

About the Sustainable Energy Communities Programme

About the Programme

The Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) initiative is a funding and support programme, which helps communities to work together to become energy-smart and more sustainable.

In doing so, Sustainable Energy Communities aim to use less energy by improving efficiency within the community (e.g. upgrading insulation, improved lighting and heating systems), incorporating renewable energy (e.g. by installing solar panels, generating community energy) and adopting smart energy technologies, such as smart controls.

What makes up a Sustainable Energy Community?

A SEC can include a range of different energy users in the community such as individual households, sports clubs, community centres, local businesses and churches.

Programme Coordinators

The programme is run nationally by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and the Dublin Energy Agency Codema is the coordinator for the Dublin and Mid-East region.

There are now over 400 SECs up and running in Ireland, with over a quarter of these based in the Dublin and Mid-East Region.

Codema provides dedicated County mentors for communities in Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, South Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow, to help you to set up and promote your local SEC.

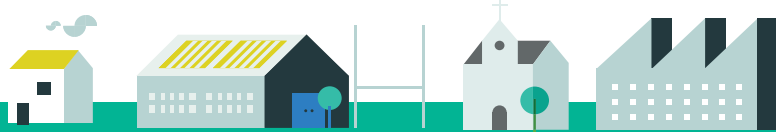
Joining the Network

Joining the network is simple; you just fill out a form on the SEAI website, www.seai.ie/sec. Your local mentor will then contact you to discuss next steps.



How it Works (3 Stages)

Once you have joined the network, your Sustainable Energy Community will be provided with a dedicated local mentor to guide you through the three stages of the programme, 'Learn', 'Plan' and 'Do'.

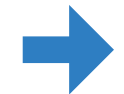


Learn

Learn by joining the network. You will form your steering committee and your mentor will ensure that your SEC has the right network supports to help your community learn and progress including:

- Attending events and workshops so you can meet with other communities and learn more about what you can do
- Getting in touch with other communities who have common interests
- Learning from communities who have conducted local energy projects
- Learning about energy technologies and types of solutions available

You will receive 1 day of support from your local mentor to support you through this stage.



Plan

Once you're ready, you can apply for funding of between €10,000-25,000 to carry out an energy master plan for your community. This is basically an inventory of your community's energy use and will help you identify local opportunities for energy efficiency and renewable energy. It will also allow you to explore sustainable transport options and build smart energy systems in your area.

To help with this stage, Codema has set up a partnership with all the local authorities in Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow, who can act as the lead applicant when your SEC is applying for your energy master plan funding. This will help to reduce any financial and administrative burden for your SEC.

You will also receive 3 days of support from your local mentor to support you through this stage.



Do

You begin to implement energy projects in your community.

Typical measures that have been carried out to date by SECs in the Dublin and Mid-East region include LED lighting upgrades, solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, heat pumps, heating controls and insulation, and energy retrofits of individual houses.

You will receive 2 days of support from your local mentor to support you through this stage.

Grants Available

Once you are at the 'Do' stage, there are grants available from SEAI to help you cover the cost of the work including:

- Building fabric upgrades, such as insulation
- Technology and system upgrades, such as heat recovery systems
- Integration of control systems, e.g. full zone controls on your space and water heating
- Integration of renewable energy systems, such as solar PV panels

The table on this page details the percentage grant available within a residential and non-residential setting.

Residential	Home Type	Funding %
	Private energy poor	Up to 80%
	Private non-energy poor	Up to 35%
	Local Authority homes	Up to 35%
	Private Rented Homes	Up to 35%
	Housing Association homes	Up to 50%
Non-Residential	Not-for-profit / community	30% up to* 50% (may be available subject to State aid rules and SEAI approval in advance)
	Private and public sector	Up to 30%
	EV charging points	Up to 30%

Benefits of Joining

There are so many reasons to become a Sustainable Energy Community, such as:

- Lower energy bills
- Make homes and local buildings more comfortable and energy efficient
- Boost local employment
- Building energy knowledge within the community
- Making your community a leader in sustainable energy
- Share experience with other communities all around the country
- Attend local and national SEC events
- Assigned experienced mentor to help you move through the programme
- Positively contribute to climate action at a local level

Can I join an existing SEC in my area?

Yes, it is possible to join an existing SEC. There may be some factors to take into consideration such as your building type and where the SEC is in the process, but you can contact your local mentor to discuss this further.



Next Steps

If you or a community organisation you know are interested in setting up a Sustainable Energy Community, please don't hesitate to contact Codema by emailing sec@codema.ie or visit www.codema.ie/sec.

We are here to help!

Further Contact
Details

You can also email our Regional Co-ordinator, or the dedicated mentor or mentors allocated to your County.

Regional Co-ordinator Katia Tikhoniouk, Codema katia.tikhoniouk@codema.ie www.codema.ie/sec 	Dublin City mentor Gerard Doherty, Zero Carbon dohertygerardp@gmail.com	Fingal mentor Eric Dennis, KSN Energy edennis@ksnenergy.ie	South Dublin mentors Raoul Empey, Sustineo raoul@sustineo.ie Romain Poissonnier, Sustineo romain@sustineo.ie Conor Molloy, AEMS conor@aems.ie	Wicklow mentor Simon Whelan, Glenergy simon@glenergy.ie
	Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown mentors Katie O'Brien Gavin Harte, ESD Training gavin@esdtraining.net	Meath mentor Philip Mc Cormack philipmccormack2@gmail.com		



