

MINUS 3% All-Island Conference

There was a great reaction to the MINUS 3% All-Island Conference which took place on the 25th November in the Wood Quay Venue, Civic Offices and was officially launched by the Lord Mayor of Dublin Gerry Breen.

The conference was organised by Codema in association with Dublin City Council, the Northern Ireland Energy Agency and Derry City Council. MINUS 3% is supported by the Intelligent Energy Europe programme and aims to reduce local authority consumption by 3% each year.

The conference highlighted how local authorities can become leaders in energy efficiency by reducing their energy bills and cutting costs. Presentations that were given on the day focused on best practice examples on how to do this.

Speakers on the day included Stjohn O'Connor from the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources who spoke about the National Retrofit Programme – Opportunities for Innovation.

Some of the actions that Codema has carried out on behalf of Dublin City Council as part of the MINUS 3% project include:

- Implementing a 'Switch Off' campaign throughout Dublin City Council, encouraging all employees to switch off lights and appliances such as computers, photocopiers and printers when not in use.
- Transport Eco-Awareness campaign: Codema worked with Fleet Management Services to create awareness of eco-driving among the Council's drivers.

- Examining the energy ratings of 30 DCC buildings (initially those over 1,000 square metres) and 27,000 residential units.
- New build energy-efficient residential units: Codema acted as energy consultant and managed the SEAI funding on the redevelopment of York Street. This redevelopment included 66 new Council apartments which raise the bar for sustainable living in Dublin City.



Presentations from the conference and videos about the MINUS 3% project can be viewed by logging on to www.codema.ie/minus3.

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National Retrofit Programme Due for Early 2011 Launch

The public consultation process on Ireland's National Retrofit Programme has recently drawn to a close, with the launch of the final programme due to take place early in 2011. The National Retrofit Programme aims to deliver energy efficiency upgrades to one million residential, public and commercial buildings in Ireland and was announced in the Government's Infrastructural Investments 2010 – 2016.

The programme builds on existing energy saving initiatives and supports existing efficiency targets for the public and private sectors. It also aims to boost employment among construction workers, energy auditors and policymakers who will work together to deliver energy savings and cost reductions throughout the country. It is estimated that the National Retrofit Programme has the potential to achieve lifetime energy savings worth €16 billion, while preventing 5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide being released into the environment each year.

This new programme consists of the following elements:

Targets and Participants

Initial three-year energy savings target for the programme set at 2,000GWh (500, 750 and 750).

50% of the target to be achieved by energy suppliers.

50% of target to be achieved by energy services providers (e.g. HES registered installers, those

involved in the delivery of the Warmer Homes Scheme and the Greener Homes Scheme, etc).

The BER

The new programme places the Building Energy Rating (BER) scale as the main focus for energy savings calculations. Any financial support made to participating parties, be they energy suppliers or energy services providers, will be contingent on achieving published energy saving improvements.

Funding

75% of the funding to go to the domestic sector, of which 40% (or 30% of total programme funding) will go to addressing energy poverty.

25% of the funding to go to the non-domestic sector.

50% of the funding will be allocated to the energy suppliers.

50% of the funding will be allocated to the energy services providers.

Dr Stjohn O'Connor of the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources discussed the opportunities for innovation within the National Retrofit Programme at the MINUS 3% All-Island Conference on the 25th November (see article on page 4).

For more information on the NRP, visit www.dcenr.gov.ie

www.aiea.ie



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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.

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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"



'Reclaiming Lost Power' - Kilkenny Hydropower Survey of old Mill Sites

In the Ireland of only 70 years ago, hydro power represented an important source of mechanical and electrical energy for domestic, agricultural, industrial and municipal supply. At the beginning of the 20th century over 1,800 mill sites were operating with waterwheels or small turbines. Its relative importance has declined since then because of advances in centralised generation of electricity using oil, coal, peat and gas.

New technology, less stringent regulation of electricity grid-connected generators and grant support mechanisms are now encouraging more widespread interest in developing old hydropower sites. Hydropower currently contributes to approximately 1.6% of Ireland's total electricity production – mostly harvested from the most obviously powerful sites. But there exists potential to develop less powerful or 'low head' schemes at a local level. These low head sites, judged to be close to one megawatt in power potential in Kilkenny, are owned

by local land owners, community groups and industries. If the power was harvested it could create employment and revenue for rural Kilkenny.

Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency (CKEA) and Kilkenny LEADER Partnership (KLP) identified that Kilkenny had hydropower potential existing in the numerous old mill sites spread over the many rivers that flow through the county. Both organisations set out to discover how to reclaim that 'lost power'. The objective of the project was to review of potential sites which might be suitable for further development in County Kilkenny and outline the most appropriate development process for the most promising candidates.

Twenty-seven sites formed the initial study group and from this group the ten sites with most potential participated in the in-depth study. The mills ranged from the operating units to derelict sites spread throughout the county. While the owners were invariably interested in harvesting the power of their sites, it

became clear in the project that the process of putting a turbine in a river is a complex one from a technical and environmental stance. A number of different regulatory and planning authorities must be consulted. To help clarify the issues a network was established with KLP, CKEA, Kilkenny local authority, Inland Fisheries Ireland & the National Parks & Wildlife Service. All agencies agreed to cooperate on the project and a combined launch and publicity event on hydropower was hosted on 18th June at an operating hydro site in County Kilkenny. What was thought to be an event of niche interest drew 70 people who were interested in hydropower. It was observed by one party that this was the first time all interested stakeholders were brought together at such an event.

The success of the project has already led to a number of the identified sites seeking to develop their sites. Work is on-going.



Codema to help stimulate innovation through GREENOV

Codema is now working on the GREENOV project which aims to develop the economic sector of sustainable renovation by stimulating innovation within small and medium enterprises across North-Western Europe.

GREENOV will offer training and support services to innovative SMEs and will allow for valuable information-exchange to improve the knowledge and expertise of sustainable renovation of existing buildings among suppliers. The project will also help to increase competitiveness among these suppliers, while finding effective solutions for the development of low carbon cities.

As part of the project, Codema will also select a panel of experts in Ireland and - together with its European partners - will contribute to the build-up of an emerging North-West European belt of "green clusters" in the field of energy efficiency renovation, making it even stronger and sustainable in a context of high competitiveness of clusters at national, European and international levels.

The GREENOV project runs for five years and aims to develop the economic sector of sustainable renovation, mainly by stimulating the innovation capacity of SMEs working in this field. The project will contribute to the transition to low-carbon cities and sustainable economies and will improve the knowledge

and expertise on sustainable renovation of existing buildings. GREENOV has received European Regional Development Funding through INTERREG IVB.

The countries involved in this project are: Ireland, UK, Belgium, Netherlands, France and Germany.



Sustainable Transport Projects in the Tipperary Energy Agency

The Tipperary Energy Agency successfully received funding for two sustainable transport projects in 2010. The first project is a Smarter Travel Demonstration project funded by the Department of Transport and is called "Eco Driving in Local Authority Fleets" (Duration - 12 months). The second project that the TEA received funding for is an Intelligent Energy Europe funded project called "Clean Drive" (Duration - 36 months).

Eco Drive in Local Authority Fleets

In both North and South Tipperary, over €200,000 is spent on transport fuels per year in the Roads Department. This is a lot of diesel and equally a lot of CO2 emissions. The aims of this project were to:

1. Set up a fuel monitoring structure and record mpg among other indicators
2. Record baseline data for 3 months
3. Implement a 1-1 eco drive course with each driver
4. Record the improvement on the day of the eco drive course
5. Monitor the fuel consumption thereafter to assess whether learnings from the eco drive course are sustainable.

There are 40 drivers involved in this project from South Tipperary County Council Roads, North Tipperary County Council Roads and North Tipperary County Council Environment. 22 of these drivers have taken part in the Eco Drive training.

The results to date indicate that on average, on the day of the eco drive training, the fuel consumption improved by 25%. However, whether this is sustainable is the real question. This result falls in line with similar projects carried out in Switzerland. After the course, the sustainable savings dropped to 6%.

From the start of the project in the Local Authorities, the target has always been a 5% drop in fuel consumption. If this is achieved, the total CO2 emissions saved is approximately 30 Tonnes.

Clean Drive

Clean Drive is a project with partners from Sweden, UK, Germany, France, Latvia, Greece and Slovenia. The project is basically re-applying the methodology developed by the Swedish partner in order to promote the sale of low emission vehicles. This project will be promoting the lowest emission cars in the A rated bracket as well as electric cars, hybrids, alternative fuelled cars etc.

The first step in the project is to recruit national actors that will be able to support the project with either relevant experience in the motor industry and/or experience in marketing and promotional activities. National actors can also be those whose work is primarily focussed on reducing CO2 emissions and/or those that have good networks of potential interested actors for dissemination purposes.

The second step is to engage with local car dealers and local car rental companies. This is the most important group in the project and it is this group that will participate in surveys, training, individual promotional campaigns and group promotional campaigns.

Once these two groups are formed, the Clean Drive "Action" can begin to proceed as outlined below.

The Association of Irish Energy Agencies has agreed to be a member of the National Support Network and so regular updates on this project will be disseminated to the group.

As part of the project, the TEA were invited to test drive the new Nissan "Leaf" – electric vehicle. For more information on this test drive or either of these projects, please contact sdaly@tea.ie

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