

# The Association of Irish Energy Agencies Newsletter



*Welcome* to the Summer 2006 edition of the *AIEA* Newsletter. In this issue, we will introduce a House of Tomorrow development using wood pellet boilers and solar panels in Co. Wexford, Biofuel and Sustainable Transport measures in Co. Tipperary and Co. Cork, and preparation for the implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive in Dublin. We will also highlight national and international energy news affecting Local Authorities.

## Energy News

### **Grants for Renewable Energy Heating Systems**

#### **Greener Homes Scheme**

The Greener Homes Scheme which supports renewable energy heating technologies has proven to be popular with the public.

In the first two months of the scheme, 2,500 applications for grant aid have been received by Sustainable Energy Ireland including:

- 1,275 for heat pumps,
- 725 for wood chip and wood pellet boilers and stoves and,
- 500 for solar panels.

[www.sei.ie/greenerhomes](http://www.sei.ie/greenerhomes)

#### **Commercial Bioheat Scheme**

The Commercial Bioheat Scheme is a new €2 million grant aid scheme to support the installation of wood chip and wood pellet boilers in the commercial, industrial and public sectors.

Funding of up to 30% of the overall cost is available in the 60 kW to 1000 kW range using wood chip and / or wood pellet fuel. [www.sei.ie/bioheat](http://www.sei.ie/bioheat)

Contact your Local Energy Agency for further information on the benefits and applications of renewable technologies.

### **New Planning Guidelines for Windfarms**

Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities were published by the Department of the Environment in June 2006. These extended and updated Guidelines take account of the major advances in wind energy technology since the original guidelines in 1996.

The new Guidelines aim to be more user-friendly for the staff of planning authorities and other interested people. The key objective is to ensure a consistency of approach throughout the country in the identification of suitable locations for wind energy development and the treatment of planning applications for wind energy developments.

The Guidelines highlight the need for a 'plan-led' approach to such applications to help ensure reasonable certainty for developers and for local communities.

The Guidelines are available from [www.environ.ie](http://www.environ.ie)

Contact your Local Energy Agency for further information.



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# Renewable Energy in Oylgate

## Official Opening of Wexford County Council's Renewable Energy Housing Scheme

Climate change and environmental protection, not to mention volatile oil supplies, are major issues affecting us today. Irish households are responsible for ¼ of the energy used in Ireland. This results in the emission of over 10,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> every year, which directly contributes to global warming.

Renewable energy offers an environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuels that can also save money in the long run.

Wexford County Council in conjunction with **Wexford Energy Management Agency Ltd (WEMAL)** have incorporated renewable energy developments into the Council's latest housing project at Oylgate.

The twenty-eight new houses in this project make use of individual wood pellet stoves and four square meters of solar panels for their heating requirements.

The houses are built to exceed the latest insulation specifications ensuring the best use of their 'green heat'.

The 10 kW wood pellet burners provide up to 8 kW through the integral boiler for space heating while a further 2 kW is delivered into the room. The flue and air intake vents were modified to allow for high wind speeds on site.



*10kW wood pellet stove with back boiler*

These new renewable energy houses use less than half of the energy of their predecessors and emit no net CO<sub>2</sub> from their heating systems –

***Solar panels have zero emissions while any CO<sub>2</sub> emitted from burning wood pellets is re-absorbed by growing more wood.***

The superb energy efficiency of the houses together with the use of free energy from the sun and the excellent value offered by wood pellets means considerably cheaper running costs for the tenants.



*4m<sup>2</sup> of solar panels on the roofs provide most of the resident's domestic hot water requirements*

This project was made possible by grant assistance from the Department of the Environment and Sustainable Energy Ireland's House of Tomorrow funding.

The Council was keen to develop a cluster of wood pellet users in Oylgate. It was hoped that a biomass concentration in the area would encourage more people to use the environmentally friendly fuel and also encourage fuel merchants to stock wood pellets.

The scheme will also include a small residential care home, a community centre and an additional 6 serviced sites. It is intended that the new additions to the scheme will also keep this renewable oasis in Oylgate oil free.



*Minister Roche Officially Opens Wexford County Council's Renewable Energy Housing Scheme*



*The Scheme also incorporates a horizontal reed bed treatment system.*

**For further details on this project, please contact:**

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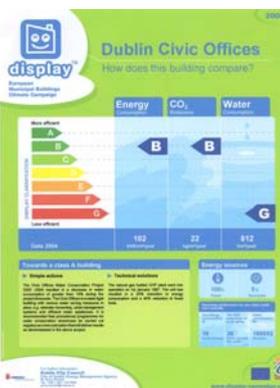


# Agency News

## Building Directive (BUDI) project

**CODEMA** is involved in the European project 'BUDI' with other European cities and regions, in 5 countries: Austria, Finland, France, Germany and Slovenia. The 3<sup>rd</sup> BUDI project meeting took place in Lyon, France on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June 2006. This event was attended by the European partners and key Dublin City Council personnel.

CODEMA is carrying out a number of preliminary assessments of the energy performance of apartments and public buildings in the Greater Dublin Area, in order to prepare a functioning market for Energy Performance Certificates for Buildings under the new European Directive. To date, CODEMA has certified 3 Public Buildings using the DISPLAY Campaign methodology; Dublin City Council's Civic Offices, Green St. Court and the Mansion House. CODEMA has also carried out trial certification of 10 blocks of apartments in Dublin.



Building owners in Dublin can take advantage of this opportunity to gain insight and understanding of what is required in order to achieve a good energy rating. This may put them at a market advantage once the Directive is fully implemented into Irish law.

Commercial and residential properties that are sold or rented will need an energy rating certificate, which may affect their

potential selling price or rental prospects. The energy performance certificate will give the potential buyer and tenants an indication of the buildings' energy costs and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to the environment.

This work is supported by the European Commission and a website for the project is available under [www.buildingdirective.org](http://www.buildingdirective.org)



Intelligent Energy Europe

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## Linking Biofuel producers with public sector users

The **Tipperary Energy Agency** (TEA) is currently a partner in a European project called **Bio-NETT**, together with partners in the UK, Greece, Bulgaria, Sweden, Poland, Latvia, Wales, Spain, and Italy.

The Bio-NETT Project intends to develop a supportive framework for encouraging the growth of markets for bio-fuels as a low carbon fuel for Local Authorities and other public sector transport fleets across the EU.



Project partners at the Kick-off Meeting in London in Feb 2006

The aim of the programme is to increase the supply and demand of bio-fuels, creating a more cohesive and integrated market structure, linking suppliers and users through regional networking in both the urban and rural context. To achieve this, the project will:

- Establish local supplier networks covering the whole supply chain from growers, through fuel production and distribution to public sector users;
- Build capacity with these networks through skills development and examining financial support mechanisms;
- Carry out information and awareness raising with bio-fuel producers and public sector fleet managers;
- Evaluate local carbon savings arising from the use of bio-fuels producers and public transport;
- Disseminate the results at National and European level;
- Implement two practical projects;
- Establish a local bio fuels information exchange and network centre in each partner region

The project will run for 32 months from January 2006. Tipperary Energy Agency is currently reviewing Fleet information from North and South Tipperary County Councils.

Further information on the project is currently available on the TEA website and on the project website [www.bio-nett.org](http://www.bio-nett.org).

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## Measures to Influence transport Demand to Achieve Sustainability (MIDAS)

Cork County Council, through the **Cork County Energy Agency**, are currently involved in a Transport project co-funded through the EU STEER programme. The main emphasis of the project is to create a modal shift from private car to public transport through a series of soft measures.

This project is being rolled out to coincide with the reopening of the Cork - Middleton rail corridor, and will involve the active participation of residents in this catchment area (70,000 approx), local actors and transport operators.

The first step is to undertake an intense study of the travel patterns of citizens within the area. People will be encouraged to fill out a week long travel diary, which they can then submit for analysis via one of 3 means - dedicated website, dedicated telephone line or by post.

To begin this process a mail shot of some 25,000 homes in the area will be carried out to inform people of the study. This promotional activity will be followed up by radio advertising and other high profile PR actions.

The key deliverable of the project will be a website which people can log on to, to input their origin and destination and receive a sustainable route. This project will include an integrated transport policy by the transport operators in the area.

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# 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](http://www.belfastenergyadvice.com)

### 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

[mallowre@eircom.net](mailto:mallowre@eircom.net)

### Donegal Energy Action Team

### Foyle Regional Energy Agency

(048) 71373430

[www.foyleenergy.org](http://www.foyleenergy.org)

### Galway Energy Agency Limited

(091) 566 954

[peter.keavney@galwaycity.ie](mailto:peter.keavney@galwaycity.ie)

### Kerry Energy Agency

(066) 7183576

[wmoynihnan@kerrycoco.ie](mailto:wmoynihnan@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)

### 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 Agency

(053) 9147400

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

### WREAN

(048) 66328269

[www.wrean.co.uk](http://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

### Secretariat: Françoise Hickey

Tipperary Energy Agency

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E: [info@aiea.ie](mailto:info@aiea.ie)

W: [www.aiea.ie](http://www.aiea.ie)

### Financial Officer

John Walsh, Cork City Energy Agency

### PR Officers

Rory McConnon, Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency

Emma Heskin, CODEMA

Brendan Killion, Mayo Energy Agency

### Training Officer

Peter Keavney, Galway Energy Agency