

Issue 7

Spring 2007

# The Association of Irish Energy Agencies Newsletter



**WELCOME** to the Spring 2007 edition of the *AIEA* Newsletter. In this issue, the main topics which we will look at are a Geothermal Feasibility & Environmental Impact Study for Cork Docklands, Kilkenny Sustainable Energy Forum, and a discussion on the new Energy White Paper. We will also highlight national and international energy news affecting Local Authorities

## Energy News

### Planning & Development Regulations 2007

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government outlined a set of regulations which give effect to new exempted development provisions in respect of micro-renewable technologies. A summary of the main points follows.

#### Stand alone wind turbines

- 10m maximum mast height
- 6m maximum rotor diameter
- no exemption for building mounted turbines

#### Building mounted solar panels

- 12m<sup>2</sup> aperture or 50% of total roof area
- located on front or back of house, stand alone solar panels must be located behind house

#### Ground source heat pumps

- max 1m alteration to ground level

#### Water source heat pumps & Hydro

- no exemption

Further information is available from <http://www.environ.ie> or by contacting your Local Energy Agency.

### *Bioenergy action plan for Ireland*

In March 2007, the Department of Communications, Marine & natural Resources launched a Bioenergy Action Plan to reduce Ireland's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2 million tonnes a year. Some of the main points outlined in the Action Plan include:

- 33% of electricity consumed and 12% of all residential and commercial heating in Ireland will be from renewables by 2020.
- All peat electricity power stations will be co-fired by 30% renewable material by 2015
- Within 12 months, the Building Regulations will be reviewed to raise the energy efficiency of all new homes by at least 40%
- By 2009 a new biofuel obligation will mean that all petrol and diesel will have on average a 5.75% biofuel mix
- All new buses in the public fleet will use a biofuel blend of at least 30%.

The Bioenergy Action Plan is available from [www.dcmnr.gov.ie](http://www.dcmnr.gov.ie). Contact your Local Energy Agency for further information.

### Discussion on the Energy White Paper on Page 4.



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# Cork Docklands

## Geothermal Feasibility & Environmental Impact Study

Cork Docklands are set in a beautiful location to the east of the City Centre and cover an area of 166 hectares of land on both banks of the River Lee, with 4 kilometres of waterfront. In Docklands there will be 352,722m<sup>2</sup> (approximately 5,900 units) for residential uses and 351,567m<sup>2</sup> for nonresidential uses. Cork Docklands Development Plan set out a 20 years vision for a new urban quarter characterised by high quality sustainable development design. Residential, employment and leisure opportunities will accompany this high-density urban setting.



In order to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and to take advantage of renewable energy, Environment Directorate and Docklands Directorate have appointed **Cork City Energy Agency**, in conjunction with Geology Department in UCC, to undertake a ground water research study to determine the feasibility of using the potential geothermal resource beneath the Docklands area to heat the buildings. Two 30m deep boreholes have already been drilled and the quality, quantity and temperature of the ground water in Docklands will be assessed. Large abstractions of groundwater for geothermal energy may have an impact on the aquifer, so an environmental impact assessment will be completed.

A groundwater flow modelling software will be employed to assess the behaviour of the aquifer beneath the Docklands in response to continuous large abstractions of groundwater for geothermal heating. To date, elevated temperatures of 3–4°C above the norm at UCC and the City Hall. The slightly warm groundwater can be passed through a heat pump to further elevate its temperature and to extract heat for space heating purposes. There are already some sites within Cork City using the geothermal resource, including the Lifetime Lab, New Civic Office and the Lewis Glucksman Gallery in UCC.

The results of the Docklands Geothermal feasibility and environmental impact study will determine the maximum volumes of groundwater that can safely be abstracted and will give detail direction and suggestion to the developers in the Docklands to meet the sustainable development plan of the Docklands. In addition, the investigation will aid the location of reinjection wells for the spent water after it leaves the heat pump, which will assist in the control of aquifer beneath Cork City.

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### 5% biodiesel mix for Galway City Council

Galway City Council uses an estimated 350,000 litres of mineral diesel fuel for its fleet of vehicles per annum. Through the **Galway Energy Agency**, the Council has introduced a 5% mix (B5) of biodiesel to the annual consumption. The biodiesel is manufactured in Galway by EcoOla from recycled vegetable oils (RVO), collected from restaurants and other users around Galway City and region. This is the start of a pilot programme of biofuel introduction to the transport fleet and supports the objectives and targets of the EU and National Biofuels Directive.



**For further details, please contact: Peter Keavney, Ph: 091 566954, Email: [pkeavney@galwaycity.ie](mailto:pkeavney@galwaycity.ie)**

### Certificate in Building Energy Rating

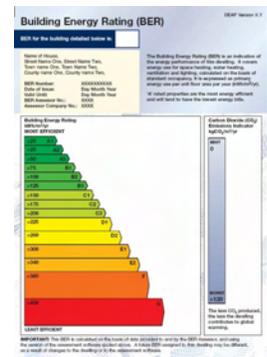
The European Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) came into force in Ireland in January 2006 and stated that new dwellings, for which planning is applied for after the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2007, will require a Building Energy Rating (BER) when constructed, sold or rented. In addition, from January 2009 existing dwellings, when sold or rented, will require a BER. BERs can only be issued by qualified independent assessors. Tipperary Institute in association with the **Association of Irish Energy Agencies** (AIEA) have been involved in a programme to train BER assessors to a standard where they will be able to undertake and provide a BER and accompanying Advisory Report for a new dwelling.

The programme provides an overview of the background to the EPBD and the appropriate legislation in Ireland and then builds the technical knowledge, skills and competence to utilise the Dwelling Energy Assessment Procedure (DEAP) to deliver BERs to the market. The programme cost is €2,000 and is offered on a part-time basis at the Tipperary Institute and will be delivered initially in day time mode.

For more details on the programme see: <http://www.tippinst.ie/courses/srd/index.htm>

For further information and an application form contact: Maureen Ryan, 0504 28114, [mmryan@tippinst.ie](mailto:mmryan@tippinst.ie) or

**Seamus Hoyne, Ph: 052 43090, Email: [shoyne@tea.ie](mailto:shoyne@tea.ie)**



## The Energy White Paper - Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland

The National Energy White Paper was launched on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2007. The White Paper entitled “Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland” is an action-based strategy for achieving specified energy targets for Ireland. The White paper sets out strategic goals for Security of Energy Supply, Sustainability and Competitiveness. Security of supply in part is to be addressed by the development of the Single Electricity Market on an all-island basis and the building of new North/South and East/West electricity interconnection. Sustainability is a key area and the White Paper incorporates the recently published National BioEnergy Action Plan that set out targets for renewable energy in the electricity, transport and heating sectors. Competitiveness measures include the transfer the electricity transmission assets to EirGrid. The electricity distribution network business will be operated on a non-profit basis with the benefits passed on to electricity consumers. The White paper envisages the creation of a land bank to facilitate new independent power generation.

The forthcoming National Action Plan on Energy Efficiency, to be published for consultation in April 2007, will reflect the EU Action Plan on Energy Efficiency and will set out measures to deliver 20% reduction in energy demand for Ireland by 2020.

### **Local Authorities are seen as having a vital role in delivering the objectives of the White Paper:**

- Sustainable transport action plan due late 2007 will consider 100% plant oil in captive fleets in Local Authorities.
- Public sector will lead the way in bio energy heating, renewable electricity, CHP, and bio fuels.
- Electricity demand side management to be tackled later this year will consider the installation of smart electricity meters in all new and existing housing stock.
- Review Part L (Energy) of Building Regulations in 2008 to reduce energy demand by 40% relative to current standards, look at funding mechanisms for smart metering, set target of 33% energy savings across public sector, introduce energy efficiency programmes (targets & standards) for LA's, publish Green Public Procurement action plan, update existing social housing design guidelines.
- Allocate a further €70m over 2007-08 to the scheme for installation of central heating in LA rented dwellings, allocate significant amounts towards the Remedial Works Scheme for LA dwelling major refurbishment works.

The White Paper also calls for improved the linkages between Government Departments, State-sponsored bodies and regional and local organisations to enhance the delivery of energy policy and service delivery at all levels, and, in that context, review the remits, structures and funding arrangements associated with the Local Energy Agencies, with the aim of enhancing their valuable role, taking account of the need to balance efficiency, operational economies of scale and the benefits of local action.

### County Kilkenny Sustainable Energy Forum

The **Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency**, working with BNS Rural Development, Kilkenny County Council and other Kilkenny County Development Board members organised a successful launch of the Kilkenny Sustainable Energy Forum on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007 in the Parade Tower, Kilkenny Castle.

Over 60 invited guests attended the Forum launch which included a presentation by Mr Duncan Stewart of the RTE television programme Ecoeye. The launch day was intended to inform new Forum members and other guests of the context and issues surrounding sustainable energy at a local level, and to consult with wider interests on the work of the Forum.



*Duncan Stewart addressing the Launch of the Kilkenny Sustainable Energy Forum*

The launch was represented by organisations such as Local Authorities, State Organisations, Research & Educational organisations, Social & Private Building Developers, Private Companies & Community Organisations, Agricultural Organisations, and Renewable Energy Companies from Kilkenny. The forum itself is made up of 30 members representing a number of these organisations who have an important role to play in promoting sustainable energy.

The mission of the Forum is to promote sustainable energy models of good practice in County Kilkenny in order to develop the county as a centre of excellence by 2010. Future actions of the Forum will include the development of a Sustainable Energy Action Plan for Kilkenny, to set a good example by adopting voluntary targets of improved use of energy and demonstration sustainable energy projects. The Forum will encourage sustainable energy good practice through influencing local policies, facilitating sustainable energy supply chains and the provision of information and training.

The launch ended with a formal convening of the Forum and election of the chairperson. Audrey O'Shea, Energy Manager with Glanbia in Ballyragget, was elected as the inaugural Chairperson of the Forum.

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**The AIEA would like to welcome Cavan Monaghan Rural Development as Associate Members of the Association.**

**Tel: 049 4338477, [www.crm.d.ie](http://www.crm.d.ie).** Associate membership is available to organisations who are in the process of setting up an Energy Agency, and includes advice and assistance from existing Energy Agencies, invitation to AIEA meetings and inclusion in AIEA circulars. If your organisation is interested in setting up an Energy Agency, please contact the AIEA Secretariat, **Francoise Hickey, Ph: 052 43090, Email: [info@aiea.ie](mailto:info@aiea.ie).**

# 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.

## *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)

## **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.



## **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

### **Secretariat:** Françoise Hickey

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### **Financial Officer**

Brendan Killion, Mayo Energy Agency

### **PR Officers**

Jim Owens, Wexford Energy Agency  
Jane Wickham (Editor), Wexford EA  
Liam Flemming, Waterford EA  
John Walsh, Cork City Energy Agency

### **Training Officer**

Peter Keavney, Galway Energy Agency