



Summary of the Workshop -Triple SEC

11.11.2023 | Dublin, Ireland

The workshop was organised by the [Citizen-led renovation initiative](#) together with three energy community Dublin. The support service for Citizen-led renovation (CLR) is an EU initiative aiming to empower energy communities to put citizens in the driver's seat of energy-saving renovation projects. The initiative supports pilot projects, of which Triple SEC is one. Through these pilots, we aim to bolster community-building, aid in the replication of successful energy renovation programs, and introduce advancements such as insulation improvements, new technical systems, and the integration of renewable energy sources. Our overarching goal is to navigate and overcome financial, legal, technical, and informational challenges to achieve sustainable, future-ready residential structures.

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Author Citizen-led renovation project managed by the European Commission Directorate-General for energy | [European Commission](#) | [DG ENER](#)

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Reviewers: Workshop participants.

This document does not necessarily reflect the views of all workshop participants.

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Background

Ireland's residential heating energy consumption surpasses the EU average. To address this, the 2022 National Retrofit Plan aims to refurbish 500,000 homes by 2030, underscoring the country's dedication to a sustainable post-pandemic recovery and robust energy efficiency. This commitment is further highlighted by initiatives like Ireland's Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS), propelling the nation towards its renewable energy ambitions. An example of this progress is Triple SEC (three energy communities in Dublin), where the Triple SEC symbolises a shift towards a greener future.

Objectives of the workshop

The CLR provides the support services. First, it's essential to establish a common vision and set clear expectations for a citizen-led renovation project. This involves identifying who should be actively involved in the process. Involving a diverse range of stakeholders, such as local residents, community leaders, and municipal representatives, can ensure that the project addresses the needs and aspirations of the entire community.

Next, there's a need to co-design a robust project management strategy. This includes developing methods for tracking progress and monitoring the project's impact. Effective project management will ensure that the renovation is carried out efficiently, meets its objectives, and has a transformative effect on the pilot community or municipality. Therefore, the workshop aims to

- Understand the CLR project and its benefits
- Develop a shared vision for citizen-led renovation
- Detail concrete project ideas
- Identify funding needs and project management strategies

Workshop participants

The workshop included 17 members from three energy communities (Cossybotter, Philoso, Cabra), TU Dublin, and representative from the energy ministry. A detailed list of participants is available at the end of the document.

Summary of the workshop activities

The workshop welcomed members of Triple SEC, collaboration partners, and university representatives. The workshop began with Diana (IEECP) and Ger offering a warm welcome and participants introducing themselves. Diana and Shima (IEECP) presented the CLR project, outlining key benefits, goals, and background.



Gerald O'Halloran also shared the outcomes of discussion on his presentation on 15th Citizens' Energy Forum. Supporting communities with the right tools and funding encourages sustainable regeneration, while collective buying and incentives promote efficiency. Adapting to diverse needs and scaling successful models is key for wider impact.



Visioning Session

Diana (IEECP) facilitated a visioning session where participants engaged in individual reflection and group discussions to determine a collective vision for September 2024 concerning energy communities. The questions were:

- What will you show them?
- What activities will they see?
- What achievements have been made?
- How do different actors in the community collaborate?
- What do you envision had changed in your community?



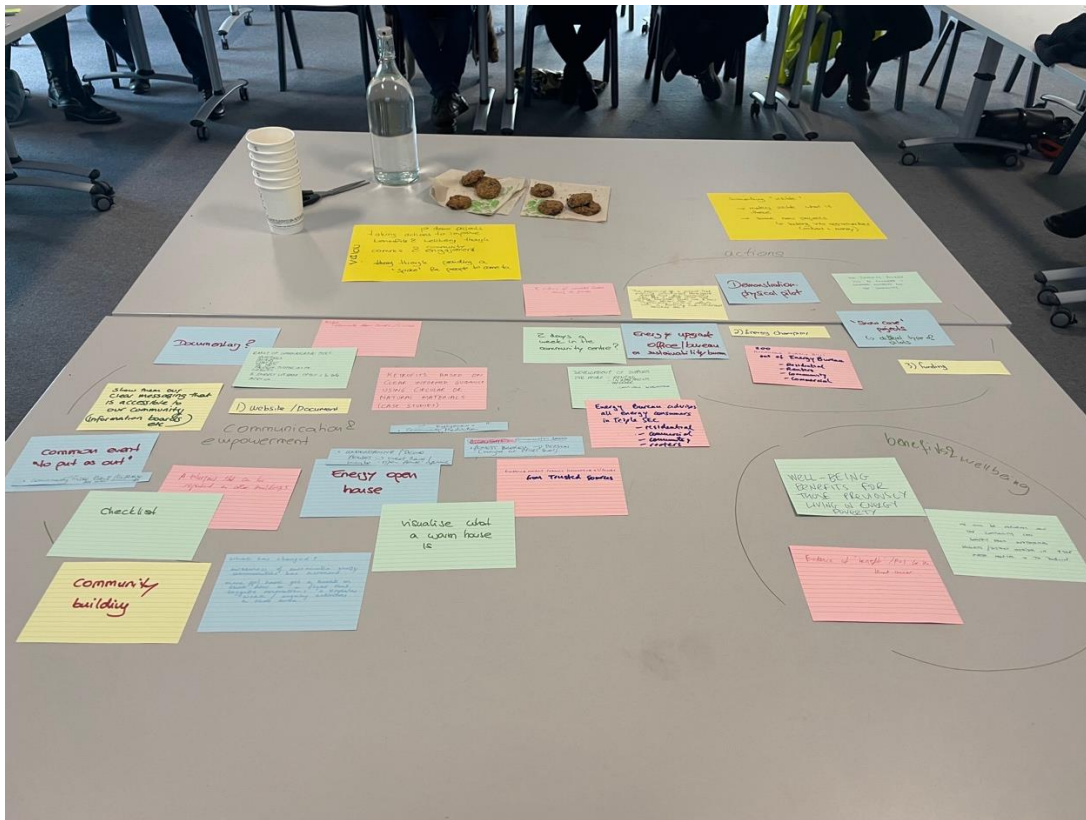
The outcomes of the visioning session can be grouped in three categories:

- **Communication and empowerment**
 - Retrofits based on clear informed guidance using circular or natural materials
 - Range of communication tools, meetings, posters, Facebook, twitter
 - Information boards to show the energy community, the clear messaging that is accessible to energy community
 - Common event “to put as out”
 - A blueprint that can be repeated to other buildings
 - Energy open house
 - Document the renovation process, experience, costs and benefits
- **Actions**
 - Demonstration/physical pilot
 - Funding
 - Energy upgrade office/bureau and sustainability bureau
 - 2 days of week in the community centre
 - Energy bureau advises all energy consumers in Triple SEC

- Prospects/ district heating in hospital and TU Dublin
 - Residential
 - Commercial
 - Community
 - Renters
- **Benefits and well-being**
 - Well-being and benefits for those provinces living in energy poverty.
 - Evidence of benefits for homeowners
 - To be an example of how the communities can benefits from retrofitting.

The session concludes that even small actions can have a significant impact. While an Energy Bureau could be beneficial, establishing a dedicated community space where members meet twice a week could foster stronger connections and collaborative efforts.

“Triple SEC takes retrofit actions to improve benefits and wellbeing through communications and community engagement and through providing a “SPACE” for people to come to.”



Project Design

Diana led group brainstorming sessions where project ideas were discussed, barriers identified, and potential roles defined. The discussion focused on per energy communities on the type of actions and the potential barriers that they may face. Each small group brainstormed actionable project ideas tailored to their specific energy community—Cabra, Philo, and Cosybatter. They pinpointed actions to realize their visions, identified barriers such as financial or technical challenges, and determined

roles for participants to lead or support the initiatives. The focus was on collaboration across communities to share knowledge and overcome common obstacles.



The project design session was planned to have the discussion for each energy community. Here is a summary for each one:

- **Actions**

Cosybatter:

- Identifying “tangible examples” in each community in a variety of measures to create a living map of those who took measures and are willing to share information.
- Pool and centralised information and resources of Triple SEC: three energy communities have separate information, how they can optimise their resources.
- Identifying the houses that are willing to share their knowledge and going through survey.
- Identifying funding opportunities, setting up a Triple SEC account and having a funding sub-committee
- Explore funding opportunities for pipeline of projects.
- D7 microgrid and the energy cost savings obtained.
- A planning for action committee with representative from each community
- Document the renovation process, experiences, costs, and benefits.
- Streets of solar panels covered houses.
- Identify spaces and funding mechanisms for the person in the space

Phibsboro:

- Identify existing renovated houses in each area as potential examples.
- SSEs groups find those who want to be volunteer.
- Finding space—> pop-up space
- Web-page document on basic step of setting up the group including
 - Tips on who is needed

- List website on backgrounds
- Case study community energy
- List of contact
- Funding streams
- Monthly meeting and sub-groups
- Some people in the community about to get a retrofit done. We need to distribute and share their experiences.
- Meeting policy makers
- More renewable installed and a plan for energy sharing going forward
- All residents are aware of Triple SEC activities and where to look for information on retrofit/renewables. A single central source, e.g., a website

Connecting Cabra:

- Collaborate with experts for retrofit guidance on different building types, e.g., university research
- Identify case studies and open house participants
- A communications strategy that takes the 3 energy communities needs on board (representatives from each SEC feeding into the communications perhaps)
- Action planning
- Funding planning: applying the funding more clear
- Each community to identify examples
- Equal representation of each community
- Capture current and past retrofitting, prospects as case studies. Promote EMS and other prospects
- Identify communication needs and most effective way of connecting with the community (not usual suspects)

Ministry of energy

- Financing
- Communication
- Working group
- Knowledge hub → the whole country

TU Dublin

- Communication targeted we need to find economically disadvantaged groups: elderly, etc. since support for them is available to apply for e.g., warmer homes scheme
- An exchange program with the Portugal CLR project
- Sharing of information on retrofitting btw households
- The big churches in Cabra will be covered by solar panels.

- Identified barriers

- Streamlining with limited amount of time: Public participation group: voluntary groups with voluntary groups, how will be realistic with the availability of volunteer groups.
- 3 energy communities with 3 different needs, the energy communities are neighbours but not homogenous communities.
- Limited amount of time
- Conflicting projects
- Need for a coordinator.
- Lack of financial resources
- Identify spaces for meetings.

- The support team are not expert they are just supporting something to happen
- So many organisations are dealing with the elderly people.
- How to get the information of demos that are already done → do interviews analyse the team
- BER assessment for old district —. Not easy to get this information.



In summary, the session addressed crucial areas including targeted communication strategies for vulnerable populations, the creation of a centralized information hub, streamlined action planning for equitable community representation, the identification of venues for events, and strategies to increase volunteer engagement in energy projects. Here is the key points of the discussion:

- **Communication strategy:** Importance of targeted communication, especially to economically disadvantaged groups and ensuring visibility for organizations working with the elderly.
- **Information centralisation:** (a) The need for a pool of centralized information and a knowledge hub that can be accessed by different communities across the country. (b) Finding spaces for meetings and pop-up initiatives.
- **Efficiency in action planning:** The approach towards efficient working, communication, funding planning, and ensuring equal representation from each community.
- **Volunteer engagement:** Encouraging SSEs groups to find volunteers and manage group dynamics effectively.

Project Management Discussion

Ellen first summarised the discussion of the previous session to make the connection with the project management discussion. She emphasised the importance of identifying the steps in order to realise the implementations of the project ideas. It is important to decide whether Triple SEC is one group of three groups since the managing structure will be completely different. At the end, the participants decided to be three different groups but sharing resources.

She also mentioned the extensive amount of social media platforms. However, it is important to have one message during the time from each group. It should be clear whether Triple SEC aims to be this group or the sustainability bureau.

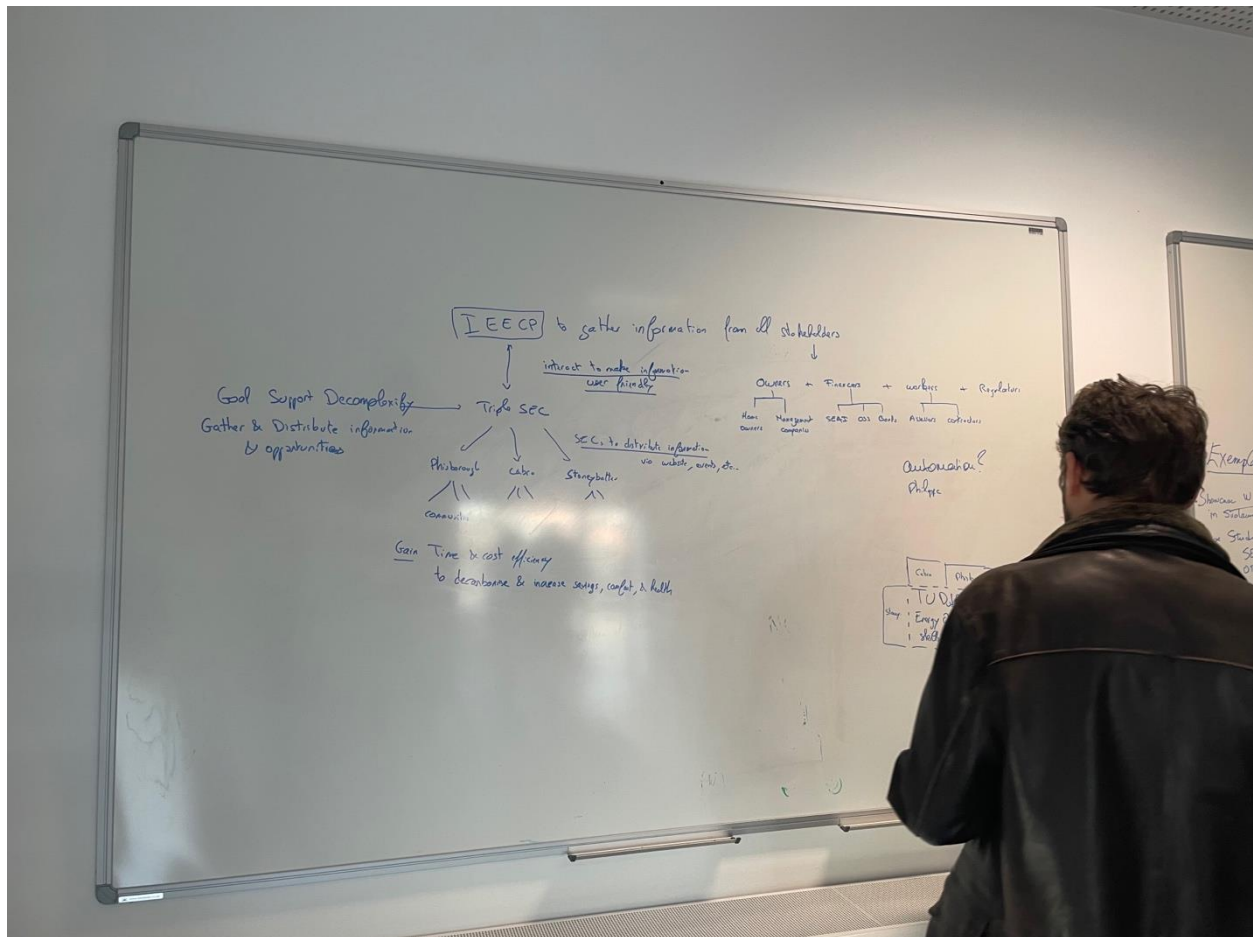
Ger mentioned that Triple SEC can be responsible for the energy aspects and each group for other activities that have been defined for each energy community. Darcy illustrated that because they see in the ministry of energy that these energy communities are applying for similar funding maybe that would be an idea that these energy communities collaborate with each other. *Ellen suggested that it is important to clarify the roles of different energy community's members in the project. The leader of the project is needed to be specified.*

Diana mentioned we need to define a structure for support system that should be sustainable for future upscaling.

Ellen mentioned that we need to define the priorities in this project, for example identification of best examples or finding people who are interested in energy renovations. Also, the barriers need to be considered, such as volunteer job is volatile. The next year, It will be clear how the structure of how the steps will be accomplished. Triple SEC can be the central point of information.



The picture below shows the expectations of the energy community from the citizen led renovation initiative.



Walk in the Neighbourhoods

- Each energy community representative guided a walk through 3 local neighborhoods to observe and discuss the real-world context of the CLR initiative.



Cosybatter



Example of renovated building in Cosybatter



Phibsboro



Connecting Cabra

Annex I - Workshop participants

| Name | Organisation |
|---------------------|---|
| Gerard O' Halloran | Connecting Cabra |
| Caitriona Kelly | Connecting Cabra |
| Rene Peeren | TU Dublin |
| Dmizsesh Dubh | TU Dublin |
| Therese Caherty | Connecting Cabra |
| Gerry Wardell | Phibsboro: |
| Samantah Favy | DCU SEC /head of sustainability |
| Ellen Mc Donough | Th!nk Europe |
| Gererd | Zero carbon/sec mentor |
| Hannah Rooney | Connecting Cabra |
| Brian Gormim | TU Dublin/Connecting Cabra |
| Seamus Calvin | Cosybatter |
| Philippe Lemarchand | Cosybatter |
| Kate Griffin | Cosybatter |
| Steph Dickenson | Cosybatter |
| Damhnaik Gleeson | Cosybatter |
| Darcy Lenergan | DCC/Councillor employee of ministry of energy |
| Orlaith Delargy | Energy community |



Annex II – Follow up plan by Triple SEC representative (Ger)

In terms of next steps:

1. We'll have meetings only twice a month from January 2024. The December meeting shall discuss the projects (Section 4) and map out the inputs (especially from EU team) & actions (Section 2) required to deliver them.
2. I've streamlined the email recipients to the Triple SEC board below. I'll work with the comms group to create a larger email chain to keep a wider group of members informed.
3. If anyone has any feedback or suggestions please get in touch!

1. TRIPLE SEC BOARD

Cabra

- i. Ger O'Halloran
- ii. Therese Caherty
- iii. Eoin Condon
- iv. Caitriona Kenny

Phibsboro

- v. Gerry Wardell
- vi. Ger Meaney
- vii. Celine Reilly
- viii. Colm Hand

Stoneybatter

- ix. Steph Dickenson
- x. Damhnait Gleeson
- xi. Kate Griffin
- xii. Ryan Mulvaney

Ex Pat

- xiii. Darcy Lonergan

2. BOARD BREAKDOWN & PROGRESS TRACKER

| Areas | Persons Responsible | Actions | Due Dates |
|--|---------------------|---------|-----------|
| Governance and Strategic Planning Combining long-term strategy with the overall governance responsibilities, ensuring we are on track with our mission; "Energy Independence" and adhering to our values. | ALL | | |
| Financial Oversight and Fundraising Investigating fundraising strategies and opportunities. Any funding would be applied for individually by SEC member groups. | GOH | | |

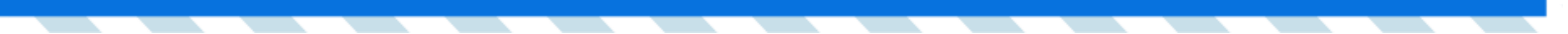
| | |
|--|---------------|
| Regulatory Compliance and Risk Management Ensuring that all activities are in compliance with relevant laws and regulations, and identifying and mitigating potential risks. | GM, GW |
| Project and Technical Management: Supporting the technical aspects of energy projects, supporting funding applications & merging the technical support with the actual management of projects. | GM, GW, DG, |
| Communications and Membership Engagement: Handling internal and external communications e.g. Social Media, Door to Door canvassing & fliers, public relations, and engaging with the members of the association to keep them informed and involved. | SD, Kate, GOH |
| Stakeholder Engagement and Partnership Development Building and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders, including community leaders, local governments, businesses, and other organizations. | COR, CH, RM |
| Event Management and Community Outreach: <i>Organizing events that promote the association's goals and reach out to the community to educate and involve them in energy initiatives.</i> E.g. Open Houses, Q&As with completed retrofitters, Deals with local suppliers, | DL, TC, EC |

3. VISION

“Energy Independence”

4. PROJECTS

- i. Monthly Open Houses and/or Monthly Open Energy Information events
- ii. Identifying & supporting prospective and current retrofitters
- iii. Supporting one community building in each SEC to get Solar PV or deep retrofit. Possibly with the support of
 - a. <https://www.seai.ie/grants/community-grants/overview/>
 - b. <https://www.seai.ie/business-and-public-sector/business-grants-and-supports/commercial-solar-pv/>
 - c. <https://www.seai.ie/business-and-public-sector/business-grants-and-supports/energy-efficiency-obligation-scheme/eeos-businesses/>
 - d. Others
- iv. Develop simple protocol (based on technical guidance) with equipment (insulation saw) & natural insulation (sheepswool, wood fibre or hemp etc) for installing attic insulation. And quantify possible savings (avg heating bill €1700, reducing the heat loss through the attic can save as much as 30%).

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- v. Further develop relationships with Universities to support projects.



About the energy community Triple SEC

The energy community is a limited company established in 2021. The energy community currently has three founding members. They define themselves as a "family energy community".

Izgrei completed its first pilot project in August 2023. The pilot project is located outside of Plovdiv and included the renovation of a house owned by one of the community members and the installation of nine solar panels total capacity 4kW on the roof of the garage. The renovation activities included new roof, new windows and work on the façade of the house. Also, the solar panel is connected to the grid for self-consumption and feeds electricity into electricity system to generate some income from the excess.

Based on the experiences, Izgrei has developed a guide together with Greenpeace Bulgaria on how to set up an energy community². They have done advocacy work and given interviews on national television and in newspapers about the activities of the energy community. **Error! Reference source not found.** provides a summary of the pilot.

| Pilot information | Connecting Cabra SEC | Phibsboro Village Climate Club SEC | Cosybatter SEC |
|---------------------|--|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Location | Dublin7 | Dublin 7, 9, 11 | Dublin7 |
| Legal form | Unincorporated Association ¹ | | |
| Established in year | 2021 | 2018 | 2020 |
| Members | 30 | 7 | 7 |
| Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of an EMP • Selected participants offered Building Energy Rating, assessments for free as part of the EMP. • Information regarding retrofitting and renewable energy grants made available to members. • Personal experiences and lessons learnt of retrofitting projects made available to members. • Local engagement events surrounding energy, active travel and biodiversity. | | |

Future perspectives/aims

- Triple SEC has the perspective to offer a community led option for renewable energy & energy saving measures that are affordable to all.
- Leverage partnerships with local institutions such as Technological University Dublin (TUD), Dublin City Council, local businesses, local schools and other community groups.
- Establish themselves as a legal entity to allow them to actually support the delivery of innovative renewable energy projects.
- Develop a “How To” guide for other communities to follow for community led renewable energy projects.



About the citizen-led renovation initiative

The CLR initiative aims to empower energy communities and put citizens at the forefront of energy-saving renovation projects. During the project, four energy communities in four different countries, one of which is Bulgaria, will be supported to implement citizen led energy renovations and renewable energy installations within their energy community. The support service consists of six pillars: 1) overall project management, 2) business case development, 3) ecosystem building, 4) project pipeline and investment plans, 5) technical design preparation, 5) communication and engagement. The support service will be tailored to the needs of each pilot.