

**Has your business made the cut? Search begins for Ireland's
brightest businesses to demonstrate greatest energy savings ~
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland invites entries for
eighth Sustainable Energy Awards ~**

Sunday, April 17th: The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) today declared entries open for the eight all-island Sustainable Energy Awards. Sponsored by ESB Electric Ireland, the Awards honour individuals and organisations that demonstrate excellence in sustainable energy practices.

Commenting on the launch of the Awards, Professor J. Owen Lewis, CEO, SEAI said, *"Companies across Ireland have made huge strides in energy management in recent years resulting in significant savings on energy costs. We have seen that companies are not just adopting the latest sustainable energy technologies, but are embracing energy awareness programmes and a new way of thinking around energy management driven by staff and management alike. That is why the Sustainable Energy Awards are so important in recognising the efforts taken to reduce energy costs and emissions."*

The Awards competition is open to private and public sector organisations of all sizes throughout the island of Ireland. There are nine categories in total including categories for Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, Innovation, Energy Awareness, and the prestigious Energy Manager of the Year award. The Sustainable Energy Innovation award is designed to recognise the many Irish businesses that are pioneering innovation and entrepreneurship throughout their business operations, and setting improved sustainability standards in the process.

Entrants to the 2010 Sustainable Energy Awards demonstrated energy savings of €17 million in one year alone, with an additional €40 million in projected cost savings identified. Last year's 'Outstanding Energy Manager of the Year for Large Users' went to Brian Scannell of the Musgrave Group, which delivered over 3GWh in energy savings since

2007, equivalent to 5% year on year savings. Other 2010 Award winners included: family run business **Matthews Coach Hire**; multinationals **Radisson Blu Hotel and Spa, Cork** and IFSC-based international bank **Citi**; research institute **Tyndall**; and energy services company **Crowley Carbon Ltd**.

Brid Horan, Executive Director, ESB Electric Ireland, said, *“ESB Electric Ireland is delighted to renew our partnership with SEAI for their annual Sustainable Energy Awards. Sustainability and energy efficiency has become an essential cornerstone of Irish business planning. These awards celebrate innovation in achieving best practice to deliver energy savings through the latest sustainable energy technologies. We are delighted to play our part in supporting businesses who demonstrate real success in energy management.”*

Further information on the 2011 Sustainable Energy Awards and Expression of Interest forms can be found on SEAI's website www.seai.ie/energyawards. Closing date for completed entries is 10th June 2011. Overall winners will be announced at a gala event in Dublin in November.

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About SEAI:

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) has a mission to play a leading role in transforming Ireland into a society based on sustainable energy structures, technologies and practices. SEAI is partly financed by Ireland's EU Structural Funds Programme co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union.

Notes to editor:

Awards Categories

Category A: Energy Efficiency Award Small/Medium User (≤€350k total annual energy spend)

Category B: Energy Management Award, Small/Medium User (≤€350k total annual energy spend)

Category C: Energy Efficiency Award, Major User (>€350k total annual energy spend)

Category D: Integrated Energy Management Award, Major User (>€350k total annual energy spend)

Category E: Energy Manager of the Year Award, Major User (>€350k total energy spend)

Category F: Renewable Energy Systems Award

Category G: Energy Awareness Award

Category H: Energy Sustainability in the Built Environment Award

Category I: Sustainable Energy Innovation Award