

The Consultation document recognises the increasing importance of environmental factors in the energy sector (Point 6.1). The commencement of the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) on 1 January 2005, has brought the linkages between energy and the environment into even sharper focus, with the Powergen sector now operating in a carbon constrained environment. It is therefore vital that elements of environmental research are integrated into the energy R, D & D arena. This will enable the synergies between energy and environment to be harnessed, in particular potential economic opportunities for Ireland, while facilitating Ireland in meeting its Kyoto target.

It is in this context that the Department would support the inclusion of elements of environmental research in the energy R, D & D arena and considers that, taking a longer term view, this is an area in which there may be considerable economic opportunities for Ireland.

Environment Unit
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