

## Better Energy Homes scheme

### Information Leaflet

#### What is the Better Energy Homes scheme?

The Irish Government, through SEAI, wishes to encourage people to improve the energy performance of their homes by incentivising the cost of installing various upgrade measures. The Better Energy Homes (formerly the Home Energy Saving scheme) provides assistance to homeowners to reduce energy use, costs and greenhouse gas emissions and improve the comfort levels within their home.

The objectives of the scheme are to:

- Support homeowners in making intelligent choices to improve the energy performance of their home
- Reduce energy use, costs and greenhouse gas emissions
- Build market capacity and competence by driving contractor standards and quality
- Stimulating market innovation

The incentive is in the form of a **Cash Grant**. Cash grants are fixed, irrespective of home size, though where actual expenditure is lower than the grant value only the lower amount will be paid. Payment is by Electronic Funds Transfer to the applicant's bank.

#### Who Can Avail of the Scheme?

It is a national scheme and therefore all homeowners of dwellings built before 2006\* may apply. [\*Homes built from 2006 onwards should have been constructed to the 2003 Building Regulations and so should not require significant insulation or heating system upgrades]

#### What Measures are Eligible?

Grants are available to eligible applicants for undertaking the following works:

	Energy Efficient Work	Cash Grant Value*
Insulation	Attic Insulation	€200
	Wall Insulation – Cavity	€250
	<b>Wall Insulation - Internal Dry Lining***</b>	
	Apartment (any) <u>OR</u> Mid-terrace House	€900
	Semi-detached <u>OR</u> End of Terrace	€1,350
	Detached House	€1,800
	<b>Wall Insulation – External***</b>	
	Apartment (any) <u>OR</u> Mid-terrace House	€1,800
	Semi-detached <u>OR</u> End of Terrace	€2,700
Detached House	€3,600	
Heating System	Heating Controls with Boiler (Oil or Gas) Upgrade	€560
	Heating Controls Upgrade only	€400
	Solar Heating	€800
<b>Building Energy Rating (BER)</b>		€50**

**Please note the minimum grant amount for the first application must be €400. A BER grant does not count towards the €400 minimum.**

\* Cash Grants are set value unless expenditure is below the set value, in which case the actual expenditure will be reimbursed.

\*\* A **Building Energy Rating (BER)** is an integral part of all grant applications under the Better Energy scheme, whereby homeowners must undertake a BER on their home after grant aided works have been completed. A homeowner is entitled to BER funding of €50 once per home. This funding will be applied to your grant application automatically provided you have never applied previously for BER funding.



Administered by



You will be informed during the online grant application process if BER funding is available for your home or as part of your Letter of Grant Offer if you have applied through the post.

\*\*\*From December 8th 2011 internal and external wall insulation grants will no longer be one single amount, but rather be based upon the house type.

### Registered Contractors

Please note that your chosen contractor must appear on the Registered Contractor List, at the date of application and on the date of completion of the upgrade works. The current list is available to download from our website on [www.seai.ie/betterenergyhomes](http://www.seai.ie/betterenergyhomes) or on request by calling **1850-927000**.

Contractors are registered by SEAI on the basis of a commitment to:

- Installing the works in accordance with strict technical guidelines
- Adherence to a professional Code of Practice
- Demonstrated tax compliance and sufficiency of insurance cover
- Use of a standard contract with the homeowner for all jobs

All of these requirements are intended to ensure consumer confidence and optimum quality of service.

When undertaking a BER (mandatory for all applications and grant claims), these must be completed by a registered BER Assessor. A list of registered assessors is available on the SEAI website [www.seai.ie/ber](http://www.seai.ie/ber) or by calling 1890-734237.

### How to Apply

For a speedy application you can **apply online at [www.seai.ie/betterenergyhomes](http://www.seai.ie/betterenergyhomes)**

Alternatively you may **apply using our postal application form** and send it to the address below.

Applicants must first read the 'Better Energy Homes scheme Application Guide' for an overview of the scheme and to aid them thereafter in filling out the Scheme Application Form. The Guide and Form are available to download from our website at [www.seai.ie/betterenergyhomes](http://www.seai.ie/betterenergyhomes) or upon request by calling **1850-927000**.

Before commencing application please have the following information available to hand:

- Meter Point Reference Number (MPRN). This number appears on your electricity bill, and is 11 digits long.
- The year in which your house was built (must be prior to 2006).
- The particular measures which you wish to undertake as part of the Better Energy scheme.
- You should have already selected an SEAI registered Contractor as you will need to know their name and SEAI registered number.
- Your bank details i.e. bank name, bank account name, bank account number and sort code. (Please note that currently we cannot process payments to Credit Union accounts.)
- For an online application you will need an email address

- **Applicants must ensure grant approval is received before proceeding with any product purchase or installation work.**
- **The Grant Offer, once accepted by the applicant, remains valid for six (6) months from the date of issue of the Grant Offer notification.**

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