



ENERGY EFFICIENT HOUSING UNITS OFFICIALLY OPENED IN GALWAY BY MINISTER NOEL AHERN

TO RESULT IN REDUCED HEATING BILLS IN EXCESS OF 50 per cent

Thursday, 14 July 2005 – Noel Ahern, Minister for Housing and Urban Renewal, yesterday officially opened an energy efficient refurbishment project in Mervue, Galway. The project received part funding of €240,000 from Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) for the energy efficient features of the buildings.

The project involved the refurbishment of six blocks of flats – 96 units in total at Walter Macken Place, Mervue. The flats, which were constructed in 1970s, originally had single glazing windows, minimum standards of insulation to limit heat loss and poor heating control and efficiency. The improved energy efficient measures now include significant insulation upgrades to the walls, floors and roofs and also more energy efficient doors and windows. Gas-fired condensing boilers with comprehensive heating controls were also installed.

Support and €240,000 of funding for the energy efficient features of the new Walter Macken scheme were granted through SEI's House of Tomorrow Programme. The SEI programme aims to stimulate widespread uptake of superior sustainable energy planning, design, specification and construction practices in both the new home building and home improvement markets.

Derek Robertson, House of Tomorrow programme manager, SEI said: "The upgrades achieved in these buildings will result in savings in excess of 50 per cent on heating bills. It will also significantly reduce related Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions and reliance on imported fossil fuels. The development provides an excellent example of how careful planning and specification in the refurbishment of Irish housing can enhance quality of life and help reduce potential impacts on the global climate."

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Editors Notes:

Sustainable Energy Ireland, was established on May 1st, 2002, as a statutory authority charged with promoting and assisting the development of a sustainable national energy economy and is funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2000-2006 with programmes part financed by the European Union.

The House of Tomorrow funding programme offers support for research, development and demonstration projects aimed at generating and applying technologies, products, systems, practices and information for greater sustainable energy performance in Irish housing.