



## Ireland at Forefront on Renewable Energy – Report

**Thursday, 30 September 2010:** Ireland is playing a lead role in Europe in adding wind power and other renewables to our energy supplies, a new report stated today.

Ireland is on target to achieve its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable sources by 2020, and in achieving that target, we will have one of highest levels of wind power as a percentage of system demand in Europe, according to the EirGrid Annual Renewable Report which was launched in Dublin by Energy Minister Eamon Ryan.

At the end of 2009 there was 1526 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy installed in Ireland. This figure includes wind power (1260 MW), hydro (236 MW) and other small renewable energy sources (30 MW). By July this year, this had increased by a further 200MW of installed wind capacity. The amount of power generated from renewable sources in 2009 was over 14 per cent and sufficient capacity is in place in Ireland to meet the target of 15 per cent this year.

Speaking at the launch, Minister Ryan said,

“Every year, Ireland sends €6 billion of public monies out of the country to pay for imported gas, oil and coal. This figure is unsustainable and must be reduced. The sure-fire, guaranteed way of doing this is by developing and using our own indigenous renewable energy.

With the best resources in Europe, we can afford to be ambitious in our plans. Our overall national target of 40% renewable electricity will be reached and surpassed to the point of export, when Ireland’s wind and waves can bring money back into this country.

Government’s energy policy has set Ireland on a low-carbon path and key to this will be the improvement of our transmission grid. I commend EirGrid for the work it is doing in this regard and I look forward to seeing more renewables coming on stream in the months and years ahead.”

9 MW of wind generation was added to the power system in Northern Ireland during 2009 bringing the total installed capacity there to 301MW. During 2009, 8.7% of demand was supplied from wind generation. As a result, Northern Ireland has already achieved its renewables obligation of 6.3% by 2012/13. It is anticipated that a further 70 MW of wind generation will be connected in Northern Ireland by the end of 2010.

On the 5th of April, 2010 at 06:00am wind generation provided 50% of Ireland’s system demand. Total overall renewable output reached 55% at the same moment – another new system record

This first EirGrid Group Annual Renewable Report offers an assessment of the progress made in the renewable energy space over the last 12-18 months and sets these developments in a broader international context. The report examines progress in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The island of Ireland has some of the best untapped renewable energy resources in the world. Using these renewable energy resources will enable the island reduce our dependency on fossil fuel

imports, ensure a reliable long term energy supply, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance our economic competitiveness.

Understanding the technical and operational challenges and putting in place all necessary electricity infrastructure will be crucial steps in establishing Ireland as a world leader in renewable energy production, to successfully deliver on our targets.

ENDS

Editors note:

- EirGrid holds licences as independent electricity Transmission System Operator (TSO) and Market Operator (MO) in the wholesale trading system in Ireland, and is the owner of the System Operator Northern Ireland (SONI Ltd), the licenced TSO and market operator in Northern Ireland.
- The Single Electricity Market Operator (SEMO) is part of the EirGrid Group, and operates the Single Electricity Market on the island of Ireland.
- One megawatt of capacity is enough to supply approximately 650 homes when generators are operating.

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