



Media Information

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Over €2 million granted for sustainable energy houses and apartments in key regions in Ireland

Over €2 million in funding has been allocated towards energy efficient and renewable energy features in 225 apartments and 226 houses in Galway, Offaly, Louth, Donegal, Clare, Laois, Cork and Dublin. That is according to Tom Halpin from Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI), who was speaking during Energy Awareness Week.

The new funding is being provided under the House of Tomorrow programme, which is managed by SEI. This latest announcement brings the total number of housing units supported by the programme to 2,269 with total support funding at almost €9m.

The aim of the House of Tomorrow programme is to accelerate improvements in the quality of energy features in Irish housing. It will do this by funding projects researching, developing and demonstrating more sustainable energy practices. Its focus is to stimulate the widespread uptake of superior sustainable energy planning, design, specification and construction practices in both the new home building and home improvement markets.

The sustainable energy features across the range of projects funded include: solar hot water systems, ground source heat pumps, condensing boilers, group heating schemes and mechanical ventilation with heat recovery.

Commenting on the funding, Tom Halpin of SEI said, "The housing sector has been identified as a key area requiring major innovations to improve its energy performance and to help reduce Ireland's levels of harmful greenhouse gas emissions. One of the main objectives of the House of Tomorrow Programme is to encourage and develop sustainable energy practices across the homebuilding sector".

“Under the new funding granted, 310 of the housing units will have an energy performance that is at least 40% better than the current building regulations and the remaining 141 units will be 20% better or more. The people who live in these houses will benefit from reduced energy bills, increased comfort and convenience and the satisfaction that they are doing their part to help combat Climate Change by reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions in Ireland”.

The theme of this year’s Energy Awareness Week campaign, which runs from 18th – 24th September, is Combat Climate Change. The campaign aims to encourage all of us to play our part in addressing this very serious issue. A special website www.combatclimatechange.ie has been launched which highlights the actions that can be taken by people to help Combat Climate Change. The site also includes an energy calculator which allows people to find out if there are a high or low energy user.

Sustainable Energy Ireland is a statutory authority charged with promoting and assisting the development of sustainable energy. Sustainable Energy Ireland is funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2000-2006 with programmes part financed by the European Union.

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