



**Media Information**

**16 November 2006**

## **Ireland's Energy Efficient Companies Already Reaping Cost Benefits of €28 million – SEI Sustainable Energy Awards Presented**

Despite the harsh reality of rising energy costs, companies in Ireland are now making notable strides in embracing a more sustainable approach to how they use energy and are ultimately achieving cost savings and improving their competitiveness as a result. This was the message delivered by David Taylor, Chief Executive Officer of Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI), who was speaking at the third annual Sustainable Energy Awards at the Berkeley Court Hotel, in Dublin tonight.

The Sustainable Energy Awards, now an All-Island initiative, are organised by SEI and sponsored by ESB Customer Supply. The awards aim to recognise excellence in energy management. Thirteen awards in total were presented across seven categories including renewable energy, energy management and energy awareness campaigns. This year, participating companies account for an annual energy expenditure in excess of €400 million and are achieving average energy savings of 7%, equating to €28 million per annum.

Guest of honour at the awards, Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, Noel Dempsey said; "It is now a strategic priority to move our economy towards greater energy efficiency and a lower carbon and greenhouse gas emissions footprint. For business that means doing what Irish companies do well – facing down the competitiveness challenge and taking proactive steps to ensure success and I am delighted to see so many companies here tonight rising to meet this challenge. .

This year's awards saw a significant increase in the number of SME's participating, emphasising how organisations, regardless of size, can benefit from sustainable energy projects.

Substantial savings are also possible from low cost measures including energy awareness campaigns and the quality and number of such entries received demonstrate that more companies are fully engaging their employees and benefiting accordingly. Some of the

nominated companies achieved savings in excess of 10% merely through educating employees about the benefits of sustainable energy and changing behaviour accordingly.

David Taylor, Chief Executive, SEI said; "The number and quality of entries from SME's is particularly encouraging. Many companies, both large and small, now realise that energy efficiency is an important issue for businesses performance. Those companies involved in the Awards lead their field in sustainable energy and are reaping the benefits in competitiveness and contribution to the bottom line. "

Padraig McManus, Chief Executive, ESB said "ESB Customer Supply is delighted to be associated with the Sustainable Energy Awards 2006. Energy saving is the quickest most efficient and most economic means of reducing usage and thus reducing energy costs. We all have a part to play in our national obligation to reduce emission levels."

The 2006 Sustainable Energy Awards Winners are:

**Category A: Coordinated Energy Management Programme**

Commercial Sector Winner - Jurys Doyle Hotel Group Ltd

Small Industry Sector Winner - Silver Hill Foods.

Large Industrial Winner - Pfizer Ireland Pharmaceuticals Little Island.

**Category B: Electrical and/or thermal energy Project**

Small Industry Winner - ABB Dundalk

Large Industry Winner - Carbery Group Ltd

Small Public Sector Winner - DIT Cathal Brugha St

Small Commercial Winner - Shamrock Foods

**Category C: Renewable Energy Project**

Musgrave Group Ltd

**Category D: Energy Awareness Campaign**

Merck Sharp and Dohme

**Category E: Energy Service or Supply Company**

Fingleton White and Company Ltd.

**Category F: Excellence in Building Design of Specification**

Kildare County Council

**Category G: Energy Manager of the Year**

Dr Heather Thompson, Ballymena Borough Council

**Energy Achievement Award**

A special award was presented to Aughinish Alumina Ltd for its outstanding contribution to the area of Energy Management.

Originally launched in 1996 as the Boiler Awards and renamed the Sustainable Energy Awards in 2004, the awards support three crucial aspects of Sustainable Energy – Excellence in Technology, Excellence in Organisation, Excellence in People. In 1996, 65 sites were involved in the competition, accounting for an annual energy spend on fuel of €24 million. The projects undertaken yielded energy savings of €368,000. This year 154 nominations were received with a combined energy spend of €400 million per annum. 2006 is also the first year that entries from Northern Ireland were invited.

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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.