Media Information **24th February 2005**

Energy efficiency must become a business imperative for all companies in Ireland as Kyoto Protocol is enforced - SEI

Sustainable Energy Awards launched for second year

With increasing pressure on Ireland to reduce levels of harmful greenhouse gas emissions as the Kyoto Protocol is enforced, greater energy efficiency must become a business imperative for all companies. That is according to David Taylor, Chief Executive of Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI), who was speaking at the launch of the second annual Sustainable Energy Awards.

Organised by SEI and sponsored by ESB Customer Supply, the Sustainable Energy Awards reward excellence in energy management in the industrial, commercial and public sectors. First launched in 2004, the Awards proved to be very successful with over 250 entries received.

Under the Kyoto Protocol, which officially came into force on February 16th, 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 a creative, flexible and realistic way.

Mr. Taylor said, "All of us in business and industry have a responsibility to ensure that we meet our Kyoto targets. The business as usual approach is no longer an option. It is our hope that the Sustainable Energy Awards, now in their second year, will have an important role to play in encouraging companies to achieve tangible improvements in energy efficiency, reductions in energy consumption and the consequent reduction in the level of CO_2 emissions. For all of us greater energy efficiency must now be an imperative".

Also commenting, Charles Chapman, General Manager ESB Customer Supply said, "We believe that the efficient use of energy in any business will result in financial reward for the business and contribute to a better environment for everyone. We are actively involved in encouraging an energy efficiency culture among Irish businesses and in promoting energy

efficient solutions for all business sectors that will ultimately contribute to a reduction in energy usage and consequently, a reduction in national CO2 emission levels. We are delighted to be associated with the 2005 Sustainable Energy Awards as a great initiative for increasing the awareness of the importance and value of energy efficiency among the business community and in acknowledging and rewarding those companies who are leading the way in this regard".

In 2005, there will again be eighteen Sustainable Energy Awards across seven categories: Coordinated Energy Management Programme; Electrical Energy Project; Thermal Energy Project; Energy Awareness Campaign; Energy Service or Supply Company; Excellence in Design or Specification; Energy Manager.

For further details about the competition, including entry forms, please visit www.sei.ie/awards.

Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) is 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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Editors Notes:

About the Awards
The Sustainable Energy Awards focus on the individuals and groups who demonstrate a commitment to introduce energy management as an integral part in the operation of their business and provide an opportunity for organisations, regardless of size, to gain public recognition for their achievements in reducing energy use and emissions.

Sustainable Energy Awards 04 - Winners

Category A – Coordinated Energy Management Programme
Overall Winner - Aughinish Alumina Limited
Category B – Electrical Energy Project
Overall Winner- Pfizer Ireland Pharmaceuticals, Ringaskiddy API Plant
Category C – Thermal Energy Project
Overall Winner - Silverhill Foods
Category D – Energy Awareness Campaign
Winner - Glaxosmithkline Ltd Dungarvan

Category E – Energy Service or Supply Company
Winner - Patina
Category F – Excellence in Design or Specification
Winner Overall Building Design or Specification - Gaelscoil an Eiscir Riada - Department of Education and Science
Winner Building Services Design or Specification - John Hume Building – Coady Partnership Architects
Category G – Energy Manager
Overall Winner - Pfizer Ireland Pharmaceuticals**,** Little Island – Martin O'Connor