

### **Ireland Announces New Climate Change Strategy**

Irish Environment Minister Dick Roche has unveiled Ireland's new National Climate Change Strategy to cut the country's greenhouse gas emissions to 13 per cent above 1990 levels by 2012. The strategy includes a levy on incandescent light bulbs, an increase in the use of sustainable energy, a €15 million public awareness campaign and the establishment of a Climate Change Commission to advise the government. Energy consumption by the public sector will also be reduced by 33 per cent by 2020. Roche says the plan will ensure the country will be able to meet its emissions targets set out in the Kyoto Protocol, and better position the country to meet more ambitious targets expected at the end of the protocol's first phase in 2012. Reducing emissions will account for 80 per cent of the government's target, with the remaining 20 per cent to come from the purchase of carbon credits. Renewable energy is also a key part of Ireland's plan. The country aims to generate 15 per cent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2010 and 33 per cent by 2020, with biomass expected to contribute up to 30 per cent of energy output at peat stations by 2015. "It makes so much sense to use renewable sources," says Roche.

[Source esaa news]