



Media Release

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## **€60 million saved on energy bills by large employers**

**~ International experts convene at SEI energy management conference to learn of Ireland's success in energy efficiency ~**

Ireland's largest employers improved their competitiveness by avoiding €60 million in energy costs in 2008, Mr Eamon Ryan, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources announced today (12 November) at the Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) global conference on energy management in Farmleigh, Dublin. Energy experts from over 20 countries including the US, Japan, Italy and Finland gathered to learn about the success of Ireland's large enterprises in driving substantial energy efficiencies through implementing Ireland's Energy Management Standard.

Intel, Diageo, Pfizer, Glanbia and Tesco are amongst the 122 members of SEI's Large Energy Network (LIEN) who collectively reduced their energy costs by €60 million in 2008. These savings are the latest in a strong trend that has seen some of Ireland's leading companies improve their energy efficiency by 30% on average over the last decade.

Launching the annual LIEN report at the conference, Minister Ryan said: *"Ireland's large enterprises are developing innovative energy solutions and moving towards exporting their energy expertise. This is vital to developing the green economy and supporting jobs and innovative industry into the future. It also builds upon Ireland's foundation as a leader in the area of energy management, which we are delighted to share with our international colleagues attending today's conference in Farmleigh."*

Commenting, Professor Owen Lewis, CEO SEI, said: *"€60 million in savings is of huge importance in these economic times. It demonstrates again that many Irish companies are very successfully improving their energy performance and reducing costs. Ireland is building an international reputation for success in advanced energy management."*

SEI's LIEN programme has been in place for 15 years. Participants in the programme represent over 60% of Ireland's industrial energy use and collectively had energy costs in excess of €1 billion in 2008.

A full copy of the report including company case studies is available at: [www.sei.ie/business](http://www.sei.ie/business)

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**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, with programmes part-financed by the European Union.