



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES :





Caoimhe McCarthy

SEAI - Introduction

SEAI's Vision

5 Year Strategy (2017 -2021) - Ireland's energy will be sustainable, secure, affordable and clean



1. **Use Less** – reduce energy consumption, increase energy efficiency
2. **Use Clean** – utilise natural resources, renewable sources, reduce reliance of fossil fuels
3. **Innovate** – new approaches





SEAI's Mission & Goals



“SEAI will be central to bringing about a low carbon economy through measures and activities focused on the transition to a smarter and more sustainable energy future.”

- Empowering citizens and communities to be at the centre of this transition
- Increasing awareness and confidence in sustainable energy technologies, practices and behaviours
- Increasing the impact from existing grant programmes, and development of new platforms to support the transition





SEC Programme & Network



SEC Programme Introduction



- Ireland's Energy White Paper 2015 – actions to achieve a low carbon energy system by 2050 – looking at all energy users – how communities can effect change in energy use
- Support communities to develop energy management skills and knowledge
- Key to the programme is the SEC Network - established in 2015 – to support national movement of SECs
- Now operating in every part of country – over 260 communities



Sustainable Energy Communities Map

Filter Sustainable Energy Communities by:

County

Please select

Interests

Please select

Apply

Comharchumann
Fuinnimh Oileáin
Árann Teo

Transition Kerry

Claremorris &
western district
energy co-op

Inisbofin CSP Ltd

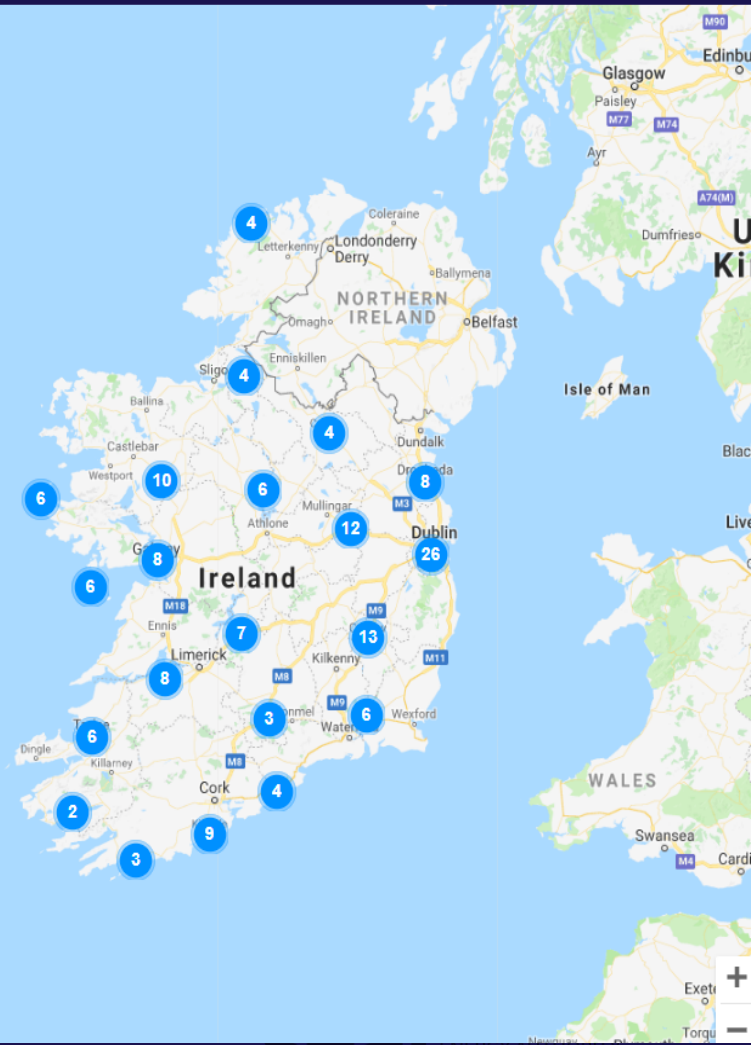
St. Catherine's
Cultural Centre

Lanesboro Tourism
Co-Operative

Údarás na
Gaeltachta

Galway Energy in
Transition

Polecat Group Water
Scheme





What is an SEC?

- A community that works together to develop a sustainable energy system for the benefit of the community
- Aiming to be as energy efficient as possible; use renewable energy where feasible; consider smart energy solutions
- Range of different energy users/stakeholders across communities
- Holistic approach - connecting sustainable energy, local economic development and public wellbeing





Diverse network

- Small rural towns
- Large urban centres
- Neighbourhoods
- 3rd level institutions
- Resident's Associations
- Tidy Towns Committees
- Suburban community organisations
- Local environmental groups
- County councils
- Business groups
- Housing Associations





Benefits of becoming an SEC



- Achieve financial and energy savings
- Enhance comfort, health and wellbeing from energy efficient buildings
- Boost local employment opportunities
- Support community & local development
- Build capacity, skills and access support and funding
- Contribute to national energy targets and reduce carbon footprint





SEC Journey - Learn, Plan, Do



LEARN: Your community joins the SEC Network, where you can learn about community energy and start thinking about what you can do on the ground.

PLAN: If your community decides to progress, we will support you in doing a baseline Energy Master Plan. You enter a partnership with us, and we provide further supports as you progress this plan.

DO: Once you have developed an Energy Master Plan, your community will be able to prioritise the best energy projects to start with. Then you can identify grants or supports to help achieve these projects.





Partnership & EMP

- 3 year partnership with SEAI – access further mentoring and technical support
- Community Charter – set out ambition
- Competency Assessment – 7 building blocks
- Apply for funding to develop an Energy Master Plan for your community
 - baseline energy consumption of community
 - register of opportunities – ranking of suitable projects





Activity & Supports available

Sustainable Energy Communities Achievements to date

Learn

- **265** Communities have joined the SEAI Communities network since 2015



Plan

- **70** partnership applications
- **66** Energy Master Plan funding applications
- **40** Energy Master Plans underway
- **10** Energy Master Plans completed/near completion



Do

- **35** Sustainable Energy Communities involved in BEC projects
- **19** Sustainable Energy Communities are involved in the SEC Pilot grant



Achievements



2012 -2018

17,000 home upgrades

2000 Non domestic upgrades

540 GWh saved

€300 Million Invested

€125 Million in support



Grants & Supports



Home Energy Grants

- Insulation grants
- Heating controls grant
- Free upgrades for eligible homes
- Warmth & Wellbeing Scheme
- Deep Retrofit
- Solar grants (PV & thermal)
- Heat pump systems

Electric Vehicles

- EV Grant – making the switch to an EV
- EV Home Charger Grant

Business Grants

- Dairy Farm grant – efficient vacuum & milk pump technology

Community Energy Grant

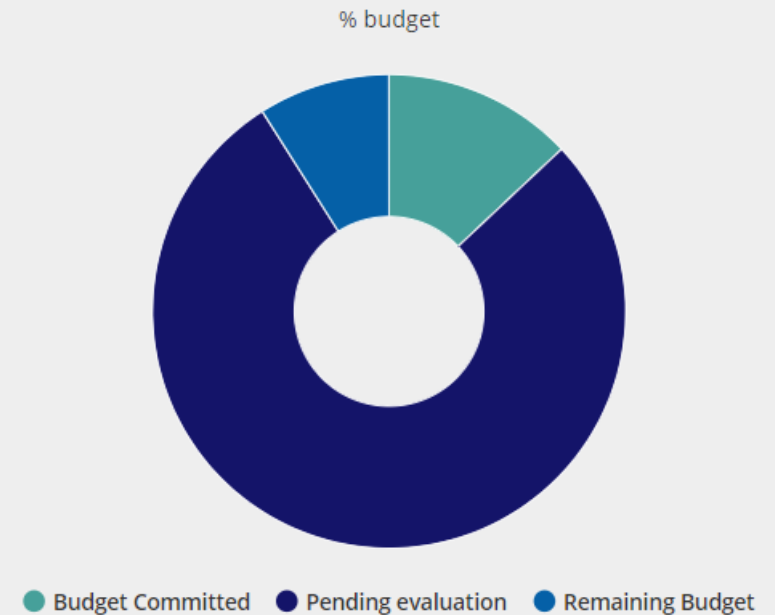
Other relevant funds out-with SEAI – e.g. Climate Action Fund, URDF & RRDF, LEADER



Communities Grant 2019

- Fund is live/open
- No application deadline (encouraged to submit as early as possible – funding on first come first served basis)
- Applicants to set own project milestones
- All works must be completed by **14 October 2019**
- More information - <https://www.seai.ie/grants/community-grants/>

Communities grant status 2019



Source: SEAI

Capture taken Monday 11th March



Home Energy Pack

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Tips for saving energy and money around your home



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Working with the public, communities, businesses and government to achieve a cleaner energy future

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You have received this home energy pack from your local sustainable energy community group. Considering your own energy use as an individual householder is the first step on the journey to becoming part of a sustainable energy community. This is where all the energy users in a community work together as far as possible.

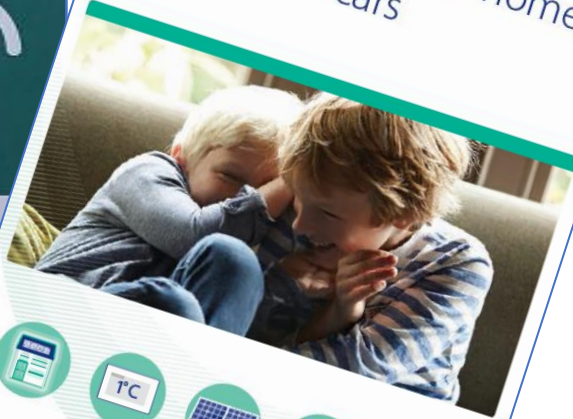
- to be energy efficient
- to use renewable energy where possible
- to use smart energy technologies

A sustainable energy community starts with the conversations that you have with your family, neighbours and friends about energy use in the home. Remember, collectively we can all take actions that will make a difference.

This pack contains energy tips, energy use, and

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Grants for a warmer home and electric cars



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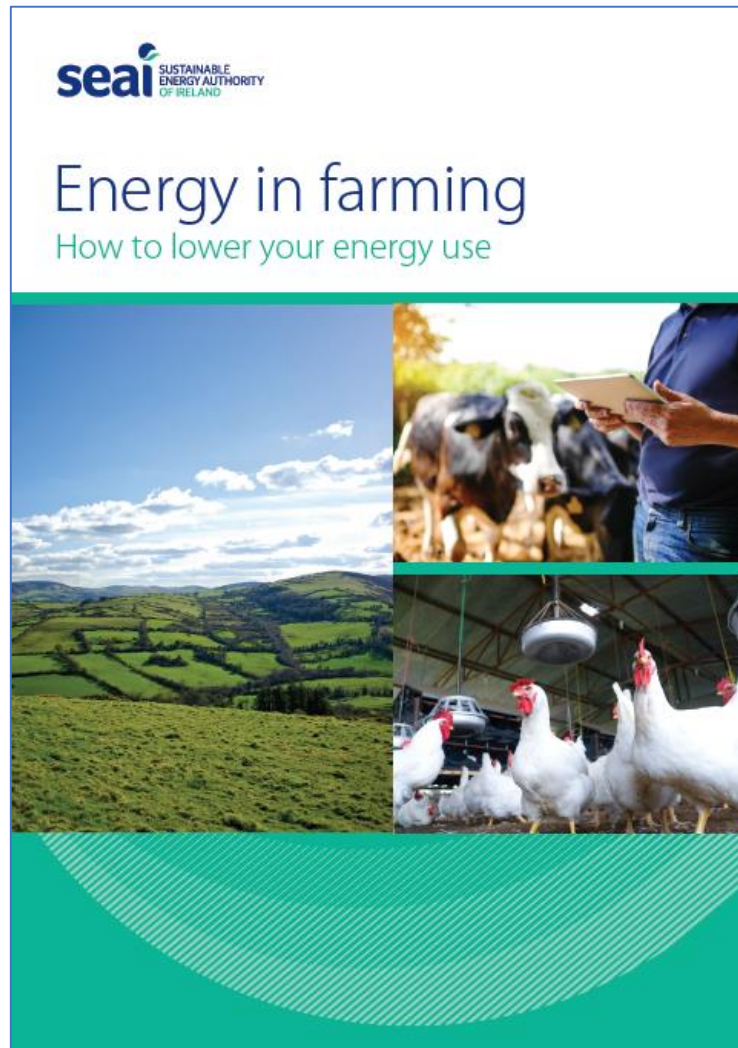
Track your energy - this table can help you see how much energy you use in your home. Once you understand your energy use, it's easier to make savings!

An average house spends about €1,500 every year on heating and electricity.

Month	Electricity	Heating	Transport	Notes
<p>You can fill in your electricity bill details by the cost (€) on the units (kWh), or both. Remember bills are estimated unless you send your meter reading to your supplier.</p> <p>Track what you spend on heating your home. Most heating is either by oil or gas. If you use oil, the unit is litres. If you use gas, the unit is cubic metres. These units should be available on your bills, as well as the cost (€). Don't forget to include coal, wood or other fuels if you use them.</p> <p>This is for your petrol or diesel use in your car. The unit is litres. If you use gas, the unit is cubic metres. These units should be available on your bills, as well as the cost (€). Don't forget to include coal, wood or other fuels if you use them.</p> <p>Insert any comments here that might be relevant to understanding your energy use. For example, the type of fuel you are using, or whether you had guests staying in the house which would account for a higher energy bill.</p>				
€	Meter reading at start of month	€	litres or kWh	€
Jan		€		€
Feb		€		€
Mar		€		€
Apr		€		€
May		€		€
Jun		€		€
Jul		€		€
Aug		€		€
Sep		€		€
Oct		€		€
Nov		€		€
Dec		€		€
Total		€		€

www.seai.ie

Useful Materials





Thank you – Any questions?

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