Monaghan Integrated Development

Retrofit Ready Newsletter

Cavan County Local Development

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Are you eligible for a FREE home energy upgrade?

The Warmer Homes Scheme is a government initiative designed to improve the energy efficiency of homes occupied by low-income households. The scheme is administered by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and aims to make homes warmer, more comfortable, and more cost-effective to heat.

The scheme is targeted at homes occupied by people who are in receipt of certain social welfare payments and meet specific criteria related to income and property ownership.

The Social Welfare payments that decide your eligibility are:

- Fuel Allowance.
- Job Seekers Allowance for over six months with a child under seven.
- Working Family Payment.
- One-Parent Family Payment.
- Domiciliary Care Allowance.
- Carers Allowance.
- Disability Allowance for over six months with a child under seven.

The programme offers a range of energy efficiency measures, including attic insulation, wall insulation, draught-proofing, lagging jackets for hot water tanks, and energy-efficient lighting. In some cases, windows and doors are also included. SEAI grants, must not have been received for any of these works in the past.

The services provided under the Warmer Homes Scheme are typically offered free of charge to eligible households. The aim is to reduce energy bills for low-income families. After approval an SEAI representative will carry out a property inspection and approve the retrofitting works.

The SEAI will engage with registered contractors to carry out the necessary work on eligible homes. These contractors are trained and certified to ensure that the work meets quality standards.

Eligible households can apply for the Warmer Homes Scheme through the SEAI. The application process involves providing information about income, property ownership, and other relevant details.

For further information on the Warmer Homes Schemes and the process of making an application, please contact, Owen McConnon, Community Retrofit Champion on 087 131 5956 or omcconnon@ccld.ie Information is also avail on the SEAI website on www.seai.ie

It is important to note that there can be up to an eighteen-month time frame between the making of an application to having the works completed.

Important to remember:

- You must be a home owner.
- Have your Property Tax up-to-date.
- You must be in receipt of a specified Social Welfare payment.
- Have not received SEAI grants for similar works in the past.

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Getting communities ready for retrofitting

Your Community, Your Citizens Information Service

The Citizens Information Service (CIS) in Ireland provides free, confidential, and independent information, advice, and advocacy on a wide range of public and social services.

The CIS is run and funded by the Citizens Information Board (CIB), with financial assistance from the Department of Social Protection. This statutory body is responsible for ensuring the public has access to accurate and up-to-date information about rights and entitlements in Ireland from Cork to Donegal and all areas n-between.

Some of the areas covered, include social welfare, employment rights, housing, health services, education, immigration, consumer rights, and much more. Information is available through Citizens Information Centre's (CICs) nationwide.

Cavan & Monaghan both have very effective and efficient centers in the county towns, a sub office in Carrickmacross with outreach services also available in Clones to make life easy for people who require the assistance from the 22-member CIS team.

One of the main functions of the CIS is form filling and currently the Cavan & Monaghan services are working in conjunction with the Retrofit Ready on form filling and information provision. All energy community events organised by Retrofit Ready are also attended by the Citizens Information Service.

Cecilia Smith is the Development Manager of both the Cavan (0818) 075 200 & Monaghan (0818) 076 230 Citizens Information Centers.
CIS Services can be accessed in a number of ways, in person, at your (CICs) around Ireland, online www.citizensinformation.ie or by telephone 0818 07 4000 (Citizens Information National Phone Service).

2025 is the Golden Jubilee of the beginning of the Citizen Information Service in Ireland and events to celebrate this landmark will be held in counties nationwide during the month of July.

Cecilia Smith and Damien Murphy, Cavan & Monaghan Citizens Information Services providing information at a Retrofit Ready energy event in Ballybay, Co. Monaghan.

Cecilia Smith, Development Manager at Cavan & Monaghan Citizens Information Service.

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Demand on the increase for Drop-In Clinics

Following on from the success of home energy events in East Cavan, like Virginia, Kingscourt and in particular Bailieborough last November, there is now a real interest in retrofitting in the area.

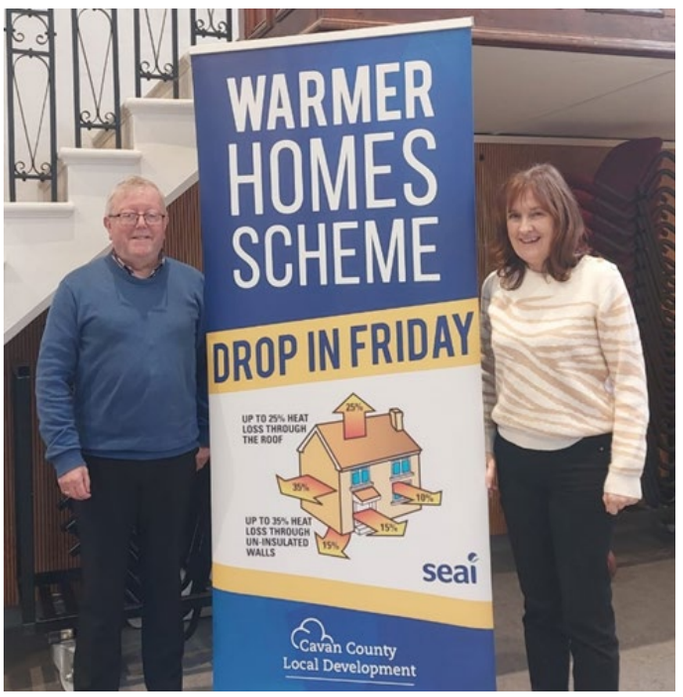
Working in the community Cavan SEC mentor Ms Mary McCabe identified older groups and individuals who required assistance with the SEAI applications, Housing Aid for the Elderly information and qualifying for the Fuel Allowance.

Ms McCabe approached the Retrofit Ready to set up a drop in Clinic in Bailieborough.
These clinics were requested by the Killann Parish Green Group. Also involved in setting up the clinics were Barry
Kavanagh, Landscape Designer & Biodiversity Activist and Eilish McGowan, Community Volunteer.

Four dates were selected to allow communities and individuals avail of information required for improvements to their homes and life in general.

The Drop-In clinics were held on Friday mornings in the newly revamped Courthouse in Bailieborough. These proved to be very successful with other communities and towns wanting to replicate the Drop-In service. With Drop-In clinics aimed mainly at older people in our communities, Friday mornings in town centers is best for these clinics.

One-to-One information provision at the Drop-In Clinic.



Owen McConnon with Cavan SEC Mentor Mary McCabe.

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Retrofitting Knowledge for the Wise & Well

The Wise & Well Social Club is based in North Monaghan. They are associated with Truagh Development Association CLG T/A Truagh Spirit and are located just outside the village of Emyvale, close to the border with Aughnsacloy in Co. Tyrone. Ms Fiona McCaffrey Jones is the Manager of the Truagh Spirit Social Enterprise.

The Wise & Well Social Club, meet in Truagh Gaels GAA clubrooms every Thursday. There are 40 members in the group. This is an older group who meet for discussions and hear presentations given by sources from outside agencies.

Ms McCaffrey Jones requested that Retrofit Ready talk to her group about the concept of retrofitting and grants available. A date and time was agreed, Thursday 6th March at 11.00am in Truagh Gaels GAA clubrooms.

Owen McConnon CRC, providing information to the Wise & Well Social Group in Truagh GAA Clubrooms.

Owen McConnon, Community Retrofit Champion & Aisling Carolan, Home Energy Assistant Advisor attended on behalf of the Retrofit Ready team, while Monaghan County Council was represented by Ms Marcella Carey, who works in the Housing Grants Department. She, too gave a presentation on the Housing Aid for Older Persons Scheme.

This was a good and very engaging session with a big interest in retrofitting, especially on the Warmer Homes Scheme and all available grants. The Questions & Answers session was both informative and educational for attendees.

Pictured from left: Aisling Carolan, Retrofit Ready Home Energy Assistant, Owen McConnon, Community Retrofit Ready Champion and Fiona McCaffrey Jones, Manager of the Truagh Spirit Social Enterprise.

At the conclusion of the energy session a suggestion was made to the Retrofit Ready team that a proposed Drop-In clinic should be organised for the village of Emyvale.

The purpose of this would be to assist individuals on a One-to-One basis with information provision and form filling. This was agreed with a date and time to be confirmed.

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