

## S&E Regional OP 2007 – 2013 Draft Implementation Plan 2.2.4

<b>Operational Programme</b>	S&E Regional Operational Programme 2007-13
<b>Priority</b>	Environment & Accessibility
<b>Theme</b>	Renewable Energy
<b>Sub-Theme</b>	Strategic Development Zones
<b>Categorisation Code</b>	43
<b>ERDF Certifying Body</b>	Department of Finance
<b>Managing Authority</b>	S&E Regional Assembly
<b>Intermediate Body</b>	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
<b>Level 1 Public Body</b>	Sustainable Energy Ireland
<b>Grant Rate</b>	TBD
<b>EU Co-financing Rate</b>	40%

### **Description**

To replicate the actions within the Dundalk SDZ (FP6 Funded zone) and facilitate the development of SEZ deployment in Ireland. The Sustainable Energy Zone (SEZ) Programme aims to stimulate a paradigm shift in energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy within communities.

### **Objectives**

The programme will reward collaborative actions at Local Authority level by helping to fund targeted activities within designated sustainable energy communities in order to trigger the accelerated delivery of the Government Energy White Paper targets. The programme is designed to encourage strong private sector and whole-community participation in the achievement of those objectives. Its objective is to promote exemplar sustainable settlements in growth areas by encouraging local authorities to lead by example in their areas and to use their powers to designate SEZs.

### **Responsibilities of Intermediate Body**

SEI will consult with the Intermediate Body, the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, in delivering the programme and will report progress activity reports to DCENR. An administrative agreement will be entered into between the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and the Managing Authority setting out the respective roles and responsibilities of each.

### **Responsibilities of Level 1 Public Body**

SEI will be responsible for SEZ Programme administration, information and publicity, financial management and control, monitoring and evaluation. SEI will work in conjunction with local authorities. Participation and selection of SEZs will occur through call for proposals and expressions of interest.

### **Contribution to Horizontal Themes**

#### *Environmental Sustainability*

The principle of Environmental Sustainability is a key component of sustainable development, a principle reflected in the Government's White Paper, "Delivering a

Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland” and the National Climate Change Strategy. Energy remains a key factor in ensuring economic growth and societal development and SEI continues to promote the decoupling of economic growth from the adverse effects of energy consumption and production, through the Sustainable Energy Intervention. SEI will provide a number of SEZs that each comprise typically a mix of social and private houses, industry, institutional buildings and transport facilities. The impacts from each of the SDZ’ will be measured in terms of the building improvement in energy efficiency performance, their contribution from renewable electricity, and their penetration of renewable heat.

## **Project Selection**

### Selection Process

SEZs will be selected using an open call for proposal process. A selection panel will be put in place to select the most suitable zones for effective delivery of the measure.

### Selection Board Membership (where appropriate)-

SEI is responsible for the administrative evaluation, conducting a technical review and assessing all legal and compliance issues of the application. Finally SEI conducts a financial review prior to payment and commissions mechanical reports, sample review inspections and site visits.

### Selection Criteria

- A typical CONCERTO community should:
- Be of a representative size
- Work towards ambitious goals
- Produce visible and recognisable impacts
- Enjoy a strong political commitment for the implementation of the projects
- Already have plans for sustainable development

Projects will be selected that provide evidence of delivering the following

- Produce well monitored field experience in energy flows (supply and demand patterns), in local communities having a high percentage of renewable energy supply.
- Present local trends in energy costs, prices and savings, as well as the social impacts, quality and added values of the energy services provided.
- Provide analyses of technical and market risks, cost reduction potentials and future market potentials for the technologies and approaches adopted.
- Where results will demonstrate the high potential for improving the sustainability of energy systems in cost effective ways in local communities, which can be achieved by addressing energy supply and demand with a fully integrated approach.

## **Performance Indicators**

The local authorities must present targets demonstrating

- a rise the level of contribution from renewable electricity within SEZ
- penetration of renewable heat into the SEZ
- improvements in energy performance of the buildings within the SEZ
- initiatives for more sustainable transport.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Baseline</b>	<b>Mid-term Dec '09</b>	<b>Final</b>
Output	Demonstrate and		One Zone fully	Three Zones

	promote integrated community approaches to sustainable energy via a network of Sustainable Energy Zones		operational	fully operational (Cumulative)
Result	Number of sustainable development zones that each comprise a mix of social and private houses, industry, institutional buildings and transport facilities.	The Provision of models and lessons to motivate and guide regulators, developers and consumer choice.	9,000MWh contribution from renewable electricity within SDZ per annum	20,000 MWh contribution from renewable electricity within the 3 SDZ per annum
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 20% contribution from renewable electricity within SDZ</li> <li>- 10% penetration of renewable heat into the SDZ</li> <li>- A 40% improvement in energy efficiency performance of the buildings within the SDZ.</li> </ul>		15,000 MWh contribution from renewable heat within SDZ per annum	35,000 MWh contribution from renewable heat within SDZ per annum

### **Financial Management**

Managed and delivered by SEI in conjunction with local authorities. Participation and selection of SEZs will occur through call for proposals and expressions of interest.

Financial management by way of compliance checking, using public procurement guidelines and tax clearance certification by SEI's Customer Services Unit.

The Level 1 Public Body will be required to have in place separate accounting arrangements in respect of project expenditure under the sub-theme.

### Document Retention

In accordance with Article 90 of the General Regulation (EC) 1083/2006, the Intermediate Body and Level 1 Public Bodies will ensure that all supporting documents regarding expenditure, verification checks, certification and audits on the interventions concerned are kept available for the EU Commission and Court of Auditors for a period of three years following the closure of the Operational Programme.

### **Monitoring and Reporting arrangements**

A progress report will be submitted annually to the Monitoring Committee in a format to be specified by the Committee.

**Information and Publicity**

The European Union strapline, logo and artwork will be used at all opportunities in communications regarding projects wither directly by SEI or by project beneficiaries. All logo/credit usage will comply fully with applicable guidelines. The use of such materials is a requirement on all branded publications. A beneficiary list will be published in the SEI Annual report. All Information and Publicity will be undertaken in accordance with the Communications Plan.

**North/South Co-operation**

The Dundalk SEZ will have a substantial North-South component.