

This submission is from the Grey Power Federation in regard to the 2015/16 Levy Funded Appropriations for the EA Work Programme and the EECA Work Programme document.

This submission is specifically in relation to the EECA work programme only.

Firstly the Grey Power Federation would like to say that we fully support the work that EECA is doing to promote and support energy efficiency in the community. We are also aware that some of the major electricity users are not supportive of the universal application of the levy, believing that they are not obtaining any benefit, but it is Grey Power's contention that energy efficiency and conservation are a national concern and that it is a corporate responsibility to participate in its funding.

Grey Power currently has a membership in excess of 70,000 members all of whom will be benefiting or using electricity in some way or another and it can be taken that as a combined group we are also a major user and as such support the continuation of 0.6 cents per kWh on all electricity consumed being used to support the EECA work programme.

Of course Grey Power wants to see the residential sector being a major beneficiary of that programme, but do support the EECA proposal to work in the business sector to promote and assist in improving energy efficiency and conservation. This is an area in which Grey Power can see plenty of opportunity for improvement.

Grey Power are pleased to see many major appliances with both energy stars and where water is involved, water usage stars, these stars do help the domestic consumer decide on which appliance will be the most efficient over time and is a programme we fully support.

There are other areas that we would like to see EECA more proactive, such as lighting particularly in the sale of CFL replacement lights, there does not appear to be anything on the boxes when purchasing these products to indicate that are approved by EECA as being efficient or having a life expectancy that we would expect. Is it not time to have on these products a green EECA tick similar to the red heart tick on food products? When purchasing replacement lights from the supermarket the consumer does not know whether they are buying quality or cheap lights with a limited life span.

With LED lights now becoming a popular installation in new homes or additions to homes it is also important that there be some form of standard to adhere to and again the green EECA tick would be of great assistance to the consumer. LED lighting is very clearly the lighting choice of the future, particularly for down lights, but the consumer needs to know they are buying quality products, the EECA tick would be of great assistance. Also with LED lights the light output is being shown in lumens, which for the average consumer is of little help when for years they have been using incandescent lamps with their recorded lighting being shown in Watts. With CFL lights the input is shown in Watts and their incandescent Watts equivalent output is also shown, but not

with LED lights this needs to be addressed if we want people to change to the more efficient LED lights.

Everything needs to be done to encourage the domestic consumer to adapt and to use both the CFL and LED lighting and we do not say encourage not enforce change; this can be done by giving clear understandable information on the packaging to assist the consumer make the right choice.

The EEC tick could be used on a greater range of small appliances where the manufacturer has a product that meets the standards required by EEC.

Another product that is causing confusion in the marketplace and needs addressing is Double Glazing, this is a product that will benefit anyone looking at improving the insulation in their homes, but which one to choose?

There are many systems being advertised in magazines on TV and people door knocking, I think when it comes to new homes or additions or alterations to homes the Aluminum Joinery industry do have reasonable standards, but again these need to be proven and an EEC tick would give confidence. When it comes to retrofit products on already existing joinery how good are these products and again an EEC tick could assist the average consumer who has little or no knowledge as to what is a good product or otherwise.

With the installation of Photo Voltaic cells increasing in both the residential and commercial sectors, the question can again be asked, "which panels to choose and which inverter"? Some assistance to the residential consumer is required as to the standards that need to be met for these products. This is also an area we believe that EEC should be involved, because of the outlay required for a PV system it is important that the buyer can have confidence and guidance in their choice.

This submission is for and on behalf of the Grey Power Federation.

Allen Davies  
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