



CUTS THAT DON'T HURT!

HOW TO SAVE €100 MILLION ON PUBLIC SECTOR ENERGY USE

Summary of Report Findings

DUBLIN FRIENDS OF THE EARTH TELLS GOVERNMENT MINISTERS TO TURN OFF THE LIGHTS, REDUCE THE HEAT... AND SAVE MILLIONS.

Up to €100 million a year can be saved if we move quickly on energy efficiency in thousands of public buildings – schools, hospitals, offices, libraries and more. At a time of huge cuts in services, why is the Government so silent on cuts that don't hurt?

Ireland's total public sector energy bill is officially estimated at €500 million a year, so cutting 10% means saving €50m, and cutting 20% means saving €100 million. With the crisis in public spending, surely simple measures such as turning off the lights and re-setting the boiler thermostat should top the list?

These are cuts that hurt no-one. In fact, they can make the workplace more comfortable and promote good working relations as well as helping the environment. And yet there is no leadership from the Government in driving this change.

None of the highest-spending Ministers – Ruairí Quinn in Education, Dr. James Reilly in Health or Joan Burton in Social Protection – has uttered a single word on the record about cutting energy use in the public buildings under their departments.

Ireland has big targets on energy efficiency – a cut of 33% in public sector usage by 2020. But Dublin FOE's research shows that progress relies too much on well-motivated individuals. Existing projects demonstrate that low-cost energy efficiency measures can bring about 15 - 20% savings within a few years. Imagine how these savings would help our schools, where capitation grants will be cut controversially by 3.5% this autumn.

Dublin FOE contacted a random selection of schools, hospitals, health centres and social welfare offices and found that a majority have no energy efficiency plan. As one school principal said, "We've had circulars from the Department of Education on every other kind of cut, but none on cutting energy use."

We need strong leadership and mandatory targets. Softly, softly is wasting us millions.

The full report will be launched by well-known broadcaster Duncan Stewart next **Tuesday, May 29th**, at **The Greenhouse, St. Andrew Street, Dublin at 1 p.m.**, followed by a question and answer session. Refreshments will be provided and you are kindly invited to attend.