



Dublin Could Become an Energy-Smart City by 2030

Dublin has the potential to become an energy-smart city by as early as 2030, it has emerged today. The long-term vision for Dublin City's Sustainable Energy Action Plan shows how over the next twenty years, the introduction of carbon neutral and low-energy buildings, improvements in information technology and the development of a low-carbon transport system could lead to the city reducing its carbon emissions by 50 per cent. The Action Plan has been developed by Dublin energy agency Codema which acts as energy adviser to Dublin City Council.

The main aim of the Action Plan is to analyse the potential for reducing carbon emissions in Dublin city in areas such as the residential, commercial and transport sectors. In the residential sector, it is envisaged that the typical city home will have a building energy rating (BER) of C - a vast improvement on the average E rating currently held by Dublin city homes. Retrofitting of the housing market will be the main factor in improving energy performance over the next twenty years, through proper insulation of walls and attics, the introduction of low-energy lighting and renewable energy sources.

Another major development in the housing market over the next twenty years will be the way in which a typical house in Dublin city uses electricity. "By 2030, electricity use will be much more intelligent," said Gerry Wardell, Director of Codema and principal author of the long-term vision. "At the moment, the way that electricity is used doesn't make sense – it spills out in a haphazard way all over our homes and much of it is wasted. The old 'ESB meter' as we know it will be a relic of the twentieth century and will be replaced by a smart meter with a 'brain' that knows not only how to manage the circuits more efficiently, but also knows when to buy electricity at the cheapest time and, eventually, sell any surplus electricity back to the grid at the highest price."

Mr Wardell also outlined how Dublin transport could change significantly over the coming years, with electric cars becoming the norm on our roads. "The first wave of electric vehicles will become apparent on the streets within the next few years, becoming more and more common from 2020 through to 2030. They will be parked beside charging posts that they plug into to top up the charge and, looking to the future era of a smart electricity grid, may even be able to sell the stored electricity back at a profit."

Cycling around Dublin will also become more accessible – the proposed Sutton to Sandycove project will consist of a 22 kilometre promenade and quality cycleway along Dublin Bay, extending from Sutton in the north of the city through to Sandycove in the south, incorporating major hubs such as the Irish Financial Services Centre along the way.

The typical office in Dublin in 2030 will also have the potential to reduce its electricity bill by 23 per cent, through clever lighting systems and advances in communications technology.

"The way that businesses operate will change dramatically, driven by future advances in intelligent communications technology and faster broadband," said Mr Wardell. "While connectivity between people will certainly evolve further through future generations of today's mobile phones, computers, e-conferencing and satellite navigation, some of the devices that will be in the everyday office of 2030 are simply unimaginable today."

ENDS

Summary of the long-term vision for the Dublin City Sustainable Energy Action Plan

Residential Sector:

- The average home in Dublin city will have a BER rating of at least C, on a scale of A to G
- The average Dubliner will be consuming 25 per cent less energy in the home
- The majority of Dubliners living in the city centre will receive heating from a district heating network that will connect up the city's electricity stations in Poolbeg and elsewhere
- Current electricity meters will be a thing of the past and will be replaced by smart metering

Commercial Sector:

- Offices will become more energy-smart, with intelligent lighting systems that can switch off automatically when not in use
- Advances in information and communications technology will ensure more efficient running of business
- Lower use of energy in offices will help to shave 23 per cent off electricity bills and have the potential to reduce the city's emissions by 272,000 tonnes per year, which represents just over five per cent of today's total city emissions

Transport Sector:

- Electric vehicles will become more apparent on our city's roads over the next few years and will become more common between the years 2020 – 2030.
- The proposed Sutton to Sandycove project will help to make cycling more accessible along the coast and into the city.

Notes to the Editor

The Dublin City Sustainable Energy Action Plan is at draft stage and will go out to public consultation on Friday, 12th March, 2010. The Action Plan has been prepared by Dublin City Council in association with Dublin's energy agency, Codema. The main aim of the Action Plan is to analyse the potential for reducing carbon emissions in Dublin City in areas such as the residential, commercial and transport sectors.

This follows the commitment by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, as a signatory to the EU Covenant of Mayors in March 2009, to go beyond the EU 2020 targets for reduction of CO₂ emissions in the Dublin City area.

Electronic copies of the draft Sustainable Energy Action Plan, along with the Baseline Emission Inventory and Environmental Report are available for the media on request from Codema.

A copy of the documents will also be available during normal opening hours at the Customer Services Centre, Ground Floor, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8 from Friday, 12th March.

About Codema:

Codema is the leading energy agency for Dublin. For over 10 years, it has been committed to improving the energy efficiency of Dublin homes and workplaces, while also creating sustainable solutions for the city's infrastructure. It acts as energy adviser to the four Dublin local authorities and also works with the private sector in developing an energy-smart city.

For further media enquiries and accompanying images, contact Suzanne Morgan, Communications Officer, Codema. Tel: 01 410 0571 / 086 865 2803 / Email: suzanne.morgan@codema.ie