



PRIZES PRESENTED TO 'ENERGY FOCUS' WINNERS IN ENNIS, BALLINA/KILLALOE AND MILTOWN MALBAY

Ennis, County Clare, 23rd January 2007 - Mayor of Clare, Cllr. Flan Garvey today presented EUR1,000 worth of prizes to the winners of the inaugural 'Energy Focus' competition, which is sponsored by Clare County Council as part of its overall commitment to promoting energy efficiency in the County. The competition was hosted by Clare FM's 'Morning Focus' programme, in association with the Limerick Clare Energy Agency and Clare County Council.

The prizewinners were Roger Emmett, Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare (EUR500 voucher for energy efficiency products and free domestic energy survey); Ann Carey, Loughville, Ennis, Co. Clare (EUR300 voucher for energy efficiency products); and John Healy, Ballina/Killaloe (EUR200 voucher for energy efficiency products). All three received their prizes at a ceremony, in Ennis today, also attended by Ger Dollard, Director of Services, Environment and Emergency Services, Clare County Council and Pat Stephens, Manager of Limerick Clare Energy Agency.

The Limerick Clare Energy Agency, which was established to provide energy solutions for sustainable development in the region, recently completed an eight-week information series on energy-related topics on Clare FM. The topics raised included energy in the home, energy in transport, energy at work, renewable energy options and climate change.

Commenting on the series, Mr. Pat Stephens, Manager of the Limerick Clare Energy Agency said, "*The 'Energy Focus' talks proved very popular and the competition was a great success. Congratulations to the winners. But remember when you invest in energy efficiency everybody is a winner, because you save money and the environment reduces CO2 emissions.*"

"Arising out of the recent energy series on Clare FM, we have published several tips for reducing your energy and environmental emissions, and these can be downloaded from their web site www.lcea.ie/Publications.asp", Mr. Stephens concluded.

The **Limerick Clare Energy Agency**, which was established in July 2005 by co-investment from Limerick County Council and Clare County Council, is one of 16 other agencies that form an all-island association. However, the Agency is unique in that it was established entirely from local authority funding without any external assistance. The priorities for the Agency for its first three years of operation include the promotion of an indigenous energy supply, the devising of a climate change strategy for Limerick and Clare, the establishment of a Fuel Poverty Programme for Limerick and Clare, advising local authority housing departments on energy efficiency, and securing an energy and emissions balance for both counties.

The Limerick Clare Energy Agency, also receives sponsorship from the University of Limerick, Rural Resource Development Limited in County Clare, West Limerick Resources Limited, and the County Limerick based Ballyhoura Development Ltd. The support of the sponsors enables the Agency to conduct a number of important projects in both counties, as well as operating from a centre of excellence in the University of Limerick.

For more information on the Limerick Clare Energy Agency log on to www.lcea.ie or email info@lcea.ie.