Cavan County Local Development

Retrofit Ready Newsletter

Monaghan Integrated Development

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Summer Retrofitting is Best!

Carrying out home retrofitting works during the summer months is most advantageous for many reasons. Ireland experiences milder and sometimes more predictable weather during the summer months, although not guaranteed. This can reduce the risk of rain and cold as this can, in particular, delay outdoor retrofitting such as roof repairs, insulation together with window and door replacements.

Extended daylight hours will provide more time to work each day, and this in turn helps to speed up the project timeline. Comfortable temperatures make it easier and more pleasant for workers to carry out their tasks, especially those that can be labour-intensive. Good weather also allows for better ventilation when carrying out indoor works, such as painting or flooring, which can improve the drying times and the overall quality of the work.

Contractors, fitters and insulators often prefer summer months for extensive projects due to what should be favourable weather. Planning and booking in advance can ensure availability during this peak period. The same rationale applies also to families who are preparing for retrofitting. Summer can be an ideal time for disruptive renovations as children are often on holiday, reducing the impact on daily routines.

Works assessable for longer warmer days include, external wall Insulation as it is easier to apply in dry weather, ensuring better adhesion and finish. Attic insulation works is much more comfortable to install in warmer conditions without the risk of moisture issues. Window and door replacements minimise heat loss, replacing these during warmer months reduces the discomfort of cold drafts. Better conditions for caulking and sealing, ensuring longer-lasting results.

Roofing and Gutter works in dry weather is essential for effective roofing repairs or replacements, reducing the risk of water damage during the overall project. The same applies to Solar Panel installations. Summer provides optimal conditions for testing and calibrating solar panels to ensure maximum efficiency.
Exterior painting materials are much better and more quickly in warm, dry weather conditions. This results in a longer lasting quality period for properly prepared painting.

Preparation for all works should be planned well in advance of carrying out retrofitting. Explore available grants or incentives for energy-efficient retrofits from the Sustainability Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and your Local Authority.

Budgeting for retrofitting works should be carried out in advance. Do you have sufficient savings to carry out work or do your need to get a loan from a financial institution? How much will the project cost, seek quotations, are you entitled to grant assistance and what will be your overall net cost?

Where SEAI grants are applicable you must engage an SEAI registered contractor to carry out your retrofitting works. Carrying out home retrofit works during the summer months offers several practical advantages, from favourable weather conditions to increased efficiency and better scheduling opportunities. By carefully planning and preparing for these projects, homeowners can achieve better outcomes and enhance their home's comfort, energy efficiency, and value.

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Teaching your children how to save Energy

As a parent or guardian of young children, teaching them, how to save energy can be both educational and fun, while helping them to understand their environmental responsibilities and how small actions can make a big difference.

Depending on the age of your child will determine your approach on to advise them how to save energy. For younger children, say, aged between 3 and 7 years old, use stories, songs, and games to introduce the basic concepts of energy saving. From 8 years old explain the reasons behind energy saving by using crosswords to illustrate energy saving and sharpen the mind. Teenagers can get in decision making, like comparing energy bills, setting goals, or helping with home energy upgrades.

Remind children to turn off lights when leaving a room. Always unplug chargers or use power strips in order to switch off multiple devices. Encourage wearing warm clothes indoors instead of turning up the heat. Show how thermostats work and are where to keep appropriate settings which is normally between 18 and 20°C.

Insist on shorter shower times and try and set a 4–5-minute challenge to everyone in your household. Use cold water when warm water isn't required, e.g. brushing teeth. When children are domesticated, make sure they only run washing machines or dishwashers when full. And always use eco-settings where available.

Always promote within the household walking, running or cycling to school where it is safe. Take loads of outside exercise and explain how this reduces both pollution and energy consumption. Outdoor activity is also good for the mind, body and soul.

Talk to your children about renewable energy in Ireland, such as wind farms, solar panels, etc. Attend community energy events organised by Retrofit Ready and encourage schools and colleges in your area where your children attend to avail of the "Energy Tips for Schools" programme that is also presented and promoted by the Retrofit Ready team. SEAI's schools programme. Simplify energy saving tips for you family, especially your children and make you home a better place to live.

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.

Climate Justice Support Workshops & Retrofit Ready

Climate Justice is now a Horizontal Principle and a Thematic Focus Area (Climate action and the Just Transition) in SICAP 2024-2028. Recognising that this is a new area of the Programme, the SICAP Local Support Workshops, delivered in 12 areas across the country between September and November 2024 included a specific input with a facilitated workshop on Climate Justice. The purpose of the workshop on Climate Justice was to get a sense of the level of work already carried out in this area by Local Development Companies and what supports, if any, were needed. Feedback from these workshops were collated and what came across strong from LDCs and LCDCs was a desire for the following:

- A better understanding of what is meant by Climate Justice within the context of the SICAP Programme;
- Opportunities to learn from other LDCs on the type of work they are delivering in this area;
- A forum to share and learn about what is working well and what has not worked well.
- Networking with LDCs on Climate Justice
- Access to external expertise on Climate Justice.

- Training for frontline staff on Climate Justice and its impact on marginalised communities.
- A need for guidance on how frontline staff engages with disadvantaged groups on Climate Justice.

The workshops were held in Limerick, Dublin and Athlone and were structured around inputs from an external expert in the area, and inputs from two Local Development Companies sharing their experience, with a facilitated workshop with opportunity for discussion following the inputs.

Retrofit Ready attended the Midlands event that was held in the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone. Also, in attendance were other members of the Cavan County Local Development, (CCLD), team lead by company CEO, Terry Hyland.

The Retrofit Ready presentation focused on the "Story so Far", from commencing with a blank sheet to the structures in place so far and the statistics to support the engagement with individuals and communities. The ultimate aim of the projected is to have in place a toolkit that can be passed on to other groups and communities outside the pilot programmes areas. Mary McCabe, Barbara Kearns and Nuala McKenna also represented CCLD.

In photograph, from left: Mary McCabe, SEC Mentor (CCLD, Owen McConnon Retrofit Ready (CCLD), Nuala McKenna, Grow and Give, (CCLD), Barbara Kearns, REDO (CCLD) and Terry Hyland, CEO, (CCLD).

Retrofitting and Community Engagement

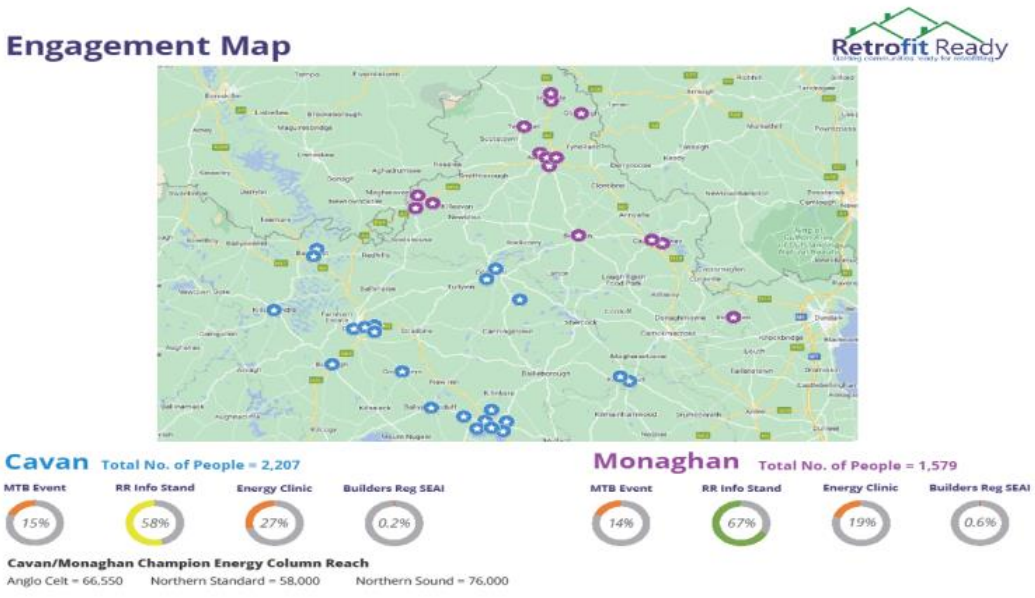
Community engagement is critically important when retrofitting, due to a combination of social, environmental, and policy-related factors. Buy-in for retrofitting homes, for energy efficiency or climate resilience and requires the trust and cooperation of homeowners, tenants, and communities

Engaging with the public and or communities early-on definitely builds the trust and transparency required, increasing acceptance and reducing resistance to change, especially in tight-knit rural or historically under-served urban communities.

This country has a diverse housing stock, from historic stone cottages to 1970s and 1980's housing estates to rural dwellings. Every community and individual will have different needs. Engagement ensures that retrofit programs are customised to suit local conditions and building types.

Even the best retrofits won't deliver results if residents don't understand or adopt new systems (e.g., heat pumps, ventilation). Involving communities through workshops or demonstration projects promotes energy literacy and long-term behavioural change

Vulnerable groups, such as elderly people, renters, or those in fuel poverty—may be left behind without deliberate outreach. Community engagement helps identify and include marginalised voices, ensuring retrofitting does not deepen inequalities.

Ireland has ambitious targets under its Climate Action Plan and National Retrofit Plan, aiming to retrofit 500,000 homes by 2030. These goals can only be met with widespread community-level participation, especially since many retrofits will be voluntary.

Retrofitting creates local jobs in construction, design, and renewable energy. Community involvement ensures locals see and share in the benefits, encouraging continued support and participation.