



Media Information

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## **Industry Avoided €27 Million in Energy Costs Last Year -SEI Report Highlights Competitive Benefits of Energy Efficiency Initiatives**

Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) has today recognised the achievements of Irish industry in avoiding €27 million in energy costs in 2005. The figures were announced at the launch of SEI's Large Industry Energy Network (LIEN) Annual Report for 2005. SEI's LIEN consists of over 80 of Ireland's large industrial energy users, collectively accounting for about 60% of Ireland's industrial energy use. LIEN member companies have avoided over 754,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent since the scheme began in 1995.

SEI's LIEN is a voluntary networking initiative for large industrial energy users aimed at improving the management and efficient use of energy in their respective businesses. LIEN members share information on energy saving technologies and techniques to maximise savings and maintain competitiveness. Member companies have an annual average energy spend of around €4 million.

David Taylor, CEO, SEI said; "LIEN members are to be commended for the commitment they have shown in adopting best practice in energy management. This commitment is clearly underpinned by a realisation that energy efficiency is now a key business imperative for companies struggling with the mounting burden of rising energy costs."

LIEN member companies set targets for reducing their energy usage annually and report on the activities and technologies contributing to their performance. The report shows that in 2005, member companies collectively avoided 4.2% of potential energy requirements through the application of energy efficient initiatives.

"Recent data published by SEI has shown that Ireland is 87% dependent on imported fossil fuels. This figure highlights the enormous competitive challenges facing industry and the economy as a whole. In this regard, companies involved in LIEN and SEI's other initiatives for industry, namely Energy Agreements and the IS393 Irish Energy Standard, are giving themselves the best possible chance of meeting these challenges head on and in doing so maintaining their competitiveness," added Mr Taylor.

In May of this year SEI launched its Energy Agreements Programme for Industry. The programme is based on the new Irish Energy Management Standard, IS 393. Ten of Ireland's largest energy users have already signed up to the programme with more companies expected to sign up in the coming months.

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**Editors Notes:**

A copy of the full report can be downloaded from [www.sei.ie](http://www.sei.ie)

**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.