



Media Information

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## **Growth in Energy-Related CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Outpaced Growth in Energy Use in 2005 – Sustainable Energy Ireland**

Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) has today published a set of reports which show that growth in energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2005 was higher than primary energy growth for the first time since 2001. The reports, *Energy in Ireland 1990-2005* and *Security of Supply in Ireland 2006*, are produced by SEI's Energy Policy Statistical Support Unit (EPSSU) and show that in 2005 energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> grew by 3.2% compared with a growth of 3% in energy use.

### Key findings:

- Growth in energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2005 was higher than energy growth for the first time since 2001. Forty seven million tonnes of energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> were emitted in 2005, 53% higher than 1990 levels and the highest level since 2001.
- Renewable energy grew by 26% in 2005 with wind growing by 70%. Electricity generated from renewable sources reached 6.8% of gross electricity consumption in 2005.
- In 2005 Ireland imported 90% of its energy requirements. Oil, all of which is imported, currently accounts for 57% of energy use, while consumption of oil increased by 2.8% in 2005.
- Transport energy growth in 2005 was 8.2%, almost 3% points above economic growth and continues to be the largest end use sectors accounting for 41% of the final use of energy.

David Taylor, Chief Executive, SEI said "As predicted in the previous "Energy in Ireland" report covering 1990-2004, energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions increased in 2005. However the growth in renewable energy production last year was very encouraging and it succeeded in limiting the increase in emissions to 3.2% rather than the 4.1% it would have been had renewables not increased to the extent that they did."

"While both reports have highlighted several encouraging statistics, not least the levels of growth in renewable energy in 2005, Ireland still faces very real and serious challenges in reducing its emissions and meeting its energy demand now and into the future. The recent Government Green Paper on Energy has proposed targets for a path to meeting these challenges in a sustainable manner. Future instalments of SEI's "Energy in Ireland" and "Security of Supply" report series will, we hope, demonstrate success in this respect." added David Taylor.

The growth in energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions was primarily as a result of:

- a 73% increase in peat consumption in electricity generation,
- a reduction of 9% in the use of gas for electricity generation,
- an overall increase of 5.6% in the final consumption of electricity.

Included in the report findings is a projected increase of 30% in Ireland's future energy requirements by 2020. It is clear that on present growth trends there significant challenges to be faced with respect to containing energy related greenhouse gas emission growth and assuring the security of energy supplies. In 2005 Ireland imported 90% of its energy requirements.

Renewable electricity generation, with contributions from wind, hydro, landfill gas, biomass and other biogas, in 2005 accounted for 6.8% of gross electricity consumption compared with 5.2% in 2004. The national target is to achieve 15% renewable electricity in electricity supply by 2010.

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**Editors Notes:**

**About SEI**

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