

**Progress Report**  
**on the implementation of the recommendations of the**  
**Report of the High Level Group on Green Enterprise**

**March 2011**



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## Executive Summary

The High Level Action Group on Green Enterprise published its report “*Developing the Green Economy in Ireland*” in November 2009, containing 55 recommendations that needed to be addressed to capitalise on the opportunities afforded by the green economy. The Group recommended that an annual report be developed on how implementation of the recommendations was progressing. Just over one year on from the publication of the report, Forfás and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation (DETI) have compiled this progress report with input from the High Level Group. The key messages of this progress report are:

### **1. Progress is being made in implementing the Group’s report: the green economy is growing and remains an important area of opportunity for Ireland**

- Employment in six key sectors of the green economy<sup>1</sup> is estimated by the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs to stand at 18,750 (Nov. 2010). If key barriers are immediately addressed, employment is predicted to rise to 29,000 in these six sectors by 2015.
- Significant public investment is supporting the green economy. In 2010, €660 million was directly committed to sustainable energy programmes, water services investment and retrofitting of the public housing stock.
- In the region of 2,000 green-related jobs have been announced in the past 15 months. This excludes jobs related to publicly-funded retrofitting programmes, which the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources estimate are supporting more than an additional 5,000 jobs.
- Progress is being made in implementing the Group’s report to develop the green economy. As an overview, of the 55 recommendations made in the Report:
  - 16 recommendations (29%) are complete or important progress is being made.
  - 21 recommendations (38%) have been progressed to a reasonable extent, but further implementation is desirable.
  - 18 recommendations (33%) require further attention to be substantially progressed.
- Key recommendations of the Group which are being implemented include: grid enhancement, water services investment, introducing electric cars, introducing regulations promoting biological waste recycling, supports for bioenergy and a range of demonstration projects being actively supported by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

### **2. A number of key recommendations of the Group remain outstanding: given the extent of international competition in the sector, urgent implementation of these recommendations is required to fully realise job growth in the green economy.**

The High Level Group has considered progress in implementing the 55 recommendations of the report. While good progress has been made, the Group has highlighted a number of key outstanding recommendations that remain in a range of important areas with significant employment potential. The Group emphasises the intensity of international competition for investment in the sector and the need for urgency in addressing barriers if Ireland is not to lose out to competitors. In the view of the Group,

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<sup>1</sup> These six sectors are: Renewable Energies; Efficient Energy Use and Management; Water and Waste Water Treatment; Waste Management, Recovery and Recycling; Environmental Consultancy and Services; and “Green” ICT Applications/ Software.

projected growth in employment in the green economy (of up to 29,000 in the six key sectors by 2015) is contingent on the following outstanding barriers being immediately addressed:

- **Developing a coherent national approach to the “common good” message in electricity grid development.**
- **Continuing to market Ireland's "Green" image internationally.**
- **Developing an integrated efficiency programme encompassing energy, water and waste which can help companies reduce their resource usage.**
- **Addressing key issues for the waste sector which can provide certainty for investment in areas such as regulation of waste collection and treatment and policy on recycling infrastructure development, the all-island recyclables market and composting/anaerobic digestion services.**
- **Progressing the Group's Green R&D recommendations on pooling of research expertise, developing research alliances, consolidating R&D funding programmes and developing an R&D strategy for the overall green and cleantech sector.**
- **Addressing barriers to micro-generation of renewable energy, in particular the Single Premise Rule.**
- **Accelerating foreshore licensing for offshore energy projects.**
- **Developing and marketing Ireland's potential as a Green IFSC.**
- **Maximising business opportunities and synergies between water and energy sectors in the national Smart Meter roll-out programme.**
- **Developing and implementing a Green Public Procurement Action Plan immediately which will meet the EU target of 50% green procurement by 2011.**

## 1. Background and High Level Action Group on Green Enterprise

The ‘green economy’ is identified as an area of potential business and employment growth across many countries, including Ireland. In 2009, a High Level Action Group on Green Enterprise was convened by the then Tánaiste and Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, and the then Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources to produce a strategy and identify tangible action points to enable Ireland to realise the vision of an innovative green enterprise economy. The Group’s membership comprised people from the private sector and key senior officials from the relevant Government Departments and Agencies<sup>2</sup>. Secretariat support was provided by Forfás and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation (DETI). The final report of the Group was published in November 2009 and contained 55 recommendations which needed to be addressed to capitalise on the opportunities afforded by the green economy<sup>3</sup>. The Group recommended that an annual progress report on implementation of these recommendations should be prepared.

The Group reconvened in November 2010 to consider progress and priorities to be focussed on to address barriers to Ireland realising the full potential of the sector. This facilitated the preparation of this first progress report, which assesses each of the 55 recommendations individually just over one year on from the publication of the Group’s original report. The update on each of the recommendations is attached in Appendix 1 to this document.

The progress report:

- Provides a brief update on developments in the Green Economy over the last 12 months (Section 2).
- Analyses progress made in implementing the recommendations (Section 3).
- Prioritises areas identified by the Group for immediate implementation (Section 4).

## 2. Developments in the Green Economy

### 2.1 Key sub-sectors within the green economy

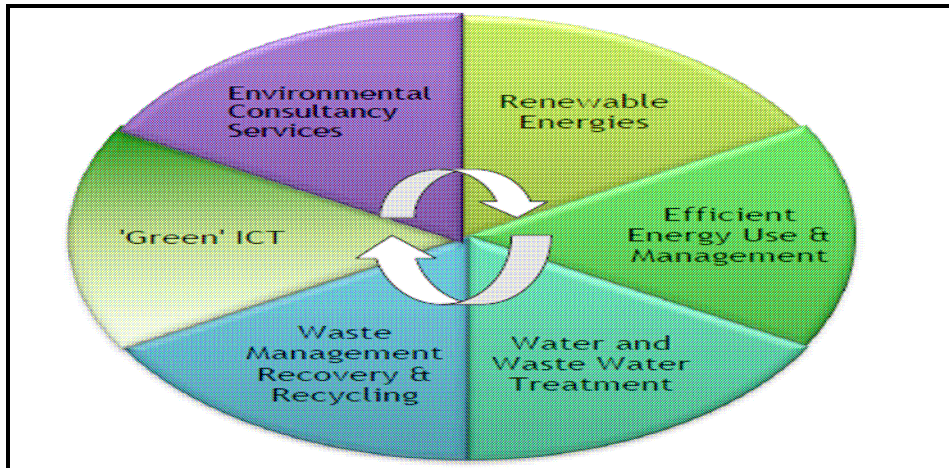
It is recognised that there is no exact boundary around what constitutes “the green economy” and that it is not well defined within existing classification systems. To assist in focusing on specific measures to drive the development of the green economy, a number of key sub-sectors were identified by the Group as having the most substantial business and employment growth potential for Ireland. These are set out in the figure below.

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<sup>2</sup> See Appendix 2 for membership.

<sup>3</sup> Developing the Green Economy in Ireland, Forfás/ DETI, November 2009. Available at <http://www.forfas.ie/publication/search.jsp?ft=/publications/2009/Title,5065,en.php>

Figure 1: Six key sub-sectors within the green economy for Ireland



These sub-sectors are overlapping and interactive, with enterprises engaged within and across sub-sectors. The sub-sectors deliver products and services which provide ‘smart green’ solutions within buildings, transportation, industry and clean environment consumer products, which in turn deliver economic, social & environmental benefits.

## 2.2 Current employment

An estimated 18,750 people are currently employed within the six sub-sectors. This employment profile is built up from data on the six sectors provided by Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (retrofitting and energy efficient business areas) and in Commercial Semi-State companies (ESB, Bord Gáis and Bord na Mona) from research work undertaken by the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs<sup>4</sup>.

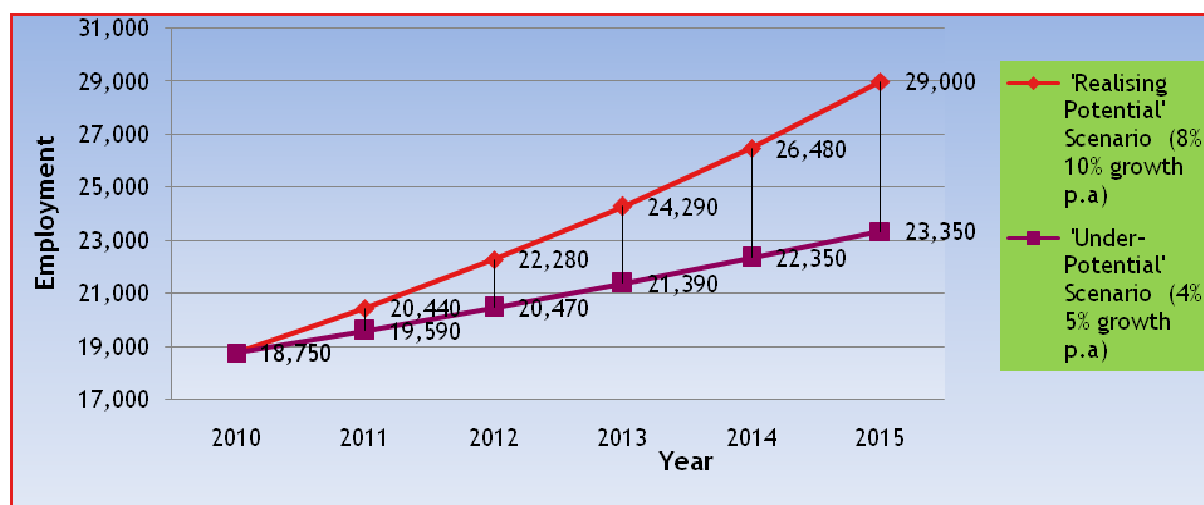
## 2.3 Projected employment if barriers are addressed

The Expert Group on Future Skills Needs has also developed projections for employment growth in the sector to 2015 based on strong international and domestic drivers of growth. Two scenarios were developed. The first is termed the “Realising Potential” Scenario – on the basis that it would be possible to meet these stretch targets if identified barriers to the development of the sector such as those outlined by the High Level Action Group on Green Enterprise are addressed. In this regard, the scenario is considered challenging but realisable. The scenario is based on an anticipated increase in employment of between 8%-10% per annum over the period 2010-2015, resulting in employment in the sector rising to around 29,000 by the end of 2015.

The second scenario is termed the “Under Potential” Scenario, which also anticipates an increase in the employment level – but at half that of the “Realising Potential” Scenario. This scenario assumes slower progress towards the removal of identified barriers to the development of the sector, resulting in the sector underperforming somewhat in terms of its full potential. Under this scenario, employment rises to 23,350 by the end of 2015.

<sup>4</sup> Future Skills Needs of Enterprise within the Green Economy in Ireland, EGFSN, November 2010.

**Figure 2: Anticipated Total Sector Employment (2010 - 2015) under two Scenarios**



Source: EGFSN

#### 2.4 Public investment in 2010

In spite of pressures on public finances, continued public investment is supporting the development of the green and clean-tech sector. This investment is promoting important opportunities in renewable energy, energy efficiency, water services and is developing vital grid infrastructure. Specifically, the Department of Finance's Revised Estimates for Public Services for 2010 included direct spending on:

- Sustainable Energy Programmes (including energy efficiency retrofitting) - €105 million
- Water Services Investment Programme - €508 million
- Retrofitting of the public housing stock - €45 million

A further commitment to supporting energy efficiency retrofitting, through a tax incentive scheme, was announced by the Minister for Finance in Budget 2011.

#### 2.5 Strategy Development and Job Announcements in the Past 12 Months

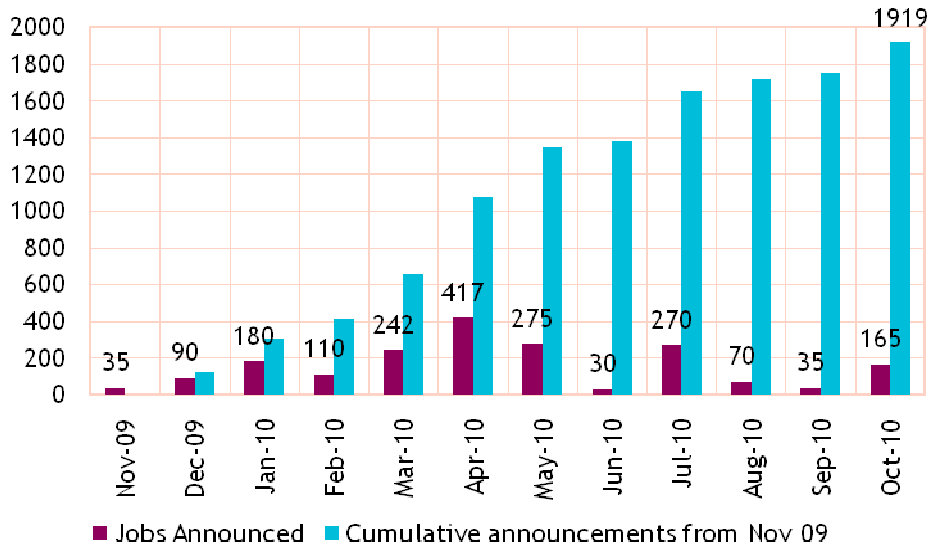
Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland, having established dedicated units to focus on realising opportunities in the green and clean-tech sector, are working with existing and new enterprises for export growth and new investments. Forfás is working with the agencies to map the existing range of enterprise, research and public policy initiatives underway, to ensure that all potential areas for collaboration and enterprise opportunities are realised. In addition, following the reconvening of the High Level Action Group on Green Enterprise in November 2010, it was agreed that Forfás, with the enterprise development agencies, would look to develop an information document to raise the positive profile of what the Green Economy is, current and potential employment in the sector for Ireland, where Ireland is being successful and company examples.

In overall terms, almost 2,000 jobs in the environmental goods and services sector were announced by enterprises in the 12 months since the publication of the Group's report in November 2009, including those by agency-assisted enterprises. This excludes jobs related to publicly funded retrofitting



programmes, which the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources estimates are supporting in excess of an additional 5,000 jobs. These announcements were made on a monthly basis and in a broad range of areas within the overall green economy, from renewable energy to waste management, to energy research<sup>5</sup>.

**Figure 3: Job Announcements in Green Economy (November 2009 - October 2010)**



### 3. Overview of progress on the recommendations of the High Level Action Group on Green Enterprise

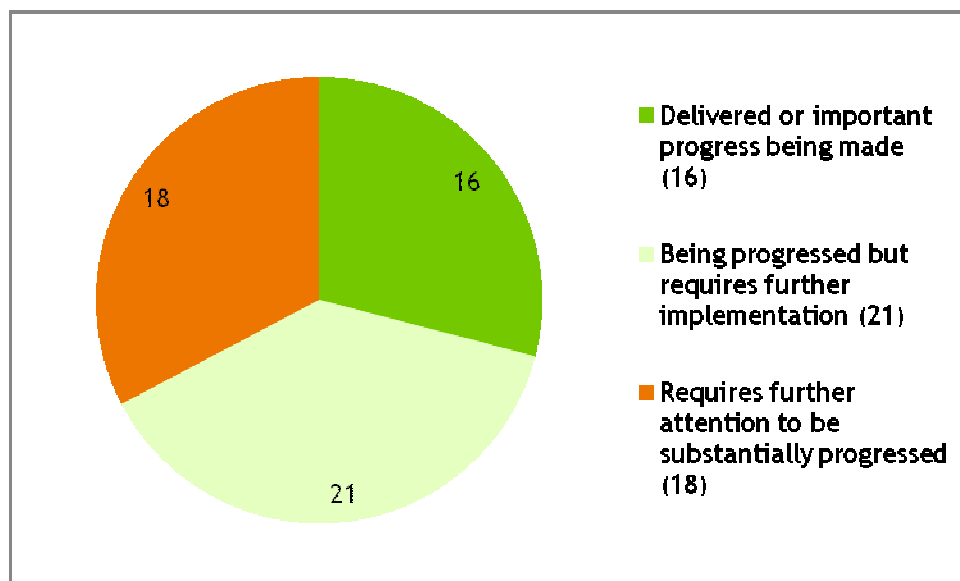
#### 3.1 Status of the 55 recommendations made by the High Level Action Group on Green Enterprise

The Group made 55 recommendations which aimed to encourage the development of the green economy in Ireland. An analysis of the status of the recommendations as of November 2010, based on responses received from the bodies responsible for implementing the actions, indicated that:

- 16 recommendations (29%) are complete or important progress is being made.
- 21 recommendations (38%) have been progressed to a reasonable extent, but further implementation is desirable.
- 18 recommendations (33%) require further attention to be substantially progressed.

<sup>5</sup> Examples include: Oct. 2010: Airtricity (105), Biotricity (65); Sept. 2010: Shabra (35); Aug. 2010: Service Source (70); Jul. 2010: Solar Print (80), Exemplar Network (110), PFH Technologies (80); Jun 2010: Enercon (30); May 2010: Airtricity (275); Apr. 2010: IERC (37), Eirgrid (300), Biotech Alternatives (80); Mar. 2010: IBM (200), Ecocampus (42); Feb. 2010: Foametix (40), Bell Labs/ Alcatel Lucent (70); Jan 2010: Shamrock Renewable Fuels (140), Panda Waste (40); Dec. 2009: Interxion (90); Nov 2009: Microsoft (35). In addition, Glen Dimplex and Kingspan have announced significant additional investments in Northern Ireland in renewable energy manufacturing facilities over the last year.

Figure 4: Status of 55 recommendations made by High Level Action Group on Green Enterprise (as at November 2010)



### 3.2 Areas where progress has been made

Within this assessment, it is recognised that important progress has been made in the following areas:

- **Continued investment in electricity grid:** Ongoing investment is being undertaken to develop the electricity grid through Grid 25 and the East-West Interconnector. Further exploratory work is being undertaken by Eirgrid on additional interconnection (such as greater interconnection to UK or France).
- **Roll-out of pilot programme to test electric vehicles (EVs):** The report of the Electric Vehicles Group has been completed. The Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources announced a €5,000 incentive scheme for EVs commencing in January 2011. 1,500 charge points and 30 fast charge points will be installed by ESB by December 2011. The SEAI Commercial Vehicle Demonstration programme is also underway.
- **Roll-out of brown bins to households and businesses:** The rollout of brown bins is progressing with support from the National Waste Prevention Programme. The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government's draft Household Food Waste Regulations (which were open for public consultation until October 1<sup>st</sup> 2010) and the recent enactment of Food Waste Regulations for businesses will further support the objectives of the recommendation.
- **Implementation of Business Food Waste Regulations:** The Food Waste Regulations for businesses came into effect from July 2010 as recommended by the High Level Group. A guide to commercial food waste prevention has also been published by the EPA.
- **Proposed measures to support farmers to produce/sell green energy:** A new Bioenergy Scheme was introduced in February 2010 to promote biomass crops cultivation over the period 2010-2012. The DAFF's Food Harvest 2020 document which was launched in July 2010 includes a recommendation that DAFF should develop a pilot forum on renewable energy, including a regional anaerobic digester for farm and industry waste.
- **Exchequer funds to reduce water leakages:** The Water Services Investment Programme 2010 – 2012 provides funding for rehabilitation of water mains and is targeting areas with high levels of

unaccounted-for water. The National Recovery Plan 2011-2014 states the Government's intention to continue to prioritise investment in water services.

- **Building on existing demonstration projects and developing a smart town:** SEAI is supporting a number of demonstration projects and has developed a regional sustainable energy action plan. SEAI is also monitoring the development of the EU Smart Cities initiative for opportunities and is locally launching a call for Sustainable Energy Communities to Local Authorities.
- **Lowering capacity threshold for wind farm approvals under the Strategic Infrastructure Act (SIA):** Amendments providing for a lower threshold for wind farm approvals under SIA were incorporated into Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, enacted in July 2010.
- **Flagging green public procurement opportunities:** Enterprise Ireland has initiated a public procurement team with a key focus on accelerating the level of participation by EI client companies in public sector contracts.

Appendix 1 to this document looks at each of the 55 recommendations individually. In doing so, progress to date is noted in more detail.

## 4. Priority outstanding areas identified by the Group for immediate implementation

In November 2010, the High Level Group considered progress on implementation of the 55 recommendations in its report. While noting that good progress was being made, the Group highlighted that a number of key outstanding issues remain in a range of important areas with significant employment potential. The Group emphasised the intensity of international competition for investment in the sector and the need for urgency in addressing barriers if Ireland is not to lose out to competitors. Projected growth in employment in the green economy (of up to 29,000 in the six key sectors by 2015) is contingent on addressing the outstanding issues of the Group's recommendations. In particular, the Group highlights the following ten priority areas to be immediately addressed<sup>6</sup>:

- **Developing a coherent national approach to the "common good" message in electricity grid development:** The Group identified rapid grid development as essential to growing Ireland's renewable energy sector in the short-term and realising energy exporting opportunities in the medium term. Public acceptance is seen as essential to developing this infrastructure as quickly as possible. A key focus on communicating messages of "common good" and jobs benefits from grid development by Eirgrid and all public Departments/agencies is vital. (Actors: Eirgrid, SEAI, Central and Local Government, public Departments agencies)
- **Marketing Ireland's "Green Image":** The Group emphasised the need to continue to market Ireland's green image at every available opportunity. The DETI and the enterprise development agencies are actively promoting Ireland's green enterprise capacity and image, both in terms of existing enterprises that can provide goods and services internationally and as

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<sup>6</sup> The following is a list of acronyms used. CER = Commission for Energy Regulation, DAFF = Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, DCENR = Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, DEHLG = Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, DES = Department of Education and Science, DOF = Department of Finance, DFA = Department of Foreign Affairs, EI = Enterprise Ireland, EPA = Environmental Protection Agency, HEIs = Higher Education Institutes, IDA = Industrial Development Agency (Ireland), IDC on STI = Inter Departmental Committee on Science, Technology and Innovation, OPW = Office of Public Works, SEAI = Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, SFI = Science Foundation Ireland.

location for inward investment. The Group recognised that the implementation of the Government's Trade, Tourism and Investment Strategy has the further potential to:

- Continue to explore with the Department of Foreign Affairs opportunities for trade in goods and services with high growth and developing economies.
- Take advantage of opportunities for trade, research and technology partnerships with high growth and developing economies in green technologies and markets.
- Address tariff and non-tariff barriers to environmental goods and services in future trade agreement negotiations.
- Extend Ireland's green brand through initiatives such as an annual prize for Green Innovation.

(Actors: DETI, Trade Strategy Group, IDA, EI, DFA)

- **Developing an integrated efficiency programme for energy, water and waste management together with a single environmental audit for companies:** To avoid duplication and ensure clarity for companies in the provision of efficiency programmes, the Group recommended that the agencies should continue to engage with each other to address barriers to the roll-out of an integrated efficiency programme/audit. (Actors: EPA, SEAI, EI, IDA, Forfás)
- **Addressing key barriers in the waste sector:** The waste sector, where Ireland has a strong base of indigenous firms, continues to provide enterprise opportunities driven by environmental regulations and public demand for more environmentally sustainable solutions. Nonetheless, the Group remains concerned about a number of key outstanding priorities from an enterprise perspective. These include:
  - The need for a decision and immediate implementation of a finalised waste policy which will provide certainty on the regulatory structure of the waste sector. (Actor: DEHLG)
  - Addressing barriers to an all-island market in recyclable material. (Actor: DEHLG, North-South Ministerial Council)
  - The development of required recycling infrastructure. (Actor: DEHLG)
  - Furthering efforts to promote composting and anaerobic digestion. A review of the feed-in tariff for renewable electricity derived from bio-energy with that available in Northern Ireland as well as other EU Member States is seen by the Group as important for the development of the sector. (Actor: DEHLG, DCENR)
- **Progressing the Group's Green R&D recommendations:** To avoid fragmentation of green research and duplication of Green R&D funding, the Group's report recommended the pooling of green research expertise, developing green research alliances, consolidating R&D funding programmes and developing an R&D strategy for the overall sector. While some important individual developments in Green R&D have occurred in the 12 months since the Group's report, the Group believes that significant progress has not been made on the R&D recommendations for the sector as a whole. The implementation of the Group's recommendations through the Inter Departmental Committee on STI remains a priority. (Actor: IDC on STI)
- **Addressing barriers to micro-generation, in particular the Single Premise Rule:** Distributed power generation has significant potential to promote local green enterprise

opportunities. Currently, the single premise rule is increasing business costs as it requires electricity from local renewable energy sources to be exported to the grid and then purchased through the single electricity market rather than allowing firms to connect directly to adjacent premises. This barrier needs to be addressed quickly to allow for micro-generation and power transfer for multi-user renewable energy installations. (Actors: DCENR, CER)

- **Accelerating foreshore licensing for offshore energy projects:** The backlog in foreshore licensing approval is acting as a barrier to enterprise and research projects, particularly in the developing ocean energy sub-sector. Foreshore licenses were transferred from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, but a review of enterprise issues has not been carried out, as recommended by the Group. There is a pressing need to accelerate foreshore licensing for offshore energy projects and for other projects relevant to the green economy. (Actors: DCENR, DEHLG)
- **Developing and marketing a Green IFSC:** The Group recognises the substantial work being carried out by the IFSC Clearing House Group (CHG) within the Department of the Taoiseach in conjunction with the development agencies. Progressing specific measures to develop Ireland's attractiveness for 'Green' IFSC related activities and marketing Ireland's capabilities in this area are seen as key opportunities by the Group. (Actors: IFSC Clearing House Group, Dept Taoiseach, DOF)
- **Maximising synergies and business opportunities in the Smart Meter roll-out:** The selection and testing of Smart Meters for electricity and water is currently underway by the DCENR and DEHLG. The Group recommends that further work be undertaken in conjunction with the enterprise development agencies to ensure that smart meter deployment is done in such a way as to maximise synergies and enterprise opportunities for test bed/demonstration sites for Irish technology and services companies. (Actors: DCENR, DEHLG, Enterprise Development Agencies)
- **Developing and implementing a Green Public Procurement Action Plan immediately:** The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) is leading on developing the Green Public Procurement Action Plan, which will set out how the public sector can increase its procurement of environmentally sustainable goods and services towards the European Commission's target of 50% green procurement by 2011. The immediate implementation of this Action Plan remains a priority for the Group as it is central to opening opportunities for Irish enterprises within the green and clean-tech sector, particularly for small and medium enterprises. (Actors: DEHLG, DOF, OPW)

The vast majority of these priority recommendations are revenue neutral or low cost. The Group argues that their immediate implementation will highlight the Government's commitment to the sector's development and are essential to ensuring that Ireland does not lose out to international competitors. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation has committed to reviewing progress of the Group's report on a regular basis. An updated Progress Report will be presented to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Renewal in mid-2011.

## Appendix 1: Review of 55 Recommendations of High Level Action Group on Green Enterprise

This section outlines the progress made under each of the 55 recommendations of the High Level Action Group on Green Enterprise. The recommendations are grouped under the following three headings:

- I. Recommendations which have been delivered or where important progress is being made (dark green).
- II. Recommendations which have been progressed to a reasonable extent, but where further implementation is desirable (lighter green).
- III. Recommendations which require further attention to be substantially progressed (orange).

The original recommendation number in the report of the High Level Group is shown for reference purposes. The timeframe indicated refers to the original timeframe the Group had envisaged for implementation of each recommendation when the report was published in November 2009<sup>7</sup>.

While progress has been made on a significant number of the recommendations, maximising the full potential afforded by the green economy will require the continued or on-going implementation of many of the recommendations. The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation and Forfás will continue to monitor the progress made in implementing the full suite of recommendations.

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<sup>7</sup> When publishing the report, the Group intended that the timeline of ‘immediately’ implied that action should be taken within 3 months. ‘Short-term’ referred to an implementation period of 12 months, ‘medium-term’ to a period of 1-2 years and ‘long-term’ to a period of over two years.

## I. Recommendations which have been delivered/important progress is being made

<b>Recommendation</b> <b>(with ref. number in original report)</b>	<b>Action to date</b>
<p>1. In order to realise renewable energy opportunities, the Group recommended continued investment in the electricity grid and interconnection both to the UK and potentially to continental Europe.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Long-Term (immediate focus on projects justified by existing demand and renewable opportunities).</p>	<p>Ongoing investment is being undertaken to develop the electricity grid through Grid 25 and the East-West Interconnector. Further exploratory work is being undertaken by Eirgrid on additional interconnection (such as greater interconnection to UK or France).</p>
<p>3. Recognising the potential opportunities electric vehicles offer to Irish enterprise (through for example, the provision of ICT software to manage payment systems and customer transfer across different energy providers), the Group recommended a pilot programme to test electric vehicles technologies and behavioural response of participants.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Long-Term</p>	<p>The report of the Electric Vehicles Group has been completed. The Minister for CENR has announced a €5k incentive scheme for EVs commencing in January 2011. 1,500 charge points and 30 fast charge points will be installed by ESB by December 2011. SEAI Commercial Vehicle Demonstration programme is underway.</p>
<p>13. Group recommended that further efforts should be made to promote composting and anaerobic digestion by rolling out brown bins to all households and businesses and promoting their use.</p> <p>Potential was also seen to exist to build on the EPA National Waste Prevention Programme (NWPP) project to assist householders with home composting and the correct use of the brown bin.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short-Term</p>	<p>Rollout of brown bins is progressing with support from National Waste Prevention Programme. DEHLG's draft Household Food Waste Regulations were open for public consultation until 1st October 2010 and the submissions received are currently being considered. The recent enactment of Food Waste Regulations for businesses will further support the objectives of the recommendation.</p> <p><a href="http://www.foodwaste.ie">www.foodwaste.ie</a> is also providing guidance on the rollout and use of brown bins.</p>
<p>14. Group recommended implementation of the Food Waste Regulations for businesses, which will require businesses to separate food waste at source.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short-Term</p>	<p>The Food Waste Regulations for businesses have been in effect from July 2010 as recommended by the Group. Guide to commercial food waste prevention has also been published by the EPA.</p> <p><a href="http://www.foodwaste.ie">www.foodwaste.ie</a> is also providing guidance on the rollout and use of brown bins.</p>

<b>Recommendation</b> <b>(with ref. number in original report)</b>	<b>Action to date</b>
<p>18. Group recommended taking efforts to support the farming community to produce and sell - on green energy e.g. locally generated biogas. Specific challenges to promote the uptake of green technologies and processing facilities (e.g. biodigesters) were identified.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately</p>	<p>A new Bioenergy Scheme was introduced in February 2010 to promote biomass crops cultivation over the period 2010-2012. The DAFF's Food Harvest 2020 document, which was launched in July 2010, includes a recommendation that DAFF should develop a pilot forum on renewable energy, including a regional anaerobic digester for farm and industry waste.</p>
<p>19. Group identified the need to progressively reduce levels of allowable unaccounted-for water towards best practice. Fixing leaks would improve efficiency, reduce the need for further investment in water treatment, and help develop Irish expertise in leak control, monitoring and supply networks. This was seen as a necessary first course of action to be taken by local authorities to increase capacity levels. In this context, the Group recommended that no Exchequer funds should be allocated to provide additional capacity to any urban centre until action plans to reduce leakages to an acceptable level are being implemented.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Long-Term (with an immediate reorganisation of investment priorities).</p>	<p>Water management and leakage control programmes are pre-requisites for DEHLG approval for capital funding for new or replacement projects. The new Water Services Investment Programme 2010 – 2012 provides funding for rehabilitation of water mains and is targeting areas with high levels of unaccounted-for water. The National Recovery Plan 2011-2014 indicates the Government's intention to continue to prioritise investment in water services.</p>
<p>27. Group recommended that the IDA engage in an awareness campaign programme with the construction sector on requirements for LEED standard.</p>	<p>IDA does not see an awareness campaign as a requirement, as standards such as LEED are becoming mainstreamed within the construction industry. Nonetheless, IDA has had ongoing interaction with construction sectors and suppliers.</p> <p>SEAI is also supporting professional and industry bodies in relation to the provision of guidance materials and training in relation to sustainable energy and environmental design of buildings.</p>
<p>28. Group agreed there was potential to build on existing demonstration projects for sustainable working and living (such as Dundalk 2020, setting strict targets to achieve a more sustainable energy future). Group also felt that potential may exist to expand on this initiative to develop a 'smart town' (e.g. piloting smart electricity meters, water meters, and electric vehicles plug-in, setting high energy efficiency standards, etc.) in tandem with green business zones.</p>	<p>SEAI already supports a number of Dundalk 2020 initiatives and Dublin Airport Authority have commenced discussions with investors on International Cleantech Services Centre.</p> <p>A regional sustainable energy action plan was developed and launched in Q2 2010 following collaboration between local and national stakeholders (SEAI, EI, IDA, FAS and others) to</p>



<b>Recommendation</b> <b>(with ref. number in original report)</b>	<b>Action to date</b>
<p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Medium-Term</p>	<p>support the implementation of the Green Group’s recommendations. Specific actions include developing new methods of supporting business energy efficiency and the development and trialling of new technologies with EI and working with the IDA in the development of green zones.</p> <p>SEAI is also monitoring the development of the EU Smart Cities initiative for opportunities and is locally launching a call for Sustainable Energy Communities to Local Authorities. Guidelines and tools have been developed to assist stakeholders in developing these communities.</p>
<p>44. Group recommended that consideration be given to lowering the capacity threshold to facilitate eligibility for faster processing under the Strategic Infrastructure Act.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately</p>	<p>Amendments providing for a lower threshold for wind farm approvals under the Strategic Infrastructure Act were incorporated into Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, enacted in July 2010.</p>
<p>45. Group recommended that specification of exact type of wind turbine should not be necessary for the initial planning applications for a wind farm.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately</p>	<p>DEHLG report that there is no specification for an exact type of wind turbine in the Guidelines on Wind Energy Development. The focus is, instead, on size, scale and layout of turbines.</p>
<p>48. Group recommended that Enterprise Ireland continue to identify and prepare companies on public procurement opportunities domestically and internationally.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately</p>	<p>Enterprise Ireland has initiated a public procurement team with a key focus on accelerating the level of participation by EI client companies in public sector contracts. The team works with public sector organisations and buyers in raising awareness of the innovative offerings by SME clients.</p>
<p>49. While recognising that aid should remain completely untied and focused on developing country needs, the Group recommended that the potential may exist for the Department of Foreign Affairs to work with Enterprise Ireland to alert companies to possible export opportunities for environmental goods and services in developing countries. The Group also recognised the potential of the Irish Aid programme (in tandem with improving health and educational outcomes) to support environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Medium-to-Long Term</p>	<p>While not focusing specifically on opportunities in developing countries, the Government’s new trade strategy is focused on high growth emerging markets and provides for a coordination mechanism between the relevant Government Departments and State agencies (including DFA and EI) to maximise possible export opportunities, including opportunities for environmental goods and services.</p> <p>DFA have confirmed that embassies in Irish Aid programme countries continue to monitor and provide information to Enterprise Ireland on opportunities for Irish companies arising from public procurement tenders in those countries.</p>

<b>Recommendation</b> <b>(with ref. number in original report)</b>	<b>Action to date</b>
<p>51. Group recommended that in future trade talks, Irish/EU trade negotiators should press for further reductions in tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in environmental goods and services.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Medium-to-Long Term</p>	<p>Ireland is working within the EU to do so and trade agreement negotiators are aware of need to reduce or avoid tariffs in environmental goods and services.</p>
<p>53. The Group recommended that a Minister should be mandated with the implementation of the recommendations made by the High Level Action Group on Green Enterprise's report and with monitoring progress.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short-Term</p>	<p>The Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation has been mandated with overseeing responses to the report's recommendations and monitoring progress on implementation of the report.</p>
<p>54. The Group recommended that a Cabinet Committee, chaired by the Taoiseach and supported by the Senior Officials Group, should support cross-departmental and state agency responses to the actions required to develop the green economy, commencing with the recommendations set out in this report.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately</p>	<p>The Cabinet Committee on Economic Renewal (chaired by the Taoiseach) provides the forum for supporting and co-ordinating cross departmental and agency actions to drive the green economy in Ireland.</p> <p>The Cabinet Committee was updated in 2010 on a mid-year review of progress on actions from the High Level Group on Green Enterprise. This current report was presented to the Senior Officials Group on Economic Renewal and to Government for approval.</p>
<p>55. The Group recommended that an annual progress report on implementation should be prepared with the potential for the Group to review this document.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short-Term</p>	<p>The first annual progress report has been prepared by DETI/Forfás, with input from the High Level Group.</p>

## II. Recommendations which have been progressed to a reasonable extent, but where further implementation is desirable

Recommendation (with ref. number in original report)	Action to Date
<p>2. Subject to a positive evaluation of the national pilot, the Group recommended the adoption of an ambitious national programme for smart meters in terms of coverage and technology levels. It was also recommended that consideration should be given, as part of the cost-benefit study, to whether smart metering of energy and water can be integrated into the same platform (potentially with advanced broadband) which would allow for economies of scale and cost savings in any future deployment.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short-Term</p>	<p>Pilot phase of the National Smart Meter Programme is well underway.</p> <p>DCENR, the CER and the DEHLG have liaised on potential synergies between energy smart metering and water metering. It has been concluded that there are little potential synergies between the physical meters<sup>8</sup>. There may, however, be scope for information sharing on the communication technologies that were trialled during the Smart Meter Pilot Programme.</p> <p>The feasibility of including broadband in the same platform requires further assessment.</p> <p>The Commission for Energy Regulation will continue to work with Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government to ensure that possible ICT synergies may be realised.</p>
<p>5. Group recommended that energy-efficiency standards should be progressively strengthened and extended to include all building types. The Group recommended that as a major property owner, the public sector should lead in procuring and retrofitting buildings to advanced standards. Public procurement of new public buildings should specify a very high energy rating on BER. Group also recommended that existing public buildings over 1,000m<sup>2</sup> should be retrofitted to a higher energy rating than D1 or better where economically and technically feasible. Group also identified potential to improve energy efficiency in other public services (such as public lighting, water treatment, etc.).</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short-to Medium Term</p>	<p>Regulations have been transposed requiring minimum B3 standard from 2012 and A3 from 2015. Programme of public sector building retrofit is being developed as part of the new National Retrofit Programme.</p> <p>SEAI launched a new Energy Efficiency Retrofit Fund in 2010 for the public and business sectors. Grant aid has been approved for 66 exemplar projects, with a projected activated investment of over €26m.</p> <p>The OPW have new Service Provider to progress the Optimising Power @ Work programme. The new phase (Phase 2) of the initiative will be run over an initial 20-month period (May 2010 – December 2011) and aims to achieve:</p>

<sup>8</sup> The lack of synergies was explained by the fact that water meters are generally placed outside of the home and will involve installation of new underground infrastructure. Electricity and gas meters are located within the consumer's premises and are relatively easy to access. There are also safety issues around the interoperability of water and energy meters.

<b>Recommendation</b> <b>(with ref. number in original report)</b>	<b>Action to Date</b>
	<p>1) A 20% average saving in Carbon Dioxide emissions across the 250 buildings in the campaign.</p> <p>2) A minimum saving of 15% in Carbon Dioxide emissions in each building.</p> <p>3) In buildings, which have already achieved (in Phase 1) in excess of the 20% target, a 5% further reduction in CO<sup>2</sup> emissions.</p>
<p>7. Group recommended that a carbon tax should be introduced at the rate approximating the international price for carbon and should exempt firms already engaged in EU-ETS or alternative binding energy-efficiency agreements (e.g. IS 393).</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately</p>	<p>The carbon tax has a broad base and it is intended to retain that principle. The long-term impact of the carbon tax will be to incentivise energy efficient processes and many companies receive assistance from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland in this regard.</p>
<p>8. Group recommended that consideration should be given to using some of the revenues from auctioning of emissions allowances under the EU Emission Trading Scheme and the carbon tax, to support the development of the green economy.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short-Term (from 2013 in case of EU ETS revenue)</p>	<p>Ring-fencing revenues is not the policy of the Department of Finance. From the revenues available, the Government will determine the appropriate priorities for allocating expenditure and it would be unwise to have revenues pre-destined for specific areas.</p> <p>Revenues from emissions allowances under the EU Emission Trading Scheme won't emerge until 2013.</p>
<p>9. Group recommended that the implementation of an energy demand reduction target programme would make a substantial contribution to improving commercial and industrial energy efficiency and creating demand for environmental goods and services.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short-Term</p>	<p>DCENR has engaged in two phases of consultation around the Energy Demand Reduction Target (EDRT) Programme which is now known as the National Retrofit Programme. The Programme will launch in Q1 of 2011. It will contribute significantly to meeting the 2020 national efficiency targets, including the target of 33% set for the public sector. It is expected to create significant employment in the energy and construction sectors in support of economic renewal.</p>
<p>10. The Group recommended that the development agencies (IDA/ EI/ SEAI/ EPA) should work to offer an integrated suite of efficiency programmes for energy, water and waste. The programme needs to be offered as a single environmental service to companies. Sustainable Energy Ireland's work with enterprises could be expanded in this regard. Once re-designed, an environmental audit should be systematically promoted for client companies of the</p>	<p>Efficiency programmes for energy, water and waste are currently provided separately by agencies, depending on area of expertise. However, meetings have been taking place between agencies and there is already informal co-operation in delivering services to clients (and a Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted between EPA and SEAI which includes efforts to co-ordinate</p>

<p align="center"><b>Recommendation</b> (with ref. number in original report)</p>	<p align="center"><b>Action to Date</b></p>
<p>development agencies within a 2-3 year timeframe.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short-to Medium Term</p>	<p>approaches to business). This was signed in November 2010.</p> <p>The EPA is implementing this recommendation through its National Waste Prevention Programme which provides resource efficiency assistance to businesses through its various projects including: Green Business, Green Hospitality, Green Healthcare, Local Authority Prevention Network, and Packaging Prevention projects.</p> <p>In January 2011, EI agreed to use the greenbusiness.ie project directly as part of their GreenTech support for their client companies. The greenbusiness.ie project and the EPA will work to customise the resource efficiency offerings specifically to their client companies. The EPA-led “Green Who” business resource efficiency map is in the final stages of agreement with the agencies.</p>
<p>11. Group felt that consistent enforcement and implementation of waste legislation is central to driving the waste sector and that timely enforcement of environmental legislation allows for certainty that is needed for enterprises to invest in potential opportunities. As such, the Group recommended that an early decision should be made on the future regulatory structure for the waste sector which clarifies the relative roles and responsibilities in the regulation and management of the waste sector at national, regional, and local level.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately</p>	<p>Enforcement is organised in a consistent fashion and is underpinned by funding from the Environment Fund. DEHLG have published Draft Statement of Waste Policy which aims to address future waste regulatory structures.</p> <p>The public consultation process on the Draft Statement of Waste Policy was completed on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010. The Minister for EHLG will bring the final statement of waste policy to Government in due course.</p>
<p>12. Group recommended that regional waste management plans need to be coordinated at national level to attract investment in waste infrastructure in a way that maximises potential economies of scale, competition and enables the market to pass on the benefits to businesses and households.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short Term</p>	<p>DEHLG’s Draft Statement of Waste Policy is considering coordination of regional waste planning.</p>
<p>21. Group recommended that the introduction of volumetric treated water charges for domestic users and more transparent, fully reflective charges for non-domestic consumers would create incentives to use water more efficiently and thereby create a market for</p>	<p>The National Recovery Plan 2011-2014 indicates that it is intended that volumetric water charges for domestic users will be introduced by 2014.</p>

<b>Recommendation</b> <b>(with ref. number in original report)</b>	<b>Action to Date</b>
<p>water efficiency goods and services with future export potential. Group also recommended the expansion of the “tap tips” awareness campaign to communicate the importance of water conservation.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately. (Flat charge in the short term with a shift to volumetric charging as water meters are rolled out).</p>	<p>Following the water disruptions in February 2010 and January 2011, progress in the expansion of the “tap tips” awareness campaign will be reviewed in the next Progress Report.</p>
<p>24. Group recommended that monitoring and enforcement of standards relating to septic tanks requires greater priority as a means to drive the indigenous market and develop expertise in advanced water solutions, water analysis and processing of wastewater, in addition to improving water quality. Such a regime could be similar in form to the BER scheme and delivered by the private sector.</p> <p>Group also saw the need to develop a strong base in commercial water/waste water research and development as also critical.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short Term</p>	<p>DEHLG established a Task Force to respond to an ECJ court case (which ruled that Ireland failed to comply with the Waste Directive regarding domestic septic tanks standards). The Task Force is considering and developing proposals in relation to septic tanks. A public consultation process on the development of performance standards for such systems and on the arrangements for the inspection of systems has recently concluded. The submissions received are currently being considered. It is intended that, following this consideration, the Task Force will advise the Minister of the legislative measures required to comply with the ruling.</p> <p>EPA announced a call for research proposals in June 2010 to assess management options for treated wastewater from single houses in low permeability soil/subsoil settings.</p> <p>A project was selected and approved by the EPA Board and will commence in Quarter 1 of 2011.</p>
<p>26. Group recommended that IDA retrofit an existing IDA Business Park to a high level on the LEED standard (Leadership in Energy &amp; Environmental Design) in collaboration with existing occupants, service providers and authorities as a demonstration and test site for new technologies and sustainability.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short-to-Medium Term</p>	<p>IDA has issued a call for tender for consultants to advise on how best to develop a new business park <u>and</u> retrofit an existing business park to LEED standards.</p> <p>It is planned that IDA will publish the initial requirements to the open market for response in Q1 2011.</p>
<p>29. Group called for IFSC Clearing House Group to consider and progress recommendations which emerge to develop a Green IFSC supported by Department of the Taoiseach. Consideration to be</p>	<p>The Government has agreed in principle, following the work of the Green IFSC Steering Group of the IFSC Banking and Treasury Working Group, to provide seed</p>

<b>Recommendation</b> <b>(with ref. number in original report)</b>	<b>Action to Date</b>
<p>given to the role that wider public and private sector bodies with an existing interest in the green economy, could play in developing the Green IFSC.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short Term</p>	<p>funding of €6.8m over three years to develop the strategy of the establishment of an International Carbon Standard (ICS) and associated Dublin International Voluntary Offset Registry (DIVOR).</p> <p>This is subject to the preparation of a detailed business plan for approval by Government. This work is to be carried out by the Enterprise Agencies, under the aegis of the IFSC Clearing House Group.</p>
<p>30. Group recommended speedy implementation of Directive 2009/29/EC which allows installations in EU Emissions Trading Scheme below de minimis thresholds to, inter alia, opt-out of the EU ETS into a secondary domestic offset market.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short Term</p>	<p>Regulations transposing Article 27 of the Revised ETS Directive were made in 2010 making way for the implementation of this recommendation. Stakeholder consultation on opting installations out of the EU ETS will get underway in April 2011. Following that consultation, primary legislation may be required to effect the opt-outs, if any.</p>
<p>36. Group recommended that education and training providers should continue to redesign existing, and introduce new, courses to meet new and emerging skills needs for enterprises operating in the green economy.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short-to Medium Term</p>	<p>The HEIs already engage with industry on new course development but it is recognised there is scope for more structured engagement between providers and emerging green industries.</p> <p>FAS also offers green economy courses, particularly in the environmental and construction sectors.</p> <p>The EGFSN reported in November 2010 on specific areas relevant to the green economy which will be of guidance to education and training providers.</p>
<p>37. Group recommended that education and training providers, in collaboration with business, should continue to provide continuing professional development, part-time and distance opportunities for professionals to update existing knowledge and acquire new skills.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short-to Medium Term</p>	<p>DES is working with the HEA to expand opportunities in continuing professional development. An example is the Flexible Learning project which aims to establish mainstream flexible learning at the IoTs.</p> <p>FAS offers continuing professional development courses in the green economy, particularly in the environmental and construction sectors.</p> <p>The EPA – NUIG water research facility at Tuam is being used by Civil Engineering NUIG for training purposes for Undergraduates and Post-Graduates. NUIG are exploring the possibilities of providing</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Recommendation</b> (with ref. number in original report)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Action to Date</b></p>
	<p>career professional development courses for engineers and other stakeholders in the water / wastewater sector.</p> <p>The EGFSN reported in November 2010 on specific areas relevant to the green economy which will be of guidance to education and training providers.</p>
<p>38. Group recommended that education and training providers should continue to promote recognition of formal and non-formal learning and prior experience within programmes.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short-to Medium Term</p>	<p>A report on recognition of prior learning was launched by DES in December 2009 which will contribute to the development of consistent recognition of prior learning practice across HEIs. The report is to contribute to the development of consistent recognition of prior learning practice across HEIs.</p> <p>The impact of the report will be reviewed in future progress reports on the High Level Group's recommendations.</p>
<p>39. The Group recommended that the Commission on Energy Regulation should expedite the 18-month processing period for new connections to the grid, and that, in future, preference is given to projects of scale and/or those with a strategic contribution.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short-to Medium Term (post Gate 3 process)</p>	<p>Gate 3 liaison group involving CER, Eirgrid and industry participants has been established to oversee delivery of Gate 3 connections. Offers began issuing in December 2009.</p> <p>An evaluation of the take-up rate will be done after all offers have issued and the deadline for offer acceptance has passed, i.e. after end Quarter 3 of 2011</p>
<p>40. The Group recommended immediate transfer of responsibility for foreshore licences from DAFF to DEHLG and the creation of a dedicated unit which supports enterprise and research projects. Group also recommended that, in the course of the transfer, the foreshore license regime should be reviewed to ensure that it supports enterprise and research projects that require foreshore licenses.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately</p>	<p>Certain foreshore functions (such as those relating to renewable energy) transferred to DEHLG from January 2010.</p> <p>Work is underway in DEHLG on preparing a General Scheme of the necessary legislation, and scoping out the requirements for the development of a Marine Spatial Plan to strategically plan development on the State foreshore and to manage the competing and often conflicting sectoral demands.</p> <p>Short-term administrative and regulatory measures to improve throughput of foreshore applications are also being introduced by DEHLG.</p> <p>The extent to which the Marine Spatial Plan will support enterprise and research will be</p>



<b>Recommendation</b> <b>(with ref. number in original report)</b>	<b>Action to Date</b>
	reviewed in future progress reports.
<p>42. Group recommended focus on emphasising the “common good” and encouraging greater public understanding of economic, environmental and social advantages of local renewable energy projects and to encourage communities to join together to develop and promote renewable energy projects.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately</p>	<p>SEAI- Renewable Energy Information Office organise a range of activities such as conferences, workshops, demonstration events and study tours that provide information to all interested stakeholders. SEAI also provide information at an individual level, through its website and telephone helpdesk, to those stakeholders who make direct contact.</p> <p>The development of a coherent national approach to the “common good” message for the electricity grid development needs to be continued.</p>
<p>43. Group emphasised the need to communicate the need to reinforcing the electricity grid is to increase renewable energy penetration and to support secure power for existing industry, for example through the “power of one” campaign. Group also emphasised the need to communicate the message that more renewable energy requires more high-tension electricity cables which need to be overhead from a cost perspective.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately</p>	<p>Eirgrid has engaged in ongoing regional and local briefings and is preparing studies which will assist in further public consultation.</p> <p>Eirgrid intends to involve local communities and stakeholders at a regional and national level with a view to ensuring a shared understanding for the need for development of transmission infrastructure.</p>
<p>46. The Group recommended that the work to develop and implement a National Action Plan on Green Public Procurement -being undertaken by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, in co-operation with both the National Public Procurement Operations Unit and the National Public Procurement Policy Unit - should be urgently progressed with a view to the earliest possible attainment of the 50 percent target by the Irish public sector. The Group wished to emphasise the importance of implementation of this Action Plan, in a manner that supports innovative firms, as a matter of priority.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately</p>	<p>A conference on green procurement was held in May 2010 and a discussion paper was open for public consultation until August 31. Meetings of public sector stakeholders took place on 14 December 2010 and 21 January 2011, at which feedback to the consultation and proposed GPP standards and criteria were discussed.</p> <p>DEHLG and the National Procurement Service intend to finalise the National Action Plan during Quarter 1 of 2011.</p>

### III. Recommendations which require further attention to be substantially progressed

<b>Recommendation</b> <b>(with ref. number in original report)</b>	<b>Action to Date</b>
<p>4. Group recommended the alignment of the feed-in tariff for renewable electricity derived from bio-energy with that available in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short-Term</p>	<p>In May 2010, the Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources announced a new feed-in tariff for bioenergy which is currently subject to EU State Aid approval.</p> <p>The proposed Irish feed-in tariff for renewable electricity derived from bio-energy is lower than those in Northern Ireland and a number of other EU Member States.</p>
<p>6. Group recommended that consideration should be given to reducing stamp duty on low-carbon homes as in UK.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately (if a suitable definition of low carbon homes was available).</p>	<p>Fundamental changes to stamp duty were announced in Budget 2011, but did not include any reference to reductions for low-carbon homes. The matter can be taken up again in the context of the new tax arrangements on sale properties.</p>
<p>15. Group recommended expanding the scope of the Accelerated Capital Allowance Scheme (currently limited to energy-efficiency products) to include technologies that minimise waste streams.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately (See also Recommendation No. 22 below)</p>	<p>This is a Budgetary matter for the Department of Finance and would need to be based on addressing a particular market failure. Any such measure would also be subject to EU State Aid approval.</p>
<p>16. Group recommended easing regulatory burden to developing an all-island market in recyclable material – through addressing the classification of certain waste streams in EU Regulations (in particular brown bin waste as non-hazardous) and through reducing admin and charges associated with compliance.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately</p>	<p>Ireland has raised the possibility of a border area agreement under a special provision of the Waste Trans Frontier Shipments (TFS) Regulation which allows for less stringent controls in particular circumstances for cross-border shipments of certain wastes to minimise the administrative TFS procedures. Exploratory dialogue between the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), DEHLG and the National TFS Office has taken place, but the matter is unlikely to advance in the short-to-medium term.</p>
<p>17. Group recommended the prioritisation of efforts to develop additional reprocessing capacity for recovered materials (e.g. paper, glass, plastic, metal recycled materials).</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short- to Medium-Term</p>	<p>The Market Development Programme is working on reprocessing capacity and studies are currently being undertaken in plastics arisings, recovered paper and compost crop trials. The Market Development Programme is also working to develop indigenous markets for recycled materials.</p> <p>Further developments will be included in future progress reports.</p>

<b>Recommendation</b> <b>(with ref. number in original report)</b>	<b>Action to Date</b>
<p>20. Group recommended that a single national water authority should be introduced with overall responsibility for system planning, delivery and maintenance. This would support the development of deeper public and private sector capabilities in the water sector and the development of projects of greater scale.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short-to-Medium Term</p>	<p>The DEHLG is currently undertaking a value-for-money study of the Water Services Investment Programme, the objective of which is to review the efficiency and effectiveness of programme investment, including delivery structures.</p> <p>It is intended that proposals which are to be considered by the Government will address the structural approach to the delivery of water services.</p>
<p>22. Group recommended that consideration be given to expanding the scope of the Accelerated Capital Allowance Scheme (currently limited to energy) to include technologies that minimise water/wastewater utilisation.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately</p>	<p>This is ultimately a Budgetary matter for the Department of Finance and would need to be based on addressing a particular market failure. Any such measure would also be subject to EU State aid approval.</p> <p>However, DEHLG is also examining the potential of this recommendation.</p>
<p>23. Group recommended that measures to encourage rainwater harvesting and the re-use of grey water should be encouraged.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Medium-Term</p>	<p>DEHLG funded pilot rainwater harvesting study projects undertaken by DIT which concluded that implementation of rainwater harvesting in Ireland is dependent on cost of water to consumer and also on cost of adoption of particular technology.</p> <p>The introduction of volumetric water charges as provided for in the National Recovery Plan will offer greater opportunity to progress this recommendation in due course.</p> <p>Nonetheless, a number of businesses participating in the EPA Cleaner Greener Production Programme are investigating the potential for rainwater harvesting.</p>
<p>25: Group recommended that IDA develop one of IDA's planned strategic sites into a Flagship Green Business Park which is designed and built to the highest standard on the internationally recognised US LEED green building standard.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short-to-Medium Term</p>	<p>IDA issued a call for tender for consultants to advise on how best to develop a new business park and retrofit an existing business park to LEED standards. The objective is to achieve SSI certification (Sustainable Site Initiative) on the site, rather than LEED. Analysis of the pilot site will commence mid-2011; however, this will be budget-dependent.</p>

<b>Recommendation</b> <b>(with ref. number in original report)</b>	<b>Action to Date</b>
<p>31. Group recommended that in the context of the current constraints on public finances, the pooling of research expertise and/or the development of formal (national, all-island and international) research alliances must be advanced. This could entail the merging of existing initiatives or the creation of an umbrella group to develop a networked European energy centre, bringing together the best of Irish capacities to create critical mass. The challenge for Ireland is to create research centre(s) which will be recognised at a European and global level.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short-to-Medium Term</p>	<p>The Innovation Task Force has lent support to further collaboration, alliances and streamlining. On 1st. May 2010, responsibility and associated funding for the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTLTI) and certain other research functions was transferred from the Department of Education and Skills to the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation. Work is on-going to identify the areas that have the greatest potential to deliver sustainable economic return from Ireland's investment in Science, Technology and Innovation.</p> <p>The specific outcomes for pooling of research and creating research alliances in the environmental goods and services area will be reviewed in future monitoring of the High Level Group's recommendations.</p> <p>There is currently a joint EI-IDA-SEAI initiative (with a funding provision also from SFI in due course) for a major dedicated Energy research centre and involving a US multinational power company. The logistics of this project are currently being teased through by the various players (IDA and EI primarily).</p>
<p>32. Group identified that Green research is funded through a range of agencies and recommended an assessment on merits of consolidating and aligning the range of green R&amp;D funding programmes.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately</p>	<p>Budget 2010 announced the creation of a single funding stream for science, technology and innovation. Progress has been made on this with the transfer of certain functions from DES to DETI.</p> <p>The EPA has established a Water research advisory group with key stakeholders whose aim is to reduce the fragmentation of Water RTD in Ireland and to increase awareness, synergies &amp; communication amongst Water RTD funders.</p> <p>The specific outcomes from consolidation and alignment of research in the environmental goods and services area will be reviewed in future monitoring of the Group's recommendations.</p>
<p>33. Group called for the development of a R&amp;D research strategy for the wider environmental goods and services sector which builds on work of Irish Energy Research Council and the EPA research programmes (including a strong focus on water and waste). Group saw it as important that any overarching</p>	<p>A number of important individual initiatives are being undertaken - e.g. SFI's Energy Strategy and Strategic Research Centre work, InterDepartmental Committee on STI's response to the EU Eco-Innovation Action Plan, and SEAI's Energy Roadmaps for the achievement</p>

<b>Recommendation</b> <b>(with ref. number in original report)</b>	<b>Action to Date</b>
<p>strategy take cognisance of export and employment potential in key green sectors and target Irish-based companies to exploit commercial benefits. Consideration also needs to be given to how other research streams can build environmental sustainability into their research agenda — from ICT to food to transport.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short-Term</p>	<p>of Ireland’s ambitions in the areas of Ocean Energy, Bio-energy and Energy Efficiency by 2050. Also, the EPA’s Water research advisory group (see Rec. No. 32) will, by mid-2011, prepare a Roadmap and Vision for Water Research in Ireland.</p> <p>The impact of these initiatives and progress on an overall strategy for the wider environmental goods and services sector will be reviewed in future progress reports.</p>
<p>34. Group called for a whole-of-Government drive to market Ireland as a test-bed centre in areas of clear competitive advantage (such as wind and marine renewable energies).</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Short-to-Medium Term</p>	<p>There is a Renewable Energy Development Group chaired by the DCENR which comprises of stakeholders in the renewable energy industry sector. The REDG includes Ocean Energy Development Unit (OEDU) in SEAI, EirGrid and the Commission for Energy Regulation. Initiatives and plans for the renewable energy industry are funnelled through this group where full consultation takes place.</p> <p>The impact of this initiative and further progress on the drive to market Ireland as a test-bed centre will be reviewed in future progress reports on the High Level Group’s recommendations.</p>
<p>35. Group recommended Innovation Task Force and DETI should ensure structures and incentives are in place to maximise commercial applications from publicly-funded research.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately</p>	<p>EPA has been working with EI to identify research projects with strong commercial potential associated with Water Framework Directive and other environmental policies.</p> <p>Wider developments on maximising commercial applications from publicly-funded research will be reviewed in future progress reports on the High Level Group’s recommendations.</p>

<b>Recommendation</b> <b>(with ref. number in original report)</b>	<b>Action to Date</b>
<p>41. Group recommended that the ‘single premise’ regulation should be amended to allow for multi-user renewable energy installations, and the third-party provision of power lines be allowed subject to agreed standards.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately</p>	<p>To allow for closed distribution systems in Ireland, a number of policy, regulatory and technical issues have to be addressed and legislative change will be required. DCENR is currently undertaking work, in conjunction with stakeholders, to address these barriers to closed distribution systems as part of implementation of EU Directive 2009/72/EC.</p> <p>In this regard, DCENR is focussing on the transposition of mandatory requirements of the Directive as a first priority and will turn to the non-mandatory provisions, including those relating to closed distribution networks later in 2011. DCENR will also review the position in other Member States, particularly in the UK, as part of this work.</p>
<p>47. Group recommended that progress on green public procurement targets should be monitored and made publicly available with weak-performing Departments/agencies held to account.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately</p>	<p>This can only be done once the Green Public Procurement Plan is published. (See Recommendation 46 in previous section)</p>
<p>50. Group recommended that reduced interest rate loans to companies investing in producing environmentally friendly products should be considered. Funds for this could be channelled through programmes with existing banks or the development agencies.</p> <p>Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately</p>	<p>As part of the banks’ recapitalisation, AIB and BOI each committed to make €100m available for Environmental, Clean Energy and Innovation Funds. In the context of the NAMA announcement in March 2010, both banks committed to making an additional €100m each available.</p> <p>Take-up of designated green funds is unclear. Efforts will be made to review the situation in future progress reports.</p>

<b>Recommendation</b> <b>(with ref. number in original report)</b>	<b>Action to Date</b>
<p data-bbox="229 277 834 629">52. Group recommended that potential now exists for IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland and others to extend Ireland's Green brand into the environmental goods and services sector. One particular initiative that could be used to market Ireland would be to introduce an annual prize for green innovation. This could be awarded annually on Saint Patrick's Day in an effort to showcase Ireland's commitment to the green sector and to create opportunities for green enterprises to network and connect with customers and funders.</p> <p data-bbox="229 703 746 734">Timeline (as set out in Nov 2009): Immediately</p>	<p data-bbox="855 277 1386 810">The Government has recently launched a new Trade Strategy for Ireland. The Foreign Trade Council, which had its inaugural meeting on 27 October 2010, will coordinate the implementation of the suite of actions agreed to achieve the priorities and targets in the new strategy. The strategy has limited emphasis on developing the green economy in Ireland but is considering more strategic use of St. Patrick's Day Ministerial visits. Through the Foreign Trade Council, DETI in conjunction with the enterprise development agencies will explore measures, such as marketing the "Green Island" and an annual prize for green innovation, which can promote the sector.</p>

## Appendix 2: High Level Group Membership

Established in May 2009 and reporting in November 2009, the original membership of the High Level Action Group on Green Enterprise was as follows:

Joe Harford, Chairperson

Mary Doyle, Department of the Taoiseach,

Clare Dunne, Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment

Martin Eves, Envirogrind Limited

Mike Feeney, Enterprise Ireland

John Fitzgerald, ESRI

Colin Gordon, Glanbia

Declan Hughes, Forfás

Richard Kennedy, Kedco Ltd.

Colm Lavery, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

J Owen Lewis, Sustainable Energy Ireland

Rosheen McGuckian, NTR plc

David Moloney, Department of Finance

Denis Molumby, IDA

Declan Murphy, the Ecology Foundation

Eddie O'Connor, Mainstream Renewable Power Ltd

Clare O'Grady-Walsh

Brendan Tuohy

Sara White, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources

Secretariat to the Group is jointly provided by Forfás and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation.