



Country Sections Ireland Handbook Update CLR II

Support service for citizens led renovation projects - ENER/2023/OP/0036

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

Directorate B – Just Transition, Consumers, Energy Efficiency and Innovation Unit B1 -
Consumers, Local Initiatives, Just Transition

Submitted by: Ricardo

In collaboration with: Eworx, Goparity, Steinbeis, Th!nk E, Th!nk Europe, VITO

Date: 26/03/2026

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Introduction

Ireland faces a significant building renovation challenge as part of its climate and energy commitments. The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 established a legally binding target of a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (from 2018 levels) and net-zero emissions by 2050.¹ About 40% of Ireland's energy-related CO₂ comes from buildings, underscoring the importance of retrofitting homes and community facilities.² Under its National Energy & Climate Plan (NECP) 2021–2030, Ireland set ambitious targets to improve energy efficiency: upgrading 500,000 homes (approximately one-third of the housing stock) to a minimum Building Energy Rating (BER) of B2 and installing 400,000 heat pumps by 2030.³ These targets have been integrated into Ireland's Climate Action Plan and Long-Term Renovation Strategy.

By late 2024, an estimated 55,893 homes had already been retrofitted to BER B2 or better, but achieving the 2030 goal will require scaling up to ~63,000 deep retrofits per year from 2026.² The electricity sector is also in transition where renewable sources (primarily wind) generated ~42% of Ireland's electricity in 2022, and the government aims for 80% renewable electricity by 2030.⁴ Ireland's NECP update (2023) reinforces citizen and community action: it calls for expanding Sustainable Energy Communities to 1,500 by 2030 (from ~900 in 2023) and achieving at least 10% community ownership of renewable power capacity by 2030.⁵ These targets reflect a policy vision that sees citizen-led renovation and energy communities as integral to Ireland's climate strategy, delivering emissions, lowered energy bills, and local green jobs.



Aerial view of residential homes and apartments in Belfast city, Ireland

¹ Ireland's Energy Targets | SEAI – [Link](#)

² Halfway to 2030: What the new government means for retrofitting – Energy Ireland – [Link](#)

³ National Retrofit Plan – [Link](#)

⁴ Ireland's Energy Targets | SEAI – [Link](#)

⁵ Ireland - REScoop – [Link](#)

Current Outlook

Overview of Building Stock

Ireland's building stock is predominantly residential, with around 2.17 million residential dwellings recorded in 2024. These residential buildings are composed of low-rise, single-family units, that comprise of 30.7% of detached houses, 24.7% of semi-detached houses and 28.5% of terraced houses. Multi-family units (apartments in blocks of more than 5 dwellings) represent around 10.7% of the residential building stock.⁶ As per 2024 Eurostat data, home ownership rates in the country were reported to be 69.4% and the remaining 30.6% renting their living spaces.⁷ Census 2022 data highlights a clear acceleration in housing delivery, with the quantity of occupied dwellings built during 2016-2022 nearly double that of the 2011-2015 period. The age profile also witnesses a shift towards higher density housing, as the number of apartments rose from just 3% of dwellings in 1971 to 1980 to more than 20% in between 2001 to 2010, with 15% of homes built since 2016.⁸

Energy efficiency of the Existing Stock

The country's existing building stock displays uneven energy performance, with only 15% of dwellings since 2009 rated A. CSO BER data reports 16% of these audited dwellings to be B-rated and the largest share sits at a C rating (33%). This contrasts sharply with newer homes, built between 2020 and 2024, 99% of which achieve a rating of A2 on average. It was also identified that electricity is the main space heating fuel in 92% of the newer residential spaces, versus 24% across all dwellings.⁹ SEAI's BER mapping also indicates a geographical pattern, with lower-rated homes seen more often in rural areas and in older urban neighbourhoods, where energy costs and retrofit demand tends to be elevated.¹⁰ Energy poverty also remains a key concern in Ireland, with the SCO's SILC indicators reporting 4.9% of the population unable to keep their homes adequately warm. While this is a significant reduction from 2023's 7.2%¹¹, it still reflects affordability and efficiency challenges. As a response to this, the national government has initiated the [Energy Poverty Action Plan \(2022\)](#) which combines short term income support with scaled energy efficiency upgrades.

Renovation Status of the Building Stock

Although the retrofit activity in Ireland has gone up in the past few years, the progress is not fast enough to meet the national climate targets. Less than 0.1% of Irish homes are renewed annually, meaning large scale renovation is needed. As per 2024 reports, more than 1.26 million Building Energy Rating (BER) certificates have been issued in the country, encompassing 66% of all occupied homes along with the Irish Building Stock Observatory (IBSO) providing information on the renovation trends. Retrofit activity having reduced during the COVID pandemic, saw a strong rebound and yet, the country is still anticipated to miss its 2030 goals. That being said, current

⁶ Geodirectory Residential Buildings Report – [Link](#)

⁷ Housing in Europe – 2024 edition - Interactive publications - Eurostat – [Link](#)

⁸ Occupied Dwellings Census of Population 2022 Profile 2 - Housing in Ireland - Central Statistics Office – [Link](#)

⁹ F2020 - Housing Stock - Dataset - data.gov.ie – [Link](#)

¹⁰ NESC Housing_master – [Link](#)

¹¹ Census 2022 shows falling home ownership rates – CSO - TGS Ireland – [Link](#)

trends show that Ireland is closing its gap towards its 500,000 home B2 retrofit (thought to be achieved by 2032), suggesting only a modest delay.¹²

Annual investment has been increasing, with approximately 616 million euros deployed in 2024, although delivery remains slightly uneven. Uptake is better in regions with higher financial capacity while rural dwellings, low-income households and the private sector face challenges in this aspect. An estimated 260,000 of rented properties still fall under a BER rating of B2.¹³

While challenges remain, the direction of travel is fairly positive. Recent government initiatives and research proceed to highlight feasible ways to improve energy performance and encourage renovation of buildings.

Status of Citizen Energy Communities and Renewable Energy Communities

Citizen Energy Communities and Renewable Energy Communities have been formally recognised in Ireland through the Clean Energy Package, although the practical implementation is still in its early stage. Ireland does not yet have a large number of formally registered “RECs” or “CECs” in operation, as the detailed market framework (for activities like energy sharing or collective self-consumption) is still under development. However, the groundwork is laid. The CRU’s Clean Energy Package Roadmap indicates that remaining provisions (like enabling energy sharing within communities) will be rolled out in the coming years.¹⁴ In practice, dozens of local energy co-operatives and community initiatives are active (many mirroring the EU definitions) – e.g. Templederry Wind Farm in Co. Tipperary (Ireland’s first community-owned wind project), and new solar co-ops supported via Ireland’s Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) (*See section ‘Overview of Ireland’s Progress and Current Trends’ for more information on RESS*). These are expected to transition into officially recognised energy communities under the law.

Ireland’s approach is to integrate the community concept into existing structures: for instance, requiring RESS community projects to register as SECs (*concept discussed in section ‘Overview of Ireland’s Progress and Current Trends’*) ensures alignment with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland’s (SEAI) support system. Going forward, as more community renewable projects come online and as microgeneration grows (thousands of homes are installing solar PV under grants and can now receive payments for excess power via the Clean Export Guarantee introduced in 2021, citizen energy participation is set to increase.

¹² Is Ireland on track to meet its retrofit targets? – Energy Ireland – [Link](#)

¹³ New ESRI research explores investment requirements for energy efficiency upgrades in the private rental sector – [Link](#)

¹⁴ Proximity Requirements for Renewable Energy – [Link](#)

Energy Communities in Ireland

Overview of Ireland's Progress and Current Trend

Ireland has incorporated the EU Clean Energy Package definitions of Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) and Citizen Energy Communities (CECs) into national law. In 2022, Article 22 of the EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) was transposed via the *European Union (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2022* (S.I. No. 76 of 2022), which empowered the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) to establish an enabling framework for RECs.¹⁵ These regulations define RECs and grant the CRU authority to set rules – for example, to determine what proximity means (i.e. local geographical links) for REC projects. Similarly, EU Directive 2019/944 on the internal electricity market (which defines CECs) has been transposed via statutory instruments in 2022, formally embedding the concept of a Citizen Energy Community (CEC) into Irish law (e.g. ensuring open and voluntary participation, and members retaining their rights as consumers). The CRU has noted that under Ireland's approach, RECs are essentially a subset of CECs, distinguished mainly by the renewables focus and locality aspect, whereas CECs (a broader category) do not need to be geographically bound to the same extent. It is to be noted that although the EU Directives have been transposed into the country's national law, its implementation is still an ongoing process (*see 'current status' for more information on the ongoing development*).

Prior to these EU-driven definitions, Ireland already had the concept of Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) introduced by the SEAI. An SEC is a community network initiative (not a legal entity by default) where local groups voluntarily collaborate on energy projects (renewables, efficiency, education). This concept is broader and less formal than REC/CEC: SECs can pursue any mix of actions and are often supported by grants and mentors, without strict legal structure requirements. Joining the SEC network is free and open to any community group. Members receive structured support under SEAI's Learn-Plan-Do model: each community is assigned a regional mentor (an advisor who provides guidance and connects them to resources) and can access funding of €10,000–€25,000 to develop an Energy Master Plan for their locality.¹⁶

With the transposition of the Clean Energy Package, Ireland is aligning its laws with EU criteria (e.g. one-member-one-vote governance, primacy of social and environmental benefit over profit, etc.), while leveraging the existing SEC network. For example, under Ireland's RESS, any project bidding for funding in the community category must be at least 51% owned by a REC that is registered as an SEAI Sustainable Energy Community.⁵ The first RESS auction in 2020 ring-fenced a portion of capacity for "community-led" renewable projects (originally requiring 51% community ownership). After the first round, this requirement was strengthened to 100% community ownership for the community category, to ensure projects are truly community-driven and prevent misuse of the lower competition category. Under RESS 1 and 2, several community solar and wind projects secured support, benefiting from relaxed rules (e.g. the ability to apply for grid connections prior to full planning permission).

To further implement the Clean Energy Package, the CRU has been developing regulatory details. In 2023, the CRU consulted on rules for REC proximity criteria, proposing that effective control of a renewable project must remain within the local community area, with membership structure

¹⁵ Proximity Requirements for Renewable Energy – [Link](#)

¹⁶ Join a Sustainable Energy Community Network – [Link](#)

reflecting local vs. non-local participants. A registry of energy communities is also planned by the regulator to increase transparency and trust. In summary, as of 2025, Ireland's legal framework recognises energy communities in line with EU law, but many practical aspects (market access, grid tariffs, sharing arrangements) are still being fleshed out. Renewable Energy Communities enjoy specific provisions in renewables support and grid connection (e.g. dedicated grid offer process for community projects, see below), and the CRU views RECs as a special form of citizen community focusing on renewables. Meanwhile, CECs, which can engage in broader energy services beyond generation are enabled under electricity market regulations, with the expectation that CECs will operate under general market rules but with facilitated participation.

A key regulatory adaptation in Ireland is how community projects get grid connections. Normally, the Distribution System Operator (DSO) processes grid connection offers in periodic batches that can disadvantage smaller players. To reduce this barrier, Ireland introduced a "non-batch" connection process reserving at least 15 out of every 30 connection slots for community projects. Community projects can apply for a grid connection without having secured planning permission (something typically required), although they must obtain it before the final connection offer is issued. If a community learns that the grid upgrade costs would be prohibitive, they can withdraw and receive most of their application fee back (75% refund) – a protection to encourage communities to attempt projects without a high financial risk.¹⁷ These measures, along with waiving certain fees and bid bonds for community projects in RESS, form the core of Ireland's enabling framework so far.

¹⁷ Ireland - REScoop – [Link](#)

Challenges and Opportunities for Energy Communities in Ireland

Challenges and Gaps

Grid Connection Challenges

RECs are hindered in Ireland due to the high costs of securing grid connections. This barrier makes community led projects difficult to deliver financially. The delays faced in the timelines of connections additionally slow down project development and reduces certainty among the communities. The major issue here is the absence of a hybrid connection policy, which if present, would permit multiple projects from different entities to come together and connect at the same grid point.¹⁸

Regulatory challenges

Regulatory challenges that impede the growth of RECs in Ireland stem from its restrictive and unclear nature. This poses a challenge for communities in navigating project development, securing the required approvals, and overall, hindering them from participating effectively in the energy market.¹⁹ Regulatory inhibitors as such reduce the flexibility and slow down the pace at which citizen owned renewable initiatives can be established and scaled.

Gaps in Policy Coordination

There is a need for clearer, more supportive frameworks for community initiatives. The progress from interest to implementation is harder for communities when there exists a lack of consistency in policies.²⁰

Lack of Technical Expertise

There is no sufficient in-house knowledge about renewable technologies, that promotes a lack of security and trust among citizens, preventing participation.²¹

Opportunities and Enabling Factors

Legal Recognition

As mentioned in previous sections (*see 'Overview of Ireland's Progress and Current Trends'*), RECs and CECs have been officially recognised and incorporated into the country's national law.

Funding Opportunities & Support Mechanisms

Irish energy communities receive financial aid from both EU level funding schemes and national grants and mechanisms. Initiatives such as Horizon Europe²² and the [European Regional Development Fund](#) (ERDF) play a crucial role in providing the necessary financial support energy communities need for setting up and maintaining themselves. In the national level, grant support extended by the RESS through the **SEAI Enabling Grant Framework**. Complementing this, toolkits such as the **Business Planning and Procurement Toolkit** help citizens and

¹⁸ Good practice guide for local renewable energy communities in Ireland – [Link](#)

¹⁹ Good practice guide for local renewable energy communities in Ireland – [Link](#)

²⁰ Energy Communities in Ireland: Progress, Challenges and Potential – [Link](#)

²¹ Energy Communities – [Link](#)

²² Horizon Europe – Who should apply - European Research Executive Agency – [Link](#)

communities navigate through the Enabling Grant Framework by explaining the Framework, outlining the key REC project stages and providing the indicative funding requirements.²³

Strong need

As 4.9% of the Irish population still struck by energy poverty, self generation and community energy seems particularly appealing and practical.

Government and Local Authorities' Support

Initiatives like the RESS mandate that community projects be owned 100% by renewable energy communities, with its profits reinvested locally. Although the number of Local Energy Communities (LECs) are significantly low in the country, Sustainable Energy Communities flourish and with the additional support offered by the national government, this strong framework will pave way to the creation of more LECs. Local authorities/municipalities are seen to support local energy projects through the provision of public land and spaces to set up the projects.²⁴

Further Actions

For energy communities to scale in Ireland, more work is needed in the following fields:

- **Enhancing Governance and Policy Frameworks:** Developing clearer and consistent frameworks, as well as supporting varied ownership models would encourage RECs to grow.
- **Awareness and Participation:** Sharing EC activities through online forums and networks will promote peer learning and wider community engagement.

²³ Good practice guide for local renewable energy communities in Ireland - [Link](#)

²⁴ Energy Communities - [Link](#)

Relevant legislation in Ireland

Renovation-related legislation

The following table summarises major legislation and policies relevant to citizen-led renovation and community energy, with official titles and brief notes:

Legislation / Policy/Support Scheme	Year	Summary and relevance
Building Regulations – Nearly Zero Energy Buildings	2019 (amended in 2022)	In 2019 Ireland updated Part L of the Building Regulations (via <i>S.I. No. 183 of 2019</i>) to require Nearly Zero Energy Building standards for new constructions and major renovations. As a result, virtually all new homes must have high energy performance (typically BER A2 with heat pumps), effectively phasing out new oil/gas boilers.
National Energy & Climate Plan 2021-2030 (Ireland's NECP)	2020 (updated in 2023)	Ireland's integrated EU plan covering all energy policies. The NECP (and its 2023 draft update) outlines targets for renewables and efficiency (e.g. 34.1% renewable energy share, 500k home retrofits by 2030) and specifically calls for growing Sustainable Energy Communities to 1,500 and achieving 10% community-owned renewable electricity by 2030. It serves as a strategic reference for funding and legislation.
Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS)	2020 – ongoing	RESS is the primary policy framework for supporting grid-scale renewable electricity in Ireland. It operates via competitive auctions (e.g. RESS 1, 2, 3, 4 and now RESS 5) with contract for difference (CfD) mechanisms. RESS includes a community preference category (reserved capacity for 100% community-owned projects) and mandates a Community Benefit Fund (minimum €2/MWh) for all supported generators. RESS 5 recently procured ~1.08 GW in its latest auction, with continued emphasis on solar.
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021	2021	Landmark climate law setting legally binding targets (net-zero by 2050, -51% GHG by 2030). It establishes carbon budgets and requires annual Climate Action Plans. This Act underpins all retrofit and energy transition efforts, including mandates to address energy poverty and community resilience.
National Retrofit Plan	2021 – ongoing	The National Retrofit Plan (NRP) is a government strategy document detailing how to achieve the 500k home retrofits. It doesn't have its own act but is backed by funding in the National Development Plan 2021-2030 (allocating ~€8 billion for retrofit programs). The NRP led to the creation of the <i>One Stop Shop Service</i> and consolidated grant schemes. It emphasises a fabric-first approach (insulation and

		airtightness before heating), the expansion of supply chains, and the need to target energy poverty. Progress on the NRP is reported quarterly by SEAI.
<u>European Union (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No. 76 of 2022)</u>	2022	Transposed key provisions of the EU Renewable Energy Directive into Irish law. Notably, it obliges electricity suppliers to offer a feed-in tariff (Clean Export Guarantee) for excess power from microgenerators. From 2022, households and community groups with solar PV or other renewables are guaranteed payment for surplus electricity exported to the grid, empowering citizens as energy producers. <i>(Made 15 Feb 2022; enables microgeneration and renewable energy communities by law.)</i>
<u>Planning and Development (Exempted Development) (No. 3) Regulations 2022</u>	2022	Updated planning rules to ease the installation of small-scale renewables. These regulations (and related <i>Solar Safeguarding Zone Regulations 2022</i>) exempt most rooftop solar panels from requiring planning permission. They removed previous size limits, allowing unlimited solar panel coverage on house roofs nationwide (with only minor limits near airports). <i>(Effective Oct 2022; reduces red tape for homeowners and schools to install solar PV, accelerating citizen-led renewable projects.)</i>
<u>European Union (Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No. 522 of 2022)</u>	2022	Launched a new phase of Ireland’s Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme (EEOS) from 2023. This law places binding targets on energy suppliers (“obligated parties”) to deliver energy savings by supporting consumers in upgrading homes and businesses. A share of the savings must come from vulnerable households, meaning suppliers fund free or subsidised retrofits for those in energy poverty. <i>(Made 2022; mandates major utilities to finance citizen-home renovations, contributing an expected 36,424 GWh of energy savings by 2030).</i>
<u>Community Energy (Renewable Energy Communities) Framework (2022)</u>	2022	Recent legislative measures under the Renewable Energy Directive led to the creation of an enabling framework for Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) and Citizen Energy Communities (CECs). Regulations in 2022 gave the energy regulator (CRU) authority to set rules favouring community-owned renewable projects. This framework defines energy communities in law and, for example, requires REC members with “effective control” of a project to be locally based. <i>(Established 2022; embeds the concept of community-owned energy in Irish law, supporting citizen groups to develop local renewable generation.)</i>
<u>Small-Scale Renewable Electricity</u>	2023 – Ongoing	Complements RESS by supporting projects between 50 kW and 6 MW, bridging the gap between microgeneration and utility-scale projects. Phase 1

<u>Support Scheme (SRESS)</u>		<p>offers export grants and tariffs for 50 kW–1 MW installations; Phase 2 (launched 2024) introduces 15-year fixed export tariffs for community, SME, and farm projects up to 6 MW. Community projects must be 100% owned by Renewable Energy Communities, with profits reinvested locally. SRESS provides a simpler, non-auction route for citizen groups and SMEs to develop solar and small wind projects, promoting wider participation in Ireland’s renewable transition.</p>
<u>Climate Action Plan (CAP) (annual updates)</u>	2025	<p>The Climate Action Plan (CAP) is a rolling series of government plans under the 2021 Climate Act outlining how Ireland will meet its climate and energy targets. CAP 2021 set the goal of 500,000 home retrofits (BER B2+) by 2030 and expanding the Sustainable Energy Communities network to 1,500 by 2030. CAP 2025 strengthens these commitments by allocating carbon tax revenues to low-income retrofits, expanding microgeneration and community energy supports, and introducing measures like the retrofit loan scheme. CAP actions directly shape national regulation and funding for citizen-led renovation and energy communities.</p>

Citizen buy-in, public volunteering & neighbourhood engagement and relevant support schemes

Community-led renovation projects in Ireland heavily rely on neighbourhood engagement and volunteer efforts. Many successful initiatives started from the ground up: local residents coming together to improve their homes and environment. There are both informal practices and emerging formal supports encouraging this collaborative approach:

Public consultation and buy-in

Any renovation, especially community-scale projects (like external wall insulation on a row of houses, or installing solar panels on shared buildings), requires neighbour buy-in. Early neighbour engagement can prevent later objections. In some cases, formal consent is needed – e.g. owners in a multi-unit building must agree to common area upgrades, or adjoining owners may need to consent if insulation extends onto a shared boundary. Irish community energy projects place a big emphasis on upfront community meetings and surveys. In fact, for a community to be eligible for certain SEAI grants or RESS support, they must demonstrate they have done public consultation and have local support. This often takes the form of town-hall meetings and workshops where volunteers explain the benefits and address concerns.

Volunteering teams

In Ireland’s SEC network, communities often form a volunteer committee or energy team. These are local champions who raise awareness, organise events (like energy info nights or home energy fairs), and coordinate projects. For instance, the Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative began with voluntary community groups in four villages coming together to retrofit

homes. Each village had local volunteers who recruited homeowners, liaised with contractors, and oversaw grant paperwork. These volunteers are usually not doing the physical retrofit work, but their role in trusted outreach is crucial. Neighbours are far more likely to participate when asked by someone they know and when they see a few homes in their area already improved. SEAI encourages this peer-to-peer engagement; the [SEC Handbook](#) even suggests reaching out through existing social networks (sports clubs, parish groups, etc.) to find motivated residents and ask for volunteers to drive energy projects. Volunteer effort is often an unseen but significant contribution (from hours spent door-knocking with brochures, to organising bulk-buy of materials, or even donating professional skills. While volunteers can lead and organise, actual retrofit works (construction) typically must be done by certified professionals to meet quality and safety standards. Irish building regulations and SEAI grant rules require use of registered contractors for grant-funded measures (e.g. only an SEAI registered installer can draw down a heat pump grant). This means well-intentioned volunteering has limits – for instance, a community cannot self-install a heat pump unless the person is a qualified technician.

Neighbourhood retrofit schemes

The government is promoting models where neighbours collaborate on retrofitting, as highlighted in the 2025 Programme for Government.²⁵ By pooling demand (e.g. a whole street agreeing to get their attics insulated or heat pumps installed at the same time), communities can achieve bulk discounts and share the logistical burden. These “block” or “area-based” retrofits also ensure that benefits (like warmer homes and better appearance) accrue to the whole community, which can motivate broader participation. An example is the [Midlands Retrofit Pilot](#), where an entire estate of social housing was upgraded and nearby private homes were invited to join at subsidised cost, creating a sense of collective action. Going forward, such group approaches (sometimes facilitated by local authorities or energy agencies) are expected to become more common. The [Community Energy Grant](#) programme already allows group applications, so a community group can apply on behalf of multiple homes, which inherently requires coordinating neighbours.

²⁵ Halfway to 2030: What the new government means for retrofitting – Energy Ireland – [Link](#)

Funding bodies and schemes in Ireland

Ireland has a comprehensive suite of funding schemes to support energy renovations for households and communities, with special attention to vulnerable groups. These schemes are mostly administered by the SEAI (with government funding from general taxation and carbon tax revenues, often complemented by EU funds). The table below is a mapping of the main funding bodies and schemes:

Scheme	Administering body	Main features
<u>SEAI Home Energy Grants (Better Energy Homes & Solar PV)</u>	SEAI	Individual grants for homeowners covering insulation (attic, cavity, external wall), heating upgrades (heat pumps up to €6,500, heating controls ~€700), and solar PV (up to €2,400). Typically covers ~30% of costs. Available to all homeowners. Over 17,000 homes received grants in 2022 and 22,000 PV systems were installed. Core universal incentive for household retrofits.
<u>National Home Energy Upgrade Scheme (One Stop Shop Service)</u>	SEAI	Launched in 2022 for deep, whole-house retrofits via SEAI-accredited One Stop Shops. Provides 35–50% of costs to reach BER B2+ in one project. Typical grants €10–25k+. Simplifies process through end-to-end management. Supported by home energy upgrade loan scheme (low-interest loans up to €75,000 at 3.5–4.5% APR). Central to achieving 500k retrofit target.
<u>Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme</u>	SEAI / Department of Environment, Climate and Communications	Free retrofits for energy-poor households (attic, wall insulation, heating, windows). Over 150,000 homes upgraded since 2000. Expanded in 2022 to include deeper works. ~6,200 homes upgraded in 2022; ~6,300 targeted for 2024. Fully grant-funded, financed via carbon tax revenues.
<u>Community Energy Grant</u>	SEAI	Supports community-led projects bundling homes, community buildings, and SMEs. Grants: up to 50% for community facilities, 35% for homes (higher for vulnerable), ~30% for businesses. Projects €50k–€1m. Since 2012, over 400 communities funded. Encourages collective citizen renovation and local collaboration.
<u>Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant</u>	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	Provides up to €50,000 to refurbish vacant homes, €70,000 for derelict properties, and up to €84,000 for offshore islands. Energy upgrades eligible. Thousands of applications by 2024. Encourages reoccupation of vacant homes while improving energy standards.

<u>Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme (EEOS)</u>	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications / SEAI	Obligates energy suppliers to fund efficiency upgrades for customers. A set share targets energy-poor households. Supports free or discounted works (insulation, lighting, heating). Drives energy savings through supplier-led funding partnerships.
<u>Just Transition Fund</u>	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications	A dedicated fund for Ireland's wider midlands region that was historically dependent on peat-fired generation. Co-financing up to €169 million is available for 2021-2027, supporting projects such as peat-bog restoration, renewable energy installations, community energy schemes, and local economic diversification. The fund explicitly targets energy-transition, job creation, and citizen/community-led infrastructure improvements in areas vulnerable to the green transition.
<u>Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF)</u>	Department of Rural and Community Development	Finances major capital projects to rejuvenate rural towns and villages. Includes funding for community building retrofits, public realm improvements, and renewable energy projects. Aims to attract residents and businesses back to rural centres while improving building performance.
<u>LEADER programme</u>	Department of Rural and Community Development / Local Action Groups	EU co-funded local development programme. Provides small grants for community energy audits, pilot retrofits, and renewable installations in rural areas. Encourages local partnerships and innovation in citizen-led energy initiatives.
<u>Credit Union Development Association</u>	CUDA	Offers low-interest loans for home retrofits, often combined with SEAI grants. Provides simplified finance and contractor management through credit unions. Expands access to retrofit finance for members, particularly in rural and low-income areas.

Useful tools

- [SEAI Solar Map](#): An interactive online map by Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) that shows solar irradiation layers (Global Horizontal Irradiation, Direct Normal Irradiation, PV Power Potential, etc.) and locations of current and planned solar farms in Ireland. It is useful for home-owners, community groups and consultants assessing rooftop or site potential for PV.
- [RenovationHub Roadmap Tool](#): Developed by Irish Green Building Council, this tool guides home-owners through the energy-upgrade journey: check your home's condition, identify upgrade options, and build a phased roadmap for renovation.
- [Solar electricity calculator](#): An online estimate tool developed by Irish Solar Energy Association and AirPV that allows home-owners and businesses to input postal code, system size, rooftop characteristics and electricity usage; the result shows estimated annual savings, payback times and emission reductions for solar PV (up to ~6 kW).
- [Building renovation passport tool](#): The EU-sponsored project iBROAD developed tools for long-term, phased renovation planning of individual buildings (5-30 year horizon). In Ireland, platforms such as this are beginning to support home-owners in building a logbook and roadmap of renovations, tracking energy performance and intervention steps.
- [OneClickRENO Roadmap Platform](#): Developed by IHER Energy Services in Ireland as part of the broader OneClickRENO project, this tool helps generate customised renovation roadmaps (based on building data and BER) and supports citizen-led deep renovation planning.
- [SEC Handbook](#): Created by the SEAI to guide the Irish sustainable energy communities through the 'Learn-Plan-Do' journey, offering advice on best practice, resources, and practical steps to aid communities organise, plan and deliver long term sustainable energy actions.