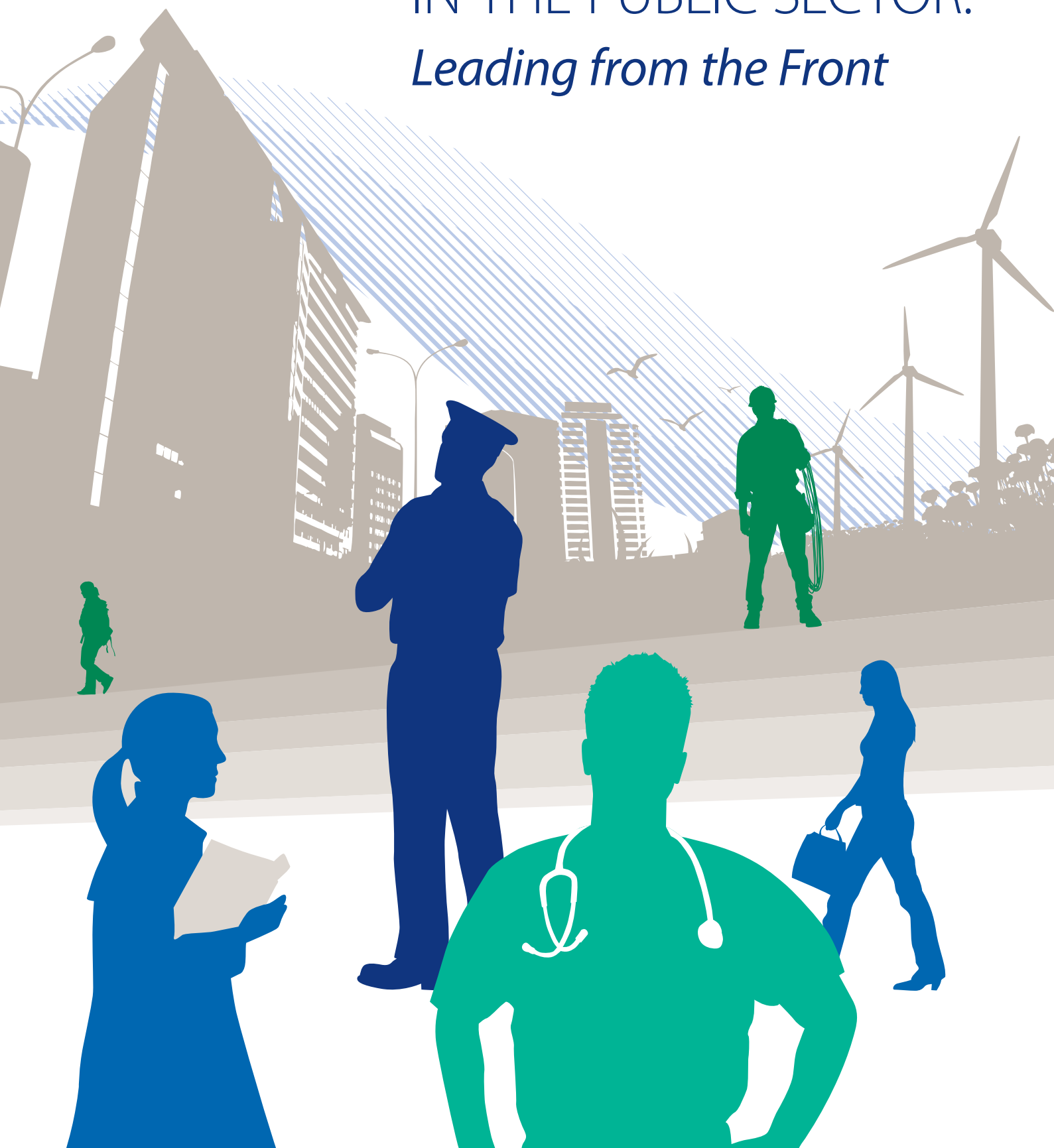


ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR: *Leading from the Front*



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In every public sector organisation, the case for embedding a strong system of energy management within the overall management remit is now clear, both for cost efficiency reasons and to meet national and EU regulatory obligations. The good news is that the tools, supports and experience are available, and a growing number of public bodies are showing the way. We invite you to join them.

The Cost and Climate Challenge

Ireland's public sector faces a period of profound challenge in which cost efficiency and rigorous management are visible imperatives. Energy use is a growing focus of attention in both the public and business sectors, for cost control reasons and because it is the dominant factor in greenhouse gas emissions. Annual energy expenditure across the public sector is estimated at €500M.

The public sector is now being challenged to take a collective leadership role in adopting high energy efficiency standards and practices that can exemplify and help drive change through to all sectors, saving costs, cutting emissions and putting the brake on climate change.

The Policy

The National Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2009 – 2020 (NEEAP), published by the Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources, sets an overall national goal of 20% improvement in energy efficiency by 2020, within which the public sector is set a more demanding improvement target of 33%.

The Government's NEEAP and the European Communities (Energy End-Use Efficiency and Energy Services) Regulations 2009 place several obligations on public bodies regarding their 'exemplary role' in relation to energy efficiency. These include obligations on energy efficient procurement, energy management practices, use of energy efficient buildings and annual reporting of the actions being taken to improve energy efficiency.

Energy efficiency programmes must now be introduced for government departments, all state agencies, the health service, education, local government and other public bodies.

Positive Benefits

Energy efficiency offers the most accessible and cost-effective means of cutting the greenhouse gas emissions that result in climate change. It cuts day to day running costs, letting us 'do more with less'. Experience points to energy expenditure savings frequently exceeding 20% from well proven practices and technologies.

Public sector organisations that act on energy efficiency will be rewarded with real cost savings and environmental benefits, without compromising service quality.



Making It Happen

Making this happen is not trivial, but nor is it rocket science. What is required is a structured, consistent and enquiring management approach from within, suitable to the scale of energy needs. This can be assisted by specialist guidance and support from organisations such as SEAI and OPW. This approach will identify and capture savings through improved procurement, operational and management practices and possible retrofitting of buildings and facilities. But the vital factor in gaining, and sustaining, broad organisational engagement and success is a strong corporate commitment starting from the top.

Getting Started

The key upfront investment required is a senior management commitment to putting an energy management system in place for the organisation. The first law of energy saving is: the greater the commitment, the greater the saving.

We know that the first steps can be the hardest. The greatest need for guidance and support tends to occur in those early stages. SEAI is here to help public sector organisations in taking those steps, or in building on progress already made.


Leading Through Partnership

Responding to these challenges and opportunities, growing numbers of public sector organisations are taking a lead. Below are some examples of organisations now beginning to take great strides and willing to make the commitment by joining the Public Sector Energy Partnership initiative and taking the path to multiannual energy savings. We hope their example encourages your organisation to join this initiative, which is modelled on successful experience with energy management in the business sector.

Entering into this partnership will secure a range of practical advice and support from SEAI which will help to equip the organisation with the practical tools and skills to deliver an energy efficiency programme geared to its needs. It will allow you to benefit from the collective resources and experiences of participating organisations across the public sector. Committing to partnership in this way provides a strong framework for success. To find out more, please contact publicsector@seai.ie

Following Through

Public bodies and SEAI are already working together in a variety of ways. We offer specialist resources and practical assistance that help you achieve your energy saving goals faster and smarter, learning from the real experiences of others. These include guidance on energy-efficient design and procurement, structured energy management and reporting tools, training, and best practice project case studies, both newbuild and retrofit. Full details can be found at www.seai.ie/publicsector



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the greater the saving.**

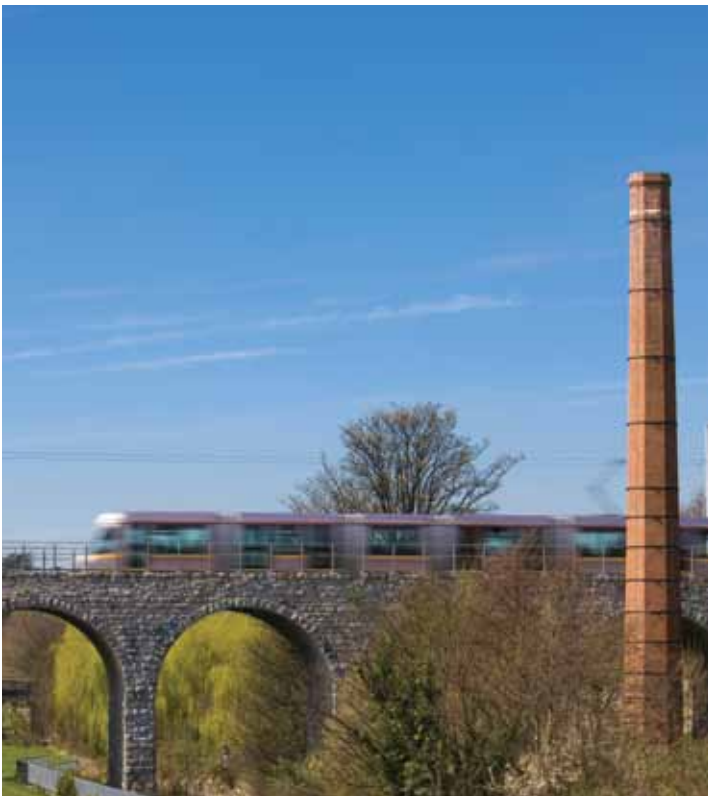
THE PUBLIC SECTOR: *Leading by Example. Succeeding with Initiative.*

THE RAILWAY PROCUREMENT AGENCY

“With responsibility for large long term investments in transport infrastructure, we need to ensure the life cycle energy costs are minimised. We aim to achieve this through an energy efficient design approach.”

Frank Allen, CEO, Rail Procurement Agency

The RPA considers the savings flowing from a sustainable energy strategy to represent a “strong business case” for reducing energy consumption. Bold planning and full corporate involvement are considered key components in achieving results. Already, a 19% reduction in electricity consumption has been recorded over a six month period in one of its office buildings (compared to the same six months in the previous year). In addition, the RPA review of its Metro North design identified opportunities to yield substantial energy savings. These accomplishments provide further impetus for even greater savings through the design and procurement phases of large light rail infrastructure projects, which will stand as landmarks in progressive public transport design.



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BUS ÉIREANN

“Bus Éireann serves the needs of our customers throughout the country in an efficient, effective, safe and sustainable way. Energy efficiency means we can operate our nationwide integrated network at a lower energy cost and further supports our contribution to the environment.”

Tim Hayes, CEO, Bus Éireann

Bus Éireann is committed to effective energy management, to making energy savings in the short term and to playing its part in meeting the Public Sector 33% energy efficiency improvement target by 2020. The bulk of Bus Éireann’s annual energy consumption is the fuel used by the vehicle fleet (over 30 million litres of diesel per annum). This provides the greatest potential for energy saving, so Bus Éireann and SEAI have been working together to develop an ECOdriving training programme. ECOdriving trials with drivers from Bus Éireann’s Kells depot in September 2009 demonstrated that savings are possible in test conditions, and a programme was carried out for the training of a further 245 drivers in Sept-Oct 2010. Bus Éireann is aiming for at least 5% saving in real world traffic and road conditions. ECOdriving will also reduce the company’s emissions. In addition, energy efficient lighting has been installed in the Waterford and Broadstone garages with approximately 7% reductions in electricity bills. Lighting upgrades are now planned for other garages across the country.



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KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

“Sustainable energy has become a key aspect of our remit as a local authority. Tackling and improving energy efficiency in our own buildings, facilities and operations year on year has been one of our most rewarding achievements.”

Tom Curran, County Manager, Kerry County Council

Kerry County Council has embarked on a viable and realisable programme for energy sustainability. It has a dedicated internal team focussed on progressive delivering of new energy efficiency projects within the Council's services year upon year. For example, an efficiency project at Dingle wastewater treatment plant will yield an estimated €22,000 per year in savings. The Council is also committed to retrofit projects in several of its facilities and these projects will result in meeting and exceeding the targets set by the Council's sustainable energy programme.



An efficiency project at Dingle wastewater treatment plant will yield an estimated €22,000 per year in savings.

AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

“An Garda Síochána has benefited greatly from its experiences to date in implementing energy saving projects and developing our sustainable energy programme . We will work with SEAI and the Office of Public Works (OPW), who are our building agents, to play our part in improving our energy efficiency by 33% by the year 2020 in accordance with the target set under the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2009-2020”.

Fachtna Murphy, Commissioner of An Garda Síochána

In 2009, An Garda Síochána received funding support from the SEAI for a number of energy efficiency projects. These projects were implemented in collaboration with the OPW in a number of locations nationally. They ranged from the installation of sensor-lighting systems and heating controls to insulation works, and are yielding positive financial results.



An Garda Síochána has put in place on-the-ground initiatives which are yielding positive financial results.

MORE PARTNERSHIPS, MORE RESULTS

Department of Communications, Energy and
Natural Resources

Department of Education and Skills

Department of Justice and Law Reform

Health Service Executive

Irish Prison Service

Louth County Council

North Tipperary County Council

The Courts Service of Ireland

The Defence Forces

The Office of Public Works

Local authorities use up to 60% of their electricity on water services at a cost of approximately €48 million per annum. Real opportunities exist to reduce this amount by 20–30%.

There are over 400,000 public lights in Ireland. The vast majority are operated by local authorities who annually spend €50 million operating and maintaining them. This expenditure could be cut by up to 30%.

In 2009, grants to public sector bodies totalling €4.25 million are yielding annual savings of 25 million kWh.



THE GOAL IS SET. THE ROUTE IS CLEAR. THE FIRST STEP IS PARTNERSHIP.

You are invited to start the journey towards making energy sustainability a reality in your organisation. Action on energy efficiency is now mandatory, and is central to tackling our exposure to energy price rises and the threat of climate change. It makes sense to engage in a resolute strategy to address these issues.

By working together and showing leadership, public sector organisations can play the strong visible role required of them in delivering on the multiannual

obligations set in the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan. Many such organisations throughout the country are already experiencing financial and other benefits from practical actions that improve their energy efficiency.

The first movers on this journey show that leadership is forthcoming. You are invited to join them in the Public Sector Energy Partnership initiative which provides the framework for affirming your organisation's top level commitment to playing its role, and for building its energy management resources and skills with the help of SEAI. To find out more, please contact publicsector@seai.ie

PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT



The first law of energy saving: the greater the commitment, the greater the saving

2010



2020

The earlier the agreement: the sooner the targets can be achieved



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