



**Media Information**

**13 September 2006**

## **Energy efficient housing development launched in Galway**

### **Houses are over 70% more energy efficient**

Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) has launched a major energy efficient housing development in Tuam, Co Galway. Consisting of 140 steel framed houses, a crèche and shopping units, the development has been built by Coffey Construction Ltd and fifty of the houses are funded by SEI under its House of Tomorrow programme.

Construction work on Carraigweir commenced in January 2005 and involved the application of a number of different energy efficient building technologies. Houses in the development are over 70% more energy efficient than houses built to standard Building Regulations requirements. The increased energy efficiency will result in lower energy bills and reduced running costs for homeowners. Some of the sustainable energy features of the houses which were part funded by SEI include:

- Increased levels of insulation and sealing
- Highly efficient argon filled glazing
- Air to water heat pump for primary heating requirements
- Heat recovery ventilation system for high air quality, in conjunction with the absence of chimneys
- Programmable computerised and weather compensation control system
- Automatic monitoring and householder information on energy consumption.

Commenting on the launch, Kevin O'Rourke, Head of Built Environment, SEI said, "High quality projects of this kind by progressive developers willing to apply innovative practices can offer substantial benefits to the consumer and the country alike. These new homes will deliver high levels of comfort and cut heating bills by up to 70%. Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions and reliance on imported fossil fuels will also be reduced by up to 60%. This development is an excellent example of how superior construction and modern services can enhance quality of life and help reduce potential impacts on the global climate."

Part funding of €400,000 for the energy efficient features of the development was granted through SEI's House of Tomorrow Programme. The programme aims to stimulate the widespread uptake of superior sustainable energy planning, design, specification and construction practices, in both the new home building and home improvement markets. To date over €22m has been committed to over 90 projects, covering over 4,000 homes located nationwide.

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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.