

Senator Maria **BYRNE**

Home Energy Upgrades

Retrofitting and Home Heating

Dear Resident

The Government has recently launched a series of significant improvements to grant supports for home energy upgrades. Through these grants and supports, retrofitting and home heating upgrades will become easier, more accessible and more affordable to more people than ever before.

Home energy upgrades allow us to tackle emissions produced at home, in line with the Government's ambitious climate action targets, as well as, lowering home energy bills for families and households.

In this leaflet you will find some important information about the new process and the new grants available.

Sincerely,

Maria

New One Stop Shop for Home Upgrades

A new **One Stop Shop** will open to the public and will guide individuals through the entire process of a home energy upgrade, from start to finish. This significantly reduces the burden on the individuals and provides clarity on everything from grants to registered professionals.

This includes surveying the home; designing the upgrades; managing the grant process; helping with access to finance; engaging contractors to deliver the work; and quality assuring the work.

Homes owned by private homeowners, non-corporate landlords and Approved Housing Bodies are eligible for the scheme. This provides an unprecedented opportunity for people all over Ireland to upgrade to a warmer, healthier and more comfortable home, with lower energy bills.

These new supports and grants are available to all homes built or occupied before:

- 2011 for insulation and heating controls
- 2011 for renewable systems
- All homes must complete a minimum level of energy upgrades and achieve a minimum BER rating of B2

INSIDE GUIDE




- Free Home Energy Upgrades
- Attic and Cavity Wall Grant
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- Deep Retrofitting Home Upgrades
- Sustainable Future
- Climate Action




If you have any issues/ comments please contact maria.byrne@oireachtas.ie

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Free Home Energy Upgrades

The Warmer Homes Scheme offers free energy upgrades for eligible homeowners who are most at risk of energy poverty. Since 2000, over 143,000 free upgrades have been supported by the scheme.

Under Budget 2022, a budget allocation of €109 million has been provided for this scheme, ensuring the ramping up of delivery.

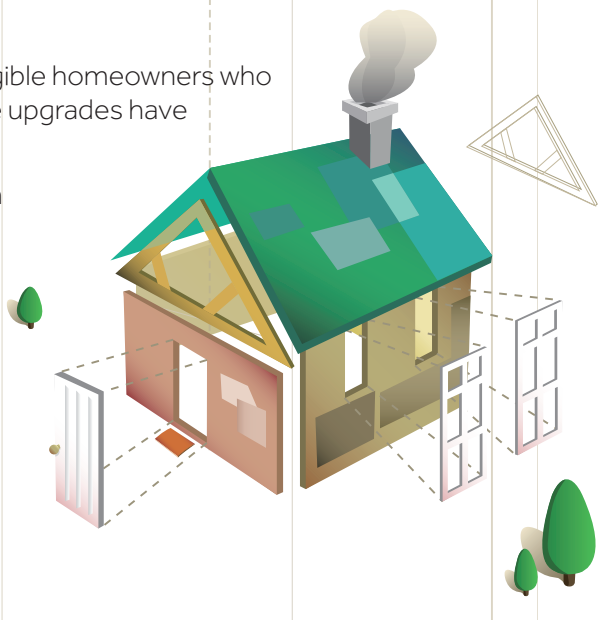
This will support an increase in the number of free home upgrades, from an average of 177 per month in 2021 to 400 per month in 2022, helping to reduce waiting times.

This service is managed by SEAI and includes:

- home survey
- contractor selection
- contractor works
- follow up BER

This is available to any homeowner in receipt of Fuel Allowance, Job Seekers Allowance, Working Family Payment, One-Parent Family Payment, Domiciliary Care Allowance, Carers Allowance, Disability Allowance for over six months with a child under seven. And if the home was built and occupied before 1993.

For the first time, applications will be accepted from qualifying homeowners who previously received supports under the scheme, but who could still benefit from even deeper measures.



Grant of 80% for Attic and Cavity Wall Insulations

Grants for cavity wall and attic insulation will more than triple, as part of the government's response to the current exceptionally high energy prices. For instance, in the case of a semi-detached home, the attic insulation grant will increase from €400 to €1,300 and the cavity wall insulation grant will increase from €400 to €1,200. These are highly cost-effective upgrade measures that can be deployed rapidly in 2022 and at scale this year. It is expected that these works will pay back in 1-2 years in most houses.

The new grant rates will **cover approximately 80%** of the typical cost of these measures and will be available to all homeowners. Here are some examples of what is available.

Attic Insulation	Cavity Wall Insulation
Apartment €800	Apartment €700
Mid-Terrace €1,200	Mid-Terrace €800
Semi-Detached €1,300	Semi-Detached €1,200
Detached €1,500	Detached €1,700



COMMUNITY SCHEMES

Under the **Community Energy Grant Scheme**, grants are available for public, commercial and community buildings. These include buildings within housing associations and local authorities; rental properties; and buildings belonging to public sector organisations. The total budget for this scheme will be **€43 million in 2022** (of which approximately €15 million will relate to home retrofits). Grants of up to 80% are available under this scheme – for private, energy-struggling homeowners.

DEEP RETROFITTING

The new **National Home Energy Upgrade Scheme** offers **increased grant levels of up to 50%** of the cost of a typical B2 home energy upgrade with a heat pump (up from the current level of 30-35%).

Homes owned by private homeowners, non-corporate landlords and Approved Housing Bodies are eligible for the scheme. This provides an unprecedented opportunity for people all over Ireland to upgrade to a warmer, healthier and more comfortable home, with lower energy bills.

This is a significant ramping up of the supports available to homeowners and will help Ireland reach our goals of **reducing our national emissions by 51% by 2030** and **becoming carbon neutral by 2050**.

The **One Stop Shop** will again guide individuals through this process in an end-to-end process; This includes surveying the home; designing the upgrades; managing the grant process; helping with access to finance; engaging contractors to deliver the work; and quality assuring the work.

€8 Billion On Home Upgrades

Retrofitting our housing stock is a key element of the government's plans for economic growth and development. The unprecedented **€8 billion of National Development Plan** funding available to support residential upgrades, to 2030, will stimulate the creation of high-quality jobs throughout the country. It will also have a significant multiplier effect, supporting the development of associated supply chains. This will help to support a just transition to a carbon neutral society.

A total of **€267 million has been allocated for SEAI residential and community schemes in 2022**. This investment will support almost 27,000 home energy upgrades, including over 8,600 homes to a BER of B2 (a near doubling of B2 output over 2021) and 4,800 free energy upgrades for households at risk of energy poverty.

In addition, **€85 million** funding has been provided by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage for the **Local Authority Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme**.

This investment is targeted to deliver 2,400 B2 (or equivalent cost optimal) upgrades this year.

Of the total Government retrofit budget of €352 million, €203 million, or 58%, will be spent on dedicated energy poverty schemes and local authority retrofits.



How Were These Schemes Formed?

The **National Retrofit Plan**, published last November, sets out how the government will deliver on our retrofit targets. The plan is designed to address barriers to retrofit across four key pillars: driving demand and activity; financing and funding; supply chain, skills and standards; and governance. For each pillar, barriers were identified, and time-bound policies, measures and actions were put in place to address them. The initiatives in the plan were guided by a number of key principles:

Fairness – ensuring fairness to all and supporting a just transition. 58% of funding for these projects will target energy-struggling homes and Local Authority homes.

Universality – covering all housing types and consumer segments / income deciles

Customer-centric – designing customer-centric solutions to reduce the costs and hassle, making the process easier for those investing in retrofits

Cost-optimal – encouraging retrofits to cost-optimal level and maximising emissions abatements

Industry-led – stimulating and supporting industry confidence to invest, grow and take on more workers



Supporting A Sustainable Future

As we attempt to tackle the biggest issue facing our planet, climate change, Fine Gael in Government is committed to providing people with the support they need and want, in order to make greener choices in their lives. To this end the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) provide a wide range of grants to support consumers with options such as, Electric Vehicles, Solar Electricity and Heat Pump grants.

For more detailed information on these schemes, see www.SEAI.ie




FINE GAEL & CLIMATE ACTION

Fine Gael recognises the need for urgent and comprehensive action to tackle Climate Change both at home and abroad. Here are just some of the actions Fine Gael have taken in the lifetime of this Government, alone.




- Introduced the **Climate Action Plan 2021**, building on Ireland's first ever Climate Action Plan, produced by Fine Gael in 2019. The Plan outlines a pathway to reducing Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions by 51% in 2030 and paves the way for sectoral carbon budgets and plans.
- **National Retrofitting Plan:** an Exchequer investment of €8 billion to 2030 will enable the supply chain to scale up, creating thousands of high quality jobs and delivering on this critical national objective.
- Regulations for a **Deposit Return Scheme** in Ireland for plastic bottles and aluminium cans have been signed. This scheme will be launched in 2022.
- €165 Billion has been committed as part of the **National Development Plan**. A significant amount of this money will contribute to projects that will reduce our emissions and help us reach our Climate Action targets.
- The Government have stepped up funding for nations such as small island developing States, already suffering the impacts of Climate Change.
- Drafting of the **Circular Economy Bill** is underway; This legislation will radically change production and consumption of products, limit single use products, and clamp down on littering and dumping. Making our communities cleaner and healthier.
- The **Waste Action Plan 2020 – 2025** has been launched and will provide the country with a roadmap to achieving a circular economy in the decade ahead.
- The **Climate Enterprise Action Fund** has also been launched and help companies reduce emissions and embed sustainability in how they work; this is overseen by Enterprise Ireland.
- A **Community Action Fund** is helping community groups across Ireland fund projects on Climate Action.






 **SCAN ME**
Scan here
for more info
on grants.

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