

The Association of Irish Energy Agencies Newsletter



Welcome to the Autumn 2006 edition of the *AIEA* Newsletter. In this issue, we will introduce Biofuel conversion projects in Co. Mayo and Co. Carlow, an Energy Efficient School in Co. Tipperary, a Walking & Cycling project in Dublin and Energy training for SMEs. We will also highlight national and international energy news affecting Local Authorities.

Energy News

Public and Commercial Sector Grant Programme

SEI's *Public and Commercial Sector Grant Programme* offers financial support to promote energy efficient design, technologies and services in new and retrofit public sector projects. Funding of up to 50% of eligible costs is available through the programme's three main elements:

- Generic Design Studies – Public & Commercial Sectors
- Model New and Retrofit Building Projects – Public and Commercial Sectors
- Energy Management Bureau Services – Public Sector Only

Total funding available under this project is €4 million. The closing date for receipt of applications is Wednesday 31st January 2007.

Application forms are available from www.sei.ie. Contact your Local Energy Agency for further information.

Towards a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – Green Paper

In October 2006, a Green Paper on Energy entitled “*Towards a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland*” was published by DCMNR. This paper puts forward energy policy options to ensure safe and secure energy supplies, promoting sustainable energy, and delivering economically efficient prices to Irish consumers. The policy options include:

- A target of 15% of electricity (1,650MW) consumption to be met by renewable energy by 2010, with a further 30% by 2020.
- A target for renewable heat of 5% by 2010.
- A National Bioenergy Action Plan will be published by the end of 2006.
- Increased funding for energy research, development and innovation
- A second North-South electricity interconnector by 2012 and of an East-West electricity interconnector by 2012.
- 30% biomass co-firing at peat stations by 2015 is being considered
- 5.75% biofuels in transport fuels by 2010 in line with the EU Biofuel directive.
- An Action Plan on Energy Efficiency to deliver a 20% reduction in energy demand by 2020.

The Green paper is available from www.dcmnr.gov.ie/Energy/. Contact your Local Energy Agency for further information.

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Renewable Biofuel Vehicles

Local Authorities converting vehicles to run on Pure Plant Oil

Spiralling oil prices remind us that we are gradually running out of fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal. Burning fossil fuels releases huge amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere trapping the sun's heat (greenhouse effect). This has led to global warming, a major cause of serious environmental damage.

Using Pure Plant Oil as a transport fuel has a number of advantages over conventional diesel; mainly that it is a recyclable form of energy and it does not add any additional carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. The fuel itself is currently considerably cheaper than conventional diesel as it is free from excise duty when bought from approved producers.

In addition to this, a new draft Directive proposed by the European Commission in December 2005 may require public bodies and local authorities to ensure that at least a quarter of their annual procurement of heavy-duty road vehicles is devoted to the purchasing or leasing of 'clean' vehicles.



The modifications to the vehicles are straightforward involving the installation of equipment to pre-warm the fuel, an additional filter, and minor adjustments of the engine controls.

Carlow Town and County Councils modified a Mitsubishi Canter and a Ford Ranger (pictured below), with support from Carlow LEADER. The conversion kits were acquired from a German company, Elsbett, and installed by a CP AutoServices in Kilkenny. The PPO fuel being used is produced locally by Kilkenny Cereals Limited, who also supply PPO to a number of garages in the area.

Carlow County Council's Ford Ranger, which is now running on Pure Plant Oil.



Biofuels are used as a substitute for petrol or diesel. There are four main types of biofuel being developed in Ireland at present. These are:

1. **Pure Plant Oil (PPO)** - Pure Plant Oil is produced by crushing rapeseed or other oil seed and filtering it. Pure Plant Oil can only be efficiently used in vehicles which have had their engines suitably modified. Modified engines can run on 100% pure plant oil, biodiesel, blend or conventional diesel.
2. **Biodiesel** - Biodiesel is similar to conventional diesel and can be used in most unmodified diesel vehicles, however not all vehicle manufacturers will maintain their warranty. Biodiesel is produced using renewable raw materials such as PPO which undergoes a process to thin it out.
3. **Blend** - Alternatively, a 95% diesel : 5% PPO or biodiesel blend can be used in unmodified engines. Many engine manufacturers have already endorsed the use of a 95/5 mix, with some truck manufacturers allowing up to a 50% blend.
4. **Ethanol** - Bioethanol is the principle biofuel used as a petrol substitute.

Following on from its 2005 Pilot biofuel programme to promote the use of alternatives to fossil fuels for transport, the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources announced in July 2006 its guidelines for a five year biofuels excise relief package. The volumes anticipated include:

- 60m litres of biodiesel/biofuels in a blend to meet EN590 for use in non-modified vehicles;
- 85m litres of bioethanol in blends of 5% for use in non-modified vehicles to 85% for use in flexible fuel vehicles;
- 6m litres of Pure Plant Oil for use in modified vehicles
- 12m litres of various biofuels and blends for use in captive fleets.

The successful applicants will be announced over the coming months.

This Nissan Terrano is one of 3 light commercial vehicles Mayo County Council selected for Biofuels Trials.

A number of Local Authorities, including Mayo County Council & Carlow County Council, through the *Mayo Energy Agency* and the *Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency*, have modified vehicles to run on Pure Plant Oil (PPO) and are also carrying out trials on biodiesel blends.

The aim of these projects is to provide working demonstrations for the promotion of transport based on locally produced renewable fuels and from this, to encourage the development of locally grown transport fuels and farm based biofuel processing.



Mayo County Council are using a Nissan Terrano, a Ford Courier, and a Ford Transit in their PPO trials. The conversion kits were again acquired from Elsbett, and installed by Eco-motion mechanics. Mayo County Council also have a Scania 18 tonne lorry running on a 95% diesel:5% PPO Blend with no conversion. The PPO fuel has been supplied by Eilish Oils, in Wicklow.

These projects are being promoted by Carlow and Mayo Local Authorities as part of their ongoing commitment to energy management, renewable energy and sustainable local development.

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Agency News

Scoil Ruain Killenaule DISPLAYS the way forward in Green schools

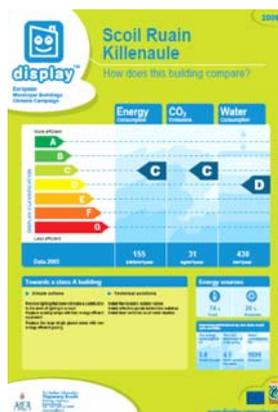
Scoil Ruain and its pupils have been very active and aware in the areas of energy and environmental issues for a number of years and the school was recently awarded its second Green Schools flag, thus showing their ongoing commitment to environmental issues.

The school approached the **Tipperary Energy Agency** to carry out an energy audit in 2005. The Energy Agency advised on how to improve the energy efficiency of the school buildings. The Energy Agency also invited the school to become involved in the Display campaign.

The DISPLAY campaign is supported by the E.U. and is a simple certification scheme, which encourages all public buildings, including schools, to track their energy performance and impact on the environment.

Hundreds of public buildings in regions all over Europe are taking part in the DISPLAY campaign and Scoil Ruain the first school in Ireland to achieve the Display certificate.

The most visible part of DISPLAY is a poster that gives information on the performance of the building in terms of primary energy use, water consumption and CO₂ emissions.



Much of Scoil Ruain's good performance level is due to the good condition of the school, the newly installed high efficiency windows, the new heating boilers, and the dedicated attitude of the staff and pupils of the school. To further increase their energy efficiency, the school is upgrading all remaining single glazing throughout the school. Moreover, Scoil Ruain is supplied with green electricity.

From the participation of the Scoil Ruain in the Green Flag programme and in the DISPLAY Campaign, the awareness of both students and staff has greatly increased towards energy and environmental issues. The school and its pupils are also getting involved in two energy projects next year: One on energy crops and the other on the potential for wind energy.

Tipperary Energy Agency is also in contact with other schools and Local Authority buildings to encourage them to join the DISPLAY Campaign. So far a total of 13 schools have shown interest in the Campaign and are currently gathering data which will help Tipperary Energy Agency in producing their DISPLAY posters.

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Walking & Cycling in Dublin

CODEMA is working on a European project called 'ASTUTE', **A**dvancing **S**ustainable **T**ransport in **U**rban areas **T**o promote **E**nergy efficiency.

The main aim of the project is to overcome the organisational barriers that prevent an increase in the use of walking and cycling as viable methods of transport in the urban environment by 'soft measures' or Intelligent Interventions, such as education, training and publicity. CODEMA is working with VIPRE Ltd, a Mobility Management Company based in Dublin, on developing work based travel plans for 6 companies in Dublin.

CODEMA have 8 partners from 5 European cities involved in this project, London - UK, Granada - Spain, Budapest - Hungary, Graz - Austria and Catania - Italy.



The projects achievements will include:

- Increase in public acceptability of walking and cycling
- 10% increase in cycling and walking across the partner cities
- A corresponding reduction of CO₂ emissions
- Action-plans, applying the toolkit to identified barriers
- 100 businesses across all city-partners identified as having a Travel Plan in place or that include mobility management techniques as part of their overall policies and management

For further details please contact:

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Energy Checkers

The **Tipperary Energy Agency** has completed training of 20 people in Co. Tipperary to become E-Checkers under the project 'Energy Check for SMEs'. The training involved providing the E-Checkers with the knowledge to do a quick check on energy consumption in SMEs. The E-Checkers were also instructed on how to use a purpose built tool (E-Check Tool) to enter the relevant data and perform an analysis of the energy efficiency of their particular site.

The training and development of the tool was funded under the Intelligent Energy for Europe programme. Assistance was also provided by the South Tipperary County Enterprise Board.



The 20 E-Checkers will complete up to 60 E-Checks by the end of February 2007 and the results will be used to refine and develop the E-Check methodology and tool.

The main aim of the E-Check approach is to overcome the barrier whereby SMEs do not have the resources to review their own energy consumption yet their scale does not generally warrant a full energy audit. It is planned for the E-Check methodology to be further developed to include renewable energy assessments.

Further information can be obtained from the following websites:

www.tea.ie & www.energy-check.org



Intelligent Energy  **Europe**

The Association of Irish Energy Agencies

The Benefits of an Energy Agency:

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.

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 the 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 coordinated 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 member 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.



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”

Energy Agencies

Belfast Energy Agency

(048) 902 65 997

www.belfastenergyadvice.com

Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency

(059) 9143871

www.carlowkilkennyenergy.com

CODEMA (City of Dublin Energy Management Agency)

(01) 4100659

www.codema.ie

Cork City Energy Agency

(021) 4941508

john_walsh@corkcity.ie

Cork County Energy Agency

(022) 43610

mallowre@eircom.net

Donegal Energy Action Team

Foyle Regional Energy Agency

(048) 71373430

www.foyleenergy.org

Galway Energy Agency Limited

(091) 566 954

peter.keavney@galwaycity.ie

Kerry Energy Agency

(066) 7183576

wmoynihnan@kerrycoco.ie

Limerick Clare Energy Agency

(061) 234296

www.lcea.ie

Mayo Energy Agency

(096) 76113

www.mayoenergy.ie

Meath Energy Management Agency

(01) 8358019

www.mema.ie

Tipperary Energy Agency

(052) 43090

www.tea.ie

Waterford Energy Bureau

(051) 395531

www.waterfordenergy.ie

Wexford Energy Agency

(053) 9147400

www.wexfordenergy.com

WREAN

(048) 66328269

www.wrean.co.uk

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

Current Officers

Chairperson:

Alex Grassick

Cork County Energy Agency

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Training Officer

Peter Keavney, Galway Energy Agency