



Energy Matters!

Energy Matters is a monthly email bulletin from Cavan Community Forum which will provide information about sustainable energy initiatives and ideas. It will promote local Cavan initiatives, whether they are from local communities, the private or public sectors. If you have any information relating to the environment that you think could be interesting or useful, please let me know at kateennals@cavancoco.ie .

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Cavan Energy Team

Cavan Energy Team has been set up by Cavan Community Forum to work on environmental and energy issues in county Cavan. Its focus for 2010 – 2013 is on eco-education (raising awareness), waste management issues, developing an Energy Audit for Cavan, and supporting model practices in the community. It is seeking funding from Cavan Monaghan Leader. This year it hopes to organise visits to eco-villages, bio-digesters, incinerators and organise other sustainable initiatives and contribute to Energy Matters. The work is carried out by volunteers, local people interested in sustainable energy and it is supported by the Cavan Community Forum Co-ordinator. It reports to the Cavan Community Forum.

If you are interested in joining Cavan Energy Team, please contact Kate Ennals at kateennals@cavancoco.ie

Visits to Eco-Villages and Sustainable Energy Initiatives.

If you are interested in visiting Eco-Villages and other sustainable energy initiatives, please contact Kate Ennals on 0494378583 or email kateennals@cavancoco.ie

Waste Management Survey in Cavan

John Brannigan, who works in Cavan County Council Waste Management, is carrying out a survey on attitudes to waste management issues in Cavan. The information gathered will help provide and improve recycling activities and environmental initiatives in Cavan. The questionnaire will be available on line next week. Please take the time to complete and return to jbrannigan@cavancoco.ie Check out www.cavancommunity.ie next week. This survey will also be circulated through the Community Forum News and be available on the Cavan County Council website shortly.

**Energy Crops Technical Information Day. Tuesday, 16 February 2010.
Tuesday, 16 February 2010**

This one-day event will focus on the technical aspects of growing Miscanthus and SRC Willow. The morning workshop will examine the suitability of energy crops for the individual producer; comparative economics to other enterprises; eligibility and application process; current market and future outlook; and, end-use options. The afternoon practical demonstration will feature a variety of harvesting and drying options from Canada, Denmark and the UK.

For further information Liz O'Sullivan, Teagasc, Tel: 059 9183483

Email: liz.o'sullivan@teagasc.ie

The National Bioenergy Conference Thursday 18 Feb 2010, Tipperary Institute, Thurles.

The theme of the 2010 National Bioenergy Conference will see bioenergy business developers tell the story behind their respective projects, whether this be based on wood energy, cereal crops or biofuels. A dedicated panel will examine the key issues facing decision-makers and investors in the bioenergy sector. The conference will also provide an update on Government policy and ongoing research and development.

For further information Tel: 052 6126574 / 086 1256709

Bio-Energy Supports for Willow and Miscanthus Crops

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Brendan Smith, has announced the start of a new Bioenergy Scheme to grant aid the planting of willow and miscanthus crops over the period 2010 to 2012.

The Scheme was initially launched on a pilot basis in 2007 and supported the planting of 2,500 hectares by the end of 2009. The new Scheme is part of the Department's revised Rural Development Programme, which is due to be formally approved by the EU Commission in the near future.

Announcing the Scheme, the Minister said: "The new Scheme will consolidate progress made during the three years of the pilot phase in developing a biomass crops sector in Ireland. I am pleased to confirm that €1 million is being made available to support the planting of a further 1,000 hectares in 2010. The Scheme is now open for applications and interested farmers can apply for establishment grants of up to €1,300 per hectare to cover 50% of the costs of establishing these crops".

The closing date for submission of applications for pre-planting approval is Wednesday 31 March 2010.

Water Conservation in Schools and Businesses

From January 2010 schools will have to pay water charges based on their usage. The Department of Education is encouraging the fitting of simple water-saving devices to toilets and wash-hand basins in schools. There are

simple water-saving devices available that are both applicable for schools and for businesses.

Gowna Light Engineering are the Approved Installers of the Posiflush range of water saving devices and controls. Urinal cisterns in toilets have automatic syphons and are designed to fill and flush continuously 24 hours a day 365 days per year whether the toilet area is used or not. By controlling the flushing of urinals to only when they have been used enables typical savings of 70% in water usage. These proven systems have been developed to provide the quickest payback period possible without damaging the hygienic considerations of the toilet area. The units are easy to install and extremely versatile in their operation. Variable settings allow adjustable time delays between flushing, providing maximum efficiency and savings.

Seamus Madden, Gowna Light Engineering, Loch Gowna, Co Cavan. 086 8524675. 043 6683229

SEI provides free, one-to-one advice and mentoring to small businesses

Sustaining Energy Ireland have employed registered and accredited energy advisors to help and motivate SMEs to assess their own energy use, to identify opportunities for savings and to take action to realise these savings. This service commences with a telephone, consultation or site assessment, a written report with suggestions for energy savings, plus 90 days follow-up support by phone and email. It is free of charge.

To book your survey log on to www.hireabrain.com or for more details contact Mark Robertson 087 2301949, mark@hireabrain.com, JohnB Smith 087 2891595 john@hireabrain.com

EU Sustainable Energy Week 22-26 March

The European Commission's Sustainable Energy is hosting an annual EU Sustainable Energy Week to boost its campaign for renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, clean transport and alternative fuels.

It includes a three-day conference in Brussels on intelligent energy policy issues as well as thematic workshops; and funding and networking seminars. At local level, stakeholders are invited to bring forward events promoting energy efficiency or the use of renewable energy and formally include them as part of the EUSEW 'Energy Days' – thus earning extra visibility. In organising an event, potential participants may wish to work with their nearest local and regional energy agency and/or one of the Enterprise Europe Network offices based in Dublin, Cork, Galway, Waterford or Sligo.

For further information:

<http://www.eusew.eu/page.cfm?page=organisers>

What is a Anaerobic Digester?

An anaerobic bio-digester is a tank that digests organic matter biologically, without air and produces methane gas for cooking, lighting and heating. It speeds up the natural breakdown of waste from years to days by feeding it into oxygen starved sealed tanks infested with microbes, producing gasses which can be used to generate heat and electricity or provide fuel for vehicles. This method of composting and producing fuel could be very effective in Cavan given the pig farming industry that operates in the County.

**Irish Engineers Report says 'green economy' to drive economic future
11/02/2010. Irish Times**

The downturn in the construction industry has not completely diminished the demand for engineers. A survey of more than 400 engineers carried out by Ipsos MRBI found that 32 per cent of engineers saw sustainable energy as the area where engineers could make the biggest contribution. New research commissioned by Irish engineers shows that three-quarters of Ireland's top engineers believe a "green economy" will drive Ireland's economic future.

Cheaper Safer Lighting

Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) use 80% less electricity and last up to 10 times longer than ordinary light-bulbs - could you install more in your home? Also, remember to open the curtains in the morning when getting out of bed now that it gets lighter earlier rather than turning on the lights! Also, did you know dirt can reduce lamp efficiency by 20-25%.

ENDs