Cavan County Local Development

Retrofit Ready Newsletter

Monaghan Integrated Development

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How to become an SEAI Registered Contractor

When carrying out work on SEAI projects, contractors are playing a vital role in helping homeowners reduce their energy use, costs, and improve the comfort of their homes. Retrofitting increases the BER rating of a home and also increases the value of a property. By registering as an SEAI contractor, you will have an opportunity to expand your existing good reputation and a chance to grow your business.

To become a registered contractor with SEAI there are a number of procedures to follow. Firstly, complete and return a Contractor Registration form. This is available to download from https://www.seai.ie/ or by contacting Retrofit Ready on 087 131 5964. It should be noted, that to become a registered contractor with the SEAI for either Heat Pumps or Solar Thermal, you first need to register as a Renewable Energy Installer.

Registering on the Renewable Energy Installers Register (R.I.R) is separate from registering as a contractor on the Better Energy Homes Scheme and registration on both registers is mandatory for all contractors wishing to carry out Heat Pump and/or Solar Thermal installations on the BEH Scheme. More information on the Renewable Installers Register can be found on this link. https://www.seai.ie/register-with-seai/renewable-energy-installer/ Contractors Registration and Declaration of Insurance forms are a requirement. Applicants must be insured by insurance companies regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. These can be based in the EU or EEA including the UK.

The SEAI requires registered Better Energy Homes contractors to be fully insured at all times. Should insurance policies expire, or should a contractor fail to furnish SEAI with a valid Declaration of Insurance in advance of the current policy's expiration date, a company will automatically be removed from the SEAI Registered listing of contractors.

Carrying out works on SEAI programmes without the required insurance, will mean de-registering and grants will not be paid. Contractors will also need to provide a copy of a Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) or electronic Tax Clearance Certificate (eTCC) in order to confirm eligibility. In addition to the Tax Clearance Certificate, a PPSN/tax reference number tax clearance access number (TCAN) for validation is also required. The completed Registration Form can then be returned by email to contractor@betterenergyhomes.ie

SEAI registered contactors are also asked to complete the monthly BEH Contractor Online Onboarding Training session. An invitation will be issued to this online monthly session by email upon successful completion of all registration forms and other requested documents. It should be also noted that contractors applying to re-register are also required to undertake the online Onboarding Training session.

Contractors must always agree to carry out all works in accordance with the SEAI standards which are set out on the SEAI Website.

Laragh Social Club – Preparing for Winter

The Retrofit Ready team attended an energy event in Stradone Community Centre, Co. Cavan in May. The event was organised by Laragh Social Club in association with Retrofit Ready. People representing our similar groups in the area were also in attendance. They came from nearby Ballyhaise and Drung. Those in attendance completed registration on arrival and were given printed information material with follow-up as part of the information event.

Registration, information packs and photography were facilitated by Lorcan McGovern, CCLD. After introductions, a presentation was given by the Retrofit Ready Team covering all aspects of retrofitting and the grants available.

Following the presentation, a questions and answers session took place with the presenter and the attendees. This was both informative and educational from a retrofitting view point. Some attendees met the team on an induvial basis after the general questions and answers session.

What are the advantages of presenting at events for Social Clubs and other groups? They provide information in a clear concise and informative format knowledge and subject education to community gatherings. Information is explained in a simplified format together with exchanging important knowledge to each other. The providing One-to-One consultations are very important. Venue location and room comfort in hugely important and the key to successful presentations.

Back to Castleblayney – 2025 Agricultural Show

Retrofit Ready will again participate in the 2025 Castleblayney Agricultural Show on Monday, August 4th, 2025, in collaboration with Monaghan Integrated Development. This is the third year in a row, Retrofit Ready have attended the event. The Show committee hope to establish a dedicated environment tent this year given the immense interest in energy saving and retrofitting.

The Show in the past, proved to be a successful platform for Retrofit Ready to engage with the community, promote energy-efficient retrofitting, and provide valuable information to homeowners.

The event's high attendance and interest in retrofitting initiatives indicate a positive trend towards sustainability and energy efficiency in the region. Retrofit Ready look forward to participating in Castleblayney Show 2025.

Oireachtas and local Council members attend the Show yearly and assist in promoting energy saving and retrofitting and have a keen interest in taking information and grant application forms to their constituents.

Castleblayney Show

Retrofit Ready Newsletter Editorial Team:

The Northern version of the Retrofit Ready Newsletter is compiled and produced by Owen McConnon, Retrofit Ready (CCLD), Peadar Geelan, Retrofit Ready Trainer, (ATU Sligo) Laura Caslin (CCLD) and Aisling Carolan (CCLD in association with Cavan County Local Development (CCLD), Monaghan Integrated Development (MID) and Atlantic Technological University (ATU), Sligo.

Home Energy Saving Grants Statists For 2024

People sometimes ask, how much do the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) help house holders in Ireland with grant funding on a yearly basis? This figures with astound you and are much higher than one would expect. There is a big uptake on the three strands of domestic grants. Individual grants, One Stop Shop grants and the Warmer Homes Scheme.

The last full of year of statists available from the SEAI (2024) clearly indicate the interest shown by home owners in upgrading their properties and receiving grants for works carried out. There were almost 70,000 grant applications made in 2024.

The Warmer Homes Scheme (Free Energy Upgrade) section received a staggering 13,490 applications in 2024 and this was on top of 13,976 received in 2023. However only 7,747 homes were upgraded under the scheme last year, which was 2,000 less than the previous year.

The reason for the small number of retrofits carried out on the Warmer Homes Scheme is due to the lack of registered builders on the SEAI register list. There is a feature on how to register also in this Newsletter.

It is important that home owners should consider availing of SEAI grants because they offer a range of financial supports aimed at improving energy efficiency, reducing energy bills, and helping the environment. Ireland has committed to reducing carbon emissions, and creating more energy-efficient homes is key to this goal.

SEAI grants support sustainable upgrades that reduce your carbon footprint, such as moving from fossil fuel boilers to heat pumps or installing solar PV systems.

Below are the statists issued by the SEAI for 2024 with a quarterly breakdown on the number of applications received during the period mentioned.

69,813 # Applications Received

53,988 # Property Upgrades

21,485 #B2s or Better *

€ 348,085,543 Amount Funded