

100 Dublin city centre flats granted funding of €500,000 for major energy refurbishment project

Funding of €500,000 has been granted to Dublin City Council towards the energy efficiency refurbishment of 100 Dublin city centre flats. That is according to David Taylor of Sustainable Energy Ireland who announced details of the funding today in Dublin. The refurbishment project will be handled by Dublin City Council, in partnership with the City of Dublin Energy Management Agency (CODEMA).

As part of the refurbishment project, a total of 100 flats in Bridgefoot Street, Queens Street / Marmion Court, and Ballybough, will be upgraded to include better fabric insulation, controlled ventilation and high efficiency gas boilers. Other measures will include the use of low energy lighting and user-friendly "smart cards" to better enable residents to control their fuel budgeting.

The project aims to achieve more than a 50% reduction in energy use and Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions, relative to previous performance. Under the Kyoto Protocol, Ireland must limit emissions of greenhouse gases, of which CO₂ is a significant contributor, to 13% above its 1990 level by 2010.

The funding has been granted through the House of Tomorrow Programme. The programme supports projects that will encourage the widespread uptake of sustainable energy planning, design and construction practices in the residential built environment. The House of Tomorrow Programme is managed by Sustainable Energy Ireland.

Commenting, David Taylor, Chief Executive, SEI said, "The housing sector in Ireland has been identified as a key area requiring major innovations to improve its energy performance and to help reduce Ireland's levels of harmful greenhouse gas emissions. This particular refurbishment project in Dublin

sets a welcome precedent highlighting that energy efficient design expertise and modelling can just as easily be applied to the refurbishment of social housing".

"One of the main objectives of the House of Tomorrow funding programme is to encourage and develop sustainable energy practices in Irish homebuilding. The Programme will contribute to workable least-cost solutions which can improve energy performance and reduce environmental emissions from Irish housing and help to meet our national commitments arising from the Kyoto Protocol. SEI very much welcomes the cooperation of Local Authorities with Local Energy Agencies in moving the sustainability agenda in the context of better quality and more energy efficient housing".

The House of Tomorrow Programme is one of a number of programmes operated by Sustainable Energy Ireland which, over time, should help householders potentially reduce their exposure to the proposed carbon / energy tax in 2004 by increasing the energy efficiency of Irish housing stock and by improving the standards that builders use. Given the many systems and services that go into a new house or the refurbishment of an old house, SEI is also actively pursuing the development of standards and certification schemes for heating systems, fabric insulation, and other technologies impacting on energy performance.

Sustainable Energy Ireland is a statutory authority charged with promoting and assisting the development of sustainable energy. Sustainable Energy Ireland 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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Editors Notes:

The House of Tomorrow funding programme will offer support for research, development and demonstration projects aimed at generating and applying technologies, products, systems, practices and information for greater sustainable energy performance in Irish housing. Projects from the social and private housing sectors throughout Ireland will be eligible under the new programme. The geographical groupings for the purposes of the programme will be: Dublin region; Rest of Leinster (excluding BMW countries); Cork catchment; Rest of Munster; and BMW counties.