



ENERGY EFFICIENT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT TO RESULT IN REDUCED HEATING BILLS OF UP TO 50 PER CENT

- LAUNCHED IN MACROOM, COUNTY CORK BY MINISTER BATT O'KEEFFE -

Monday, 13 June 2005 - Batt O'Keeffe, Minister for State at the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, today launched an energy efficient housing project, developed by local company Eco Construction Limited and supported by Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI).

The completed development involves 12 timber framed Eco Houses, built at Sunnyside, Macroom, County Cork. The energy efficient features include: wood pellet boilers for heating, solar panels for domestic hot water; triple-glazed timber windows; cellulose fibre insulation and mechanical ventilation with heat recovery systems.

Derek Robertson, House of Tomorrow programme manager, SEI said: "These new homes will result in savings for the householders of up to 50 per cent on their heating bills. It will also significantly reduce related Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions and reliance on imported fossil fuels. This development provides an excellent example of how quality home construction and modern services can enhance quality of life and help reduce potential impacts on the global climate."

Support and funding for the Eco House development has been granted through SEI's House of Tomorrow Programme. The SEI programme aims to stimulate widespread uptake of superior sustainable energy planning, design, specification and construction practices in both the new home building and home improvement markets.

Following the launch, Batt O'Keeffe, Minister for State commented: "The housing sector in Ireland has been identified as a key area requiring innovative approaches to improve its energy performance and to help reduce Ireland's levels of greenhouse gas emissions. This development in Macroom, sets a welcome precedent highlighting the introduction of energy efficiency features to new housing."

The developers, Eco Construction Limited are committed to an eco-construction policy. Alan Ellard, Managing Director said: "This has been an exciting development. We are delighted to be involved in a housing project that will generate greater energy performance for homeowners. The levels of fabric insulation used in the Sunnyside development considerably exceed current building regulation requirements. We are delighted to report that all properties have been sold, signifying a demand by house-buyers for energy efficient housing features."

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Editors Notes:

Sustainable Energy Ireland, was established on May 1st, 2002, as a statutory authority charged with promoting and assisting the development of a sustainable national energy economy and is funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan 2000-2006 with programmes part financed by the European Union.

The House of Tomorrow funding programme offers 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.

Key project partners and suppliers include:

- Wood pellet stoves: N.P.S, Ferrybank, Co. Waterford
- Solar water heating systems: Solaris Solar Energy Systems, Toames, Macroom, Co. Cork
- Photovoltaic (solar) street lights: Solaris Solar Energy Systems, Toames, Macroom, Co. Cork
- Timber frame: Cygnum, Lissarda, Co. Cork
- Cellulose insulation: Ecocel Ltd., Ballygarvan, Co. Cork
- Windows & doors: Swedish Trade Centre, 10, Glenrichmond, Glanmire, Co. Cork
- Ventilation systems: Radon Ireland, Coachford, Co. Cork
- Radon barriers: Radon Ireland, Coachford, Co. Cork
- Sustainable Urban Drainage System: Radon Ireland, Coachford, Co. Cork