

The Association of Irish Energy Agencies Newsletter



WELCOME to the Summer 2007 edition of the *AIEA* Newsletter. In this issue, the main topics reviewed are a Farm Energy Training Programme which was completed in Counties Wexford & Tipperary, renewable energy developments in Counties Meath & Galway, travel plans for Dublin and an information night that was held between Counties Cork and Kerry and Cork City. We will also highlight national energy news.

Energy News

The National Climate Change Strategy, 2007

Under the Kyoto Protocol Ireland agreed to a target of limiting its greenhouse gas emissions to 13% above 1990 levels by the first commitment period 2008-2012. This is part of its contribution to the overall EU target. Ireland ratified the Kyoto Protocol on the 31 May 2002, along with the EU and all other Member States, and is internationally legally bound to meet the challenging greenhouse gas emissions reduction target.

To ensure Ireland reaches its target under the Kyoto Protocol, the Government has published a new National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012. The Strategy provides a framework for action to reduce Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions. The Strategy addresses measures to all sectors of the economy - including energy, transport, agriculture, the residential sector and businesses. It includes existing measures put in place on foot of the 2000 National Climate Change Strategy and subsequently, through the National Development Plan 2007-2013, Transport 21, the Energy White Paper and the Bioenergy Action Plan. It also includes a series of additional measures to deliver the overall objective of putting Ireland on a pathway towards a low-carbon economy.

Further information is available from <http://www.environ.ie>

The Green Party enter government

Members of the Green Party approved a motion to mandate the Party's six TDs to enter government. John Gormley, TD, was elected as the new minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Eamon Ryan, TD, was elected as the new minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources. The Green Party policies can be viewed at <http://www.greenparty.ie/en/policies>

Energy in Industry, 2007

Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) has published a new report, Energy in Industry – 2007 Report, which gives the most up to date picture of energy use, emissions and efficiency trends in Irish industry. The report produced by SEI's Energy Policy Statistical Support Unit (EPSSU), analyses the impact of energy on the cost base of Irish industrial enterprises.

Further details, view www.sei.ie/index.asp?locID=70&docID=-1



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Farm Energy Training Programme

One of the key concerns facing farmers across the country is improving the viability of their farms. This includes finding ways to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the methods of work on farms, finding ways to reduce running costs while maintaining the high quality output that we have come to expect from our farming community. One area where increasing costs are incurred is in the area of energy consumption – a cost for both farmers and the environment alike.

The *On-Farm Energy Training Programme* was devised by two LEADER+ organisations to examine and monitor energy consumption on farms. The two LEADER+ companies involved in the funding of the training programme were Wexford Organisation for Rural Development (WORD) and Tipperary LEADER Group (TLG). The energy agencies involved in carrying out the consultancy work with the farmers were *Wexford Energy Management Agency (WEMAL)* and *Tipperary Energy Agency (TEA)*.

Twenty farmers from each county were recruited for the programme. The energy consumption and operations for each farm were analysed by the consultants, during an on-site farm visit. A personal energy audit was then presented to each farmer which contained a review of the farms current energy uses and practices. In addition, a range of solutions and energy efficiency methods which, farmers can avail of to aid in the reduction of on-farm energy usage and costs were presented.



One of the key come outcomes from the project was the calculation of key performance indicators (KPI's) for each farm. For example, one of the KPI's for dairy farms was the kilowatt-hours per litre of milk produced per annum per farm. This value was calculated for each farm and then an average value was calculated for all dairy farms. This value was useful as it could then act as a guide to assess the energy efficiency of a farm. If for example, the numerical value was lower than the average, then, the farm was considered efficient and if it was above, then, it was considered inefficient.

The project was unique in that it was the first inter-territorial LEADER+ project which was undertaken between the two LEADER+ groups. It was felt by all participants that the project was a success and it is hoped that in future, similar projects between LEADER+ groups could be conducted.

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Energy Monitoring - Walter Macken

Galway Energy Agency, GEAL, was awarded support from Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) under the House of Tomorrow Programme for the development of additional energy features in the overall upgrade of the Walter Macken flats. The energy features mainly consisted of additional insulation, high efficiency gas condensing boilers, heating controls and low energy lighting.

GEAL conducted an energy monitoring analysis on 4 typical apartments for comparison to design criteria and standard practice. The monitoring was completed in early 2006 and identified an average energy and emissions saving of over 40% per year, with a similar reduction in operational costs to the tenants. The overall project upgrade provides for an annual saving of some 2,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Walter Macken typical block – “Before & After”



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3 became 1 in Alternative Building Systems seminar

According to the European Performance in Buildings Directive which was brought into Irish Law, a Building Energy Rating (BER) certificate will be required before a building can be rented, let or sold. In response to this the Energy Sections of Cork & Kerry County Council and Cork City Council decided to organise a conference to highlight some of the alternative building systems in the Irish market.

The seminar entitled *Alternative Building Systems* was held in Ballincollig at the Oriel House Hotel, 17th of April and was attended by ca. one hundred people, among them employees of the three Local Authorities, Cork City, Counties Cork and Kerry and guest speakers.

The conference was divided into three different sessions; “Case Studies of Alternative Building Systems”, “Insulation” and “Small Scale Renewables”. These focused on topics such as Improved Insulation, Air Tightness, Solar, Geothermal Energy and Wood Pellets. Numerous speakers from top Irish companies in alternative building systems, SEI and Cork County Council gave their contribution to this information day. An exhibition of the several products provided by all the companies participating in the talks was also organised and their representatives were available for questions.

The seminar provided a place where experts and professionals of alternative building systems could exchange innovative ideas, learn what other companies are doing and it also gave an excellent opportunity for employees of the three Local Authorities to meet and discuss ideas regarding current work they are involved in themselves. The Presentations given on the day can be viewed on www.aiea.ie

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Workplace Travel Plans in Dublin

The *City of Dublin Energy Management Agency, CODEMA*, is working on a European project called 'ASTUTE', Advancing Sustainable Transport in Urban areas To promote Energy efficiency, along with partners from 5 European cities. The third partner meeting took place in Lund, Sweden on 9th May 2007 and tied in with the conference on mobility management, ECOMM 2007.



As part of the European ASTUTE project, a number of workplaces in Dublin will be selected to have a Workplace Travel Plan implemented on behalf of the organisation. Such plans focus on changing travel behaviour away from single occupancy car use, towards sustainable travel alternatives. A travel survey, site audit and analysis will lead to the development of a strategy designed to reduce car trips by commuters and parking overheads for the employer. As workplaces constitute the main drivers of peak commute congestion, workplace travel plans can contribute to congestion reduction and sustainable city developments.

CODEMA is working in collaboration with VIPRE Ltd, a Mobility Management Company based in Dublin, on developing the Workplace Travel Plans. The first Travel Plan is currently being prepared for Dublin City Council. The benefits to organisations are manifold in 3 areas:

Staff

- Improve workforce health through active commuting
- Enhance employee benefits by caring for staff travel

Cost Effectiveness & Facilities

- Reduce parking overhead (approx. €3,000 per space per annum) and land space
- Make business travel more efficient
- Receive customised advice on site transport & access
- Improve credentials with planning authority

Social & Environmental Responsibility

- Reduce the organisation's CO₂ emissions
- Promote companies "Green" image
- Create a more sustainable and accessible workplace

For further details on Workplace Travel Plans in Dublin, go to www.workplacetripplans.ie and for information on ASTUTE project, www.astute-eu.org

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Intelligent Energy  Europe

Some other news

- The *Northern Ireland Energy Agency* was formed at the end of 2006 following the merger of three regional SAVE Agencies: Belfast Energy Agency, WREAN (Western Region Energy Agency Network) and FREA (Foyle Energy Agency).
- Following the recent AGM of Energie-Cities in Brasov, Romania in April, Cork County Council have been re-elected to the Borad of Energie-Cities, having amassed a maximum vote in the election.
- The Centre for Advancement of learning of Maths, Science and Technology (Calmast) held their annual science week for schools in May. *WEMAL* was involved in conducting tours of Carnsore wind farm in Wexford to primary and secondary school kids.

Renewable Energy installed at Moynalty Steam Threshing Museum – Moynalty, Co. Meath

The Community Energy Initiative (CEI) was initially a pilot programme in the North East region in 2006, covering counties Cavan, Monaghan, Meath and Louth, whereby small community based businesses or groups could obtain up to 50% capital funding from their local LEADER Company for a renewable energy installation. The renewable energy technologies eligible for funding were Solar Thermal Hot Water, Heat Pumps and Biomass Burners (<60kW). The programme was co-ordinated, with support from Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI), by the Centre for Renewable Energy, Dundalk Institute of Technology (CREDIT), *Meath Energy Agency (MEMA)*, and *Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency (CKEA)*.



Project Site: Moynalty Steam Threshing Museum & Community Building

The Moynalty steam Threshing Museum & Community Building in County Meath was granted funding for a new biomass boiler. The installation was completed at the beginning of 2007 and has now reduced the building's greenhouse gas emissions and fuel bills.

Total cost of project, incl. VAT	€14,415
Net saving on fuel per annum	€2,237
Payback period with 50% grant	3.7 years
Fuel costs saving over systems 25yr lifetime	€55,925

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Wind Energy Developments

The Irish Wind Energy Associations (IWEA) Annual Conference was held at the Corrib Great Southern Hotel, Galway. *GEAL*, who is a member of the association, provided support and promotional activities for the conference. The City Manager delivered the opening address and the official launch was provided by Minister Noel Dempsey TD, Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources. The event was attended by 300 delegates, 30 International, EU and National key speakers.

Wind power is an important contribution to the overall electricity demand in Galway. In 2006, Galway City Council continued to purchase a proportion of its overall electricity demand from a "Green Supplier". An estimated 10% of total electricity consumption is purchased from Airtricity, who supply all of their electricity from wind power.

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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

Local Energy Agencies in Ireland, including Northern Ireland, jointly formed the Association of Irish Energy Agencies (AIEA) in November 1998. The AIEA was officially launched by the Minister of State for Energy 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”

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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

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