

Public Sector Energy Programme

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland [Ireland]

Context

The European Union Climate Plan is a plan adopted in December 2008 and then revised in October 2014. It was adopted in December 2008 as a result of a political agreement between the 27 Heads of State and Government. This legislative package has two priorities:

- Putting in place a more sustainable common European Energy policy;
- Fighting climate change.

The 20-20-20 objectives being:

- Increasing the share of renewable energy in the European energy mix to 20%;
- Reducing CO₂ emissions in EU countries by 20%;
- Increasing energy efficiency by 20% by 2020.

In Europe, in 2008, only 8.5% of energy consumption came from renewable resources.

By 2014, the climate-energy package has set new targets for 2030:

- 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 (the only binding objective);
- 27% renewable energy in the energy mix;
- 27% energy efficiency.

Description and Main Objectives

In order to implement the European Union climate plan's objectives within its territory Ireland wished to set up a program to reduce the energy consumption in the public sector through measures supporting a responsible energy use. The aim is to provide innovative solutions for the implementation of projects that meet European objectives. The Program is included in Ireland's National Energy Efficiency Action Plan; it is managed in partnership with the energy agencies and the SEAI (Ireland's Sustainable Development and Energy Authority), which manages energy financing programs in Ireland.

The program is built on four pillars: partnership, networking, project support and a bespoke online reporting system.

This program promotes energy management and best practices to over 325 public bodies and 3,700 schools in Ireland. It has been instrumental in helping public bodies work towards the Irish government's ambitious 33 % energy efficiency target for the public sector for 2020.

The programme was shortlisted in 2016 at the EU Sustainable Energy Awards, one of only nine shortlisted from over 200 nominations Europe-wide.

Through the programme, Ireland's public sector made €121 million savings and avoided 418,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions in 2014.



This project has received funding from European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 695923

Implementation Strategy

SEAI's programme has four main pillars:

- 1) The Energy Partnership Agreements initiative engages the top level of public sector organisations to secure their commitment to strategic energy management – its 75 partners represent over 75 % of public sector energy consumption. The initiative has two energy management options: the Energy Management Action Programme (Energy MAP - an online resource, supported by bespoke training) and the ISO5001 support programme (a tailored programme developed by SEAI in response to the drive to complete energy audits under the Energy Efficiency Directive);
- 2) Networking supports the best practice services. These services have delivered over 600 energy assessments and given specialist advice to public bodies on integrating the principles of energy-efficient design into energy-intensive capital projects. An online forum, 'Energy Link', facilitates active sharing and exchange of information, knowledge and real-life experience on energy management between 1 100 members. In addition, communities of practice (COP) have been established in priority areas, covering public lighting, transport, buildings, energy awareness and leisure centres;
- 3) The drafting of a handbook, which details a Project Development Process concept through to completion for all types of contracting, from an Energy Performance Related Payment through to Energy Performance Contracting. The handbook contains templates, tools and model forms of contracts and procurement templates approved for use by public bodies.
- 4) The online monitoring and reporting (M&R) system that tracks progress toward the 33 % energy efficiency target. In 2015, over 87 % of public bodies reported; the system includes a comprehensive set of supports, including a dedicated helpdesk, access to expert advisors and annual training across the country.

The expected outcomes range from financial savings, a clear priority in current economic circumstances (savings of 20% in energy use through proven management and technology solutions), the respect the legal requirements (33% energy savings by 2020 and reduction of emissions), to the reduction of GHG emissions.

Time Frame

Start: 2009 — End: Ongoing

Budget

The annual budget is 150 000 €

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