

# The Association of Irish Energy Agencies Newsletter

Issue 10, Spring 2008



## Home Energy Saving Scheme being piloted by Local Authorities and Local Energy Agencies.

Minister Eamon Ryan announced in April that a pilot home energy insulation scheme is to be tested in Limerick, Clare, North Tipperary and Dundalk. The partnership involved in the delivery of the programme includes Sustainable Energy Ireland, Local Authorities and Local Energy Agencies. The pilot areas include:

- Limerick/Clare: To be delivered by Limerick and Clare County Councils and Limerick Clare Energy Agency (LCEA)
- North Tipperary (SERVE Region): To be delivered by North Tipperary County Council and Tipperary Energy Agency
- Dundalk: To be delivered by SEI and Dundalk Town Council

Under the scheme homeowners will be able to avail of assistance to upgrade the energy performance of their homes by insulating, improving their heating controls and other energy efficiency measures.

The Local Authorities role will involve the management and disbursement of the grants to the home owners. The Local Energy Agencies will be involved in technical analysis, working with home energy assessors and reporting on the technical and environmental savings achieved by the scheme.

In total it is proposed to upgrade approximately 2,000 homes under the scheme. The majority of these will be in the three pilot areas. However, 400 of these will be targeted at clusters or groups of homes outside the pilot areas. The aim of looking at the cluster approach is to determine the level of economies of scale that can be achieved by group homes together to get insulation upgrades completed. It is hoped that other Local Authorities and Energy Agencies will get involved in the cluster aspect of the programme.

The current status of the scheme is that the selection process for the homes has been completed and energy assessors will be trained and in place by the end of June. Assessments will start in July and once the energy advisory reports are received by the Local Authorities, the Local Authorities and Energy Agencies will be issuing letters of grant offer to the home owners. The work is aimed to be completed by the end of 2008.

The results from the scheme will be used by the Dept of Communications Energy and Natural Resources to plan the roll out of the scheme on a national basis, with an indicative budget of €100m, from 2009.

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## 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”



## European “ROSH” project promotes sustainable refurbishment of social housing

In Dublin, the residential sector accounts for a total energy consumption of 7.8 TWh per annum and 1.57 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> making it the largest energy consumer and contributor to carbon emission. The residential sector offers the most significant potential for savings in energy and CO<sub>2</sub> that are relatively low cost and easy to achieve through energy awareness and availing of technologies that are available in the Irish Market.

The majority of dwellings in Dublin were constructed before 1960 (63%) and just over 80% of dwellings were constructed before 1991, prior to the introduction of the energy conservation regulations (Part L Building Regulations) and therefore are poor in terms of their energy performance.



Dublin City Council (DCC) provide 26,000 social housing dwellings, the majority of which were constructed prior to the 1973 oil crisis when fuel was cheap and little attention was paid to insulation and energy efficiency. There has been extensive

refurbishment within the existing DCC Social Housing stock resulting in the wide-scale elimination of fuel poverty among the tenants. Over the past ten years efficient gas fired central heating has replaced the old solid fuel fires,

with major benefits to both the environment and quality of the living space. Also, energy efficient windows have been installed in most of the dwellings, roof insulation has been added and some of the newer dwellings are being provided with solar heating.

Dublin is one of the partners in the on-going European project ROSH (Refurbishment of Social Housing) where the overall objective is to promote energy efficient and sustainable retrofitting of social houses in the participating cities in Austria, Germany, Gdansk, Poland, Italy and also Bulgaria.

The project aims to influence the decision making process for retrofitting of social houses in order to stimulate the market to increase the amount of social houses being retrofitted.



As part of the ROSH market campaign, Codema is developing energy guidelines for DCC for the refurbishment of their Social Housing stock based upon the assessment of 30 DCC housing schemes. In developing these, Codema will examine a typical block of flats in detail and calculate a provisional energy rating of the building. This provisional rating will provide

an indication of the energy performance of the building in preparation of the mandatory labelling for existing buildings from 01 January 2009, under the Energy Performance of Building Directive.



Codema will identify energy priorities & produce general recommendations for refurbishment options, provide new provisional ratings for improved buildings for different refurbishment options, provide indicative costings for recommended applications, explore funding options, provide projection of environmental and financial benefits.

More information on the ROSH project and its market campaign can be found on [www.rosh-project.eu](http://www.rosh-project.eu) or [www.codema.ie](http://www.codema.ie)

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## CCMA National Climate Change Conference

There is an economic consensus that the costs of inaction will substantially exceed the costs of action. In line with the foregoing, the climate change agenda is now a key cross-cutting policy issue for the Government. National Climate Change Strategy identifies Local Authorities as key-role players if the stated targets are to be met.

Kilkenny Local Authorities, in partnership with Waterford County Council, the County and City Manager's Association and the Office of Local Authority Management hosted a National Conference in Kilkenny, attended by in excess of 100 Senior Local Authority staff. The Conference provided for a shared approach to the challenges which must be met in order that Local Authorities fulfil their role as key players in meeting Ireland's Climate Change obligations.

The Conference was addressed by experts from Local Authorities and the Association of Irish Energy Agencies, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Office of Public Works and the Meteorological Office. The Conference focused on the development and implementation of County/Regional Climate Change Strategies emphasising the need for Energy Efficiencies, Emissions Management and Adaptation Strategies for Infrastructure.

Addressing the Conference, Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government, John Gormley, outlined international and national policy. Local authorities outlined the strategies to be developed for each county and region. The EPA outlined their role in the management of climate change, the Met Office discussed weather forecasting over the coming 20 years and the OPW outlined its role in the Flood Management Programme. Energy Agencies outlined the substantial work undertaken at local level to date in this matter. In this way the Conference provided the basis for the development of a shared approach to the climate change challenges that lie ahead.

The proceedings of the conference can be viewed at:  
[www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Services/Environment/National\\_Climate\\_Change\\_Conference/](http://www.kilkennycoco.ie/eng/Services/Environment/National_Climate_Change_Conference/)



## Climate Change Strategy for Dublin City

In 2006 Dublin City, which has 12% of the Irish population, released approximately 4.23 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, which was approx. 9% of the total Irish emissions that year. On average a Dubliner releases 8.4 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, while the Irish average is 11.3 tonnes. During the last couple of months Dublin City Council has been preparing a Climate Change Strategy for the City in association with Codema. It covers the years 2008-2012 in the short-term, but also takes into account a medium-term view to 2020 and beyond in order to reduce Dublin's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Five focus areas have been chosen for the strategy - energy, planning, transport, waste management and biodiversity and actions and key performance indicators under each of these headings are set out in the strategy.

The intention of the strategy is to define immediate and practical steps for direct action by Dublin City Council focusing on the areas that are under the direct control of Dublin City Council, or at least within the Council's sphere of major influence. Amongst others Dublin City Council will set an overall target of minus 3% per year reduction in total energy end-use for the Council's own operation, giving a total reduction of 33% by 2020, in line with the national targets and exceeding the requirements of the EU Energy End-use and Energy Services Directive. Codema, Dublin's agency for energy and sustainability, facilitated working groups for the five focus areas, coordinated and summarised presentations by experts and provided the technical support.

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## Cork City Council to achieve government targets reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

Cork City Council goes greener switching electricity supplier and encouraging alternative energies.

Cork City Council has recently signed an agreement with Airtricity to supply electricity to 200 council sites for 2008. The sites included in this tender were City Hall, various water pumping stations, offices areas, depots and the Jack Lynch Tunnel to name a few. The agreement was welcomed by the Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. Donal Counihan.

The Cork City Energy Agency (Energy Managers for Cork City Council) in cooperation with others departments in the Council, put in place a procurement process for the transition of the 200 electricity accounts from ESB (Public Electricity Supplier) PES to the newly appointed supplier. The Agency is one of the founding members of the Association of Irish Energy Agencies (AIEA) and through this invaluable network, practical advice and expertise was given to Cork City Energy Agency on previous electricity procurement contracts.

The contract demonstrates the City Council's commitment to using alternative sustainable energy supplies in accordance with the Local Agenda 21 principles of sustainability and subsidiarity. The Council generates electricity from a micro hydro generator and from landfill gas. It also operates thirty of its vehicles on B100 biodiesel that is grown, pressed and refined in Cork. These actions which are the result of the City Council's policies on sustainability will help Ireland to achieve its Kyoto targets.

Commenting on the agreement Brian Cassidy, Senior Executive Engineer, Cork City Council, commented: "Not only does this agreement make financial sense for Cork City Council, it also allows us to reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> footprint. Airtricity offers competitive prices, first rate service and the chance to avoid

polluting the atmosphere with CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Cork City Council has established a number of initiatives to reduce its carbon footprint and our agreement with Airtricity is a practical step towards this and a cleaner, greener environment."

David Brown, Sales and Marketing Director with Airtricity added: "Local authorities and other companies across Ireland are now more aware than ever of their responsibility to the environment. I am delighted to be working with Cork City Council and applaud them on their environmental initiatives, not only with Airtricity but for their environmental focus across their organisation".

On completion of a rigorous tendering process Airtricity was selected not only because the company offered the most economically advantageous solution to Cork City Council's requirement, but also because Airtricity is recognised by the Electricity Regulator as having the highest percentage of renewable energy in its fuel mix. In selecting Airtricity, Cork City Council will reduce its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by a further 5,000 tonnes per annum, which is the equivalent of taking 1,280 cars off the road.

Back Row L-R: Michael O'Brien; Brian Cassidy; John Walsh; Elona Byrne (Airtricity); Robert O'Dwyer (Airtricity); Sharon Fitzgerald (Airtricity); Tony Power; Tony Brauders.

Front Row L-R: Karen Cahill (Airtricity); Jackie Solan (Airtricity); Lord Mayor of Cork Donal Counihan; David Brown (Airtricity); John Dromey.

More Information, please contact Cork City Energy Agency: [john\\_walsh@corkcity.ie](mailto:john_walsh@corkcity.ie)



## S.H.A.R.E. – Case Studies

The SHARE project which TEA has participated in over the last 2 years is now coming to an end. A variety of activities have been carried out with the providers and occupants of social housing to provide awareness and advice as to how energy consumption can be reduced in social housing. Materials have been developed which have been disseminated housing providers and to the occupants giving practical tips as to how to reduce energy and manage energy bills. Through the quarterly SHARE forum meetings there have been presentations on practical projects covering the development of new build low energy social housing, the upgrading projects to improve the energy efficiency of existing houses and on projects to engage the occupants in saving energy.

Each of the 8 partners in SHARE have compiled a total of 26 Case Studies as examples of initiatives carried out under SHARE and of highlighting best practice projects in this area. The key areas the Case Studies focused on are as follows:

### 1. Energy Awareness for social housing providers and occupants

A key aspect of the project was to provide interactive energy awareness sessions with the occupants of social housing and housing providers. Each partner completed produced awareness materials and ran awareness events to promote the project. There are a number of Case Studies showcasing this activity.



### 2. Practical projects and initiatives in social housing to reduce energy consumption.

There are 6 Case studies highlighting different projects which reduce energy consumption in social housing. Case Study 8 highlights the refurbishment of 40 social houses in North Tipperary with an estimated 50% energy saving. Case Study 23 in Bulgaria describes a project where tenants came together to upgrade their building and achieve a 46% reduction in energy consumption.



### 3. Good Practice Guidelines

As part of the SHARE Project materials were developed to assist social housing providers and occupants in reducing energy consumption. Case Study 12 in the UK highlights how through the SHARE project guidelines were added to social housing specifications for heating systems improve controls and reduce energy bills. Case Study 6 in Estonia is a very practical guide for the storage of wood fuel to keep it dry.



### 4. Tackling Issues with energy usage in social housing

Through the SHARE project there were issues highlighted such as fuel poverty, inadequate ventilation and lack of understanding of bills. These issues affect the quality of life for occupants. Case Study 14 in Slovenia highlights issues being encountered with a lack of ventilation and mould issues in apartments. It was found that many of the issues were related to user behaviour, where extract vents were not being used and not venting moisture from their apartments.

### 5. Energy Saving Tools

There were a number of initiatives carried out by the 8 partners to develop tools for saving energy. In Sweden it was found that the use of individual metering for heating and water resulted in energy savings of 20-30%. In France a bill mask was developed that can be used to read bills and show users how much electricity they are using and to become more aware of the costs of their electricity usage.

All the case studies are available on the SHARE website at the following web address: [www.socialhousingaction.com](http://www.socialhousingaction.com)



**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.

## Energy Agencies

### Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency

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[www.carlowkilkennyenergy.com](http://www.carlowkilkennyenergy.com)

### CODEMA

(City of Dublin Energy Management Agency)

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### Cork County Energy Agency

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### Limerick Clare Energy Agency

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### Mayo Energy Agency

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### Meath Energy Management Agency

(01) 8358019, [www.mema.ie](http://www.mema.ie)

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### Tipperary Energy Agency

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### Waterford Energy Bureau

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