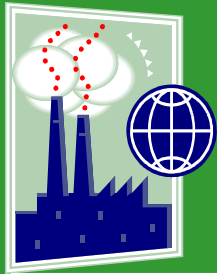


# ENVIRONMENTAL TAX REFORM

Comhar Sustainable Development Council with the European Environment Agency, UCD Earth Sciences Institute, Smart Taxes and Feasta



Learning from the past, and inventing the future

The Eco-tax Observatory  
Date: Thur 28th October 2010  
Time: 08.45 Registration  
Clarion Hotel, IFSC, Dublin

## Programme

08:30 Registration – coffee, tea and scones provided

9:00 Welcome  
Noel Dempsey, Minister for Transport

Chair: Peter Clinch, Adviser, Taoiseach Brian Cowen

09:20 What ETR Could Contribute to Environment and Finances  
David Gee and Stefan Speck, European Environment Agency

### **Water and Waste Water**

09:45 Implementing Water Charges - Metering Programmes and Water Efficiency  
Fabrice Baron, Veolia/EUREAU

10:05 Implementing Wastewater Levies in EU Member States  
Mikael Skou Andersen, European Environment Agency

10:25 Irish perspectives and Discussion

10:50 Break

### **Solid Waste**

Chair: John McCarthy, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

11:20 Implementing the Landfill and Plastic Bag Levies – the Irish Experience  
Dorothy Watson, Economic and Social Research Institute and Bill Culbert, Dept. of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

11:45 Implementing Charges for Waste Management in Europe  
Christian Fischer and Mikkel Hansen, EEA Topic Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production

12:05 Discussion

12:45 Lunch

### **Greenhouse gases**

14:00 Implementing the Irish Carbon Tax  
John Burke, Department of Finance

14:20 Carbon Taxation in Sweden – the Road 1991-2010 and Onwards  
Susanne Akerfeldt and Mats-Olof Hansson, Ministry of Finance, Sweden

14:50 Implementing the Irish Carbon Based Vehicle Registration Tax (VRT)  
Georgina Hughes-Elders, Department of Finance

15:10 Discussion

15:40 Break

### **Land Value Tax**

16:00 Land Value Taxation – Lessons from Europe  
Fred Harrison, Director, The Land Research Trust, London

16:20 Irish Perspectives and Discussion

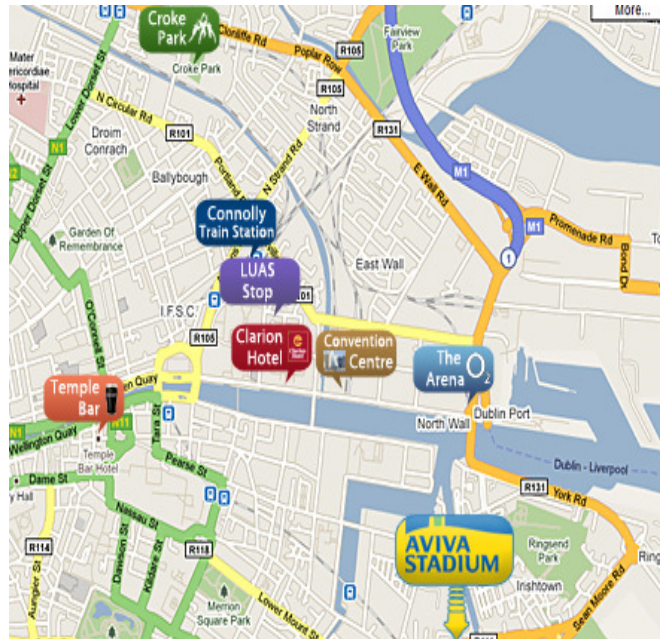
Synthesis

16:40 Synthesis session  
introduced by Prof. Frank Convery, University College Dublin and Comhar SDC

17.00 End

The focus here is operational and on implementation – the how rather than the whether or why. Each presentation will comprise an ex post analysis of an already successfully implemented tax. They will address the following, accepting that these data will not all be available for each case:

1. Coverage and rates (who pays, and how much)
2. Administration (who monitors and collects)
3. Leakage Issues (cross border etc)
4. Revenues generated, and what happens to them (general revenues, neutrality policy – other taxes reduced, hypothecated, hybrid)
5. Environmental Impacts, including volume of emissions, waste, water use etc compared with the counterfactual (without the tax)
6. Economic Impacts – macro economy, sectoral competitiveness, regional issues
7. Social impacts, especially on the most deprived
8. Main opponents to tax, and how opposition was overcome or neutralised.
9. Lessons learned – key pre-requisites for success and sustainability



The hotel is located a 5 minute walk from the Luas red line, on the Mayor Square – NCI Luas stop with the Luas arriving approx every 10 mins during peak times.

Directions from O'Connell Bridge: Turn right onto Eden Quay and then Custom House Quay Continue straight through 3 sets of traffic lights: the hotel is 3rd block on your left.

Parking is subject to availability and a cost of €2.50per hour or €14.00 for Overnight.

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