

ESD implementation in Ireland

The Department of Communication, Energy and Natural Resources is responsible for the ESD in Ireland. Sustainable Energy Ireland, Ireland's national energy agency, is responsible for measuring the energy savings achieved and for implementation of many energy efficiency support programmes. The ESD is fully transposed in Ireland and implementation is either in place or at an advanced stage of programme planning and design.

Legal context

The ESD has been fully transposed into Irish law through the European Communities (Energy End Use Efficiency and Energy Services) Regulations 2009 – S.I. No. 542 of 2009.

Status of the implementation

The Table below sets out details of transposition of each element of the ESD.

Directive Article Reference	Directive Paragraph	National Regulations Reference	Other National enactment Reference	Comment
1	all	-	-	No action required
2	all	3	-	
3	all	2	-	
4	1(1)	4		
4	1(2)	5(2)	-	
4	2(1)	4(2)	-	
4	2(2)	-	-	No action required
4	3	-	-	No transposition required
4	4	All and 5(1)		Minister and SEI
4	5	-	-	No action required

5	1(1)	11	-	
5	1(2)	12,13,14,15	-	
5	1(2) indent 1	13,15	-	Annex VI e & f
5	1(2) indent 2	14	-	
5	1(3)	11(5)	-	
5	2	Part 4	-	
6	1(a)	6	-	
6	1(b)	-	Competition Act	
6	2(a)	16	-	
6	2(b)	17	-	
6	3	16(15)	-	
6	4	-	-	No action required
6	5	-	-	No action required
7	1	-	-	No transposition required
7	2	16(6)	Section 6(1)(b) Sustainable Energy Act 2002	
7	3	-	-	No action required
8	all	9	-	
9	1	-	-	No transposition required
9	2	7	-	
10	1	19	-	
10	2	-	-	No action required
11	all	18	-	
12	1,2	8	-	
12	3	8(3),13(5)	-	
13	1	20	Electricity Regulation Act 1999	Smart metering trials ongoing and will determine economic and technical feasibility of providing smart meters
13	2,3	19,21	-	
14	1	-	-	No action required
14	2	-	-	No transposition required
14	3	-	-	No action required
14	4	-	-	No action required
14	5	-	-	No action required
15	all	-	-	No action required
16	all	-	-	No action required
17	all	-	-	No action required
18	all	-	-	This instrument
19	all	-	-	No action required
20	all	-	-	No action required

Article 4: Energy Savings Targets

Ireland has adopted the indicative 9% target from Article 4 in its national regulations. SEI monitors energy savings achieved and reports to the Minister for Energy. Ireland also has a national target of 20% savings by 2020. The latter target is Government policy and is not set in law.

Article 5 Energy end-use efficiency in the public sector

Ireland has adopted an indicative target of 15% savings by 2016 for its public sector in its national regulations, to demonstrate its exemplar role. Ireland also has a national target of 33% savings by 2020 for its public sector. The latter target is Government policy and is not set in law.

Ireland's national regulations require that all public bodies report annually on their progress towards the 15% target. Public bodies are required to engage the services of an energy auditor within 3 years and at least every 5 years thereafter. SEI is tasked with producing guidelines for public bodies on energy efficient procurement and these are expected to be available in 2010. Ireland also hopes to introduce amending regulations in 2010 requiring public bodies to only purchase specified equipment named on a public database of energy efficient products. This database already exists at www.sei.ie/aca and covers 29 classes of technology, with more to be added in 2010. This proposal is dependent on the outcome of notification of under Directive 98/34/EC.

Ireland's national regulations also require that public bodies purchase or lease only buildings meeting specified building energy standards. A phased approach is specified in the regulations, with a minimum standard of B3 from 2012 (equivalent to the current building standard for new buildings) and A3 from 2015. This phased approach will give certainty to the market and allow building owners to renovate if necessary, if they wish to rent to the public sector. The above standards do not apply to existing leases.

In order to assist public bodies in meeting the 15% target, and the higher 33% policy target, SEI launched a new support programme in 2009 for the public sector. Public bodies can avail of training, advice, mentoring and building energy assessments. Specialist working groups operate under the aegis of the programme in relation to key public energy using activities such as ICT, street lighting and water treatment.

A new Scheme of Supports for Exemplar Energy Efficiency Projects was also launched in 2009 offering high levels of grant-aid to public bodies wishing to undertake energy efficiency projects of an exemplar nature. A significant expansion of this and the above support programme are envisaged for 2010.

Article 6 Energy distributors, distribution system operators and retail energy sales companies

Ireland's national regulations provide the legal basis for the Minister for Energy to impose the obligations outlined in Article 6. In practice, Ireland will implement these obligations through its proposed Energy Demand Reduction Target Programme. Following a public consultation in 2009 on this programme, detailed programme design is ongoing. Further consultations with industry stakeholders are envisaged for 2010 and subject to final Government approval the Programme should be commenced in the second half of 2010. A link to the Energy Efficiency Fund created by Ireland's national regulations is likely.

Ireland's national regulations also provide the legal basis for recognition of voluntary agreements as an alternative to obligations.

Article 7 Availability of Information

SEI has a statutory role in promoting energy efficiency. SEI fulfils this mandate through its range of energy efficiency programmes and in particular its Power of One energy efficiency awareness and behavioural change programme www.powerofone.ie. Ireland's national regulations place a legal obligation on energy distributors, distribution system operators and retail energy sales companies to promote energy efficiency to their customers. If the Minister for Energy is not satisfied that a company is adequately complying with this general obligation, he can issue a Direction to the company specifying what remedial action is required.

Article 8 Accreditation etc.

Ireland's national regulations provide for the establishment of a system of registration for energy auditors. A competent authority will be appointed by the Minister for Energy in early 2010, which may be an appropriate industry association or SEI.

Article 9 Financial instruments for energy savings

Under Ireland's national regulations, SEI is mandated to ensure model contracts are made available for the use of ESCOs and final users in connection with the procurement by those final users of energy services and energy efficiency improvement measures and to promote their availability. One model contract for ESCO contracts has already been developed by Sustainable Energy Ireland in conjunction with a hospital.

Article 11 Funds and Funding Mechanisms

Ireland's national regulations provide for the establishment of an Energy Efficiency Fund. Ireland has tentative plans to channel revenue from Ireland's carbon taxes through the Fund in 2010.

Article 12 Energy Audits

High quality energy audits are commercially available to all final consumers from the market in Ireland. Under Ireland's national regulations, SEI is tasked with monitoring such market availability and advising the Minister for Energy if market intervention is necessary. Where this is necessary, the Minister is obliged to make appropriate arrangements to promote or support their provision, or otherwise ensure their availability. This approach is consistent with article 12 and it would not be appropriate for the State to intervene when the market is functioning satisfactorily.

A scheme for the accreditation of energy auditors is being established pursuant to the national regulations. This will specify minimum qualifications for accreditation, matters to be addressed in an energy audit, guidance on best practice and a code of conduct. While not mandatory, it is expected to quickly become established in the market through customer demand.

Energy assessments by suitably qualified professionals, including site visits and follow up support, are available free of charge from SEI to SMEs and public sector bodies. Energy management training is also available. These programmes are proving highly popular.

The Power of One energy efficiency advice website run by SEI provides a high quality online energy audit tool for the residential sector.

Article 13 Metering and Informative Billing

The rollout of Ireland's national Smart Metering Programme in Ireland is progressing in line with the commitment in the Government's Energy Policy Framework and in the Programme for Government. The Smart Metering Programme is a central component of the strategy to radically enhance management of energy demand and to deliver greater energy efficiency through the use of cutting-edge technology.

This is a highly complex technology project. The trials are essential to ensure that the optimum and most cost effective technology and systems are identified for the implementation phase. The electricity element of the pilot phase is expected to be completed at end December 2010. It is important to have a trial that captures seasonal changes in usage for peak demand management purposes. The gas element of the pilot will commence in December 2009 and conclude in May 2011. The specifications of the metering systems chosen for these trials will allow the testing of a range of functions to deliver enhanced demand management. These include, interval metering reading, time of use tariffing and the use of In Home Display devices.

The outcome of this pilot phase should be a fully informed decision on the most suitable model of smart meter/IT system, tariffing structure, communications system and demand stimuli. The model must have the proven capability to deliver the anticipated benefits of smart metering, taking account of the specifics of the Irish energy system.

The pilot phase encompasses two strands – technology and customer behaviour. The technology trial is testing a number of advanced metering systems and their associated IT and communications infrastructure. Installation of up to 8,000 meters has commenced for this trial.

The customer behaviour trial will determine the potential of smart meters to achieve measurable change in consumer behaviour. The 6,000 participants for the customer behaviour trial have been selected to ensure that the sample is representative of Ireland's electricity consumers both in terms of usage profiles and geographical spread. Installation of meters for this trial is now complete and collection of baseline data has commenced. The trial will 'go live' in January 2010 with the introduction of a range of demand management stimuli such as monthly billing, in home displays etc.

The trials will also provide reliable, quality data on actual energy use which will provide important information for the development of our energy efficiency strategy and, it is anticipated, lead to significantly better services to consumers in areas such as improved fault monitoring and outage recording, power quality monitoring, reduced theft and losses and improved network planning.

The electricity element of the smart metering pilot is proceeding in parallel with Ireland's current microgeneration initiative and there are important links between the two. The data gathered from the interval meters being used in this microgeneration scheme will provide vital information on the import and export of electricity, which will feed into the analysis of electricity use being carried out in smart metering pilot. In this way, the findings of the smart metering pilot will in turn inform the development of a long term micro generation programme.

The gas element of the Smart Metering Pilot Programme is also moving ahead. Over 1,900 customers have now been recruited for the Gas Customer Behaviour Trials. A further 750 meters will be installed to facilitate the Gas Technology Trials. Installation of these meters is now underway.

The present estimated cost of the smart metering pilot is €34.9m. This comprises €29.9m for the electricity element and €5m for the gas element. The cost of a national roll out will be determined on foot of the results of the pilot programme and decisions taken on the optimum type of cost effective smart metering system that will deliver the level of functionality required in an Irish market.

A key component of the pilot phase is the associated cost benefit analysis underway which will critically inform future decisions. An interim analysis will be completed next year with the final analysis, to include the results of the gas trials, to be completed by mid 2011.

Additional efforts

Ireland has a higher policy target of 20% energy savings by 2020, including a 33% target for the public sector.

Ireland revised its NEEAP in 2009.

Future planning

Ireland plans to bring its various energy efficiency support programmes together in 2010 under the umbrella of a national energy efficiency retrofit programme. This will be tied in with Ireland's proposed Energy Demand Reduction Target Programme. The new national programme envisages a significant increase in the scale of energy efficiency retrofit works. Ireland has made available €130 million in 2010 for these programmes.

Relevant information

Department of Energy www.dcenr.ie

Sustainable Energy Ireland www.sei.ie

Ireland's 2009 NEEAP

<http://www.dcenr.gov.ie/Energy/Energy+Efficiency+and+Affordability+Division/National+Energy+Efficiency+Action+Plan.htm>

Scheme of Accelerated Capital Allowances for Energy Efficient Equipment www.sei.ie/aca

Proposals for an Energy Demand Reduction Target programme

http://sarcms03:800/NR/exeres/C48CE6A8-1432-4562-B55F-8AACCBFAE408.htm?wbc_purpose=Basic&NRMODE=Unpublished&WBCMODE=PresentationUnpublished

Power of One awareness and behavioural change programme www.powerofone.ie

Home Energy Saving Scheme (residential retrofit)

http://www.sei.ie/Grants/Home_Energy_Saving_Scheme/

Public Sector supports http://www.sei.ie/Your_Building/Public_Sector_Programme/

Ireland's schools programme <http://www.sei.ie/Schools/>