

The Association of Irish Energy Agencies Newsletter



Welcome to the edition of the Winter 2007 *AIEA* Newsletter. In this issue, the main topics that will be developed are the CONCERTO Program in North Tipperary, Launch of Northern Ireland Energy Agency, Galway City Council Energy Award, Waterford Regional Sport Centre, Kilkenny Sustainable Energy Seminars and Workplace Travel Places in Dublin. Also included in that Newsletter the last Energy News about national & international event.

Energy News

EU sustainable energy week 2008 – Don't miss it!

Energy is at the top of the European policy agenda. Encouraged by the success of the first EU Sustainable Energy Week event at the beginning of 2007, work has now begun on EUSEW 2008, the second EU Sustainable Energy Week. Organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy and Transport, other European institutions and major stakeholders, EUSEW 2008 will be the key meeting place for anyone interested in sustainable energy issues in Europe. It will take place from **28 January to 1 February 2008** and is expected to bring together more than 8,000 participants and 50 international sustainable energy conferences, workshops, seminars and media events both in Brussels and other cities across Europe. **Ask about what will happen in your city!**

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index_en.html

Planning Guidelines for Micro- Renewable

The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government has opened since October 2007 a Consultation Paper under the Planning Regulations for exemption for certain Micro Renewable Energy. The different micro- renewable energies concerned can be sorted in five classes, there are: Combined Heat and Power System (CHP), Wind Turbines, Solar Panels, Heat Pumps and Biomass. This Consultation Paper follows the introduction of exemptions from planning permission requirement in the domestic sector (February 2007). Following the consultation process the DOEHLG will set planning exemptions for the usage of renewable energy in the industrial, agricultural, and commercial sectors, and in public buildings, including schools and hospitals. The "Consultation Paper on proposed Planning exemptions for certain Renewable Energy Technologies" will be open for submission until the 18th of January 2008.

More information: <http://www.environ.ie/>



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North Tipperary to become a leading European Light in Renewable and Efficient Energy Use via CONCERTO

North Tipperary is set to become a beacon of sustainable energy use in Europe following the awarding of €4.1 million in EU grant-aid to make existing homes in the area more energy efficient, and to develop the renewable energy district heating system at Ireland's first eco-village, in Cloughjordan. Funding of project is via EU Concerto Program (SERVE).

The SERVE project has the following key objectives:

- ? Create a region in North Tipperary, which is a leader in the implementation of sustainable energy actions.
- ? Develop a eco-village with 132 houses in Cloughjordan which showcases energy efficient design and are supplied by Ireland first renewable energy district heating system
- ? Reduce the energy consumption in 500 existing buildings by improving their energy performance through insulation and heating system improvement

- ? Increase the use of renewable energy technologies through supporting the installation of renewable energy heating systems and demonstrating the use of electricity from micro wind.
- ? Utilise technical and socio-economic expertise from European Partners to ensure actions and standards improve on National and standards.

The SERVE project will target a total of 635 buildings, existing and new, for energy efficiency and renewable energy measures over a 3-year period. This highly ambitious project will set new standards for energy performance and renewable energy supply in rural Ireland, using EU best practice and expertise.

The SERVE region has a total area of approximately 600 square kilometres and covers a population of approximately 10,000 people.

Expected impacts from the project will be:

Eco-Buildings:

- ✍ Retrofitting in the Community Cluster
- ✍ New Buildings in the Eco-Village

Renewable Energy Supply:

- ✍ Retrofitting in the Community Cluster
- ✍ District Heating in the Eco-Village



SERVE Concerto Project Partners

Further details, please contact: Tipperary Energy Agency: www.tea.ie

Northern Ireland Energy Agency Launched

Invited guests from across a number of sectors, environmentalists and politicians came together on Monday 22nd October at Parliament Buildings, Stormont to officially launch the Northern Ireland Energy Agency, marking the start of Energy Saving Week (22-28 October 2007). It was extremely encouraging too, to see some of our colleagues from the AIEA, who had taken time out to lend their support at the launch.

The NI Energy Agency has been established to provide advice and information and encourage low carbon choices by domestic and small business consumers in the areas of energy efficiency, transport and renewable energy.

With approximately half of all emissions under the personal control of individual households and consumers, the activities of the NI Energy Agency will contribute to Northern Ireland energy targets as laid out in The Sustainable Development Strategy. The Strategy has set Northern Ireland the target of reducing CO₂ emissions by 30% by 2025 and greenhouse gases by 25% below the 1990 baseline.

Launching the NI Energy Agency, Permanent Secretary at the Department for Social Development, Alan Shannon said:

"(...) It is crucial that members of the public are persuaded to reduce their individual CO₂ emissions (...) This will require the NI Energy Agency to facilitate a two-way process between both the energy demand and energy supply sectors; a process that will need understanding and co-operation on both sides."

For further information on the Northern Ireland Energy Agency call us on 048 66328269 or email: info@nienergyagency.org

Commencing in early 2007 Galway City Council, in conjunction with Galway Energy Agency, participated in the development of an energy-auditing programme under the framework of the European Energy Award scheme.

Galway City Council have been successful in achieving the Silver Award under the scheme and will launch this award on 7th December 2007. This framework will provide a very valuable template for annual reporting on energy consumption and emissions under the new EU Energy Services Directive requirements.

Contact: Galway Energy Agency Limited: peter.keavney@galwaycity.ie



3 Waterford Regional Sport Centre: a Sustainable Building



The recently opened Kingfisher Leisure Centre at Killbarry Waterford contains many renewable energy and energy efficient technologies. The leisure centre development is a public private partnership between Waterford City Council & Private Enterprises.



Renewable energies integrated into the leisure centre development includes: **Geothermal Heat Pumps** with 24 KW heat output provides heat via under floor heating to the reception, dressing room, crèche and offices.

Most of the domestic hot water requirement such as showers provided by **24 Square Metres of evacuated tube solar panels** that heat 2 no. 1000 litre calorifiers.

The **six ventilation systems** within the building are powered via variable speed motors on supply/ extract fans. Each ventilation system contains plate heat exchangers where 60 % of extracted air is absorbed by the fresh incoming air, which equals to 271 KW of heat.

Radiant heating was installed in the sports hall area and provides heat via black bulb radiant panels as opposed to unit heaters.

The radiant panels have efficiencies in excess of 95% and have no electrical loading for the dissipation of heat within the sports hall.

VRF air conditioning was installed in the building as opposed to split air conditioning units. A number of ceiling cassettes are supplied from a single external condenser via a **BC controller**, which manages free heating and cooling. Heating and cooling to the areas serviced are achieved by simultaneously heating and cooling as per occupant requirements, which can improve the Co-efficient of Performance (COP). The improved COP reduces considerably the electrical load required for air conditioning and as such will result in reduced CO2 emissions.

A **combined Heat and Power Plant** CHP with a thermal load of 104 KW electrical load of 70 KW is currently being installed.

The CHP will part service the pool water heating and electrical requirements of motive equipment. It is also planned to utilise the landfill gas from the adjoining landfill to power the CHP by mid 2008.

A centralised Building Management System has been installed to control all heating and ventilation services within the building.

The final balance of the implementation of all the Renewable and Energy Efficient Technologies is real, considering that every year, that building will save **145.85 tones of CO2**.

More Information, please contact Waterford Energy Bureau: www.waterfordenergy.ie

Kilkenny Sustainable Energy Seminars

The **Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency** with BNS LEADER organised an energy seminar to inform local architects and engineers and by consequence the wider construction industry on the need for incorporating sustainable energy measures and technologies in buildings and provide practical information on the implementation and use of these. The event was held as part of the Kilkenny Sustainable Energy Forum's programme of energy education.

The seminar was centred on the proposed energy planning policy in the new County Development Plan for Kilkenny County Council, with presentations from Kilkenny County Council's Senior Forward Planner, as well as talks from SEI to put it in a national context; and discussions on practical experience of energy efficient building and the use of renewable energy technologies from Inch Environmental Construction and the HSE.

The event, which was held in the Castalia Hall in Ballytobin, concluded with visits to a number of sustainable energy best practice projects in the area. Feedback from the event proved that in addition to a huge interest in sustainable energy, there is also a significant call for practical information and support from the construction industry.

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Workplace Travel Plans in Dublin

Codema is working on the implementation of a workplace travel plan for the City Council offices with the mobility management company VIPRE Ltd. A staff survey has been carried out and over the coming months tailored measures will be developed aimed at removing the barriers to using sustainable travel alternatives to single occupancy car use. These measures will have benefits for both employees and employer and will in a wider context contribute to sustainable city development.

Because a general lack of awareness was identified to be the main barrier that prevent an increase in the use of walking and cycling as viable methods of transport in the urban environment a new information resource for Irish employers on workplace travel plans has been created: www.workplacetravelplans.ie

This website explains **how actions by employers can help mitigate congestion and emissions** in Dublin city by leveraging change in the commuting habits of their employees via the tool of a workplace travel plan, while at the same time, using that tool for significant corporate benefit. This is the first website *dedicated* to employer travel plans in Ireland and aims to educate employers about the corporate, social and environmental benefits of using the Workplace Travel Plan tool.

The workplace travel plan is part of the European project ASTUTE (**A**dvancing **S**ustainable **T**ransport in **U**rban areas **T**o promote **E**nergy efficiency) and further information is on www.astute-eu.org.

Intelligent Energy  Europa

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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

Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency

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Tipperary Energy Agency

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Waterford Energy Bureau

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www.waterfordenergy.ie

Wexford Energy management Agency

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Associate members

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(049) 4338477

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Donegal County Council

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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:

Rory McConnon

Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency

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Tipperary Energy Agency

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