

# The Association of Irish Energy Agencies Newsletter

Issue 13, Spring 2010



## Budget 2010

### Carbon Levy

The Minister for Finance, Brian Lenihan TD has delivered his third budget in 12 months. Following recommendations by the Commission on Taxation, he has introduced a carbon tax set at €15 per ton across a range of fossil fuels. The tax is estimated to yield €330m in a full year and based on studies carried out by the economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and it will have an impact of between €2 and €3 per week on households. Measures will also be put in place to ensure that low income houses are not adversely affected particularly those dependant on solid fuels for heating.

The Carbon levy in terms of nominal and percentage price changes is illustrated below:

Fuel Type	Unit	Current Price € (Dec 2009)	Carbon Tax @ €15 (VAT incl.)	% change in price
Petrol	Litre	1.19	4.2 cents	3.5%
Auto Diesel	Litre	1.10	4.9 cents	4.4%
Kerosene	1,000 Litre	516	€43.14	8.4%
Marked Gas Oil	1,000 Litre	539	€46.87	8.7%
LPG	1,000 Litre	720	€27.97	3.9%
Fuel Oil	1,000 Litre	600	€52.15	8.7%
Natural Gas	13,750kWh	800	€47.86	6.0%
Peat Briquettes	Bale	3.85	39 cents	10.1%
Coal	40kg	16.20	€1.79	11.1%

### Climate Change Bill 2010

The Minister for the Environment, John Gormley TD has announced that a climate change bill will be published by the end of the 1st quarter of 2010. Some of the key elements in the bill include:

- A 3% average annual reduction in net greenhouse gas emissions extended out to 2020, and an 80% reduction on 1990 levels extended out until 2050
- Developing a system of monitoring and reporting which will impose statutory obligations on Government Departments and public bodies
- Placing the carbon budget process and the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (to be published in 2011) on a statutory basis
- Establishing a new office of Climate Change to be located in the EPA

### Conclusion

The AIEA welcomes the Carbon Levy and Climate Change Bill. The Energy Agencies look forward to working with government departments in respect of reporting and monitoring of emissions as envisaged in the new Climate Change Bill. The carbon levy is also a real and serious commitment by this country in addressing escalating carbon emissions and meeting its international obligations. It will lead to fuel efficiency and improved environmental quality in homes, business and transport.

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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"



## Sustainable Energy Ireland-funded projects in Tipperary

In July 2009, Sustainable Energy Ireland released a grant support programme for energy efficiency projects in both the Private and Public Sector. For the public sector, there was up to 100% funding available depending on the strength of the application. For the grant to be availed of, the following conditions associated with the projects had to:

- Have significant, quantifiable annual energy savings – in terms of kWh saved per year- to the applicant organisations;
- Be labour-intensive – as opposed to capital-intensive;
- Involve the direct engagement of specialist, contracted labour during implementation;
- Build on the assessments and investigations already undertaken through the other SEI programmes
- Offer opportunities for demonstration and replication.

As soon as this grant scheme was launched, the Tipperary Energy Agency began to analyse which projects on the Climate Change Strategy in both councils were eligible for funding.



In South Tipperary County Council, the insulation in the walls of the extension of County Hall, Clonmel was upgraded. The attic insulation of County Hall, Clonmel was also topped up and lighting controls installed in all cellular offices and low occupancy rooms.

An innovative project in Information Systems was also implemented in both South Tipperary County Council and North Tipperary County Council. This was called server virtualisation and reduced the number of hardware server units from approximately 40 – 15 in both councils.

Other projects that were implemented in North Tipperary County Council were upgrades to some smaller offices, firestations etc. including insulation upgrades, heating control upgrades and lighting control upgrades. High output T5s were replaced with high efficiency T5s in the winged offices of the Civic Offices in Nenagh. A novel power-down system which knocks off all non-essential sockets when the alarm is switched on was implemented in the Civic Offices in Nenagh.

Water services projects were also carried out in North Tipperary County Council. A control system was installed in the aeration process at Ballina Waste Water Treatment facility. This control system enabled sensors to ramp up and down the variable speed drive on the aeration pumps in line with the level of BOD in the waste water. Before this the pumps were on at full power for a defined period of time. A variable speed drive and level sensors were also implemented on the final water pumps at Coolbawn Water Supply which is the largest water supply site in North Tipperary County Council.

For all of these projects, the total cost of implementing these projects was €362,942. The total grant across the 2 councils awarded by SEI was ~€225,801 and the annual savings associated with all the projects is €72,000 and 286 Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>. Payback for the councils is 2 years.

## Galway - Leisureland Energy Makeovers

In June 2008 Galway Energy Agency Ltd (GEAL) was awarded €141,750.00 under the SEI – Support for Exemplar Energy Efficiency Projects (SEEEP) programme for the replacement of Air Handling Units to the pool hall at the Leisureland Complex, Salthill, Galway. The project also included the upgrade of fans to variable speed motors, insulation of all associated pipework and ductwork and a centralised ventilation control system.

The upgrade will provide annual cost savings of €40,000.00 and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 115,000 kg per year through reduced consumption of electricity and heating oil.

GEAL has also conducted a feasibility study, with SEI support of €4,000.00, for a Combined Heat & Power (CHP) plant at Leisureland. The natural gas network was recently installed to site and a fuel switch from oil and boiler replacement project is to commence in early 2010, incorporating the CHP system. Under the CHP Deployment Programme SEI are to provide €64,800.00 towards the capital investment of the CHP plant. More details on this development will be provided in later issues of this newsletter.



# Tipperary maximises energy efficiency

Since the Tipperary Energy Agency (TEA) was established in 1998 by North and South Tipperary County Councils, in conjunction with Tipperary Institute, it has evolved to support both county councils in implementing actions to reduce their energy bills and carbon footprint.

The TEA works with the councils through cross-departmental Climate Change Committees. Action plans are developed and the TEA provides the technical expertise to realise the implementation of measures. Recent initiatives have included:

- The completion of North Tipperary County Council's SEI Energy MAP training.
- Funding of €250,000 has been secured under the SEI SERVE programme to implement energy efficiency upgrades.

- Reduction of energy consumption in North Tipperary County Council Civic Offices by 25 per cent (€30,000 per annum) through low cost energy efficiency measures.
- Installation of CHP plant in swimming pool in Clonmel.
- Installation of micro-wind turbine in Wallers Lot Recycling Centre.
- Upgrading of heating controls in South Tipperary County Council County Hall.
- Savings of €450,000 through the Electricity Purchasing Contract.
- Partnership with North Tipperary County Council in the multi-million EU SERVE Project.
- Energy-efficiency training of engineers, architects, planners and trades persons.

- In conjunction with Kerry County Council the TEA has already trained over 200 water services personnel across Ireland in this area.

In the future the TEA will work with North and South Tipperary County Councils to achieve the 33 per cent reduction in energy consumption by 2020, as outlined in the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan.

The TEA is currently co-ordinating two national working groups for Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) on energy efficiency in the areas of water services and public lighting. It has also provided training to seven other local authorities under the SEI Energy MAP programme. The TEA is one of 13 local energy agencies across Ireland.

For more information on the TEA and its projects, visit [www.tea.ie](http://www.tea.ie)

# Codema puts Eco-Friendly Driving Campaign in Gear in Dublin City Council!

**Codema is working with Dublin City Council on a new eco-friendly driving campaign that encourages its drivers to reduce their carbon footprint by at least 3 per cent.**

The campaign is currently being rolled out within the Council and hopes to tackle bad driving habits that can lead to unnecessary fuel wastage. It also aims to demonstrate how eco-driving can not only save on cost but can help to save the environment as well!

For example, a 3 per cent reduction will save €91,000 in fuel costs, which is the equivalent to saving 280 tonnes of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide.

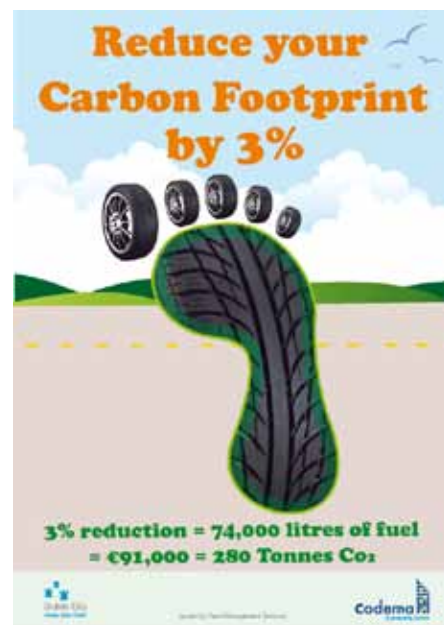
This campaign comes under the MINUS 3% Project, which aims to reduce Dublin City Council's energy consumption by 3 per cent every year, with an overall target of 33 per cent by 2020. It also complements the principles of the ongoing Switch Off campaign, which has already observed savings of 13 per cent in Civic Offices.

Dublin City Council has more than 900 vehicles on the streets of Dublin every day.

Nearly all of these vehicles are diesel engines which create a lot of carbon emissions. However, Codema is working with Fleet Management Services to promote good driving habits that incorporate smooth and safe driving techniques which help to reduce these emissions, while also delivering benefits in terms of road safety and savings in fuel consumption.

A series of posters to support the campaign have been put up in all Dublin City Council depots and include the following advice for drivers:

- **Only carry the equipment that you need with you.** An extra 100 pounds or 45 kilos can reduce your fuel economy by up to two per cent.
- **Check your tyre pressure.** Under-inflated tyres mean that you will use more fuel and tyres will also wear more quickly.
- **Turn that engine off** if you are loading your vehicle or waiting for somebody to arrive. When an engine is idling, it is using fuel but not going anywhere.



- **Plan your trips** and study the route you are taking.
- **Avoid unnecessary rapid accelerations** and hard braking.

Dublin City Council is also running Occupational Driving Courses for all its drivers which include these principles of eco-friendly driving.





## Galway County Council taking a strategic approach to energy efficiency

Galway County Council is taking a proactive approach to energy efficiency by implementing a structured energy management system. The aim in taking this structured approach is to drive energy efficiency in all local authority activities, develop an energy efficient culture and increase technical energy knowledge to a high level across the whole of the organisation. In 2009 major training initiatives were implemented including participation in the SEI Energy MAP pilot scheme and intensive training sessions for all water and wastewater operators on energy efficiency. An action focused energy team is in place who are currently refining an energy action plan for implementation.

The plan includes an exciting range of energy efficiency projects including a wind turbine proposal, sustainable energy zone, energy performance indicators, electricity supply tendering, and energy auditing of facilities and buildings. Ultimately Galway County Council is aiming towards implementing a formal certified management system.

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**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) 914 3871

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

**Cavan-Monaghan Rural Development Co-operative.**

(049) 4338477

[www.cmrd.ie](http://www.cmrd.ie)

**CODEMA**

**City Of Dublin Energy Management Agency**

(01) 410 0659

[www.codema.ie](http://www.codema.ie)

**Cork City Energy Agency**

(021) 494 1508

[john\\_walsh@corkcity.ie](mailto:john_walsh@corkcity.ie)

**Cork County Energy Agency**

(022 43610)

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**Donegal County Council**

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(091) 566 954

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**Galway County Council**

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**Kerry Energy Agency**

(066) 718 3576

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**Limerick/Clare Energy Agency**

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**Mayo Energy Agency**

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**Waterford Energy Bureau**

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**Wexford Energy Management Agency Ltd**

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## Current Officers

**Chairperson:** Mark Macauley  
Midlands Energy Agency

**Secretariat:**

Francoise Hickey

Tipperary Energy Agency

**Financial Officer**

Pat Stephens

**PR Officers**

Suzanne Morgan, CODEMA

**Training Officer**

Paul Kenny