

# The Association of Irish Energy Agencies Newsletter

Issue 11, Winter 2008



## Budget 2009 Summary

### *Carbon Levy*

The Minister for Finance, Brian Lenihan T.D. announced that the Government is committed to introducing a carbon levy in the country. Further to this, the Commission on Taxation has been asked to examine this matter. As the Commission's report is not expected until September 2009, we await Budget 2010 for further developments on carbon taxation.

### *Environmental Taxation*

The Minister introduced:

- A flat rate levy in the major urban areas of €200 per annum where an employer provides car parking facilities for employees
- A tax incentive to promote cycling to work. The exemption will be capped at €1000 per employee. Employees who partake in this scheme will not be liable for Benefit in Kind (BIK).

According to the Minister, these initiatives seek to encourage greater use of public transport and ease congestion in our major cities. He will also bring forward measures in the Finance Bill to relate benefit-in-kind on cars and mileage to CO<sub>2</sub>. These measures, together with expenditure decisions and enhancements to capital allowances for energy efficient products for businesses, will make a positive contribution to reducing Ireland's carbon emissions.

The Ministers also introduced a new tax incentive scheme to facilitate the relocation of Seveso-listed industrial facilities which hinder the residential and commercial regeneration of Docklands in urban areas.

### *Motor Tax*

- Motor tax rates to be increased by 4% for cars below 2.5 litres and CO<sub>2</sub> bands A to D.
- A 5% increase will apply to cars above the 2.5 litre threshold and CO<sub>2</sub> bands E, F and G.
- Goods and all other vehicles will also increase by 4% with no increase for electric vehicles.

The new rates will apply to motor tax discs and trade licenses taken out for periods beginning on or after 1 January 2009.

### *Energy Efficiency in Business*

The Minister announced an extension of the range of energy-efficient equipment purchased by companies that can qualify for accelerated capital allowances. These will include energy-efficient data server systems and - vital in these times of high energy costs - electricity provision equipment and control systems as well as alternative fuel vehicles.

Inside this Issue:..... Page

Budget 2009 Summary ..... 1

MOBENAW – Mobilise Energy Awareness ..... 2

Celebrating 100,000 home visits..... 3

ASTUTE – Workplace Travel Plan ..... 3

SHARE - Cases Studies. .... 4

## Mission Statement:

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# MOBENAW – Mobilise Energy Awareness



The project “Mobilise Energy Awareness” aims to bring a behavioural change in the use of energy in the workplace and at home through the adoption of more energy-intelligent working and living patterns by local end-users. At the moment organisations planning to raise energy awareness find difficulties because of the limited resources, support and lack of professional input and the difficulty in motivating people to save energy. This project will improve the access to a greater quality and range of resources on energy awareness to motivate and enable action. It will create a pro-active promotion and dissemination of the information, knowledge and resources available and the benefits of running awareness campaigns.

The first phase of this project requires the development of an online energy awareness toolkit. In brief an online bank of awareness materials taken from energy awareness campaigns already carried out by public and

commercial organisations across Europe, is being compiled. This material will be available at <http://www.energyxchange.eu/en/index.php>. The website also contains an exchange forum which sponsors diffusion of information & knowledge.

The project has focused on energy conservation campaigns in industry and in third level institutions. In Ireland Tipperary Institute and Abbott Vascular have become involved.

The ‘Student Power’ scheme facilitates university/college students to provide support to organisations on raising awareness. That work will form part of the student’s academic coursework while the ‘Donate your Energy’ scheme donates energy cost savings from company energy saving campaigns to charities nominated by staff. This project started in October 2007 and will run for 30 months.

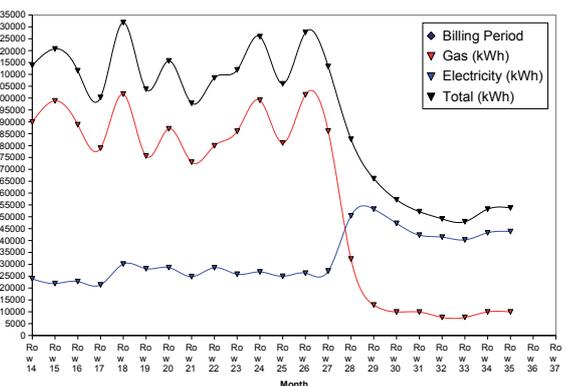
## Geothermal Heating - Making a Splash in Fermoy

Fermoy swimming pool was opened in 1995 as a community sports facility which is located in the centre of Fermoy town centre. The facilities include a 25m swimming pool, steam room/sauna and gym. It is owned and operated by Fermoy Town Council and has proven to be one of the towns most valued community assets over the years with an estimated 225,000 visitors per year who include the general public, schools and various community groups in the Fermoy area. As a result of investigations by the Energy Office of Cork County Council and

the geology department of UCC in 2007 the facility was identified as having good potential for the use of geothermal energy as its primary heat source. Based on these investigations recommendations were made to Fermoy Town Council and the project was finally realised when the geothermal heating system was first switched on in February this year.

Swimming pools are by their nature extremely energy intensive facilities with energy representing 16% of the annual running costs of Fermoy pool. Unlike most office or utility

buildings they require constant heat demand to maintain water temperature at 27°C and the pool hall air at a fraction above that. The existing heating system supplied this through a modulating gas boiler. The new system consists of an open loop geothermal heat pump with a rated output of 200kW. This provides both pool water and space heating year round. Since it was commissioned the swimming pool has been continuously monitored by the energy office and has shown to provide the same service as the gas boiler with a 50% reduction in energy use. In addition to this the swimming pool is now supplied with green electricity which



accounts for 80% of the energy demand making it one of the greenest of Cork County Councils buildings.

To compliment the new energy efficient heating system and to ensure energy costs are kept to a minimum management at the swimming pool have made energy a key priority in the day to day running of the building. They are actively engaged in reducing their energy use and in past months have

worked closely with the Energy Office on energy efficient lighting, reduction in non-essential loads such as the steam room/sauna and staff awareness campaigns. Given the high public profile of the swimming pool the new heating system and ongoing energy management has excellent benefit in demonstrating to the public Cork County Council’s commitment to energy reduction and climate change.



## ASTUTE Workplace Travel Plan

A Workplace Travel Plan (WTP) was developed for Dublin City Council by Codema and Vipre Ltd., sustainable transport consultants. The WTP was given the go-ahead from the City Manager and was included in Dublin City Council's Climate Change Strategy in May 2008. It is a strategic document founded on organisational and staff research and is intended to embed a transport demand management approach into the organisation rather than merely a series of once off measures. A website [www.workplacetravelplans.ie](http://www.workplacetravelplans.ie) was also developed to support this process.

DCC's Workplace Travel Plan was produced under a European project called 'ASTUTE', Advancing Sustainable Transport in Urban areas To promote Energy efficiency. Dublin City Council was identified as a key target for participation because, in its role as the central local authority, it had key leveraging power to lead by example in the city and to act as a driver for other local authorities.

A Workplace Travel Plan is a package of strategies designed to reduce car use and increase the use of more sustainable modes of transport to the workplace. Travel Plans offer significant organisational, environmental, community benefits including improved health, reduced stress, financial savings, improved air quality and reduced congestion

Codema is hosting the 5th ASTUTE project meeting in Dublin on 25th and 26th September 2008 and European experts will attend to discuss sustainable transport issues. A DVD is being produced as part of the project and well know landmarks and sites across Dublin city will be filmed.

For further information contact Emma Collins in Codema  
T. 4100560 or W. [www.astute-eu.org](http://www.astute-eu.org)

## Celebrating 100,000 home visits



A service designed to give free and independent heating and energy saving advice to Housing Executive tenants across Northern Ireland has just completed its 100,000th visit. Staff from the Northern Ireland Energy Agency, which manages the Heatsmart programme, called at the home of Housing Executive tenants, Eric and Elizabeth Creelman, just off Belfast's Donegall Road to celebrate this landmark visit along with John McMullan, Chief Executive of Bryson Charitable Group, and Brian Rowntree, the Housing Executive's Chairman.



Since the service started in 1999, 315,000 enquiries have been received from Housing Executive tenants who have benefited from free advice on their heating systems and saving both money and energy through the Heatsmart programme. With recent rises in fuel and energy costs, fuel poverty is a major issue for many people in Northern Ireland, so the service which helps reduce costs and improve comfort levels, has proved invaluable to a vast number of tenants across the Province.

The service provides energy efficiency and renewable energy advice to Housing Executive tenants in their own home in addition to helping the tenant understand and utilise their heating controls more efficiently and to find out more about payment methods. Last year, Heatsmart made contact with 77,951 people, carrying out 11,764 home visits, some 600 of which were to tenants who had solar water panels installed by the Housing Executive in their homes.

For the Creelmans, the Heatsmart service has helped greatly as Mr Creelman commented, "It gives us peace of mind that if there is ever a problem with our heating controls, we can lift the telephone and talk it over with Heatsmart staff straight away." Partnering with the Northern Ireland Energy Agency in programme delivery, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive intends to continue to provide this service to its tenants as part of its drive for energy conservation throughout Northern Ireland.



## The Association of Irish Energy Agencies

### 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 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 coordinate 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 members 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.

### 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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Intelligent Energy  Europe

**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**  
(059) 9143871  
[www.carlowkilkennyenergy.com](http://www.carlowkilkennyenergy.com)

**CODEMA**  
(City of Dublin Energy Management Agency)  
(01) 4100659, [www.codema.ie](http://www.codema.ie)

**Cork City Energy Agency**  
(021) 4941508  
[john\\_walsh@corkcity.ie](mailto:john_walsh@corkcity.ie)

**Cork County Energy Agency**  
(022) 43610  
[energyoffice@corkcoco.ie](mailto:energyoffice@corkcoco.ie)

**Galway Energy Agency Limited**  
(091) 566 954  
[pkeavney@galwaycity.ie](mailto:pkeavney@galwaycity.ie)

**Kerry Energy Agency**  
(066) 7183576  
[wmoynihan@kerrycoco.ie](mailto:wmoynihan@kerrycoco.ie)

**Limerick Clare Energy Agency**  
(061) 234296, [www.lcea.ie](http://www.lcea.ie)

**Mayo Energy Agency**  
(096) 76113, [www.mayoenergy.ie](http://www.mayoenergy.ie)

**Meath Energy Management Agency**  
(01) 8358019, [www.mema.ie](http://www.mema.ie)

**Midlands Energy Agency**  
(057) 5674351  
[mmacaulay@laoiscoco.ie](mailto:mmacaulay@laoiscoco.ie)

**Northern Ireland Energy Agency**  
(028) 90265997 – Belfast  
(028) 71273074 – Derry  
(028) 66328269 – Fermanagh  
[info@nienergyagency.org](mailto:info@nienergyagency.org)

**Tipperary Energy Agency**  
(052) 43090, [www.tea.ie](http://www.tea.ie)

**Waterford Energy Bureau**  
(051) 395531  
[www.waterfordenergy.ie](http://www.waterfordenergy.ie)

**Wexford Energy management Agency**  
(053) 9176555  
[jim.owens@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:jim.owens@wexfordcoco.ie)  
[www.wexfordenergy.com](http://www.wexfordenergy.com)

## Associate members

**Cavan Monaghan Rural Development**  
(049) 4338477, [www.cmrd.ie](http://www.cmrd.ie)

**Donegal County Council**  
(074) 9724400  
[TNeedham@Donegalcoco.ie](mailto:TNeedham@Donegalcoco.ie)

## Current Officers

**Chairperson:** Rory McConnon  
Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency

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Tipperary Energy Agency  
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**Financial Officer**  
Brendan Killion, Mayo Energy Agency

**PR Officers**  
John Walsh, Cork City Energy Agency  
Joe Hayden, CODEMA  
Jim Owens, Wexford Energy Agency

**Training Officer**  
Peter Keavney, Galway Energy Agency