (Kilconly) Wood Pelleting Project
- Development of Community Bioenergy Heating Projects : Roll out of Community Energy Initiative as piloted in Meath/Cavan/Monaghan/Louth area by Meath and Cavan/Monaghan Leader and Meath and Carlow/Kilkenny Energy Agencies and DKIT.

Regional Development can be very effective for bioenergy. The following recommendations are made:

- Establish Regional Bioenergy Groups to maximise local/regional opportunities and coordinate actions (e.g. MWRA Bioenergy Group and WDC Biomass Group)
- Roll out of Regional Implementation Plans e.g. Regional Bio-Energy Implementation Plan for the South-East.

Local Awareness and Promotion

- Support for Local Energy Agencies to work on delivery of information and promotion campaign for private forestry owners, farmers, general public and others on wood heating and bioenergy systems - estimate €50,000 per LEA + additional LA cover~ €1m per annum

Public Buildings

- Specific targets and supports for all OPW Buildings e.g. target of 10 OPW buildings with wood heating systems for 2007 with increased targets for each year from 2008 onwards
- Specific targets and supports for 10 new LA buildings with wood heating systems for 2007 with increased targets for each year from 2008 onwards.

Quality Control

- Establish procedures for implementation of EU standards for wood fuels through the NSAI
- Establish testing procedures for biomass heating technologies to ensure quality equipment is delivered to the market
- Establish quality assurance standards for installers and providers of renewable energy heating technologies

Energy Supply Company (ESCO) development

A common barrier to the development of bioenergy projects relates to the capital investment. In some situations grant aid will not overcome this. Energy Supply Contracts/Third Party Financing/ESCOs provide an opportunity to overcome this in an innovative manner. AIEA strongly recommends that a support programme for the development of such projects be implemented immediately. This could include:

- Development of ESCO models (legal, financial and other issues) and case studies using international expertise
- Information programme to promote ESCO models across relevant sectors.
- Specific targets and supports for Public buildings based on ESCO models in 2007 with increased targets for each year from 2008 onwards.

Liquid Biofuels

- Supports to be provided to Local Authorities to address the fuel supply issues in relation to bio-fuels – enhancing existing LA schemes (e.g. Cork City Council, Galway City Council, Mayo County Council, North Tipperary County Council, Carlow Co Co and others) and facilitating other LA initiatives for demonstration and awareness at the local level.
- Full implementation of MOTR Programme and development of future programme to ensure sustainability of existing and future projects.
- Introduce a National Policy for LA procurement of vehicles – with high (50%) bio-fuel blends or conversion technology engine capabilities
- Training programme on bio-fuels to be delivered to relevant Local Authority staff.

- Support to promote biofuel availability on forecourts
- R&D and Investment support for the manufacture and installation of biofuel conversion kits
- Enhanced support for flexi-fuel vehicles
- Implement of quality standard for PPO such as V DIN 51 605
- Streamlining of reporting measures for Biofuel producers, who currently must report to at least 4 different government Agencies and Departments.

Anaerobic Digestion

- Capital support and tax incentives for agricultural waste management systems, integrated with LA biodegradable wastes

Energy Crops

- Education and training on energy crop production and harvesting
- Grant programme for 500ha establishment programme to be expanded to 5000ha and implemented immediately.
- Grant support for harvesting and production equipment
- Assist and facilitate in the development of cost-effective supply chains and networks.
- Immediate increase of subsidy for energy crops from €45/ha to €150/ha.

Do we need to choose between mandatory targets and better incentives for renewable energy and energy efficiency - or is a mix of both the best way forward?

The AIEA recommends that a mix of both measures will compliment the national targets for abatement of emissions. AIEA recommends that both measures be strengthened within the current arrangements and framework, assisting the promotional and implementation efforts at ground level.

Does the Green Paper generally set the right policy directions for energy sustainability?

No. The AIEA welcomes the Green Paper as a starting point to developing a National Energy Policy in general, but the feels that an even more ambitious vision is required e.g. Swedish Vision of 100% energy from renewables by 2020 (excluding transport). More conviction and true guidance is required. In the overall context of consultation on this Green Paper the AIEA would welcome an opportunity to discuss in detail the items raised in the section above.

In addition, as it is likely that Sustainable Energy Ireland will be charged with a large proportion of work that arises under this policy a review of membership of the Board of SEI is necessary. The AIEA would be willing to discuss with the Department the opportunity to the Board to represent a large proportion of energy users.

2.6.3 Enhancing the Competitiveness of Energy Supply

In the context of liberalisation of the Irish energy market, what further actions should be taken to develop more fully competitive electricity and gas markets and what specific barriers need to be overcome?

Electricity

- Improve and strengthen grid on a strategic and geographical basis
- Standardise and cost-effective grid connections for all large-scale renewable energy generators – Wind energy is currently the cheapest form of electricity production in Ireland
- National Obligation to grid connections for all renewable energy generators under 5MW
- Support and facilitate fair grid access for embedded RE generation
- The AIEA recommends that some action be taken to allow for provision of green electricity to the domestic market
- Fair and transparent Grid access to all citizens – implement CER “Arrangements for Micro-Generation” CER/06/190 and DoEHLG “Planning Regulations for Micro Renewables”
- Reduce ESB electricity generation to 35% total capacity
- Reduce electricity prices as gas/oil market prices fall (realistic settlements), introduce monthly price tariffs for electricity

Gas

- Reduce dependence on Gas unless additional discoveries of indigenous resources and replace with strategic targets for renewable energy
- Introduce additional gas suppliers to the Irish Gas Supply Industry through Virtual Marketplace arrangements.

Barriers

- Lack of Government awareness of need for real change in the energy sector
- Monopoly and Dominance of ESB and Board Gais in marketplace
- Inadequate capacity and availability of electricity grid
- Limited resources at CER - introduce additional Renewable Energy Regulator position within current structure, with a responsibility to promote and develop Ireland's renewable energy targets and plan

What policy measures and targets should be introduced to reform institutional arrangements and market structure, particularly in the electricity and gas sectors?

- Refer to related items in 2.2.3.2 above

While a significant proportion of our energy prices are determined by international oil and gas prices, what actions should be taken domestically to reduce the cost of electricity and gas to consumers?

- Investigate Ireland's potential for 100% renewable energy supply, electricity and heat.

State-owned enterprises (e.g. ESB, BGE, BnM) have played a central role in the development of the energy sector. How should the role of State-owned energy enterprises respond to the challenges of meeting our energy needs in the future?

The need for change in the Energy Supply Industry is evident and requires responsible leadership to develop a strategy for sustainability and stability. In this respect the Government is responsible for the future role of the enterprises within its control. The AIEA recommends that the strengths of each enterprise be maximised within any future strategy. The AIEA have identified these strengths as follows:

- ESB – Adequate capacity, stable and responsive grid infrastructure
- BGE – Secure future gas supplies, storage and transport technologies
- BnM – Existing (world class) fuel distribution chains and network (can be strengthened for other biomass fuels)

What further action should be taken to alleviate fuel poverty?

AIEA estimates that the current level of Fuel Poverty in Ireland is increasing significantly and that the majority of fuel poverty citizens are living in LA social housing. This has increased rapidly in recent years due to the rising costs of electricity and heating fuels and the reduced levels of “ability to pay” for insulation upgrades. AIEA recognises the current efforts of state agencies in combating fuel poverty (e.g. Warmer Home Scheme, Energy Action, Low Income Housing Programme, etc). AIEA recommends that the issue of fuel poverty be addressed with increased Government funding directly to LA level, with administration by a LEA.

- Use the structure and methodology of the EU EPBD to identify poor energy ratings in all LA dwellings (extend to private sector within agreed timeframe)
- Rank, quantify and provide qualified cost programme for portfolio asset improvements and upgrade
- Agree, with adequate funding from Government and LA to improve energy ratings from poor (F-G) to an improved A-B rating. No to low cost measures to be implemented through the LA maintenance programme, medium cost measures (insulation, heating systems, windows) to be based on an extended Capital Refurbishment Programme.
- In collaboration with DoEHLG, secure adequate Capital Programme funding such that all new LA social housing units are built to an A2 energy rating.
- Installation of renewable energy heating systems as standard, in particular solar panels – reducing heating costs, improving comfort and providing additional disposal income.
- Capital grant schemes for micro renewable electricity systems for LA housing, stabilise rising costs of electricity
- Secure and provide adequate finance for the engagement/employment of all LEAs as Energy Officers to provide a “Clerk of Works” capacity on all LA housing projects, new build and refurbishment. This will reduce the administration costs of energy measures by comparison to other state agencies – local actors for local actions.
- All LEA staff will be trained as Building Energy Rating (BER) assessors, within the qualified procedures of the EU EPBD
- Assist and facilitate in the develop of community and district heating networks to improve efficiency of heat supply, reducing standing charges and unit heat prices.

Does the Green Paper generally set the right policy directions for enhancing the competitiveness of the Irish energy sector?

No. The AIEA welcomes the Green Paper as a starting point to developing a National Energy Policy in general, but the feels that an even more ambitious vision is required e.g. Swedish Vision of 100% energy from renewables by 2020 (excluding transport). More conviction and true guidance is required. In the overall context of consultation on this Green Paper the AIEA would welcome an opportunity to discuss in detail the items raised in the section above.

3 Conclusion

The AIEA welcomes the Green Paper as an initial step towards a National Policy framework and looks forward to the final document, incorporating the comments and input of the wider community.

The AIEA acknowledges the significant change in approach which has been taken to set targets and the AIEA would welcome an opportunity to discuss in detail the items raised in its response.

Appendix 1: Sample AIEA Newsletters

The Association of Irish Energy Agencies Newsletter



WELCOME to the Latest edition of the *AIEA* Newsletter. In this issue, we will highlight the activities of the Association and it's members including our most recent flagship projects - National Energy Performance Survey of Irish Housing, and the European Display Campaign. We would also like to welcome the opening of the Limerick Clare Energy Agency, the first **NON-EU** funded local energy agency in the country.

But first for those who might not be familiar with the Association already, it can be easily described and explained by quoting the associations Mission statement as per our strategy Document.

“The Association of Irish Energy Agencies (AIEA) is an All-Ireland body assisting the development and implementation of energy policy and best practice in an impartial and effective manner at local, national and EU level, through its own actions and by strengthening the capabilities of its members”

The Benefits of an Energy Agency:

Throughout this publication the benefits to a Local Authority of having an Energy Agency will be highlighted. Some of the main benefits are as follows:

- *Contracting more energy efficient and cost effective suppliers e.g. Green Energy*
- *Operational savings in the Local Authorities sites.*
- *Assisting local businesses, community groups and individuals with Renewable Energy and Energy Efficient projects.*
- *Development of Renewable Energy and Combined Heat and Power projects for their Local Authorities.*
- *Heat Energy Ratings for Council Housing and Municipal buildings*
- *Training of Council staff on relevent issues.*

Inside this Issue:

Housing Survey	2
DISPLAY Project	3
Agency News	4

Did you know?

The AIEA was the first national association of Energy Agencies to be set up. This has prompted the foundation of such associations across Europe. The AIEA held the first presidency of the European reflection group which was set up by the EU in 2002.

Housing Survey

The national 'Energy Performance Survey of Irish Housing', commissioned by Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) following an Invitation to Tender, has been carried out by the Local Energy Agencies between January and May 2005. The aim of the survey is to gain insights into the energy efficiency of Irish houses. Housing is one of Ireland's energy consuming sectors and accounts for approximately one quarter of energy use and associated CO₂ emissions.

The Consultants for the Survey are a partnership between CODEMA – the City of Dublin Energy Management Agency Ltd and DIT – Dublin Institute of Technology, Faculty for the Built Environment. They worked with the Galway Energy Agency Ltd, Cork City Energy Agency, Tipperary Energy Agency Ltd and other local energy agencies to collect the survey data.

The survey work divided into 3 tasks:

(i) Selection of a full sample of dwellings for physical testing and examination which is commensurate with the national mix of housing types in terms of age, built form and tenure, and obtaining approval from owners and occupiers to carry out inspections. Conducting a detailed energy audit and survey of the full set of target dwellings, with the objective of comparing the actual vs. calculated energy performance. This includes boiler flue gas combustion analysis on all boilers, where accessible and practical. Additional physical testing, using multi-point depressurization (airtightness) testing and infra-red thermography was carried out on

a subset of the dwellings

(ii) Determination of levels of compliance with current and previous Irish regulations governing the energy performance of Irish dwellings, on a sub-set of 50 dwellings which were constructed between 1997 and 2002. Relevant guidance and regulations of interest include the Technical Guidance Documents, Part L (Conservation of Fuel and Energy – Dwellings), Part F (Ventilation) and Part J (heat Producing Appliances) and Statutory Instrument No. 260/1994 (Efficiency Requirements for New Hot Water Boilers Fired with Liquid or Gaseous Fuels).

(iii) Preparation of a report describing the methodology, approach, results and conclusions. The report also captures the experience of the survey to make specific recommendations in relation to the development of a national Building Energy Rating for residential dwellings, in the context of the upcoming Energy Performance of Buildings Directive.

A total of 20 surveyors based in the Local Energy Agencies were employed to conduct a total of 160 surveys. This has the advantage that the surveyors have a good geographic spread and are already familiar with the local building traditions and materials in their rural or urban housing, as appropriate.

Training for surveyors was carried out through the Association of Irish Energy Agencies (AIEA), based upon the 'Heat Energy Rating Manual for Buildings (September 2003)'. The training manual was developed by the AIEA in conjunction with SEI and

the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources.

The Final Report is at an advanced stage and work clearly represents a major addition to the body of original technical data on energy performance of the Irish housing stock.



An airtightness test with the Blower-door equipment.



Infra red thermogram of a dwelling

For Further Information please contact:

Dr. Gerry Wardell,
CODEMA,
Unit 32,
Guinness Enterprise Centre,
Taylor's Lane,
Dublin 8.

Tel: 01-410 0659
Fax: 01-410 0576

***Did you Know?
That under the new
European Performance
Buildings Directive that
all Local Authorities will
be required to provide en-
ergy rating certificates on
all houses which they
rent out.***



Energy Agencies 'DISPLAY' Buildings Performance

In May of this year all AIEA members joined the European Display Campaign, which is aimed at encouraging Municipalities to publicly display the performance of their buildings in terms of **energy consumption, CO₂ emissions and water consumption**. This campaign pre-empts the impending European Performance in Buildings Directive where all buildings will be required to have audits undertaken on their energy performance.

Through this campaign the agencies have access to an on-line auditing tool where they input the required data, which is then analysed against a European benchmark and a poster is produced, which labels the building under the 3 main headings as outlined above.

This project is being lead by Energie-Cités who are a Network of approx 200 European wide Local authorities. Initially **Cork County Energy Agency**, joined this campaign as one of 20 pilot organisa-

tions from around Europe, and was involved in the project from its inception.

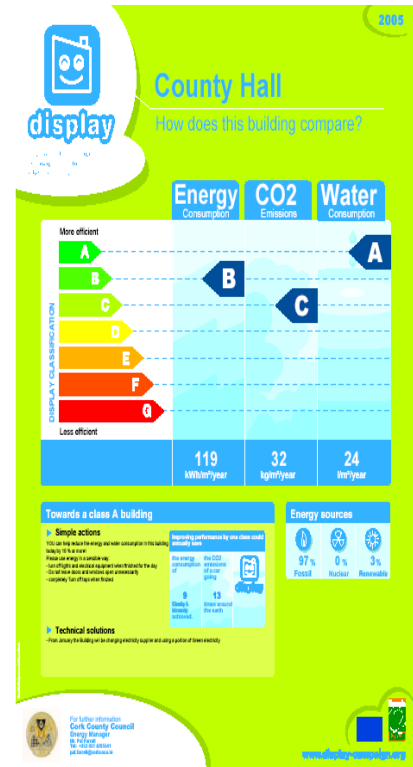
Following on from this agencies experience and success in the project, the other Irish agencies decided to get involved. In recent times the importance of this project has been highlighted, as the necessity to audit existing Public Buildings has been postponed by the Irish Government until 2008 and so making Local Authorities with energy agencies leaders in the field of Public Building certification.

For further details on this project please contact:

Alex Grassick,
Cork County Energy Agency,
Spa House,
Mallow,
Co. Cork

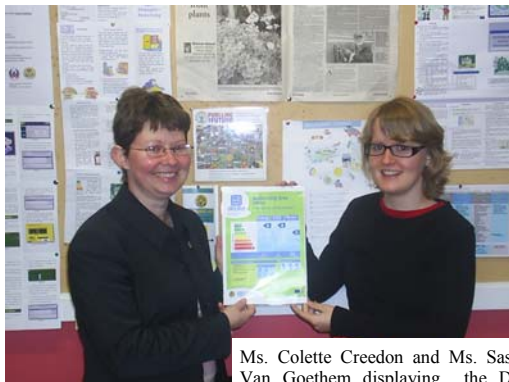
Tel: 022-43610
Fax: 022-43678

E-mail: alex.grassick@corkcoco.ie



Buildings Audited to date by

Did you know?
All non-residential buildings will have to be certified by January 2007.



Ms. Colette Creedon and Ms. Saskia Van Goethem displaying the DISPLAY poster which was awarded to their workplace.



Ms. Anne O' Donovan & Ms. Juliet Lucey staff members of Annabella Divisional Office.

Agency News

ASSOCIATION OF IRISH ENERGY AGENCIES

Chairperson: Ms. Geraldine Cusack
Meath Energy Management Agency
T: (046) 906 0537 F: (046) 902 1463
E: gcusack@meathcoco.ie

Secretariat: Ms. Françoise Hickey
Tipperary Energy Agency
T: (052) 43090 F: (052) 43012
E: tippenergy@eircom.net

WWW.AIEA.IE

Mayo Energy Agency

Renewable Energy Open Day & Competition Great Success

Locals turned out in large numbers for the Renewable Energy Open Day which was held 6th August '05 in Archers Builders Providers, Ballina. Renewable Energy Systems on display were, Wind Turbine for Electricity, Solar Panels for hot water and space heating, Wood Pellet burners/boilers and Geo-thermal also for hot water and space heating

The highlight of the day was Enda Kenny, TD, Leader of Fine Gael attending to draw the winner of the SP 750W Control System, Wind Turbine (Value €2,200) which was sponsored by Surface Power Technologies, Castlebar.



Left to right: Brendan Killion, Manager Mayo Energy Agency; John Quinn, Chief Technology Officer with Surface Power, Enda Kenny, TD; Frank Trill, Sales Director, Surface Power Technologies and Oliver Brennan, Area Sales Manager, Surface Power Technologies.

E-mail: mayonrg@eircom.net

Tel: 096-74034

Fax: 096-72950

Cork City Energy Agency



Cork City Council in association with UCC secured part funding from EFTA to develop Lifetime Lab at the Old Water Works, Lee Road, Cork. The Information Centre will provide advice and support on the sustainable themes of Energy, Waste, Water and the Natural Environment.

The Cork City Energy Agency (CCEA) in co-operation with others within Cork City Council and other external Organisations, has spearheaded many energy initiatives as listed hereunder:

(i) 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.

(ii) 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.

(iii) Provision of Combined Heat and Power plant to provide Heat and Electricity to a major Leisure and Pool Complex at Bishopstown, Cork.

(iv) 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.

In association with UCC, CCEA 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, Sustainable City Campus etc have been heated geothermally from this resource.

Tel: 021-4251104

Fax: 021-4251056

Email: micheal_lyons@corkcity.ie

Introducing

Limerick Clare Energy Agency Energy Solutions for Sustainable Development

The Limerick Clare Energy Agency is here. Limerick and Clare County Councils have been working for some time to establish the agency, which is the first to be established without EU funding. Establishing the agency without EU funding meant that the councils had to be satisfied that the agency would provide a cost effective service, in tackling their growing energy costs. The track record of other energy agencies and in particular the support given by Galway and Tipperary energy agencies, helped a great deal in giving confidence to both councils, when taking this step.

Now the agency is here, and as manager of the agency I am very excited about working with the investors and supporters, providing "energy solution for sustainable development". The workload for the agency is quite onerous. The main objectives for the next three years are: -

- (i) Establish Awareness of The Agency
- (ii) Evaluate Energy Consumption & energy related emissions in Clare & Limerick.
- (iii) Energy Audits of Public buildings and facilities in Clare & Limerick.
- (iv) Energy performance benchmarking of large energy consuming facilities.
- (v) Establish Cooperation and links to community groups (LEADER etc.)
- (vi) Establish Partnerships with Third Level Education Bodies.

The agency has a lot of work to do, and considering the spiralling costs of energy, it seems that the Limerick Clare Energy Agency has arrived just in time!

Pat Stephens
Manager

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The Association of Irish Energy Agencies Newsletter



Welcome to the Spring 2006 edition of the *AIEA* Newsletter. In this issue, we will introduce some of the recent activities of the Association members including a Low Energy development in Dublin City Centre, cost savings for Carlow County Council by changing electricity supplier, a European 'Energy Days' initiative and a European Energy Award for Nenagh and Macroom. We will also highlight national and international energy news affecting Local Authorities.

Energy News

Energy Performance of Buildings Directive –

Part L of the Building Regulations was amended in December 2005 to provide for the assessment of building energy performance and to incorporate higher energy standards for new non-domestic buildings.

This has been done as part of the EPBD implementation. Other key dates include:

- Jul 06: Alternative energy systems assessment for large new buildings
- Jan 07: Building Energy Rating (BER) & advisory report for new dwellings
- Jan 08: BER & advisory report for new commercial buildings
- Jan 09: BER & advisory report for existing dwellings rented or sold
- Jan 08: Inspection of air-conditioning systems
- Jan 08: Energy efficiency scheme for boiler/heating systems
- Jan 08: Public display of BER in new large public service buildings
- Jan 09: Public display of BER in existing large public service buildings

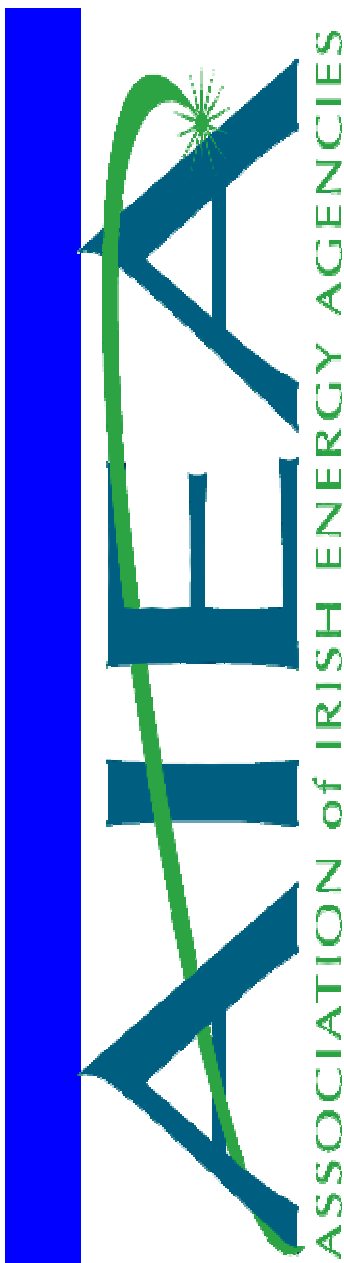
Contact your Local Energy Agency for further information.

Budget 2006 – Sustainable Energy Measures

A multi annual financial package to support renewable energy was announced in the 2006 Budget.

- **Biofuels:** A €200m excise relief package for biofuels over a five year period from 2006 - 2010, together with funding to assist the development of indigenous biofuel plant.
- **Biomass:** A financial package for wood chip and wood pellet boilers, aimed at the business, commercial and service sectors.
- **Grants for House-holders:** A grant aid package for the domestic sector which will allow for individual grants to install renewable energy technologies such as wood pellet boilers, solar panels and geothermal heat pumps.
- **Combined Heat and Power:** A grant aid package to incentivise the installation of CHP in the industrial, commercial and public services sector.

Contact your Local Energy Agency for further information.



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Low Energy Design For Sixty Six City Council Flats

CODEMA, the City of Dublin Energy Management Agency, is co-ordinator of a high profile housing project at York Street, St. Stephen's Green, for Dublin City Council. This scheme has been designed by Sean Harrington Architects who address issues of environmental sustainability in building design.

A grant of € 369,600 for a demonstration project involving 66 local authority flats at York Street, St. Stephen's Green, has been awarded through the House of Tomorrow Programme, which is funded by the National Development Plan and managed by Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI).

Background

Dublin City Council is landlord to about 26,000 social housing units. The majority (85%) of the flat complexes were designed and constructed prior to the 1973 oil crisis when fuel was cheap and little attention was paid to energy consumption and energy efficiency.

Dublin City Council, with advice from their local energy agency, CODEMA, has recently carried out an extensive refurbishment programme of their existing social housing stock with the goal of reducing greenhouse gases, combating fuel poverty and preserving the existing housing asset.

However, due to the sub-standard condition of the existing flats at York Street, it was decided that the only solution was to demolish the existing buildings and to re-house the existing community in newly constructed apartments that would provide comfortable modern accommodation, which would be sustainable economically, socially and environmentally.

Project Summary

The redevelopment of a brownfield city centre site at York Street, off St Stephen's Green, is a very important and high profile housing project for Dublin City Council.



The redevelopment will include 66 new council flats arranged in five blocks with communal spaces on the ground floor. Each block will have a district heating system with a central condensing gas boiler. Domestic hot water will be provided by 5 solar thermal panels with back-up from highly efficient gas boilers at peak loads.

A smaller mews development to the rear will be constructed in brick and timber with lime render finish to the external walls, all with grass roofs.

Demolition work has already commenced and special attention will be given to the re-use of masonry and timber from the existing building.

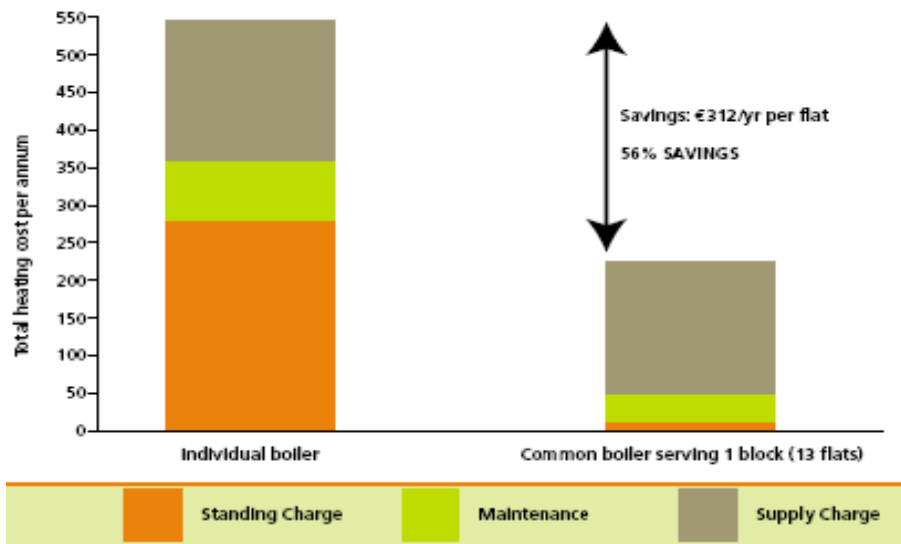
A low energy design for the York Street flats combats fuel poverty through a well insulated fabric and highly efficient heating system with solar panels. The amount of gas needed is only 49% of what would normally be required for a similar sized flat.

Furthermore, the cost of gas is much cheaper in a district heating system than for individual boilers and of course solar energy is free. As a result, energy savings of 51% and fuel cost savings of 70% are achieved when compared with a standard construction on a domestic tariff with individual boilers.

Environmental Features

- Shallow plan blocks for good daylighting & natural ventilation
- Dual aspect apartments and dual aspect living spaces
- Adaptable glazed balconies on south and west facades
- Green roofs to control water seepage & attract wildlife etc.

Individual Gas Boiler Vs. District Heating System



Performance Relative to Business-as-Usual

Fuel Costs	70% reduction
Energy Usage	51% reduction
CO ₂ Emissions	51% reduction

Combating Fuel Poverty

Fuel poverty arises as a result of living in poorly insulated dwellings with inadequate heating systems where tenants are unable to achieve a reasonable degree of comfort at a reasonable cost. With an increase in the price of natural gas by 25% on 1st October 2005, the issues of fuel poverty and energy costs are of concern among householders and local authorities.

For further details on this project, please contact:

Edel Giltenane
Tel: 0 1 4100 659
Email: edel.giltenane@codema.ie

Agency News

New Electricity Supplier for Carlow County Council

Carlow County Council has signed a one year contract with Bord Gais Energy Supply for the supply of electricity to the Council's buildings and facilities. The new supply contract will result in a potential saving of €84,000 (11%) on the Council's electricity costs for 2006.

The *Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency* put in place a procurement procedure and managed the transition of the Council's electricity accounts, which number over 100, from ESB to the new supplier.

In addition to ESB Public Electricity Supply (PES), there are currently five alternative electricity suppliers operating in Ireland, including: Airtricity, Bord Gais Electricity Supply, CH Power, Energia, and ESB Independent Energy.

Each of these suppliers have differing methods of offering cost savings, e.g.:

- a percentage reduction of the total ESB PES tariffs;
- a percentage reduction of individual components of the ESB PES tariffs;
- different prices for individual sites within a single tariff type;
- different percentage reductions of the total ESB PES tariffs for individual accounts within a single tariff type.

The Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency ensured that the expected annual cost savings offered by each of the alternative suppliers were based on identical criteria and represented the genuine total savings which could be expected.

The electricity procurement procedure managed by the Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency is just one stage of a complete energy management strategy for the Council's operations which includes:

- Tariff reviews based on ongoing usage patterns.
- Evaluating on site operations to optimise maximum import capacity, minimise excess wattless charges, and maximise the level of more cost effective night time electricity usage.
- Tendering for the most cost effective electricity supply.
- Testing pump and motor efficiencies and overall site efficiencies at each of the Council's operations.

Contact: Rory McConnon

Tel: 059 - 9143871

E-mail: info@carlowkilkennyenergy.com

Dublin Energy Day

The city of Dublin is among the first of a small number of European cities, who have been invited by the European Commission to participate in a European 'Energy Days' initiative, as part of the Sustainable Energy Europe 2005-2008 Campaign.

CODEMA organised a successful 'Energy Day' in Dublin on 28th November. The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr Catherine Byrne was presented with the first "Energy Performance Certificate" of a Dublin City public building - the Civic Offices, following an introduction by the Director of CODEMA, Dr Gerry Wardell and Deputy City Architect, Kieran Gallagher.

Quote from Lord Mayor: *"I am honoured to accept this award on behalf of Dublin City Council. It is only right that Dublin City Council's headquarters is at the forefront of energy management. Good low energy design which the City Council is applying in new housing schemes throughout the city will ensure lower energy bills for our customers and help protect the environment without compromising comfort"*



From left: Kieran Gallagher, City Architects Dept., the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr Catherine Byrne and Dr Gerry Wardell, CODEMA.

The theme of Dublin's Energy Day was energy efficiency in buildings, both residential and public. With increases in the price of natural gas heating, this is a very topical subject among householders and Local Authorities. Buildings with a high energy rating use less energy, are cheaper to run and are kinder to the environment.

This work is supported by the European Commission under the Intelligent Energy Europe programme, through the 'BUDI' Building Directive project, involving CODEMA and partners in 6 European cities.

Contact: Emma Heskin

Tel: 01 - 410 0560

E-mail: emma.heskin@codema.ie

European Energy Award® for Nenagh and Macroom

Nenagh, Co. Tipperary and Macroom Co. Cork are the first towns in Ireland to achieve the European Energy Award® (EEA). In achieving this award Nenagh and Macroom have become the only towns in Ireland to be members of an exclusive network of the most energy efficient towns and cities throughout Europe.



The EEA is the equivalent of a quality mark for sustainable energy practices in towns and cities across Europe. The aim of the EEA is to support communities that want to contribute to a sustainable energy policy and urban development through the rational use of energy and an increased use of renewable energies.



To achieve the award Nenagh and Macroom worked closely with their Local Energy Agencies

Tipperary Energy Agency and Cork County Energy Agency. The process of achieving the award involved reviewing existing energy practices, identifying areas for improvement, implementing change and reviewing the entire process again. At this point an internal audit was carried out, which was then evaluated by an independent accredited EEA® auditor in November 2005.



Both towns reached and exceeded the required level to achieve the award, and are now working on maintaining and improving their position.

Achieving the award highlights the progressive nature of both Nenagh and Macroom with regard to energy use, and underlines their commitment to sustainable community development.

Contact: Emma Mooney

Tel: 052 - 43090

Email: emooney@tea.ie

or

Contact: Alex Grassick

(022) 43610

alex.grassick@corkcoco.ie

The Association of Irish Energy Agencies

The Benefits of an Energy Agency:

There are many benefits to a Local Authority and to the community of having a Local Energy Agency. Some of the main benefits are as follows:

1. Energy awareness and dissemination

Each Energy Agency can provide information on renewable energy and energy efficient products, local developers, suppliers and installers.

2. Energy management and procurement

Negotiation of energy supply contracts, management of electricity accounts, and energy optimisation of Local Authority.

3. Energy efficiency and renewable energy projects

Project management for Local Authorities, community groups and businesses.

4. Sustainable energy training

The Energy Agencies run training courses and workshops for Local Authority staff and the public.

5. Energy Policy Development

Energy Agencies work with their Local Authorities to develop sustainable energy policies in County and Local development plans.

Introduction to the AIEA

There are now 16 Local Energy Agencies in Ireland, including 3 in Northern Ireland. These jointly formed the Association of Irish Energy Agencies (AIEA) in November 1998. The AIEA was officially launched by the Minister of State for Energy Joe Jacob, T.D in June 2000.

The AIEA is a self-governing organisation, which provides both a critical mass and a sense of continuity for its constituent member energy agencies. It can also provide a coherent and coordinated voice at local, national and European levels.

The AIEA is building a strengthened network of Local Energy Agencies in Ireland through assisting in setting up new agencies where there are none at present and also, through reinforcing the existing agencies that have already been established.

Central Aim of the AIEA

The overall common aim of the constituent member of the Association is to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency and the rational use of energy, to improve the quality of the environment and to contribute to sustainable development.



Mission Statement:

“The Association of Irish Energy Agencies (AIEA) is an All-Ireland body assisting the development and implementation of energy policy and best practice in an impartial and effective manner at local, national and EU level, through its own actions and by strengthening the capabilities of its members”

Energy Agencies

Belfast Energy Agency

(048) 902 65 997

www.belfastenergyadvice.com

Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency

(059) 9143871

www.carlowkilkennyenergy.com

CODEMA (City of Dublin Energy Management Agency)

(01) 4100659

www.codema.ie

Cork City Energy Agency

(021) 4941508

john_walsh@corkcity.ie

Cork County Energy Agency

(022) 43610

mallowre@eircom.net

Donegal Energy Action Team

Foyle Regional Energy Agency

(048) 71373430

www.foyleenergy.org

Galway Energy Agency Limited

(091) 566 954

peter.keavney@galwaycity.ie

Kerry Energy Agency

(066) 7183576

wmoynihhan@kerrycoco.ie

Limerick Clare Energy Agency

(061) 234296

www.lcea.ie

Mayo Energy Agency

(096) 76113

www.mayoenergy.ie

Meath Energy Management Agency

(01) 8358019

www.mema.ie

Tipperary Energy Agency

(052) 43090

www.tea.ie

Waterford Energy Bureau

(051) 395531

www.waterfordenergy.ie

Wexford Energy Agency

(053) 47400

www.wexfordenergy.com

WREAN

(048) 66328269

www.wrean.co.uk

Objectives of the AIEA

- Represent the interest of its members
- Identify key energy developments tasks at local level
- Provide a coherent and coordinated voice and influence policy at Local, National and European Level
- Collaboration and co-operation at Local, National and European level with other Energy Agencies and interested bodies
- Integrate energy and environmental policy through linking top-down policy and bottom-up consumer based practical initiatives
- Develop Regional energy plans
- Liaise with Government Departments

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Brendan Killion, Mayo Energy Agency

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The Association of Irish Energy Agencies Newsletter



Welcome to the Autumn 2006 edition of the *AIEA* Newsletter. In this issue, we will introduce Biofuel conversion projects in Co. Mayo and Co. Carlow, an Energy Efficient School in Co. Tipperary, a Walking & Cycling project in Dublin and Energy training for SMEs. We will also highlight national and international energy news affecting Local Authorities.

Energy News

Public and Commercial Sector Grant Programme

SEI's *Public and Commercial Sector Grant Programme* offers financial support to promote energy efficient design, technologies and services in new and retrofit public sector projects. Funding of up to 50% of eligible costs is available through the programme's three main elements:

- Generic Design Studies – Public & Commercial Sectors
- Model New and Retrofit Building Projects – Public and Commercial Sectors
- Energy Management Bureau Services – Public Sector Only

Total funding available under this project is €4 million. The closing date for receipt of applications is Wednesday 31st January 2007.

Application forms are available from www.sei.ie. Contact your Local Energy Agency for further information.

Towards a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – Green Paper

In October 2006, a Green Paper on Energy entitled “*Towards a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland*” was published by DCMNR. This paper puts forward energy policy options to ensure safe and secure energy supplies, promoting sustainable energy, and delivering economically efficient prices to Irish consumers. The policy options include:

- A target of 15% of electricity (1,650MW) consumption to be met by renewable energy by 2010, with a further 30% by 2020.
- A target for renewable heat of 5% by 2010.
- A National Bioenergy Action Plan will be published by the end of 2006.
- Increased funding for energy research, development and innovation
- A second North-South electricity interconnector by 2012 and of an East-West electricity interconnector by 2012.
- 30% biomass co-firing at peat stations by 2015 is being considered
- 5.75% biofuels in transport fuels by 2010 in line with the EU Biofuel directive.
- An Action Plan on Energy Efficiency to deliver a 20% reduction in energy demand by 2020.

The Green paper is available from www.dcmnr.gov.ie/Energy/. Contact your Local Energy Agency for further information.



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Renewable Biofuel Vehicles

Local Authorities converting vehicles to run on Pure Plant Oil

Spiralling oil prices remind us that we are gradually running out of fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal. Burning fossil fuels releases huge amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere trapping the sun's heat (greenhouse effect). This has led to global warming, a major cause of serious environmental damage.

Using Pure Plant Oil as a transport fuel has a number of advantages over conventional diesel; mainly that it is a recyclable form of energy and it does not add any additional carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. The fuel itself is currently considerably cheaper than conventional diesel as it is free from excise duty when bought from approved producers.

In addition to this, a new draft Directive proposed by the European Commission in December 2005 may require public bodies and local authorities to ensure that at least a quarter of their annual procurement of heavy-duty road vehicles is devoted to the purchasing or leasing of 'clean' vehicles.



The modifications to the vehicles are straightforward involving the installation of equipment to pre-warm the fuel, an additional filter, and minor adjustments of the engine controls.

Carlow Town and County Councils modified a Mitsubishi Canter and a Ford Ranger (pictured below), with support from Carlow LEADER. The conversion kits were acquired from a German company, Elsbett, and installed by a CP AutoServices in Kilkenny. The PPO fuel being used is produced locally by Kilkenny Cereals Limited, who also supply PPO to a number of garages in the area.

Carlow County Council's Ford Ranger, which is now running on Pure Plant Oil.



Biofuels are used as a substitute for petrol or diesel. There are four main types of biofuel being developed in Ireland at present. These are:

1. **Pure Plant Oil (PPO)** - Pure Plant Oil is produced by crushing rapeseed or other oil seed and filtering it. Pure Plant Oil can only be efficiently used in vehicles which have had their engines suitably modified. Modified engines can run on 100% pure plant oil, biodiesel, blend or conventional diesel.
2. **Biodiesel** - Biodiesel is similar to conventional diesel and can be used in most unmodified diesel vehicles, however not all vehicle manufacturers will maintain their warranty. Biodiesel is produced using renewable raw materials such as PPO which undergoes a process to thin it out.
3. **Blend** - Alternatively, a 95% diesel : 5% PPO or biodiesel blend can be used in unmodified engines. Many engine manufacturers have already endorsed the use of a 95/5 mix, with some truck manufacturers allowing up to a 50% blend.
4. **Ethanol** - Bioethanol is the principle biofuel used as a petrol substitute.

Following on from its 2005 Pilot biofuel programme to promote the use of alternatives to fossil fuels for transport, the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources announced in July 2006 its guidelines for a five year biofuels excise relief package. The volumes anticipated include:

- 60m litres of biodiesel/biofuels in a blend to meet EN590 for use in non-modified vehicles;
- 85m litres of bioethanol in blends of 5% for use in non-modified vehicles to 85% for use in flexible fuel vehicles;
- 6m litres of Pure Plant Oil for use in modified vehicles
- 12m litres of various biofuels and blends for use in captive fleets.

The successful applicants will be announced over the coming months.

This Nissan Terrano is one of 3 light commercial vehicles Mayo County Council selected for Biofuels Trials.

A number of Local Authorities, including Mayo County Council & Carlow County Council, through the *Mayo Energy Agency* and the *Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency*, have modified vehicles to run on Pure Plant Oil (PPO) and are also carrying out trials on biodiesel blends.

The aim of these projects is to provide working demonstrations for the promotion of transport based on locally produced renewable fuels and from this, to encourage the development of locally grown transport fuels and farm based biofuel processing.



Mayo County Council are using a Nissan Terrano, a Ford Courier, and a Ford Transit in their PPO trials. The conversion kits were again acquired from Elsbett, and installed by Eco-motion mechanics. Mayo County Council also have a Scania 18 tonne lorry running on a 95% diesel:5% PPO Blend with no conversion. The PPO fuel has been supplied by Eilish Oils, in Wicklow.

These projects are being promoted by Carlow and Mayo Local Authorities as part of their ongoing commitment to energy management, renewable energy and sustainable local development.

For further details please contact:

Brendan Killion

Tel: 096 76113

Email: mayoenergy@eircom.net

or

Rory McConnon

Tel: 059 9143871

Email: info@carlowkilkennyenergy.com

Agency News

Scoil Ruain Killenaule DISPLAYS the way forward in Green schools

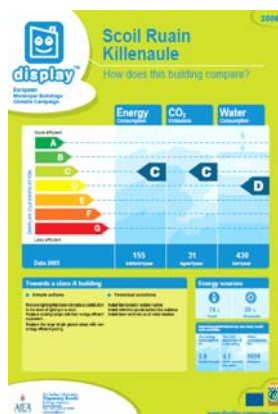
Scoil Ruain and its pupils have been very active and aware in the areas of energy and environmental issues for a number of years and the school was recently awarded its second Green Schools flag, thus showing their ongoing commitment to environmental issues.

The school approached the **Tipperary Energy Agency** to carry out an energy audit in 2005. The Energy Agency advised on how to improve the energy efficiency of the school buildings. The Energy Agency also invited the school to become involved in the Display campaign.

The DISPLAY campaign is supported by the E.U. and is a simple certification scheme, which encourages all public buildings, including schools, to track their energy performance and impact on the environment.

Hundreds of public buildings in regions all over Europe are taking part in the DISPLAY campaign and Scoil Ruain the first school in Ireland to achieve the Display certificate.

The most visible part of DISPLAY is a poster that gives information on the performance of the building in terms of primary energy use, water consumption and CO₂ emissions.



Much of Scoil Ruain's good performance level is due to the good condition of the school, the newly installed high efficiency windows, the new heating boilers, and the dedicated attitude of the staff and pupils of the school. To further increase their energy efficiency, the school is upgrading all remaining single glazing throughout the school. Moreover, Scoil Ruain is supplied with green electricity.

From the participation of the Scoil Ruain in the Green Flag programme and in the DISPLAY Campaign, the awareness of both students and staff has greatly increased towards energy and environmental issues. The school and its pupils are also getting involved in two energy projects next year: One on energy crops and the other on the potential for wind energy.

Tipperary Energy Agency is also in contact with other schools and Local Authority buildings to encourage them to join the DISPLAY Campaign. So far a total of 13 schools have shown interest in the Campaign and are currently gathering data which will help Tipperary Energy Agency in producing their DISPLAY posters.

Contact: Seamus Hoyne

Tel: 052-43090

E-mail: shoyne@tea.ie

Walking & Cycling in Dublin

CODEMA is working on a European project called 'ASTUTE', **A**dvancing **S**ustainable **T**ransport in **U**rban areas **T**o promote **E**nergy efficiency.

The main aim of the project is to overcome the organisational barriers that prevent an increase in the use of walking and cycling as viable methods of transport in the urban environment by 'soft measures' or Intelligent Interventions, such as education, training and publicity. CODEMA is working with VIPRE Ltd, a Mobility Management Company based in Dublin, on developing work based travel plans for 6 companies in Dublin.

CODEMA have 8 partners from 5 European cities involved in this project, London - UK, Granada - Spain, Budapest - Hungary, Graz - Austria and Catania - Italy.



The projects achievements will include:

- Increase in public acceptability of walking and cycling
- 10% increase in cycling and walking across the partner cities
- A corresponding reduction of CO₂ emissions
- Action-plans, applying the toolkit to identified barriers
- 100 businesses across all city-partners identified as having a Travel Plan in place or that include mobility management techniques as part of their overall policies and management

For further details please contact:

Contact: Emma Heskin

Tel: 01 - 4100560

E-mail: emma.heskin@codema.ie

Energy Checkers

The **Tipperary Energy Agency** has completed training of 20 people in Co. Tipperary to become E-Checkers under the project 'Energy Check for SMEs'. The training involved providing the E-Checkers with the knowledge to do a quick check on energy consumption in SMEs. The E-Checkers were also instructed on how to use a purpose built tool (E-Check Tool) to enter the relevant data and perform an analysis of the energy efficiency of their particular site.

The training and development of the tool was funded under the Intelligent Energy for Europe programme. Assistance was also provided by the South Tipperary County Enterprise Board.




The 20 E-Checkers will complete up to 60 E-Checks by the end of February 2007 and the results will be used to refine and develop the E-Check methodology and tool.

The main aim of the E-Check approach is to overcome the barrier whereby SMEs do not have the resources to review their own energy consumption yet their scale does not generally warrant a full energy audit. It is planned for the E-Check methodology to be further developed to include renewable energy assessments.

Further information can be obtained from the following websites:

www.tea.ie & www.energy-check.org



Intelligent Energy  **Europe**

The Association of Irish Energy Agencies

The Benefits of an Energy Agency:

There are many benefits to a Local Authority and to the community of having a Local Energy Agency. Some of the main benefits are as follows:

1. Energy awareness and dissemination

Each Energy Agency can provide information on renewable energy and energy efficient products, local developers, suppliers and installers.

2. Energy management and procurement

Negotiation of energy supply contracts, management of electricity accounts, and energy optimisation of Local Authority sites.

3. Energy efficiency and renewable energy projects

Project management for Local Authorities, community groups and businesses.

4. Sustainable energy training

The Energy Agencies run training courses and workshops for Local Authority staff and the public.

5. Energy Policy Development

Energy Agencies work with their Local Authorities to develop sustainable energy policies in County and Local development plans.

Introduction to the AIEA

There are now 16 Local Energy Agencies in Ireland, including 3 in Northern Ireland. These jointly formed the Association of Irish Energy Agencies (AIEA) in November 1998. The AIEA was officially launched by the Minister of State for Energy Joe Jacob, T.D in June 2000.

The AIEA is a self-governing organisation, which provides both a critical mass and a sense of continuity for its constituent member energy agencies. It can also provide a coherent and coordinated voice at local, national and European levels.

The AIEA is building a strengthened network of Local Energy Agencies in Ireland through assisting in setting up new agencies where there are none at present and also, through reinforcing the existing agencies that have already been established.

Central Aim of the AIEA

The overall common aim of the constituent member of the Association is to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency and the rational use of energy, to improve the quality of the environment and to contribute to sustainable development.



Mission Statement:

“The Association of Irish Energy Agencies (AIEA) is an All-Ireland body assisting the development and implementation of energy policy and best practice in an impartial and effective manner at local, national and EU level, through its own actions and by strengthening the capabilities of its members”

Energy Agencies

Belfast Energy Agency

(048) 902 65 997

www.belfastenergyadvice.com

Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency

(059) 9143871

www.carlowkilkennyenergy.com

CODEMA (City of Dublin Energy Management Agency)

(01) 4100659

www.codema.ie

Cork City Energy Agency

(021) 4941508

john_walsh@corkcity.ie

Cork County Energy Agency

(022) 43610

mallowre@eircom.net

Donegal Energy Action Team

Foyle Regional Energy Agency

(048) 71373430

www.foyleenergy.org

Galway Energy Agency Limited

(091) 566 954

peter.keavney@galwaycity.ie

Kerry Energy Agency

(066) 7183576

wmoynihnan@kerrycoco.ie

Limerick Clare Energy Agency

(061) 234296

www.lcea.ie

Mayo Energy Agency

(096) 76113

www.mayoenergy.ie

Meath Energy Management Agency

(01) 8358019

www.mema.ie

Tipperary Energy Agency

(052) 43090

www.tea.ie

Waterford Energy Bureau

(051) 395531

www.waterfordenergy.ie

Wexford Energy Agency

(053) 9147400

www.wexfordenergy.com

WREAN

(048) 66328269

www.wrean.co.uk

Objectives of the AIEA

- Represent the interest of its members
- Identify key energy developments tasks at local level
- Provide a coherent and coordinated voice and influence policy at Local, National and European Level
- Collaboration and co-operation at Local, National and European level with other Energy Agencies and interested bodies
- Integrate energy and environmental policy through linking top-down policy and bottom-up consumer based practical initiatives
- Develop Regional energy plans
- Liaise with Government Departments

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APPENDIX 2: EXTRACT FROM CCMA SUBMISSION TO NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

9.1 ENERGY AGENCIES

- The consultation document notes the role of local energy agencies in supporting local authority activities.
- Local Authorities have, for a number of years, funded and actively collaborated with local energy agencies in the Republic of Ireland.
- Most Energy Agencies were set up through EU Energy Programmes with part funding typically through Local Authorities.
- There are currently 12 Regional Energy Agencies in the Republic of Ireland.
- Some Energy Agencies are subsections of County / City Council Departments others are Limited Companies.
- Regional energy agencies typically includes a manager, a project officer with an Engineering / Science background and administrative support.
- They provide advice on energy-related matters to households, businesses and to the public sector.
- Promote renewable energy and energy efficiency at both local / regional level.
- Initiate local projects on energy conservation, renewable technologies.

9.2 ENERGY AGENCIES

Within the local authority system, there are many examples of innovative projects designed to promote renewable energy systems, often developed in collaboration with LEAs

For instance, this work led to the development of the Lifetime Lab in Cork City - an information centre to provide advice and assistance on sustainability issues

Also in Cork City Council, under the leadership of the Cork City Energy Agency, landfill gas is used to provide electricity to 1500 homes while the Council's vehicle fleet operates in a sustainable environmental manner

In the case of Dublin City Council, CODEMA has worked with developers, architects and the construction industry to develop a range of energy design guidelines for housing with an emphasis on environmental comfort and intelligent use of energy

Tipperary North and South County Councils have engaged a single Energy Agency for a number of years to ensure they meet and exceed energy saving targets.

The CCMA endorse the important collaborative work carried out by LEAs and part-funded by local authorities

Local Energy Agencies offer a useful model of shared service arrangements, particularly with regard to disseminating best practice on energy efficiency on a local level

It is our view that the DoEHLG should take greater steps to resource LEAs, especially with regard to implementation to the Energy Efficiency Directive and associated European legislation

The DoEHLG should liaise with the CCMA and Local Energy Agencies to consider what additional support mechanisms might be available to implement specific and innovative energy saving projects proposed by the LEAs.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Energy Agencies have made a significant contribution to the following
 - Housing Projects
 - Wind Energy Research
 - Training and Education Awareness
 - Biofuel
 - Street lighting costings
 - Having alternative energy sources such as solar
- The energy agencies should be used for further development roles and consideration for expanding duties
- Significant improved resources must be provided to local authorities in assisting in awareness programmes relating to climate change.
- Climate change projects involve significant capital investments **that** must be supported from Central Funds.

Appendix 3: Cllr Alan Coleman Motion to Fianna Fail Ard Fheis, 2006

I want to welcome the Ministers initiative to launch a Government Green paper on energy which addresses vital issues for our present economic prosperity and our future sustainable development.

Issues such as security of supply and reducing our dependency on fossil fuels by encouraging alternatives and renewables like biofuels, biomass and on the demand side, efficiency.

On energy efficiency, the EU Commission has set ambitious targets of 20% reduction by 2020.

This Green Paper sets the road map for us, but to succeed we need a sustained, co-coordinated approach which **percolates down to local level where the efficiencies must be achieved.**

S.E.I. co-ordinates energy policy at national level. After the debate on this Green Paper, we need to take actions that recognise and empower our network of Local Energy Agencies as vehicles to implement national energy policy at local level.

The public reaction to the Greener Homes initiative shows that there is a real willingness among the public to embrace change.

The European Green Paper on Efficiency, the Building Services Directive and the Energy Performance on Building Directive (which Ireland was one of the first to transpose into national law) all lay major importance on Local Delivery.

Last week, I had a meeting with the E.U. Commissioner for Energy in my capacity as Director of the Energy Cities Association. **Commissioner Piebalgs stressed the need for local actors to be prepared to deliver change at local level.** To give you an example, our Energy Agency in Cork works closely with West Cork Leader on pilot community projects and with S.W.S. Limited at delivering energy solutions to small and medium enterprises. **Our network of Local Energy Agencies which were set up with the support of start up funds from Europe, are now**

funded within the Local Authority system and are ideally placed to facilitate change at local level.

What I say to you Minister is to include and empower these local agencies who can deliver at local level your vision of an energy efficient, intelligent energy Ireland. A vision mapped out in your Green Paper "Towards a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland", a green paper which I commend to the Ard Fheis.

Appendix 4: Sample Regional Authority Support Letter

West Regional Authority

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

Our Ref: W. 3

24th October 2006

Re: Mayo and Galway Energy Agencies

A Chara,

I refer to the above and I wish to inform you that at our West Regional Authority Meeting of the 17th October 2006, the board members requested that sufficient supports and appropriate funding are put in place to sustain the valuable work the agencies are engaged in, especially in light of the recent publication of the Energy Green Paper.

The promotion of energy conversation, energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable development within the West Region are of the utmost importance to our members. Consequently it is essential that the energy agencies must continue in their role of providing professional energy services. As you may be aware, the Roscommon Energy Agency has already been closed down.

I would be grateful therefore if the aforementioned request to set aside sufficient funding could be acceded to, in order to facilitate the future success of the Galway and Mayo Energy Agencies.

Mise le meas,

Jim McGovern
Director
West Regional Authority

Appendix 5: Extracts from Action Plan on Energy Efficiency

Page 3:

*The present document sets forth such an Action Plan with a view to realising our potential and maintaining Europe's position as one of the most energy-efficient regions in the world. The policies and measures in the Plan are based on consultations on the Green Paper on Energy Efficiency⁴. Most of these have been specifically supported by stakeholders participating in the consultation process. The main points raised in the analysis and the responses to the questions of the Green Paper on Energy Efficiency referred to the **need to improve the availability and quality of information on energy consumption and on available energy efficient technologies and techniques**. Energy efficiency in the building sector was identified as a top priority. Improving energy efficiency in the transport sector was considered of special importance, since this sector consumes the bulk of oil products and has the fastest growing emission profile. In industry, a significant potential to reduce energy demand and CO₂ emissions was highlighted. **Responses called as well for the use of a wide range of policy instruments at national, regional and local levels** (i.a. wider use of targeted and coherent tax measures, internalising external costs, full support of Member States through National Energy Efficiency Action Plans, non-binding guidelines, labels and targets, and public-sector leadership in procurement). Binding minimum efficiency requirements for automobiles were also called for.*

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This Action Plan highlights key proposals and places them in a political context. These proposals take into account recently adopted legislation on EU and other levels, which has already contributed to making Europe a world leader in energy efficiency. The Commission furthermore proposes 10 priority actions covering all energy sectors to be initiated immediately and implemented as soon as possible for maximum effect. Member States, regional and local authorities and other stakeholders are called upon to take complementary measures to reinforce and strengthen this implementation.

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Under Changing Energy Behaviour

- *involve the Intelligent Energy-Europe Agency, national, regional and local energy agencies in implementation of Action Plan (2007-2012)*