

€16m in insulation grants for up to 12,000 homes

Energy Minister Eamon Ryan TD. has announced that the recently launched Home Energy Saving scheme has proven immensely popular among Irish homeowners. In just four months since the Scheme was officially announced, over €16 million in insulation grants has been approved for approximately 12,000 homes nationwide.

With a budget of nearly €50 million, there is still significant funding available. Homeholders can avail of grants ranging from cavity wall insulation, attic insulation, heating controls and boiler upgrades. The scheme is open to all owners of existing houses built before 2006. Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) administers the scheme.

Some financial institutes are offering discounted loans to both homes and businesses for carrying out energy efficient measures. If you have been approved for a grant under the Home Energy Saving scheme or the Greener Homes scheme, you can partake in these competitive loans. The Association of Irish Energy Agencies (AIEA) would advise individuals to shop around, to examine the discounted rates and to consult your local energy agency if you are unsure.

Codema are working in partnership with Gavin Harte on the Energy Smart Community, a scheme that allows Dublin homeowners to join together in clusters to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, while availing of these government energy-saving grants. For more information, visit www.energysmartcommunity.com

For further information on the Home Energy Saving scheme visit www.sei.ie/hes or contact Sustainable Energy Ireland on 1850 927000.

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.

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CODEMA Urges Dublin City Council Staff to “Switch Off”

CODEMA are currently working on the “Switch Off” campaign in partnership with Dublin City Council. The campaign encourages Dublin City Council employees to switch off lights and appliances such as computers, photocopiers and printers in the workplace. By participating in the campaign, employees could save thousands of Euro on their department’s annual energy bill – money that could be better spent on more deserving areas.

The initiative is part of the Minus 3% Campaign – a European project which aims to reduce local authority energy consumption by 3 per cent per year, with a long-term goal of 33 per cent for Dublin City Council by 2020. Along with Dublin, there are six other cities involved in the project; Bratislava (Slovakia), Graz (Austria), Derry, Brussels, Teruel (Spain) and Maribor (Slovenia).

The Switch Off campaign has been supported by a range of promotional material such as posters, leaflets, stickers and mouse mats. CODEMA staff also held two promotional days in Civic Offices, where over 500 employees entered a competition to win an energy-efficient 32” Sony Bravia LCD. Council staff were also provided with energy-saving facts and myths and learned that by switching off their computers when leaving the office in the evening, at least €80,000 could be saved each year in Civic Offices alone.

CODEMA is delighted with the positive reaction that they have had to the campaign from council staff so far. Communications Officer for CODEMA, Suzanne Morgan, said:

“We would like to thank all council staff for their participation in the Switch Off campaign and also for taking the time to stop by our stand in Civic Offices recently. The amount of support and helpful comments that we have received so far is very encouraging and we are hopeful that employees will continue to Switch Off as the campaign rolls out.”

Praising the work of the Switch Off campaign, City Manager John Tierney said: “Dublin City Council is delighted to be working in partnership with CODEMA on the Switch Off campaign. It is a very relevant and timely project, allowing all staff to respond practically to the Sustainable Dublin Initiative while contributing to a reduction in their department’s expenditure on energy.”

“Switch off” will be rolled out to the other 3 Dublin local authorities this September.

For further information on the Switch Off campaign, please contact: Suzanne Morgan, Communications Officer, CODEMA. Tel: 01 410 0571

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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York Street Redevelopment Raises the Bar for Sustainable Living in Dublin

The redevelopment of York Street is set to lead the way in sustainable living. The newly-constructed apartments (opened in May 2009) boast excellent Building Energy Ratings, some with ratings of A3, and could reduce fuel costs to residents by up to 70 per cent, according to project energy advisors, Codema.

The high BERs can be attributed to various energy efficiency measures such as low energy design, energy conservation and a community heating system. It is estimated that these measures will result in over 50 per cent reduction in both energy usage and CO₂ emissions.

The redevelopment by Dublin City Council includes 66 new council apartments arranged in five blocks with communal spaces on the ground floor and three roof gardens. A major feature of this redevelopment is the use of solar panels on the roof, which provide

hot water for the residents. Highly-efficient condensing gas boilers back up the solar panels at peak load. The majority of blocks have a group heating system, with individual apartments fitted with heat exchangers and heat meters to accurately measure and bill individual energy users.

Timbers from the original floor joists in the demolished building were salvaged and reused as part of the new roof structure. Rainwater from the main roofs is collected for use in the gardens, to conserve water and reduce flooding.

A smaller mews development to the rear is constructed in brick and timber with lime render finish to the external walls. Green roofs are also incorporated, helping to restore the vegetated footprint that was lost when the original buildings were constructed.

Director of Codema, Gerry Wardell, feels that this project marks a new era in eco living for Dublin city: "These apartments will provide comfortable, modern accommodation for the York Street community. There will be economic, social and environmental benefits which will be closely monitored as the development progresses."

Codema is the leading energy agency for Dublin, with over 10 years experience in improving the energy efficiency of Dublin homes. It acts as energy advisor to the four Dublin local authorities and also works with the private sector in developing an energy-smart city.



Cork County Council to save over €400,000 in energy costs this year

Following extensive work by the Energy Section of Cork County Council, initiatives are currently being taken which will have the impact of reducing Cork County Council's energy bill by over €400,000, this year, with other measures being planned to cut this even further in future years.

Electricity is Cork County Council's largest energy source (>67 million kWh/annum) and accounts for approximately 77% of Cork County Council's energy with over 1,000 accounts across the county. These provide electricity to locations, which provide services i.e. water supply, wastewater treatment, public lighting, office space, heating and lighting etc, with the remainder of our energy usage being accounted for by transport, machinery and oil and gas used for heating buildings.

Given the Open Electricity Market in Ireland, there is now excellent opportunity

for all energy users to shop around for the best value in the market place and this is one of the ways in which Cork County Council will be reducing its energy costs in the near future, this step alone will net more than €220,000 in savings, with a further €180,000 being saved through a meter changing programme currently ongoing on general purpose accounts. It is also anticipated that announcements in the very near future will allow for further substantial savings to be made in the area of public lighting, which currently accounts for 18% of our energy bill.

As well as cost reductions these measures will also have the effect of reducing Cork County Council's Greenhouse Gas emissions, through the purchase of more green electricity, moving the authority closer to reaching the National target for

Local Authorities of 33% reduction by 2020.

In other areas Cork County Council's energy section are currently rolling out a building labelling programme, which is going beyond the European Performance in Buildings Directive requirements of labelling public buildings larger than 1000m² by labelling all public buildings irrespective of size. This programme will also feed into a European project entitled 'Communicate your buildings energy rating' CYBER, which is aimed at designing a new awareness programme for all buildings users, which will have the effect of further reducing Cork County Council's energy use, through education and awareness.



Mayo County Council Renewable Energy installation (Energy Cabin) at Ballina Swimming pool

Mayo County Council in conjunction with the Mayo Energy Agency co-ordinated the installation of the Energy Cabin at Ballina Swimming Pool as part of the European Union BIORREG-FLORESTA Interreg IIIB Atlantic Area Programme

Energy Cabin General Specification:

- 150 kW KWB Power fire TDS boiler with fully automated conveying system, automated ash discharge system and fully automated heat exchanger cleaning system.
- Dual fuel storage, min storage volume 30 m³. Twin spring feed conveyor system for dual fuel usage options.
- 24 m² Solar Collectors

This cabin consists of a wood pellet boiler, storage for wood pellets and solar panels, which are now providing all of the heating requirements, including heating water for the pool, space heating to pool hall and domestic hot water for showers.

This Energy Cabin system provides a more efficient system of operation; reducing fuel costs and environmental (CO₂ Emissions) impact by using a wood fuel. Estimated annual savings in the region of €15,000 on fuel costs and environmental Carbon Dioxide CO₂ savings of 120 tonnes. The Mayo Energy Agency is monitoring the Energy cabin performance to determine the actual energy savings over a one year period.

The energy cost savings on the heating bills are one aspect and in addition the pool is being heated in a carbon neutral manner providing an environmental impact. This energy cabin is now a very effective prototype, in a public place, and it will serve to educate the wider community on what is possible in terms of green energy heating systems.



150 kW Boiler



Pellet Storage

Tralee Town Council

1. Name of the project:

Tobar Naofa Wood Chip District Heating Scheme.

The centralized wood chip district heating system was installed as part of the first phase of the Mitchel's Boherbee Community Regeneration Project. Tobar Naofa consists of 4 apartment blocks with a total of 42 apartments which have been designed to "House of Tomorrow" standards. Each apartment has its own heat distribution system and heat meter to allow billing for heat energy consumed from the district heating system. Under-floor heating circuits in the apartments are both time and temperature controlled to ensure heat is provided to each resident only when required. Heat is distributed to each apartment via the district system from two 500kW (duty/standby) wood chip boilers. The high efficiency biomass boilers offer the most sustainable means of heat provision to this apartment development while at the same time ensuring maximum availability.

The scheme is initially providing all the heating and domestic hot water requirements for Tobar Naofa Scheme. The heating system is also designed to provide for the heating needs of a nearby County Council library, primary school and a day care centre. Construction commenced in August 2007 and apartments were occupied from November 2008; the development was officially opened by Mr. John Gormley, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on Saturday the 9th of May 2009.

2. Performance

Occupation of the apartments commenced in November 2008. Since this time, 72 tonnes of wood chip have been consumed in the provision of heating and domestic hot water to the 42 apartments. A summary of the results (to mid June 2009) is as follows:

Heat provided (from heat meter): 217,500 kWhr (Dec 08 – June 09)

Average weekly cost per apartment for heating and domestic hot water: €5.64

(Calculated from 6 months collected data & degree day data).

The unit price for heat delivered by the wood chip boilers was set at 4.1 € Cent/ kWhr for the first year of operation. By comparison the cost of heat delivered by a comparable high efficiency oil boiler in system in October 2008 was 9.4 € Cent. While the cost of oil reduced in early 2009, the overall price trend for hydro carbon fuel is increasing as reserves decrease and this demonstrates the financial value of large scale district wood fuel heating systems.

Based on the average price of heating oil for the 12 months to April 2009, the equivalent cost for heating each apartment using oil would have been €10.36.

3. Annual Environmental Benefit:

Volume of oil equivalent: 28,550 L
Eliminated CO₂ emissions: 79,500 kg

The results of this project are very positive from both economic and environmental perspectives. In addition to the district heating system, constructing Tobar Naofa apartments to "House of Tomorrow" standards has served to reduce the requirement for energy from the buildings.

4. Future

The existing district heating system lies in close proximity to an existing library and primary school and has been sized to provide heating and domestic hot water for these facilities in addition to a planned day care centre. Both the library and primary school utilize oil fired boilers; while the existing boilers at both sites will be maintained for backup purposes, the district heating scheme will be extended to provide all the heating and hot water needs of both buildings. Given the success of Tobar Naofa district heating scheme, Phase II of the Mitchel's Boherbee Community Regeneration Project will also incorporate a wood chip district heating scheme.