



Media Information

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Supply of Renewable energy in Ireland increases, new figures reveal

Primary energy consumption in Ireland increased by 1.5% in 2004, with renewable energy showing the highest growth rate of almost 20% to meet this growing demand. This increased the share of renewables in primary energy consumption in Ireland from 1.5% in 2003 to 2.2% in 2004. That is according to new figures published by Sustainable Energy Ireland today.

The figures also revealed an increase in renewable contribution to electricity. Final consumption of electricity increased by 2.5% in 2004, though the carbon intensity of electricity continued to fall in 2004 reaching 627 g CO₂/kWh. This was brought about by a 41% reduction in peat in the generation fuel mix and a 22% increase in renewable energy contribution. Wind generation was primarily responsible for this increase showing a 44% increase in electricity generated by wind compared with 2003. The reduction in peat generation was due to the closure of some of the older peat stations and also a slight decrease in domestic consumption

Commenting, Mr. David Taylor, Chief Executive - SEI, said, "While energy consumption continues to increase, it is encouraging to see that the supply mix is going in the right direction with the growth in renewables. However, overall Ireland's energy use continues to produce large quantities of carbon dioxide which contributes to climate change. It is imperative that the uptake of sustainable energy technologies continues and accelerates, to ensure we continue to work towards combating the negative impacts of climate change in Ireland".

This week is Energy Awareness Week. The objective of the campaign this year is encourage everyone to help play their part in combating climate change. In line with this a special website www.combatclimatechange.ie has been launched which highlights the actions that be taken by individuals to help combat Climate Change.

Sustainable Energy Ireland was established on May 1st 2002 as a statutory authority charged with promoting and assisting the development of sustainable energy in Ireland. 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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