



Media Information

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## **Four leading colleges in Ireland achieve reductions in energy consumption through new monitoring initiative**

### **College Energy Management Bureau enjoys successful first year Annual energy savings of 3.3% achieved in 2004, exceeding targets**

Average annual energy savings of 3.3% have been achieved by four Dublin-based colleges as part of a new University Energy Management Bureau initiative. The Bureau, called e3 and launched in 2004 by Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI), unites four of Ireland's largest third level institutions, in an effort to reduce their annual energy consumption.

Servicing Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT), Trinity College Dublin, Dublin City University and University College Dublin, e3 aims to achieve a 10% reduction in collective energy consumption over 3 years. In 2004, the Bureau's first year of operation, overall energy savings of 3.3% were achieved, exceeding the first year target of 3%. This represents a total cost saving of €119,895 or 976 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions avoided. Savings in energy costs at the end of year three are projected at over €315,000 per annum, equivalent to 3,230 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The Bureau, which refers to an Energy Management Service Provider, focuses on achieving energy efficiencies in thirty major buildings with a total annual energy spend exceeding €3 million. These include lecturing, administration and library buildings and research buildings with high electricity demand.

Under the Kyoto Protocol, which officially came into force on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005, Ireland has agreed to limit emissions growth to 13% above 1990 levels by 2012. Describing the protocol as an 'historic and unprecedented international agreement' David Taylor, CEO of SEI, said that its adoption and coming into force sets a new point of departure on the road to sustainability by confronting the threat of global warming in such a creative, flexible and realistic way. 'All of us, whether in business, industry or indeed in the home, have a responsibility to ensure that we meet our Kyoto targets. As such, initiatives such as the e3 Bureau can play a very important role in helping to reduce energy consumption levels and resulting emissions', he said.

Working together with a common focus, the colleges share system set-up costs and learn from one another. The Bureau acts as a full time monitoring service on energy usage and professionally analyses investment and management options. As part of the new Bureau, a series of energy audits have been undertaken at each university campus to analyse how energy is currently consumed in each building, to identify energy saving measures and to set targets for future performance. This resulted in some of the colleges investing in identified measures such as improved lighting and controls.

SEI is providing 50% of the funding for the initiative under its public sector programme.

Commenting on the achievements of the Bureau in its first year of operation, Mr. Taylor, said, "The Bureau was originally formed for two main reasons - to save money and to help reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions. I am delighted to see that already it is exceeding these goals. The Bureau has achieved significant progress in a short space of time and is well positioned to continue to deliver further energy savings throughout 2005. Each of the colleges is to be commended for the stellar efforts they have made".

He continued, "It is essential that the public sector, including universities and other colleges, leads by example in energy conservation and energy efficiency in Ireland. This Bureau is doing just that by showcasing examples of best practice and innovation in reducing energy consumption in Irish universities".

The monitoring system and further information on the e3 initiative may be accessed at [www.e3.ie](http://www.e3.ie).

Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) was established on May 1st 2002, as a 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.

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