

ENVIRONMENT AND RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND 2006-2008– UPDATE AS OF 17 JULY 2006

PROGRAMME: Research & Demonstration [£15.2m]

To identify and assimilate best practice, and develop plans to encourage the integration of renewable energy in Northern Ireland through effective 'demonstration' in a range of projects.

Action	Progress to Date
<p>£1.4 million in 2006/07 to encourage commercial, industrial and agricultural premises to make use of renewable energy.</p> <p>Invest NI are currently developing an interest free loan scheme, in conjunction with the Carbon Trust, providing support of up to £250k per project.</p>	<p>This scheme will be operational in August.</p>
<p>£6 million in 2007/08 to develop two Energy Flagship Projects, (municipal, industrial or agricultural) which will use waste to create energy.</p> <p>DETI will issue a public call for expressions of interest in September. A period of assessment will then follow.</p>	<p>Successful projects will be identified in 2007.</p>
<p>£0.5 million over two years for:</p> <p>(a) An Energy Research Programme, has begun on an all-island basis, into the future development needs of the electricity grid to ensure maximum penetration of renewables at 2020 and beyond.</p> <p>(b) The Tellus Project, by the Geological Survey of NI, will identify if Northern Ireland's unique salt caverns are suitable for gas storage.</p>	<p>(a) This study is now underway and will be complete by April 2007. It has been endorsed by Ministers both in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.</p> <p>(b) The Tellus Project, a geological survey of Northern Ireland, has completed the collection of geological data. The information will be verified and available in early 2007.</p>

<p>£0.5 million over two years for the installation of renewables and energy efficiency in social housing. This will act as a demonstration of the benefits of renewable energy in social housing.</p> <p>The following Pilot Schemes are being developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ground Source Heatpump in Fold Housing Association Brookgreen Scheme, Coleraine</li> <li>• Clanmil Housing Association - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Solar Water Panels and Combined Heat and Power in The Savoy Development, Bangor.</li> <li>○ Solar powered home heating/ventilation technologies in Newtownstewart</li> <li>○ Solar Water Panels in Curzon Development, Belfast.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Installations will begin in the September</p>
<p>£2.2million over two years for the installation of a flagship biomass- fuelled heat plant on the Stormont Estate.</p> <p>An updated feasibility study to take account of changes in fuel costs is nearing completion.</p>	<p>The contract will be offered for tender with the plant operational in 2008.</p>
<p>£3.4 million available over two years, to develop the Hillsborough site of the new Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute as a Renewable Energy Centre of Excellence. The Centre will demonstrate the potential of renewables to the agricultural community.</p> <p>The Project Planning for the Centre is underway.</p>	<p>The plans are to complete the Centre by March 2008.</p>
<p>£0.3 million over two years, will support the agri-food industry to maximise its renewable energy potential at farm level.</p>	<p>The College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) has progressed the implementation of 4 Technology Transfer</p>

projects.

- installation of a wind turbine at both Loughry and Greenmount;
- installation of a biomass burner at Loughry (willows as fuel) and Greenmount (cereals as fuel);
- installation of a ground source heat pump at Horticulture Development Centre, Greenmount;
- currently a range of energy crops (oilseed rape, camelina, hemp and linseed) are being grown at Loughry for demonstration purposes to farmers and growers.

CAFRE is also currently developing an educational/technology transfer awareness programme aimed at rural community groups and farm families. This will be delivered over the next 2 years using a range of different methods;

- in collaboration with the Carbon Trust to undertake benchmarking of energy consumption on farms;
- open days planned to demonstrate the potential of renewable energy to rural communities;
- production of literature and leaflets;
- talks/presentations to local rural groups.

Harvesting of the first renewable crops at Loughry Campus will take place in August/September 2006.

PROGRAMME: Building Market Capacity through the provision of Infrastructure and Supply Chain Development [£2.5m]

Action	Progress to Date
£2 million over two years, to support bio-energy and geothermal development through improved infrastructure.	DETI are currently assessing the range of options which could be used to support the local bio-energy industry and the development of geothermal energy.
£0.5 million over two years, for the development of an energy services company model to supply renewable heat to public sector buildings.	DETI is examining the legalities of setting up an Energy Services Company (ESCO) model. DETI is currently working with DFP on identifying potential public sector host buildings.  Ensure that 10MW of new renewable heat projects are made available by March 2008.

PROGRAMME: Accelerated Deployment, (acceleration in the use of renewable sources to provide heat, light and power requirements in domestic dwellings, commercial premises and public sector buildings. [£35M]

Action	Progress to Date
£8 million available over two years, to enable up to 4,000 private householders to install solar, PV, biomass, wind or geothermal energy systems.	Household programme launched by Secretary of State on 24 July and now open for applications.
£12 million available over one year, 2007/08 to purchase 10MW of renewable energy generation, (preferably from waste) with the electrical output being used to alleviate fuel poverty in approximately 20,000 households.	The operational detail of this programme is still being worked up but a call for expressions of interest from suitable projects to be published by the end of 2006.
£1.8million over two years, to install 600 solar hot water systems in Housing Executive dwellings.	Solar Panel Specification is complete and installers are receiving training through the Renewable Energy Installer Academy.  Currently identifying suitable properties and installations will begin in August.
£9.2 million to increase the number of energy efficiency measures provided under the Warm Homes Scheme from 8,250 to 10,000.  Install 500 solar hot water systems in private vulnerable households. (fuel poverty).	The eligibility criteria was extended to ensure that over 60s in receipt of disability related benefits will now receive both heating and insulation measures.  A benefit maximisation programme, which will provide a social security benefit health check to all recipients of the scheme, was introduced into the scheme in July.  An aftercare package has been introduced that will service the boiler after one year of installation and extend the warranty of the system to two years.

	<p>Eaga Partnership, the Warm Homes scheme managers will manage this pilot project and identify suitable homes through the Warm Homes Scheme. Funding of £500 per installation will be provided by NIE</p> <p>Installers are currently being trained through the Renewable Energy Installer Academy Eaga are currently identifying suitable homes that have already received insulation measures and seeking tenders from installers, this pilot will use the same specification as the NIHE Installations will begin in September</p>
<p>£2 million over two years, to extend the Central Energy Efficiency Fund; a scheme to encourage energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in the wider public sector, with particular emphasis on schools and including local government and the health sector.</p>	<p>The extended Fund is supporting 11 renewable energy projects (<b>details of projects contained in Annex A</b>) for implementation by public bodies in 2006/07 and 2007/08, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 biomass boilers;</li> <li>• 4 wind turbines;</li> <li>• 2 solar water heating systems;</li> <li>• 2 hydro generating systems</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>Projects are located in 3 schools, 2 Further Education establishments and 6 District Council properties These projects will secure an estimated annual saving of 2000 tonnes of carbon dioxide.</p> <p>Funding secured from the EREF has been committed fully; indeed an additional £0.5m of the original CEEF budget has been ring-fenced to meet the full funding requirements. All projects are on target for completion during 2006/07 or 2007/08.</p>

PROGRAMME: Underpinning Knowledge and Raising Awareness [£6.5M]

To raise awareness of benefits of renewable energy and the need to reduce consumption of fossil fuels.

Action	Update
<p>£2million available over two years, to encourage uptake of grants, raise awareness of renewable energy, and provide educational tools on renewable energy for inclusion in the schools curriculum.</p>	<p>An Integrated Communication Strategy will publicise and promote uptake of all elements of the Fund throughout the funding period of 2006-2008.</p>
<p>£0.5 million available over two years, to raise awareness of Sustainable Development and NI's ecological footprint and the importance of sustainable development, in particular climate change and energy consumption Ecological Footprinting is a means of determining the sustainability of an individual, a community, or a country by measuring its resource usage. This project will pilot the use of ecological footprints to determine the sustainability of district council areas in NI.</p>	<p>Initial discussions have taken place between the Department of the Environment, the World Wildlife Fund and the Northern Ireland Local Government Association and a proposal for the project is at an advanced stage, the World Wildlife Fund currently finalising the draft.</p>
<p>£4 million available over two years to develop Action Renewables to better deliver awareness and capacity building for renewable energy technologies across Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Enhance renewables research evaluation and training activity, improve interfaces with communities and the construction industry and develop a comprehensive best practice database which provides relevant and accurate data that will aid better understanding of the delivery potential of renewable technologies and their effectiveness..</p>	<p>Action Renewables are currently engaged in raising the profile of Renewable Energy in general, developing best practice information, carrying out relevant research and evaluating existing and emerging renewable energy technologies.</p> <p>Additional awareness/information activities will include working with the Council for Curriculum, Examination and Assessment (CCEA) to further develop renewables into the post -September 2006 curriculum and providing associated training to teachers.</p> <p>In addition by March 2007 it is hoped to develop a best practice "tool-kit" which can assist the establishment of Energy Services Companies (ESCOs) in Northern Ireland. Researching and</p>

	<p>identifying the potential for renewable energy sourced heat in Northern Ireland and its consequent effectiveness in terms of decreasing CO2 emissions and reducing dependence on fossil fuels has also been identified as a key activity in 2007.</p>
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## Annexe A

Organisation	Facility	Project	Total Cost of Scheme	Funding 06/07	Funding 07/08
Craigavon Borough Council	Oxford Island Information Centre	Installation of a Wood Fuelled Biomass Boiler for Arts Centre	£4200	£4,200	–
Craigavon Borough Council	Lough Neagh Discovery Centre	Installation of a Wood Fuelled Biomass Boiler	£35,000	£35,000	–
Castlereagh Borough Council	Lough Moss Centre (Leisure Centre)	Installation of a Wind Turbine	£108,000	£108,000	–
Omagh District Council	Gortrush Depot (Workshop & Offices)	Installation of a Wind Turbine	£30,000	£30,000	–
Ballymena Borough Council	Ecos Centre (Visitors Centre)	Installation of a Biomass Heating System	£58,750	£32,500 (part-funding)	–
North Down Borough Council	Balloo Depot & Waste Transfer Station	Installation of 850kw Wind Turbine	£500,000 (2 year scheme)	£300,000	£200,000
University of Ulster	Coleraine Campus	Installation of a Wind Turbine Generator	£883,000 (2 year scheme)	£145,000	£738,000
Omagh College	General Campus	Installation of a Hydroelectric Scheme on the Camowen River near Campsie Road	£690,000 (2 year Scheme)	£150,000 (part-funding)	£150,000 (part-funding)

Department of Education (SELB)	Annalong Primary School & Meal Servery	Installation of Solar Water Heating System	£8,000	£8,000	–
Department of Education (SEELB)	Dundonald High School Ballynahinch High School St Coleman's High School Ballynahinch	Installation of Solar Panels in 3 Schools	£21,300	£21,300	–
Department of Education (SEELB)	All Childrens Integrated Primary School	Provision of a Hydroelectric Power Station	£420,000 (2 year Scheme)	£180,000	£240,000