

# Promoting a Sustainable Energy Culture in Europe

Presentation by Trevor Johnston  
Renewable Energy Installer Academy  
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## Introduction

- What is REIA
- Partnership between Action Renewables & SEI
- Funded by INTERREG
- Managed by Joint Steering Group
- Project Manager

## Why REIA

- Too few Installers
- Poor installations
- Site surveys
- Independent inspections
- Protecting the customers
- Developing a market

## What is REIA

- Standards – equipment / installations
- Training – Installers / apprentices etc
- Quality control
- Existing training infrastructure
- Certification and accreditation

## REIA

- EU INTERREG funding - €1.5million 2005 – 2007
- INTERREG region – NI and 6 border counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo.
- Roll out across Ireland North and South.

## Partnership

- Action Renewables NI & Sustainable Energy Ireland in ROI
- Training Institutes – Dundalk IT; North West, East Down, Lisburn, Omagh.
- Experienced European Advisors – Arsenal Research; Danish Energy Authority; Austrian Bioenergy Centre.

## Objectives



- Establish and operate RE Installer Academy
- Set up laboratories for solar thermal, heat pumps, biomass and small scale electricity
- Write training manuals for each technology
- Train lecturers within each Institute
- Deliver training courses to Installers and designers
- Set up certification and accreditation scheme

## Laboratories



- Dundalk – Solar thermal, Heat pumps and biomass
- East Down – Biomass
- Lisburn – Heat pumps
- North West – Solar Thermal, PV and hydro
- Omagh - Wind

## Solar thermal



- 4 fully operational systems
- 2 flat plate collectors and 2 evacuated tube
- 2 systems externally mounted on roof and 2 internally mounted on frame supported by halogen lamp
- All 4 systems connected with measurement equipment etc.

## Heat Pumps



- 2 Heat pump models 1 air & 1 water including heat sources and heat sink.
- Monitoring and measuring equipment

## Biomass



- 1 10kW pellet boiler
- 1 10kW pellet stove
- 1 wood log boiler (approx 20kW)
- 1 Wood chip boiler (approx 25kW)

## Installer Training



- Core module in each course on general RE technologies
- Specialised modules including theoretical and practical sessions
- 5 day courses
- Delivered by Lecturers in Institutes

## Training



- Installer completes 5 day training course
- Installer undertakes examination
- First two installations presented for inspection
- Certification, code of practice and use of REIA logo.

## Draft syllabus



- Introduction
- Solar Radiation
- Solar collectors
- Sizing a system
- Installing a system
- Hot water storage
- Controllers

## Draft syllabus cont'd



- Fault finding
- Maintenance
- Health and safety
- Working at height
- Building regulations

## Target for next 3 years



- Laboratories installed Nov / Dec 2005
- Lecturers trained Dec 05 / Jan 06
- Training Manuals completed Nov 05
- First courses commence for existing installers Dec 05/ Jan 06

## Target for next 3 years Cont'd



- 450 trade installers and professional engineers trained and certified by 2007
- Quality control scheme
- Equipment certificate
- Network of high quality systems installed

## Conclusion



- REIA
- Partnership
- Training and certification
- Sustainability
- Developing RE market

## Contact Details



Trevor Johnston  
Renewable Energy Installer Academy  
Woodchester House  
New Forge Lane  
Belfast BT9 5NW

Tel: 028 9068 5030

Email: [trevor.johnston@actionrenewables.co.uk](mailto:trevor.johnston@actionrenewables.co.uk)

