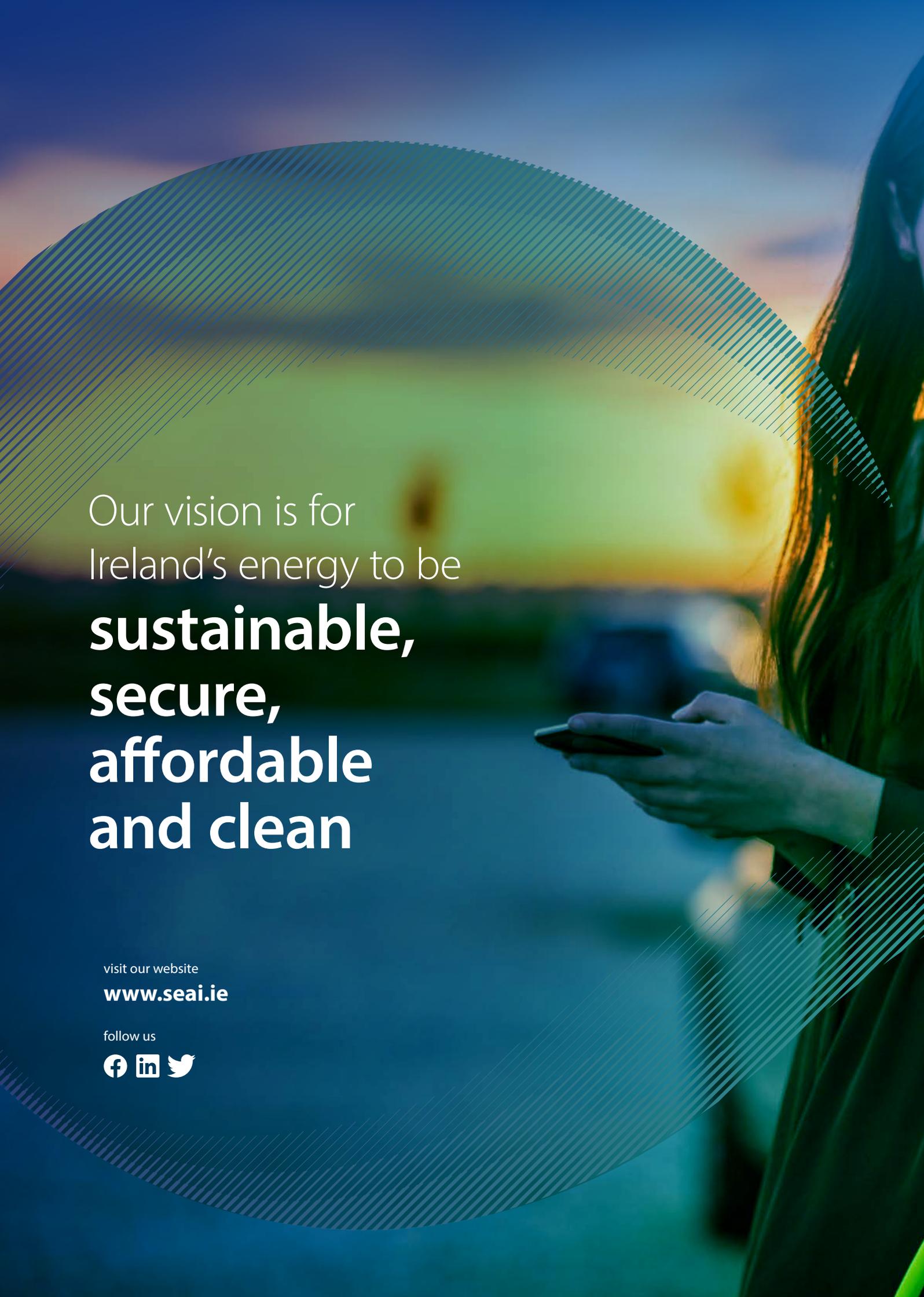


Annual Report 2020

Creating a
**cleaner
energy
future for
Ireland**





Our vision is for
Ireland's energy to be
**sustainable,
secure,
affordable
and clean**

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OUR IMPACT**GOVERNANCE****FINANCE**

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Chairperson's Statement

2020 was a year like no other in living memory. Globally, people had to adapt to new ways of living, new ways of working, and new ways of delivering services. The COVID-19 pandemic was a wake-up call to remind us just how fragile the global ecosystem is, and that international collaboration is essential to tackle such global challenges.

2020 was also the year where, in response to the global challenge of climate change, leaders recommitted to urgent and transformative action to limit global warming. In Ireland, the Programme for Government set a goal of achieving a 51% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030, and net zero emissions by 2050.

SEAI is at the heart of Ireland's energy transition to achieve these goals. We have a strong track record to build on. As a result of our work over the past decade, more than a quarter of a million homes are warmer and cheaper to run, more than 500 communities have started their sustainable energy transition, thousands of businesses are more competitive, and Ireland's public services have significantly improved their energy efficiency.

While our work on the ground during 2020 was impacted by the cycle of lockdowns created by the COVID-19 pandemic, we took the opportunity to plan for the rapid acceleration of building retrofits that will be needed to meet government targets. This planning work was endorsed by government in designation of SEAI as the National Retrofit Delivery Body. The programme of work to be delivered over the next decade will have huge benefits for society as a whole, but also at an individual level it will improve Irish housing stock and ensure we all have warmer, healthier and more comfortable homes. It demonstrates

that the solutions we are bringing to the challenge of climate change are not just about energy savings, but about better quality of life overall, long into the future. SEAI will lead this programme of transformation, bringing together homeowners and the supply chain to make it happen. We start this from a strong base where we understand the market.

Right across the country the move to build and create the new energy future through smarter and more sustainable means is evident. Our transport sector is changing to a quieter and healthier model. SEAI continues to provide supports to make electric vehicles (EVs) a genuine option for those who need a car. The government has set important targets for EV use and the manufacturers and market are responding. People see EVs on the road more frequently and are evaluating their options all the time.

As Ireland looks to economic recovery it must place that within a global context. Our businesses must be competitive and sustainable. Consumers, investors, regulators, and the global supply chains within which businesses operate are demanding higher standards of sustainability, and Ireland must be at the forefront of this. SEAI is integral to helping Irish business adapt to these challenges. We have become an important partner for businesses that are already looking to get ahead of the curve.

Those are just some of the practical steps SEAI is helping to deliver on the ground. They rightly receive attention as they are at the core of delivery. However, these actions and programmes do not take place in a vacuum. They are built on expertise and research. SEAI continues to be the leading authority on Ireland's energy transition and provides the data, insights and research that drives innovation, change and policy right across society. It is this role that is often understated but provides the value so many stakeholders appreciate. The expertise and accumulated knowledge that resides in SEAI places it in a unique position to bring elements together, support sectors and provide the modelling, economic assessment and environmental data that will drive and inform change.

Looking forward, we in SEAI now have to translate the plans we have developed into action and results. It is a unique and exciting time when, in collaboration with our many partners, we are going to change how as a society we live, work and travel for the better. We are now in the process of stepping up a gear. We are putting in place the leadership team to drive the organisation forward, and we are recruiting the people with the necessary skills - technical, communications and community engagement. I would like to welcome William Walsh as our new CEO, who will lead the transformation of SEAI to deliver our new mandate.



In his role as interim CEO, William has led the organisation through the challenges of the public health emergency. He has also spearheaded the ambitious plans for the Authority to accelerate the decarbonisation of the heat and transport sectors. He will bring a new vision and impetus to the organisation, and his wealth of experience will provide the necessary leadership to allow for the effective collaboration and targeted delivery that is necessary over the coming years.

SEAI is entrusted with significant exchequer funds, and we are very conscious of the need to be transparent and accountable in all our spending decisions. Since 2011, SEAI has maintained SWiFT 3000 corporate governance certification from the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI). I want to assure all our stakeholders that the maintenance of this standard certification remains a key objective for me as Board Chair and for the SEAI Board, to ensure that SEAI operates to the highest international standards of corporate governance.

I want to thank the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications and his Departmental officials for their continued and consistent support for SEAI.

This important co-operation allows for smooth implementation of policy and ensures that all the knowledge and expertise within SEAI continues to be at Ireland's disposal. We look forward to working with the Government to help deliver the ambitious and necessary targets in the years ahead.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the SEAI Board for their unstinting commitment to the effective governance of the Authority. I want to pay special tribute to Julie O'Neill, my predecessor as Chair, who stepped down in May 2020 after eight years on the Board.

Finally, I want to thank SEAI's staff for their dedication and commitment over the last year. It comes as no surprise that they have risen to every challenge. Our people remain our core and most valued asset. Their dedication and expertise are consistently highlighted in feedback from stakeholders and partners. It is from this most of all that I am filled with a sense of confidence and enthusiasm for the future. We will be at the heart of change, but the change is to be welcomed for it will bring a better quality of life and a more sustainable future for us all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dermot Byrne". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dermot Byrne
Chairperson
SEAI Board

Chief Executive's Review

I am delighted to publish the SEAI Annual Report for 2020. It goes without saying, that 2020 was an extraordinarily difficult year for society as a whole and an extremely challenging year for the national and global economies.



A key responsibility for me as CEO of the organisation was to the health and safety of SEAI colleagues, prompting us to leave our offices to work remotely from early March. The SEAI's continuous investment in strategic IT infrastructure meant the transition to working from home was virtually seamless. In a matter of days, we re-engineered our business and governance processes so we could efficiently and effectively deliver our full range of supports to all our clients.

Despite these obvious challenges, SEAI continued to see the incredible commitment by society to take climate action and make meaningful changes to their energy use. This was true for

citizens, communities, businesses, and the public sector alike. Notable in this regard, is the rapidly increasing attendance at our numerous energy workshops and events, the vast majority of which were delivered online.

We are very proud of the achievements across our programmes, many of which experienced significant growth. Over the course of the year, SEAI invested €121 million of Government funding in Ireland's sustainable energy transition. This not only benefits our lives and the environment; it also delivers real economic results with €21 million cost savings and 93,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions avoided annually.

In 2020, we provided €60 million grant support to almost 16,955 homeowners to complete home energy upgrades, including 1,615 energy poor homes. In addition, we funded 240 community and commercial facility upgrades in 39 community energy projects. In addition, our community energy network grew to almost 500 member organisations nationwide, bringing together more than 25,000 citizens. SEAI distributed almost 4,000 copies of our new children's book 'Climate SOS' to our younger citizens, reflecting the key role of children in driving our climate ambitions.

Without doubt, our biggest challenge was how the public health restrictions stalled momentum in home energy upgrades. A key priority was protecting those most at risk and vulnerable, which meant suspending vital, free services for much of the year. Those same restrictions resulted in lower overall annual car sales nationally. Notwithstanding that, SEAI grants aided over 4,800 electric vehicle purchases and over 3,500 home charger installations across the country.

We provided over €8 million towards 90 public building retrofits and helped the public sector to demonstrate its real leadership in meeting the challenge. Members of our large industry energy network saved almost €14 million through projects they implemented, demonstrating just how beneficial it can be to take early action. We now have 50 projects fully committed through the Support Scheme for Renewable Heat and we committed €5.5 million to 85 new EXEED projects. We also launched our online Energy Academy for businesses and the appetite among the sector was evident with over 2,200 subscribers in the first six months. We invested €5.2 million in over 100 innovative renewable and ocean energy research projects.

We fully maintained our policy analysis and advice supports across Government, helping to underpin the ambitions of the Programme for Government with robust insights and evidence. We delivered Ireland's national energy statistics and projections, informing emissions inventories and projections. Our behavioural economics team provided significant input to policy makers on the issues that encourage consumers to act on sustainable energy. Substantial energy modelling, technology analysis and research outputs underpinned the preparation of Ireland's final National Energy and Climate Plan.

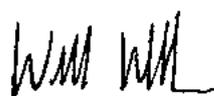
SEAI co-hosted the second Energy Research and Policy Conference with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. This focused on the role of research and policy in transforming Ireland's heat sector. Mirroring this, we commenced a comprehensive national heat study that will build an evidence base for policy making in the largest emitting sector.

In response to the substantial budget increase allocated by Government to SEAI, we are already gearing up our services to help Ireland accelerate its climate action trajectory. An immediate

focus is ramping up our capacity as the National Retrofit Delivery Body, increasing the volume and depth of retrofits to achieve the target of half a million B2 BERs by 2030.

At the time of writing, Ireland is slowly but steadily emerging from the constraints of the public health emergency. This has only been possible with a combination of science, robust data and evidence, strong leadership and the collective actions and commitment of the citizens of Ireland. We need that very same combination if we are to be responsible global actors and successfully transition Ireland away from fossil fuels. The staff of SEAI are fully committed to supporting everyone's efforts in this transition.

In closing, I want to thank Minister Eamon Ryan and all the officials at the Department of the Environment Climate and Communications, the Chair, the Board and the dedicated staff of SEAI for their relentless focus on this vitally important goal.



William Walsh

Chief Executive Officer
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

Over the course of the year, SEAI invested €121 million of Government funding in Ireland's sustainable energy transition. This not only benefits our lives and the environment; it also delivers real economic results with €21 million cost savings and 93,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions avoided annually.

Some of our Achievements in 2020

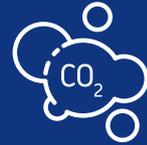
€121m

in Government funding was invested in Ireland's sustainable energy transition



€21m

cost savings and 93,000 tonnes emissions avoided annually



CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES



€60m

grant support towards

16,955 home energy upgrades

including

1,615 energy poor homes

39 community energy projects funded across Ireland



4,843

new electric vehicles and 3,523 home charger installations supported



240 community and commercial facilities upgraded

BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SECTOR

€8m provided towards
90 public building retrofits



2,200

subscribers to new online Energy Academy for small businesses launched mid-year

85

new EXEED projects supported and



14 assets certified to IS399



€13.9m

saved through projects implemented by 199 large industry energy network members

POLICY INSIGHTS, RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

€5m+

invested in renewable and ocean energy research, development, and demonstration projects



Technology advice published in the areas of retrofit codes of practice, building regulations, and biomass technologies

Energy data, modelling and policy analysis provided to Government in areas including National Energy and Climate Plan, national heat study, renewable electricity supports and energy user behavioural economics.



OUR IMPACT

SEAI works with homeowners, businesses, communities, and government to

transform how we think about, generate and use energy.



Driving Electric

A recent study by SEAI found that almost half of drivers are unfamiliar with electric vehicles (EVs) and how they work and less than a quarter said they would consider an EV for their next car purchase. To achieve the Government's target of 1 million electric vehicles on the road by 2030, we are sharing stories of individuals and businesses who have switched to EVs and their motivations for doing so.

"Why I switched to an EV"



Jan-Bart is from Holland, has lived in Ireland for 18 years and has been driving an electric vehicle (EV) for six years.

He says it was the technology of EVs that intrigued him, but the money saving was a lovely secondary benefit and of course, the green credentials added to the feel-good factor.

Jan-Bart went from spending **€150/month on petrol** for his hybrid to **€40/month on electricity** to charge the EV using his home charger.

He urges people to keep in mind the total cost of ownership when purchasing a new vehicle. It's the fuel savings, reduced maintenance costs, toll incentives and the lower rates of motor tax etc. that make an EV an attractive buy. These all add up over the years. Of course, it depends on where someone lives, how much driving they do and how many cars per household. "There's a lot of options for everyone," he says.

Jan-Bart uses the term 'the EV grin' a lot and says "the first time I sat down in an electric car I couldn't stop smiling. I always tell people to test drive one and experience it for themselves."

With just

15 EVs



Electric fleet selection with CEO Des Travers

DPD delivers with electric fleet

DPD's central sort hub is in Athlone, Co. Westmeath, where 400-500 staff are based. It also has 37 franchised depots around the island of Ireland employing almost 1,700 people.

In April 2019, DPD launched 'ElectriCity', Ireland's first electric Depot and parcel delivery depot, in East Wall in Dublin. This intention is to provide an emissions free last mile delivery for Dublin's city centre. The fleet ranges from smaller Paxter vehicles, which are like golf-carts, to Nissan NV200 electric vans.

Sustainability Programme Manager James Atkinson is expanding the EV fleet "to future-proof our business and first and foremost be ready for low emission zones."

DPD initially had 15 electric vehicles on the road and was due to receive 11 more in March 2021. The fleet is made up of a range of sizes, makes and models, to cater for different delivery areas.

DPD estimates two thirds of its emissions are from that last mile of the delivery journey. By making the last mile emissions free, DPD has ambitious plans to reduce its overall emissions.

"to future-proof our business and first and foremost be ready for low emission zones"

DPD has already reduced CO₂ emissions by

30 tonnes

Targeted savings per year by 2025

300 tonnes



Charging network

Driving range was a legitimate concern ten years ago but now most new EVs can travel over 300 km on a full charge with some tipping the 500 km mark. Most drivers in Ireland only drive 50 km per day so an EV will suit most drivers who will only need to charge the car twice or three times a week.

To charge a battery or plug-in hybrid EV, you connect the car to a charge point using a charging cable. Charging an EV at home is the simplest, most common, convenient, and cost-effective way to go. With a home charger, you charge your car overnight. You're then ready with a full charge for your journey the next day.

For longer journeys, there is a growing network of **1,200 public charge points** and destination charging at shopping centres, workplaces, hotels, gyms, and airports.



Sustainable Energy Communities

By the end of 2020, there were almost 500 communities in SEAI's Sustainable Energy Community Network. These communities across Ireland are tackling climate action in their localities by being more energy efficient in their homes, businesses and community buildings and switching to renewable energy.



Making a difference in Mulranny

Mulranny Green Plan Sustainable Energy Community Group, in Mulranny County Mayo, joined the community energy network in 2018, adopting the Green Plan approach to energy saving. This was first developed by a Dublin based fireman who worked with SEAI on earlier grant programmes.

The Green Plan approach looks at community, environmental and economic activities including water, energy, biodiversity, air quality, tourism impacts and plastic packaging.

Carol Loftus, Chair of Mulranny Green Plan Sustainable Energy Community Group, took part in SEAI's podcast 180 Degrees to discuss Mulranny's many activities and achievements.

One popular project is the free shuttle bus that runs between Mulranny's Tourist Office and the Ballycroy National Park in northwest Mayo. The aim was to reduce the number of tourists travelling in individual cars. This was done in collaboration with the Park, whose staff provide a guided walk for visitors who travel on the bus. The service was so well

Ireland's Tidiest Small Town

Blackrock, County Louth, was awarded the title of 'Ireland's Tidiest Small Town' in 2019 by the Supervalu Tidy Towns competition. Since its win, the Blackrock Tidy Towns committee has published a three-year plan for 2020-2023, which outlines its next steps and goals for the town.

Overall, it aims to continue preserving the town's natural environment and implement further sustainable measures where possible.

One of Blackrock Tidy Towns' significant projects is a micro renewable energy installation in Blackrock Park. The group secured funding to power pathway lighting using a combination of solar and wind energy. There is also a solar powered mobile phone charging station installed for visitors to the park. The Tidy Towns committee plans on hosting educational events at the installation to spread awareness of renewable energy.

Blackrock Park is a star attraction in the town with its sensory garden, wildflower meadow, and biodiversity garden among other features.



received over the two years that the Park has expanded it and runs it full time.

Mulranny SEC has availed of the SEAI's supports since the beginning, including mentors and consultants who are appointed to provide their knowledge to a project. It completed its SEAI Energy Master Plan, which helps inform what types of energy projects are best suited to a community and what the possible costs and paybacks could be.

The Mulranny group was also recently awarded a silver medal at the European Entente Florale competition awards.

Home energy upgrades

In Budget 2021, the Government announced the launch of the national retrofit programme with significant scaling up and streamlining of retrofit programmes for homes and communities.

The total allocation for homes and community retrofit is €221 million, which will go towards achieving the Climate Action Plan's target of retrofitting 500,000 homes up to BER B2 by 2030.

The homeowner's perspective

One of Eoin's more recent customers, Sandy Haemmerle, took part in Season 2 of SEAI's podcast and shared her experience of upgrading her semi-detached 1950s house in Waterford. Watching an episode of RTE'S Eco Eye is what prompted her to take on this project that would finally give her the warm home she has always desired.

Eoin and his team transformed this unoccupied house with no central heating into a A3 rated home through a deep retrofit.

The contractor's perspective

Eoin Madigan, Waterford Insulation, has been insulating homes for 20 years. He says the market has changed greatly over that time. In 2005, they were just providing cavity wall and attic insulation and now they have over 15 different offerings for homeowners, including ventilation and dry lining.

Creating a one-stop-shop of different tradespeople working together, from insulation to installing heat pumps, is crucial to delivering home energy upgrades properly.

Eoin's experience with SEAI's previous Deep Retrofit Scheme taught him how to implement this holistic approach.

"It was the first time we packaged it together and sold it to the homeowner as one product."



"It's totally different, it's a completely different house. We don't even have to turn on the heating," Sandy said.

"Just to be warm and not have to worry about being warm is brilliant", she says.

Supporting Irish business

SEAI is helping Irish companies and organisations to improve their energy efficiency, reduce their energy costs significantly and work towards decarbonisation.

The Energy Academy gets great results

The SEAI Energy Academy is a free online training resource offering a wide range of courses and modules focussed on all areas of energy efficiency and management. They are designed to help businesses save energy and lower costs which can in turn help grow the business.

The Academy launched in mid-2020 and had 2,200 subscribers from small businesses around Ireland by the end of the year.

The Academy
launched in
mid-2020

Subscribers
2,200



Dave Lowe, Chief Marketing Officer, explains why management specified two programmes for 2020 'General Business Energy Efficiency' and 'Energy / Environment':

“We wanted to accelerate our team to a greater shared understanding, and to develop a common language”.

SalesSense team enrolls in Energy Academy

SalesSense enrolled 71 staff members in SEAI's Energy Academy in 2020. The Academy provided a great opportunity to educate their employees on energy use and energy efficiency in Ireland.

SalesSense, with offices in Louth, Kerry and Galway, provides solutions for clients in sales and customer services and works as a partner to several energy providers. The 71 Energy Academy candidates were primarily energy advisors, their team leaders and operations managers, and the members of the training department that support these contracts.

Their roles involve advising customers on all aspects of their energy usage, understanding tariffs, working with smart meters, giving them insight and advice on energy saving tips (e.g. what amount of energy do appliances use).

Donegal dairy plant cuts costs by €347,000

Aurivo followed SEAI's EXEED Certified Standard to implement energy efficiency measures for its dairy plant in Donegal, which has been in operation since the eighties.

In 2015, with support from SEAI, the team decided to look at how they could make their plant more energy efficient.

The scope of the project encompassed all electrical and thermal energy used for the separation, pasteurisation, homogenisation and storage of bulk liquid milk and cream at Aurivo Consumer Foods in Killygordon.

The dairy plant has made a significant impact and commitment to the climate,

reducing their carbon emissions by 80% (780 tonnes) annually, and has seen an 8% decrease in electricity usage on site. This project has reduced oil consumption from its pasteurisation process by approx. 85%.



Reducing carbon emissions by

80%

780 tonnes annually

Astellas Ireland's five year energy management plan

Astellas took home the top prize for Energy Team of the Year at the 2020 SEAI Energy Awards. The Energy Management Team at the Kerry plant works in conjunction with senior management and all employees to continuously improve energy performance on site.

Astellas manufactures pharmaceutical products for the global market from its Killorglin facility in County Kerry where 63% of energy usage is from onsite generated renewable energy.

Over the last five years, the energy management team has led an extensive renewal of its energy management programme, shifting focus to energy efficient design and incorporating efficiency for the lifecycle of all Astellas projects.

The energy management team is responsible for upwards of 20 projects per annum for which the core goals are improving efficiency, optimisation of significant energy users, integration of renewable energy and minimisation of waste reduction carbon footprint.



Energy Team of the Year at the 2020 SEAI Energy Awards

Working with the Public Sector

The public sector had a target of improving its energy efficiency by 33% by 2020. Public sector bodies have to monitor and report their energy usage while working with SEAI to improve their energy efficiency and reduce their carbon emissions. The 2019 results show a 29% energy efficiency improvement overall, with some public sector bodies already achieving their 33% targets and beyond.



An Post

An Post's ambition is to be the greenest postal service in Europe. This is supported by its ISO 50001 certified energy performance management system and its goal to achieve zero-emission postal deliveries around the country.

Fuel cost savings of
€5.61
per kWh

By the end of 2019, it had replaced 110 vehicles in Dublin City Centre with electric vehicles and acquired Ireland's first 7.5 tonne electric truck. A sample batch of vans show energy savings of 56 kWh per 100 km or 61% and fuel cost savings of €5.61 per kWh or 47%.

All An Post drivers are receiving Eco-Driving training to ensure best practice driving in all vehicles and for all road and weather conditions.

HSE Energy Bureau

The HSE Energy Bureau in collaboration with SEAI organised a comprehensive 'Engaging People Accelerator Programme'. The training programme was offered to energy teams across the top 50 energy users in the East region.

The programme was a huge success and participants reported increased levels of buy-in when energy savings were linked to health benefits and patient care.

In 2019, the HSE identified savings of almost 7% in participating locations through energy management, awareness, and behavioural change alone, before any capital investment. This is the equivalent saving of 12 GWh, €1,329,000 or 3,170,000 kg of avoided CO₂ emissions.

.....
3,170,000kg
of avoided CO₂ emissions



Energy research

SEAI coordinates and funds a range of research, development and demonstration (RD&D) activities relating to the production, supply and use of energy.

SEAI funded project explores financing energy efficiency

Sustainability Works were awarded funding through the 2019 SEAI RD&D Funding Programme Call for their project – ‘Financing Energy Efficiency in Ireland’. This project, delivered in 2020, resulted in the publication of a comprehensive report – ‘Financing Energy Efficiency in Ireland: A Handbook on the Residential Sector’.

The aim of the project was to analyse the wealth of research available on residential retrofit and energy efficiency finance, which the Project Team has found to be, among others, fragmented, issue-specific and relying on technical and financial jargon. This report condenses research on financial barriers, provides insights into Ireland’s retrofit marketplace and solutions to move forward.

The report addresses the different pieces of the financing energy efficiency puzzle, e.g., the policy context, the business case for finance providers, the homeowner perspective on finance, the retrofit marketplace as well as innovative finance mechanisms.

The analysis concludes, among others, that there is no one-size-fits-all solution. Moreover, it highlights that “the pieces of the puzzle all exist and based on international experience, there are any number of different ways of slotting the pieces together in a way that will support and accelerate home retrofits nationally. The innovation is in the integration, i.e., in the development of new partnerships across the retrofit value chain, across industry and finance and across public and private sectors”.

This research project provides key insights of relevance to both the financial sector and the wider retrofit delivery market in Ireland, which will support increased retrofit activity in support of government ambitions.

The project lead Laura Heuston also presented during the ‘Heat Decarbonisation Challenge: Research Sprint’ at the 2020 SEAI National Energy Research and Policy Conference. The report is available to download online from the SEAI National Energy Research Database.

2020 National Energy Research and Policy Conference

The 2020 National Energy Research and Policy Conference was delivered and co-hosted by SEAI and the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. The 2020 conference centred on the theme ‘decarbonisation of Ireland’s heat sector’.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, it was hosted online over four consecutive Thursdays in November starting on the 5th of November 2020. Moving to an online format enabled the conference to reach a much wider audience. Over 1,300 people registered for the event with 36 experts taking part in presentations and panel discussions.



Data and insights at SEAI: informing national energy policy

Effective energy policy must be based on the best available evidence.

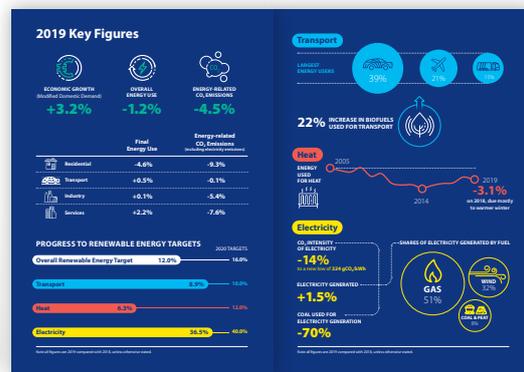
SEAI's Data and Insights team fulfils on SEAI's legal mandate to produce Ireland's national energy statistics and National Energy Projections annually. Outputs from these functions illustrate progress on energy-related targets, energy-related emissions and future pathways for the transformation of Ireland's energy system - with the aim of net-zero emissions by 2050.

Our behavioural economics team investigates how consumers use energy and make purchasing decisions to encourage measurable changes to household and business energy behaviour. We deliver policy analysis

to demonstrate the impact of existing Government policies and develop new ideas for the advice of policy makers in the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), and wider climate policy fora.

SEAI's work in this area informs the Government's Climate Action Plans, National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP) the National Housing Retrofit Taskforce, and other policy initiatives, in collaboration with DECC.

In addition to advice provided directly to Government, significant publications in 2020 included:



ENERGY IN IRELAND – 2020 REPORT

Our annual snapshot presenting definitive statistics on energy supply and use in Ireland. The 2020 report illustrated that in 2019 CO₂ emissions from energy use decreased by 4.5%, the largest reduction since 2011; we continue to excel at adding renewable electricity to our grid; and that we still have a lot to do to decarbonise heat and transport energy use in Ireland.

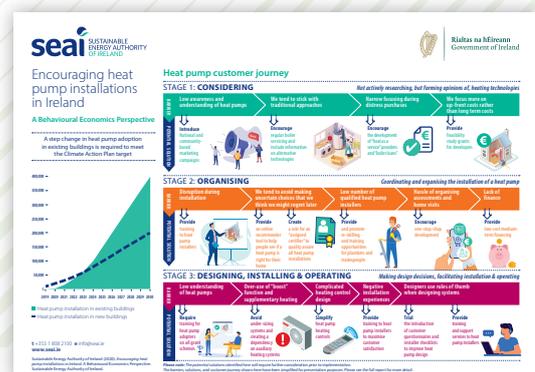
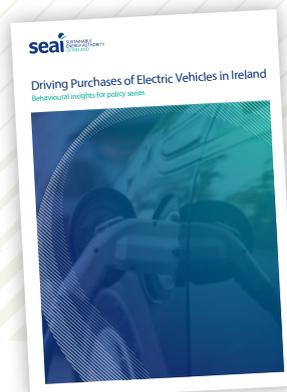
BEHAVIOURAL INSIGHTS PAPERS SERIES

In 2020, the Behavioural Economics Unit announced a new paper series titled the 'Behavioural Insights Papers Series'. The aim of the Behavioural Insights Papers Series is to:

1. Review the behaviours causing energy related outcomes and
2. Identify the behavioural barriers and drivers that influence these behaviours

Each paper reviews the best available evidence from the behavioural science literature and maps behavioural influences on to the relevant behaviours before concluding with a list of potential policy solutions for further consideration.

In 2020, the Behavioural Economics Unit published a paper identifying potential policies for encouraging both heat pump and electric vehicle (EV) adoption in Ireland.



Research and technology

SEAI's Research & Technology Department develops solutions to the challenge of decarbonising Ireland's energy system in the areas of heat, electricity, offshore, buildings and research funding.



ELECTRICITY AND WIND

The electricity unit provided support to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications in developing the wind farm planning guidelines and developed a specification for a new wind farm noise model to support analysis of the effects of the new wind energy development guidelines.

The department plays a significant role representing Ireland abroad at the European Commission, International Energy Agency and in relation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Research & Technology Department provides the technical knowledge upon which important energy policy decisions are based. It informs and supports energy research priorities, supports market development within the energy sector and contributes to wider public information on sustainable energy.

Some 2020 highlights included:

The electricity and wind unit also supported the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications in developing a methodology to evaluate community measures as part of their EC state aid submission on the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme in 2020.

FUNDING

Over 100 multi-annual projects, active during 2020, have been successful under the SEAI National Energy Research Development and Demonstration Funding Programme.

OFFSHORE ENERGY

The offshore energy team is leading on a number of EU projects, which are contributing considerably to the development of the offshore energy sector:

- The EU Interreg funded project, Ocean Power Innovation Network (OPIN), has built a network of over 400 members with which Irish companies can collaborate.
- The EU H2020 OceanSET project has completed a review of all funded projects in Europe in order to identify gaps and priorities for future funding initiatives; and through the Interreg funded AFLOWT project, the team has commenced a data collection programme to support floating offshore wind deployment on the west coast of Ireland.

HEAT PUMP AND HEATING STANDARDS

SEAI led on the development of the Domestic Heat Pump Standard (SR 50-4) in collaboration with National Standards Authority of Ireland, the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and industry experts. This document will assist plumbers, design engineers, specifiers, suppliers, and training providers of heat pumps in the roll out of 400,000 heat pumps to be installed by 2030. SEAI also led the development of the Domestic Heating Standard (SR 50-1), which provides practical information and guidance on the design, installation, and optimisation of traditional water-based (wet) central heating systems in permanent domestic dwellings.

Delegated functions

SEAI has delegated responsibility from the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications in the areas of the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme and Market Surveillance for energy labelling and eco-design.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY OBLIGATION SCHEME

The Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme (EEOS) requires all large energy suppliers to deliver energy efficiency savings from across all final energy using sectors. SEAI is the scheme administrator, reporting to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. SEAI is responsible, on behalf of the Minister, for the monitoring and measurement of savings achieved under the EEOS. SEAI's role is to then confirm that all savings counted against an Obligated Party's target under the EEOS, which are in turn reported to the EU under Article 7, are compliant with the requirements of the Directive.

The scheme has delivered over 4,800 GWh of energy efficiency savings in the period between 2014 and 2020, 776 GWh of that was in 2020 alone. The savings from the scheme so far represents an offset in CO₂ emissions of around 1.1 Mt and recurring financial savings of approximately €230 million per year.

The scheme is a key facilitator of energy savings by large industrial energy users. In 2020, Obligated Parties worked with SEAI's large industry energy network member companies to achieve more than 400 GWh savings. A specialised milk powder products and nutritional ingredients manufacturer achieved primary energy savings of 29 GWh with support from an Obligated Party. The savings were realised through the installation of two 2-MWe CHP units and three 1.3 MWth high efficiency hot water boilers to meet onsite electricity, steam generation and hot water demand.

In June 2020, the Minister decided that Ireland will use an EEOS in conjunction with Alternative Measures to meet its binding 2030 Article 7 target. Work is being carried out on the revised scheme, which will closely align with the Climate Action Plan and Programme for Government commitments. The Minister has decided to implement an interim/transition scheme for 2021.



“ The Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme (EEOS) requires all large energy suppliers to deliver energy efficiency savings from across all final energy using sectors. ”

4,833GWh

The scheme has delivered 4,833 GWh of energy efficiency savings in the period between 2014 and 2020.

87.2%

87.2% of the 9,089 products inspected were compliant, mirroring the findings of 2019 inspections.

56

SEAI inspected 56 retail outlets to assess their compliance with the EU Energy Labelling Regulation.



MARKET SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME

SEAI supports the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications in his capacity as Market Surveillance Authority (MSA) for the EU Ecodesign Directive, and the EU energy and tyre labelling regulations.

During 2020, SEAI inspected 56 retail outlets to assess their compliance with the EU Energy Labelling Regulation, in a programme of inspections curtailed by the COVID-19 pandemic. 87.2% of the 9,089 products inspected were compliant, mirroring the findings of 2019 inspections. SEAI also inspected 75 retailer websites finding very high levels of non-compliance. A retailer's guide to online energy labelling has been developed and SEAI is working closely with retailers to address this issue.

Our surveillance activity covered a wide range of products including heating, lighting, appliances, televisions, and tyres. Following market screening and risk assessment, we undertook detailed compliance

assessments of 135 products and laboratory tested 17, taking action to address several non-compliances. We also developed guidance, where needed, to support manufacturers in complying with the regulations.

We are participating in the multi-annual EU EEPLIANT3 project (2019-2023) undertaking joint activities with MSAs from other EU countries, sharing best practice and working together in coordinated market surveillance campaigns.

SEAI has an influential role in the digitalisation of market surveillance, needed to address the challenges associated with undertaking market surveillance at scale. We are currently leading the IT Tools work package of the EU EEPLIANT3 project and sit on the EU Digitalisation Taskforce for Market Surveillance, initiated in 2020. We have also embarked on a roadmap for developing a state-of-the-art IT platform for market surveillance which will help to significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our work.

2020 Highlights



The fourth annual SEAI Public Sector Conference took place in The Helix, DCU. It was attended by 800 guests, who heard former President Mary Robinson call for leadership in climate action.



Renewable Energy in Ireland 2020 report finds Ireland is not on track to meet renewable energy targets.

SEAI awards Irish researchers €1 million through collaborative European research initiatives.



FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

The SEAI Energy Academy launches as a free online training resource in energy efficiency and energy management for Ireland's SMEs.

€1 million in Government funding was awarded to innovative geothermal energy research projects.



SEAI moved many of its events to a virtual format, given the COVID-19 restrictions.

'Your Energy Matters' group on Facebook opens for individuals and communities to network and connect with each other, and to share their own experiences of reducing energy use.





Minister Ryan announces €28 million in Government funding through SEAI for 39 community energy projects

Season 2 of SEAI's 180 Degrees podcast began.



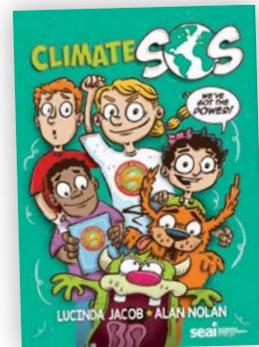
Energy in Ireland report was presented online for the first time and saw a record 272 attendees.

JULY	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
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Facebook and LinkedIn live-streaming events became a new way for SEAI to communicate with its audience with 12 sessions on various topics hosted in 2020.



Climate SOS, SEAI's latest illustrated story book for children, was published.



SEAI Energy Awards 2020 honour leaders in sustainable energy and climate action at online awards ceremony



GOVERNANCE

We provide Government with
**robust evidence
to inform energy
policy**



Energy efficiency report

In 2020, SEAI increased its total energy consumption by circa 70%. This was a direct result of relocating to our new Dublin office at Three Park Place in October 2019 and the corresponding increase in electrical and thermal consumption.

2020 was our first full calendar year in the new office and although the office was largely unoccupied between April and December due to the COVID-19 outbreak, it still represented a significant uplift in comparison to our previous smaller office space in Wilton Park House.

Despite most tenants working from home since April 2020, the office was still open and required an intermittent heating demand and at times an increased load on the air handling units to meet COVID-19 ventilation requirements.

Although absolute energy consumption increased, this was against a proportionally larger increase in occupied floor area. This new office building represents a 136% increase in floor area occupied by SEAI in Dublin due to current and future organisational growth.

Our energy performance metric of kWh/m² actually showed a 9% improvement on 2019 figures from our public sector monitoring and reporting system. This represents a 52% improvement on our baseline year of 2009 which exceeds our public sector target of 33% by 2020.

In 2020, Three Park Place represented circa 90% of SEAI's overall energy consumption across our four offices and two company electrical vehicles. As a result, it will continue to be a key area of focus for energy efficiency and emission reduction improvements.

SEAI's energy performance in 2020 remains provisional due to a combination of moving to a new head office in late 2019, and meter access issues in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The figures presented here are subject to change.

Energy use across the four offices and company electric vehicles (EV) is summarised in the table below.

Energy Use	2020	2019
DIRECT CONSUMPTION FOR OFFICES AND POOL CARS		
Electricity: Lighting, ICT, Office power, Heating Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) + 2 x Electric Vehicles + 3 x EV charging points (kWh TFC)	288,645	149,137*
Natural gas for heating (kWh TFC)	204,470	128,890
Marked gas oil for Heating (kWh TFC)	0	8,391
LPG for Heating	3,154	0
Totals for Direct Consumption	496,269	286,418
CO₂ Emissions (kg)	135,582	77,033**

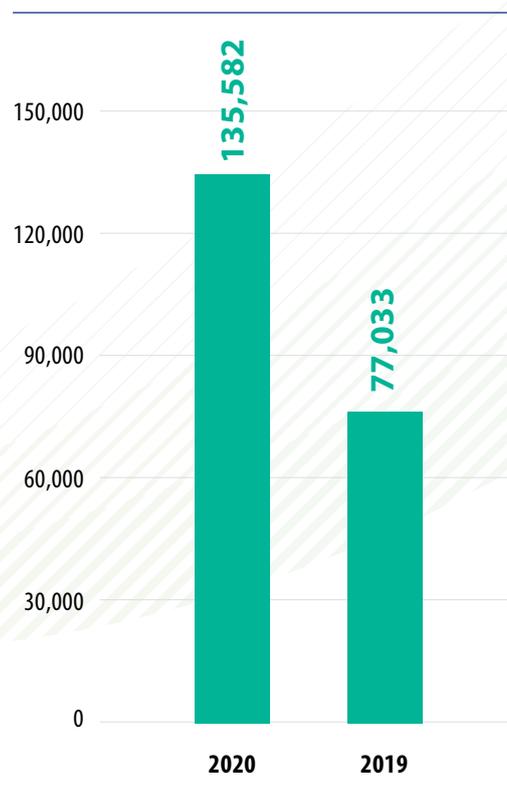
* slight decrease from previously reported figure due to overestimation of EV usage

** slight decrease following update to electricity emission factors (g CO₂/kWh) for 2019

Energy efficiency actions proposed for 2021/22

- 1 **ISO50001 re-certification to new revision of standard (ISO 50001:2018) to be completed in Q2 2022.**
- 2 **Complete energy awareness training among all SEAI staff when staff return to office.**
- 3 **Liaise with facilities management in Three Park Place to optimise our metering system and operational control of significant energy uses.**
- 4 **Develop decarbonisation strategy for SEAI to achieve 2030 public sector efficiency and emissions reduction targets.**

CO₂ EMISSIONS (KG)



Corporate Social Responsibility at SEAI

SEAI actively promotes and implements Corporate Social Responsibility, or CSR, at an organisational level and as part of the conversation with our diverse stakeholders.

SEAI is passionate about people and we seek to drive a positive impact on society, employees, stakeholders and the environment.

2020 was marked by uncertainty in the face of the global pandemic. Some activities, such as our involvement in communities, our annual university placements and internships, as well as participation in local clean-up groups and parades, could not take place as usual. On the other hand, the importance of wellbeing came to the fore as we flexibly supported staff remotely during this challenging time.

There are four pillars of CSR under which we have set out our actions.

1. **The Community:** Interaction with Community Partners and Organisations
2. **The Environment:** Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Resources
3. **The Marketplace:** Responsible Commercial Decisions with Suppliers and Customers
4. **The Workplace:** Supporting and Engaging Employees

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED TO DATE IN EACH OF THE FOUR PILLAR AREAS

1



The Community

- Charity fundraising (recipients in 2020 have included Enable Ireland and Focus Ireland).
- We are a supporter of the 30% Club in Ireland, which aims to support the achievement of a minimum of 30% Gender Balance at all senior decision-making tables across Ireland, including Boards and C-suite.

2



The Environment

SEAI Green Team is an employee led initiative to encourage and promote sustainable practices in our offices. From early March 2020, employees commenced working remotely in light of the pandemic, thereby putting this activity on hold. Nevertheless, key achievements to date include:

- Purchasing recycled printer paper, compostable tea bags, reduction in plastic items purchased (cups and name badges), and research into suppliers' green policies.
- Removal of plastic water cups.
- Employee book-sharing library.
- Continued use of compostable coffee cups, cutlery and takeaway containers.
- Continued segregation of office waste.
- Smarter Travel Workplaces initiative to encourage employees to walk and cycle.
- Introduction of paperless office across the organisation.
- Our offices are in an A3 BER rated office building.
- SEAI has two fully electric cars used by staff for business travel (outside of the current pandemic).

SEAI is passionate about people and we seek to drive a positive impact on society, employees, stakeholders and the environment.

3



The Marketplace

- Sustainable event procurement is particularly important for our large annual event for which we now use a checklist of environmental measures from potential venues. In 2020 most events took place virtually, and we are learning from successful virtual events for the future.
- The purchase of energy efficient ICT equipment, accounting for environmental, energy efficiency and cooling standards.
- A customer communications review has been carried out in many parts of the organisation and is an ongoing process to ensure a better service. This includes a review of our website, application process and customer charter.

4



The Workplace

- To encourage and support the wellbeing of our teams throughout the pandemic, we have arranged a number of initiatives, including mindfulness sessions, yoga classes, relevant webinars, and coffee mornings across the organisation.
- We provide a free Employee Assistance Programme which provides confidential counselling, parent and career coaching, unlimited specialist information, and an online wellbeing support portal to our direct and in-direct staff and their families.
- Published an Inclusion and Diversity Strategy 2019-2021. Remote working has provided insights into how we may revise this strategy for the future of work post-pandemic.
- Employee Health and Safety activity has continued in a remote working environment, including ergonomic assessments and toolbox talks on relevant issues.
- Employee Health Screening and wellbeing assistance is provided for all employees.
- The Women in Energy (WIE) Group is an SEAI employee led initiative supporting and encouraging female engagement within the energy sector.
- As part of International Men's Health Week, we organised a Men's Shed Talk.
- Over 5 million steps were taken by staff as part of the Smarter Travel Workplaces Step Challenges in March and October 2020.
- Cycle Local event as part of the Smarter Travel Workplaces Programme.
- The Cycle to Work and Tax Saver Public Transport Scheme is available to all.
- Outside of the current health emergency, employees have the use of the company electric vehicle for business related travel which reduces emissions and advocates for their usefulness.

Corporate Governance

The overall SEAI Governance Statement and Board Members Report, as required by the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 is set out in the attached Financial Statements for 2020.

SWIFT 3000 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CERTIFICATION/ EXTERNAL EVALUATION

In April 2011, SEAI became the first organisation in Europe, either public or private, to be awarded certification under the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) SWiFT 3000 standard.

This is a standard relating to a Code of Practice for Corporate Governance assessment in Ireland. The objective is to assess the corporate governance frameworks of organisations and specifically, the level of compliance by organisations with governance codes and best practice. A further review of SEAI compliance with the SWiFT 3000 requirements was completed in December 2020 and SEAI has maintained this important corporate governance certification. SEAI, therefore, continues to operate to best practice corporate governance standards.

The SWiFT 3000 certification process involves a comprehensive external review of SEAI Board structures, processes, procedures and material including compliance with SEAI legislation, the SEAI Code of Governance Framework, Declarations of Interests by Board members, operation of Board Committees.

GOVERNANCE

While the primary source of corporate governance for SEAI is the Sustainable Energy Act, the agency is also required to comply with a range of other statutory (National and EU) and administrative requirements. SEAI affirms that it complied with its obligations to meet these requirements. The following procedures are in place to ensure compliance with specific requirements:

General Administrative and Policy requirements

At national level, SEAI works closely with the relevant officials in the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, and officials from other Government Departments and state agencies. This is necessary in the context of advancing its objectives and ensuring compliance with statutory, administrative and Ministerial / Government requirements. At local level, SEAI works closely with other state agencies and a wide range of local organisations and public representatives to proactively develop sustainable energy policy and initiatives. This underpins the overall national strategic objective that SEAI will be central to bringing about a low carbon economy through measures and activities focused on the transition to a smarter and more sustainable energy future. This work and interaction are carried out in accordance with various policy directives issued by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications.

Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies

In September 2016, the SEAI Board formally adopted the revised Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in August 2016. SEAI provides briefings for Board members on the requirements of the Code and has put in place a range of actions, procedures and initiatives to ensure compliance with the Code. As referred to above, SEAI is also evaluated on its compliance with this Code under the SWiFT 3000 certification process.

In addition, SEAI has its own holistic Code of Governance Framework for the organisation, incorporating the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. This Code of Governance Framework is reviewed by the SEAI Board on an annual basis and is available on the SEAI website www.seai.ie.

Against this background, SEAI confirms compliance with the following Sections of the Code of Practice:

SECTION 1: ROLE OF THE BOARD

SECTION 1.2: ETHICAL STANDARDS

As stated above, the SEAI Board, in consultation with SEAI senior management has devised a specific SEAI Code of Governance Framework. This sets out the appropriate structures and procedures to ensure that the governance and accountability arrangements are robust and effective across the Authority. This Framework includes a Code of Business Conduct for Board members, the conduct required at Board meetings. Board members and designated staff members are also required to comply with the Ethics in Public Office legislation on an annual basis.

SECTION 1.7: MATTERS FOR DECISION BY THE BOARD

The SEAI Board has approved a formal Schedule of Matters specifically reserved to it for decision, in order to ensure that the direction and control of the body is firmly in their hands.

SECTION 1.11: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The SEAI Board has established comprehensive procedures to monitor and manage potential conflicts of interests of management and Board members.

SECTION 1.14: PROTECTED DISCLOSURE

The SEAI Board at its meeting in 4 November 2020 approved a revised Whistle-blowers Charter, which takes account of the new requirements arising from the Protection of Disclosures Act 2014. This is reviewed on an annual basis as part of the review of the SEAI Governance Framework.

SECTION 1.17: STATEMENT OF STRATEGY

The SEAI Board has adopted a Statement of Strategy for the period 2017 -2021. The Board has agreed a consistent process to monitor updates on progress and developments in relation to the implementation of this strategy. This Strategy is available on the SEAI website www.seai.ie.

SECTION 6: BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL REPORTING

The SEAI Financial Statements are audited annually by the Comptroller and Auditor General and submitted to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications with the SEAI Annual Report in compliance with the Sustainable Energy Act 2002. This includes an examination of the annual Statement of Internal Control (SIC). The Chair submits these reports in accordance with the requirements set out in Paragraph 1.9 of the Business and Financial requirements of the revised Code. In this regard, SEAI confirms that it complies with Government policy in relation to the total remuneration for the Chief Executive Officer and the remuneration of other staff in accordance with the arrangements set out by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. In addition, SEAI complies with the guidelines covering the payment of fees to Chairpersons and Directors / members of State Bodies, as issued by the Minister for Finance. The schedule of Board fees and expenses for Board members is set out in the Governance Statement.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE – CONTINUED

SECTION 7: RISK MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROLS

SECTION 7.1: RISK MANAGEMENT

A comprehensive risk assessment and management policy has been developed in SEAI and the overall risk management framework has been approved by the Board. The SEAI Board and Audit and Risk Committee have established appropriate mechanisms to ensure that it is fully operational and monitor and review its effectiveness.

SECTIONS 7.4: REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROL

An effective system of internal control is maintained and operated by SEAI. The system of internal financial controls is reviewed on an annual basis by the outsourced internal auditors and this was the case in respect of 2020. The requirements in relation to this review, as set out in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, have been applied in respect of 2020.

The review of internal controls and the associated Statement of Internal Control (SIC) for 2020 have been approved by the SEAI Audit and Risk Committee and the Board. The review is confirmed in the annual letter from the Chairperson to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications. In addition, the Chairpersons' statement on internal financial controls is included in the Annual Report (see page 44).

SECTION 7.7: INTERNAL AUDIT

SEAI has a properly constituted Internal Audit function in accordance with the principles set out in the Code of Practice and has a formal Charter, which has been approved by the Board.

SECTION 7.12: AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

SEAI has an established Audit and Risk Committee with specific terms of reference, approved by the Board, which are reviewed on an annual basis.

SECTION 8: PARENT DEPARTMENT AND OVERSIGHT ROLE

SECTION 8.4: OVERSIGHT AGREEMENTS

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and SEAI has a formal Oversight and Performance Framework/Service Level Agreement in place, which is reviewed on an annual basis.

SECTION 8.16: PROCEDURES FOR PROCUREMENT

SEAI has an appropriate Public Procurement process, which is compliant with the current value thresholds for the application of EU and national rules. Competitive tendering is standard procedure in this procurement process.

SECTION 8.44: TAX COMPLIANCE

The Chairperson, in the separate letter furnished to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications confirms that SEAI has complied with its obligations under tax law.

Guidelines for the Appraisal and Management of Capital Expenditure Proposals

SEAI has well established and robust procedures in place for the Appraisal and Management of Capital Expenditure projects arising under the Capital (grants) programmes.

Employment Equality Acts 1998 and 2004

SEAI is committed to a policy of equal opportunities and equality is an established priority in the organisation. SEAI has a progressive equality and diversity agenda and operates a number of schemes providing staff with options in relation to meeting their career and personnel needs including study leave, educational programmes etc. The SEAI Performance and Growth Planning Process also facilitates career and personal development. SEAI values diversity and strives to be an equality employer where individual contribution is encouraged and differences valued. SEAI is committed to maintaining and developing a balanced work / life environment for all staff.

The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005

This Act, which replaces the provisions of the Safety, Health and Welfare Act 1988, consolidates and updates the existing law. SEAI continues to take appropriate measures to protect the safety, health and welfare of all employees and visitors and promote awareness within its offices to meet the provisions of this Act. This extends to the Public Health (Tobacco) Acts 2002 and 2004.

Customer Charter

SEAI has published a Customer Charter, setting out its commitment to a high quality of service. This Charter includes a procedure for dealing with complaints, if they arise. This is also available on www.seai.ie.

Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997

SEAI comes under the remit of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997 which came into effect on 2 January 1998, and the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2002 which came into effect on 7 August 2002.

It is a policy of SEAI to ensure that all invoices are paid promptly. Procedures are in place, however, to ensure that late interest is paid, if required.

Ethics in Public Office Act, 1995 and Standards in Public Office Act, 2001

In accordance with the above Acts, SEAI Board Members furnish each year, to the Secretary, completed Statements of Interests in compliance with the provisions of the Acts. In addition, SEAI staff members, holding designated positions, comply with both Acts.

Freedom of Information Act, 1997 and Freedom of Information (Amendment) Act 2003

SEAI is a prescribed body under the Freedom of Information Acts and complies fully with the requirements set out in the Acts. Requests for information under the Acts should be addressed to the FOI Officer, SEAI, 3 Park Place, Hatch St, Dublin 2.

Data Protection Acts 1998 and 2004 / GDPR

SEAI is registered as a Data Controller under the Data Protection Acts. Data protection is concerned with the protection of the individual's fundamental right to privacy and to exercise control over how their personal information is used.

Official Languages Act 2003

SEAI comes under the remit of the Official Languages Act 2003, which was signed into law on 14 July 2003 to provide a statutory framework for the delivery of services through the Irish language. In accordance with Section 10 of the Act, this Annual Report is published simultaneously in both Irish and English.

FINANCE

Energy efficiency
delivers measurable
**economic and
employment
benefits**



Governance Statement and Board Members' Report

For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

The Board of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) was established under the Sustainable Energy Act 2002 and came into existence on 1 May 2002. This Act was further amended by the Energy Act 2016.

The functions of the Authority are set out in Section 6 of the 2002 Act. The Board is accountable to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, is responsible for ensuring good governance, and performs this task by setting strategic objectives and targets and taking strategic decisions on all key business issues. The regular day-to-day management, control, and direction of SEAI are the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the senior management team. The CEO and the senior management team must follow the broad strategic direction set by the Board and must ensure that all Board members have a clear understanding of the key activities and decisions related to SEAI, and of any significant risks likely to arise. The CEO acts as a direct liaison between the Board and management of SEAI.

BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

The broad role of the Board is set out in Section 10 of the Sustainable Energy Act 2002 and the more specific responsibilities of the Board, both individually and corporately, are detailed in the SEAI Code of Governance Framework, which is approved on an annual basis by the Board and is available on the SEAI Website (www.seai.ie). This document also contains the matters specifically reserved for Board decision and the standing items considered by the Board include:

- Quorum and Declaration of Interest requirements
- Verification of Minutes of previous meeting
- Matters arising and associated Action Points
- Chairperson's Report
- CEO Report
- Finance, Budget, and Expenditure Reports
- SEAI Strategy developments and performance reports
- Consideration of procurement and grant proposals, in accordance with approved delegated authority
- Consideration of Sub-Committee reports
- Corporate Risk Review /Risk management
- Governance and reserved matters

Section 24 (2) of the Sustainable Energy Act 2002 requires the Authority to keep, in such form as may be approved by the Minister, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, all proper and usual accounts of money received and expended by it. In preparing these financial statements, the Board of SEAI is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that it will continue in operation; and
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Board is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records, which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, its financial position and enables it to ensure that the financial statements comply with Section 24 of the Sustainable Energy Act 2002. The maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information on the SEAI Website is the responsibility of the Board.

The Board is responsible for approving the annual plan and budget. An evaluation of the performance of SEAI by reference to the annual plan and budget was considered in January 2021 in respect of 2020.

The Board is responsible for safeguarding its assets and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities. The SEAI Board approved a specific revised Anti-Fraud Policy in November 2020.

The Board considers that the financial statements for 2020 for SEAI give a true and fair view of the financial performance and financial position of SEAI at 31 December 2020. During 2020, the Board and the SEAI Audit and Risk Committee paid specific and detailed attention to the impact of COVID-19 on the organisation and there was substantial focus on this throughout the year. This is addressed further in the Statement on Internal Control.

SEAI BOARD AND COMMITTEES 2020

Board Structure

Board members are appointed by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, with the consent of the Minister for Finance, in accordance with the Sustainable Energy Act 2002, as amended by the Energy Act 2016. New members, on their appointment, are provided with extensive briefing on the agency and its operations. The SEAI Board consists of 12 members. The Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications designates one member of the Board (other than the Chief Executive) as Chairperson for a period not greater than 5 years. Board members are appointed for 5-year periods and may be reappointed.

The Board of SEAI operates to best practice corporate governance principles in line with the guidelines set out in the Revised Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, as issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, in August 2016. An appropriate and comprehensive induction and development process is in place for Board members.

The Board is responsible for setting the broad strategy and policies for the organisation. It is responsible for the system of internal control and for putting in place processes and procedures for ensuring that the system is effective. It performs these functions directly and through the operation of specific Board Committees in accordance with approved Terms of Reference. Responsibility for the implementation of policy rests with the executive management of SEAI.

The Board operates in accordance with the provisions set out for the Board of the Authority in the Sustainable Energy Act 2002. In line with the provisions of the Act, the Ethics in Public Office Acts 1995 and 2001 and the revised Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, SEAI Board members are required to provide an annual Statement of Interests to the Standards in Public Office Commission and the Secretary to the Board.

In January 2021, the Board carried out a comprehensive review of its activities, operations, and outcomes for 2020. SEAI continues to retain its SWiFT 3000 certification status, which is an independent examination and evaluation by the NSAI assessors of the SEAI corporate governance procedures and compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. The latest evaluation was completed in November 2020.

SEAI BOARD 2020

**Julie O'Neill**

Chairperson

Appointed 6 May 2015, resigned on 5 May 2020 at end of her term

Julie is proprietor of Join the Dots, an independent strategic management consultancy. She served as Secretary General at the Department of Transport from 2002 to 2009 and, in the course of her public service career, worked in eight Government Departments. She is a Board member of Ryanair, Permanent TSB and Axa Life Europe. She holds an MSc in Policy Analysis from Trinity College Dublin and a B. Comm from UCD. She was previously a member of the SEAI Board from September 2011 to September 2014.

**Dermot Byrne**

Chairperson

Appointed 1 September 2020

Dermot's background is in utility engineering and management. He was CEO of EirGrid through its initiation and growth phase, from 2005 to 2012. Prior to that he served as Head of ESB Networks. Since retiring from EirGrid, Dermot has served on a number of Boards, including that of Element Power - a wind development company. He currently chairs an Irish overseas development agency - VITA - with a strong focus on rural communities and climate action in East Africa.

Dermot is a Fellow of Engineers Ireland and served as its president in 2016/17. On behalf of DCENR (now DECC) he chaired an expert group to develop a national Energy Research Strategy. The report of the group - Energy Innovation Ireland - was published in 2016.

**Dr Peter Brennan**

Appointed 6 May 2015, reappointed 9 May 2018

Peter is Managing Director of EPS Consulting, a public policy research consultancy, and Chairman of Bid Services, Ireland's largest tender and procurement advisory company. He has a particular interest and expertise in climate change and energy. He chaired the IEA's Climate Change Research Group from 2007 to 2015 and was an advisor to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Climate Change and Energy. He lectured on the DCU Masters and Certificate Programme on Sustainable Energy Finance. He is author of an eBook on business opportunities in the green economy. He was IBEC's Director for European Affairs and Strategy Development and was Director of the Brussels based Irish Business Bureau from 1986 to 2001. In his earlier career he worked in the Departments of Industry and Energy and Foreign Affairs.

**Dr Lisa Ryan**

Appointed 6th May 2015, reappointed 9 May 2018

Lisa is professor in energy economics in the School of Economics in UCD and energy economics lead at UCD Energy Institute with expertise in energy efficiency, renewable energy and climate change economics. She was the senior energy economist in the Energy Efficiency Unit at the International Energy Agency (IEA) in Paris until summer 2013 where she led projects relating to energy efficiency finance, transport, and cross-sectoral policy. She has previously worked as an independent consultant in energy and environmental economics for international and Irish governmental organisations, as well as the private and public sectors. Lisa has a PhD in environmental economics from University College Dublin (UCD), and other postgraduate and undergraduate degrees in economics and engineering from UCD and Colorado School of Mines, USA.



Michael Wall

Appointed 6th May 2015, reappointed 9 May 2018

Michael practises as a barrister specialising in planning, environmental and construction law. He is a former member of the board of An Bord Pleanála and has worked as an architect in private practice. He is a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Architects and has an MBA from University College Dublin. Michael is also a board member of the National Asset Management Agency, Chairman of the Irish Georgian Society and a board member of both the Abbey Theatre and Irish National Opera.



Kevin Brady

Appointed 16 February 2017 – resigned on 15 February 2020 at end of his term.

Kevin is the Principal Officer leading the Heat & Transport Energy Policy division in the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. His responsibilities include the development of renewable heat in the industrial, commercial and residential sectors. In the transport sector, he is co-chair of the Low Emission Vehicle Taskforce and is responsible for energy policies promoting renewable energy in transport and the growth in low and zero emission vehicles. He is an engineering graduate with a master's in economics from University College Dublin. Previously, Kevin was an economic consultant specialising in the energy and transport sectors and has prior experience developing wind energy projects in Ireland and internationally.



Kate Ruddock

Appointed 16 February 2017

Kate has spent much of her career in the NGO sector working with environmental organisations and networks including Friends of the Earth, the Stop Climate Chaos coalition, and the Irish Environmental Network. She has experience in sustainable energy policy, community energy projects and environmental education and advocates for Ireland to play its fair share in responding to the climate and biodiversity crisis. Kate has a Degree in Natural Science from Trinity College Dublin, a Masters in Environmental Sustainability from the University of Edinburgh and a Certificate in Renewable Energy from Dundalk Institute of Technology.



Andrew Ennis

Appointed 14 July 2017

Andrew is Renewable Energy Director with Bartra Capital, which has investment activities in several areas in the Irish infrastructure market including, housing, healthcare, commercial property and renewable energy. He is a Chartered Accountant and holds a B.Comm and M.Acc from UCD. Andrew has over 16 years' corporate finance experience in the Irish infrastructure market, specialising in energy and renewable energy. Andrew has previously worked for the NewERA Unit of the National Treasury Management Agency which was established to provide corporate finance advice to the Irish Government in relation to the management and disposal of State assets and investment in key economic infrastructure. He also worked with NCB Corporate Finance (now part of Investec Ireland), specialising in infrastructure mergers and acquisitions, valuations and fundraising.

SEAI BOARD 2020 – CONTINUED

**Ann Markey**

Appointed 14 July 2017

Ann is a Fellow of Chartered Accountants Ireland and an experienced business leader, committee chair and non-executive director. She has extensive experience in the electricity industry and was a senior executive with ESB and with Greencoat Capital, a leading renewable energy investment company. Her experience spans traditional electricity businesses as well as investing in low carbon technology and renewable energy companies. She is an independent non-executive director of Foresight Solar Fund Limited, a FTSE250 solar PV investment company. During 2020, she was a Board member of the Digital Hub Development Agency and is Chair of its Audit & Risk Committee. She is a member of the Audit & Risk Committee of the HSE.

**Léan Doody**

Appointed 31 October 2018

Léan is European Cities and Planning Leader for Arup. She has over 20 years of professional experience in the industry which includes working with a variety of clients from city and national governments to private developers, and on a variety of projects involving extensive strategy and policy work on the application of smart technologies. Recent project work includes digital strategy and policy work for the Danish and Singaporean governments, the Greater London Authority, Dublin City Council, Sydney, Canberra and major master planning projects in Madrid, Singapore and Dubai. In this evolving field she has been active in working with research institutes and industry bodies to set international standards and research agendas, including the British Standards Institute and Cambridge University's Centre for Smart Infrastructure and Construction. She is an Honorary Senior Lecturer at University College London in the Department of Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy and an external examiner at the Royal College of Art in London.

**Joe O'Carroll**

Appointed 28 February 2019

Joe has over 25 years' experience in the Energy, Sustainability, and Digital Technologies sectors. He has worked in Ireland, the UK, USA, Africa and the Balkans. An Agricultural Science Graduate from UCD, he has an MBA (UCC) and a Diploma in Company Direction (Institute of Directors). He has completed executive training programmes at the IMI Dublin and the Kennedy School at Harvard. Having founded, scaled and sold his own renewable energy business between 2008 and 2017 he has held senior management positions covering areas such as general management, strategy, commercialisation, sales & marketing and fundraising. He is a non-executive director of both a tourism business and a management consultancy firm which specialises in the industrial pharmaceutical sector. Joe is currently the General Manager of a series of Innovation Hubs in the Mid East Region, including MERITS - a hub for Tech StartUps, and the Equine Innovation Hub at the Irish National Stud. He holds board positions with Treemetrics - a SaaS business based in Cork, Fairways and FunDays - Europe's leading Golf Tour operator, and Lochlann Enterprises - a technical consultancy business in the Pharma sector.

**Justina Corcoran**

Appointed 7 May 2020

Justina currently holds the position of Principal Officer, in the Climate Adaptation and Citizen Engagement Division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. She has over 20 years' professional experience, in the public sector, across a broad and varied number of Departments. As the former Head of Internal Audit in the Department she understands and is passionate about promoting and ensuring that a strong and effective system of Governance and Internal Control exists and flourishes within an Organisation. In recent years, Justina completed the ACCA Professional Accounting qualification achieving 1st place in Ireland (2nd worldwide) on the Governance Risk and Ethics professional level paper and 1st Place in Ireland (8th place worldwide) on the Advanced Corporate Reporting Professional level paper. She has also held leadership roles in relation to National Projects such as the National Postcodes System ("Eircodes") and recently led the Department towards achieving compliance with the introduction of the GDPR as Data Protection Officer.



Sharon O'Connor

Appointed 1 September 2020

Sharon is a Fellow and Chartered Director of the Institute of Directors with over twenty-five years senior leadership experience. A Chartered Fellow of the Institute of Personnel Development, she is also professionally qualified in Marketing. She recently completed a 5yr. term as Chair of the Education Authority NI, a regional organization employing 44,000 with a budget of £2bn. Formerly Chief Executive of Derry City Council, she has a strong interest in local government and serves on the Accounts Commission for Scotland and recently completed two terms with the National Oversight and Audit Commission. Previous and current work spans the private, public and community/voluntary sectors as a business owner and consultant. She is particularly interested in community planning, regeneration and innovation in the public sector.

The SEAI Board has established four Committees as follows:

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

This Committee supports the Board in discharging its legal and accounting responsibilities; communicates with external auditors and evaluates and oversees the internal audit function; reviews financial planning, the system of internal controls, the risk management and assessment process, including the SEAI Risk Register, and oversees budgeting and banking arrangements. The Committee is independent from the financial management of the organisation and ensures that the internal control systems, including audit activities are monitored actively and independently. The Committee reports to the Board after each meeting and formally, in writing, annually. Nine meetings of the Committee were held in 2020. At end of 2020, the Committee comprised of four Board members and one external member appointed by the Board.

Members

Ann Markey

Chair

Appointed 6 February 2019

Gerry Donnelly

External member

*Appointed 29 May 2013
– resigned 5 May 2020*

Lisa Ryan

Appointed on 27 July 2016

Michael Wall

Appointed on 27 July 2016

Martina Maher

External member

Appointed 31 July 2019

Sharon O'Connor

Appointed 4 November 2020

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

This Committee is responsible for reviewing the terms and conditions for the CEO, within the guidelines established by Government. It is also responsible for reviewing and assessing the performance of the CEO on an annual basis in the context of agreed goals and objectives and the Service Level Agreement between SEAI and the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. In addition, the Committee approves the Authority's Action Plan in respect of any Public Sector Agreements, where applicable. There were no meetings of the Committee during 2020.

Members

*All appointed on
4 November 2020.*

No meeting of this Committee took place in 2020.

Dermot Byrne

Board Chair

Justina Corcoran

Sharon O'Connor

SUPPORT SCHEME FOR RENEWABLE HEAT (SSRH) COMMITTEE

The Committee is responsible for ensuring appropriate oversight and monitoring of the risks associated with the SSRH including policy objectives, achievement, market behaviour, value for money and cost effectiveness. It is also responsible for overseeing recommended decisions by SEAI in the context of the Memorandum

of Understanding (MOU) between SEAI and the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications. The Committee has also delegated authority for certain grant levels from the Board.

Members

*All appointed by the Board on
1 May 2019*

Andrew Ennis

Chair

Ann Markey

Joe O'Carroll

Kate Ruddock

NATIONAL RETROFIT TASK FORCE COMMITTEE

The Committee has responsibility to oversee, input and support SEAI's engagement into the National Retrofit Task Force at a strategic level with the objective of SEAI being assigned the role of the National Retrofit Delivery Body. This will ensure that there is a timely risk analysis on this issue including an update of the SEAI Risk Register to reflect new emerging risks in this context.

Members

Appointed on 3 June 2020.

*Dermot Byrne appointed
30 September 2020.*

Peter Brennan

Chair

Kate Ruddock

Léan Doody

Joe O'Carroll

Dermot Byrne

Board Chair

SEAI BOARD 2020 – CONTINUED

BOARD AND COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE

Since March 2020, when the Government introduced COVID-19 restrictions, based on public health advice, all SEAI Board and Committee meetings have been held on a remote basis (via Microsoft Teams).

Board Member	Board Attendance (12 meetings)	Audit & Risk Committee* (9 meetings)	National Retrofit Task Force Committee (2 meetings)	SSRH Committee (8 meetings)	Board Fees 2020 (€)
Julie O'Neill (a)	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	4,133
Dermot Byrne (b)	4	N/A	1	N/A	3,990
Sharon O'Connor (c)	4	1	N/A	N/A	2,565
Peter Brennan (d)	12	N/A	2	N/A	7,695
Lisa Ryan	11	8	N/A	N/A	7,695
Michael Wall	12	9	N/A	N/A	7,695
Kevin Brady (e)	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Kate Ruddock	10	N/A	2	8	7,695
Andrew Ennis	12	N/A	N/A	8	7,695
Ann Markey	12	9	N/A	7	7,695
Léan Doody	12	N/A	2	N/A	7,695
Joe O'Carroll	12	N/A	2	8	7,695
Justina Corcoran (f)	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Total					72,248

No meeting of the Performance Management and Remuneration Committee took place in 2020.

No expenses were paid to any Board members in 2020.

- a) Resigned on 5 May 2020 at end of term.
- b) Appointed on 1 September 2020.
- c) Appointed on 1 September 2020.
- d) Senior Independent Board Member (SIBM) – Chaired 3 Board meetings in June/July 2020.
- e) Resigned on 15 February 2020 at end of term.
- f) Appointed 7 May 2020.

*This Committee now has one external member (two until 5 May 2020).

There were two Board members (Kevin Brady, up to his end of term on 15 February 2020 and Justina Corcoran, since her appointment on 7 May 2020, who did not receive Board fees under the One Person One salary (OPOS) principle).

KEY PERSONNEL CHANGES

Two Board members resigned during 2020. Julie O'Neill resigned, as Chair, at the end of her term on 5 May 2020 and Kevin Brady resigned on 15 February 2020 at the end of his term. Three new members were appointed as outlined above.

DISCLOSURES REQUIRED BY CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF STATE BODIES (2016)

The Board is responsible for ensuring that the SEAI Ireland has complied with requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (the Code), as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in August 2016. The following disclosures are required by the Code.

EMPLOYEE SHORT-TERM BENEFITS BREAKDOWN

Employees' short-term benefits in excess of €60,000 are categorised into the following bands:

Benefit Band €	Number of Employees at 31 December 2020	Number of Employees at 31 December 2019
60,000 – 69,999	14	9
70,000 – 79,999	8	9
80,000 – 89,999	22	21
90,000 – 99,999	3	2
100,000 – 109,999	4	3
110,000 – 119,999	0	1
120,000 – 129,999	1	0

Note: For the purposes of this disclosure, short-term employee benefits in relation to services rendered during the reporting period include salary, overtime allowances and other payments on behalf of the employee but exclude employer's PRSI.

CONSULTANCY COSTS

Consultancy costs include the cost of external advice to management and exclude outsourced 'business-as-usual' functions.

Detail	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Legal Advice	567	590
Public Relations/ Marketing	–	19
Human Resources	51	99
Programme/ Organisational Improvement	552	356
Scheme Development	933	738
Total	2,103	1,802

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Consultancy Costs capitalised	–	–
Consultancy costs charged to the Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves	2,103	1,802
Total	2,103	1,802

LEGAL COSTS AND SETTLEMENTS

The table below provides a breakdown of legal costs recognised as expenditure in the reporting period. No settlements were made during 2020 (2019: Nil).

Detail	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Legal Advice	529	556
Legal Fees – Legal Proceedings	38	34
Total	567	590

TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE EXPENDITURE

The Statement of Income & Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves includes the following travel and subsistence expenditure which is categorised as follows:

Detail	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Domestic – Employee	32	103
International – Employee	7	58
Total	39	161

HOSPITALITY AND STAFF WELFARE EXPENDITURE

The Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves includes the following hospitality expenditure, no client related hospitality was incurred.

Detail	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Staff Welfare and Hospitality	12	36

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The Board has adopted the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies and has put procedures in place to ensure compliance with the Code, SEAI was in full compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Signed on behalf of the Board

Dermot Byrne

Dermot Byrne
Chairperson
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

28 June 2021

Statement on Internal Control

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

On behalf of the Board of Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), I acknowledge the Board's responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal control is maintained and operated. This responsibility takes account of the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies as published by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in August 2016. In relation to 2020, the Board considered the implications of COVID-19 arising from a risk, business and controls perspective and worked closely with the CEO, the senior management team and the Audit and Risk Committee in addressing all issues arising from the pandemic.

PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a tolerable level rather than to eliminate it. The system can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely way.

The system of internal control, which accords with guidance issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform has been in place in the authority for the year ended 31 December 2020 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

CAPACITY TO HANDLE RISK

SEAI has an established Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) with specific Terms of Reference approved by the Board. Up to 5 May 2020, this Committee comprised of three Board members and two external members, with financial and audit expertise, one of whom is the Chair. The composition of the Committee changed in November 2020 to 4 Board members and one external member. The ARC met nine times in 2020. The ARC was briefed on a range of key issues throughout 2020 associated with the COVID pandemic which included:

- Procedures in place to facilitate remote working of all Authority staff, including their health and safety;
- Any operational changes and IT capability utilised to allow this transition;
- Impact on budgets and grant programmes;
- Impacts and risks associated with key third parties;
- Cybersecurity risks, information provided to staff and mandatory training required.

Regular updates were provided by senior management to both the ARC and Board throughout 2020 with respect to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. At each Board meeting the CEO provided an update on COVID-19 as part of the CEO's report to include impacts on the staff and operations of the Authority. The Finance report to Board and ARC detailed the financial impacts.

SEAI has also established an internal audit function which is adequately resourced and conducts a programme of work agreed with the ARC. This function is currently outsourced to Mazars. Internal Audit completed the 2020 Plan in line with original timelines.

The organisation has developed a risk management policy which sets out its risk appetite, the risk management processes in place and details the roles and responsibilities of staff in relation to risk. The policy has been issued to all staff who are expected to work within SEAI's risk management policies, to alert management on emerging risks and control weaknesses and assume responsibility for risks and controls within their own area of work.

SEAI's internal Programme Compliance Committee reviews and directs action on all issues of potential fraud identified through the schemes audit and inspection procedures, processes and SEAI's Inspection Unit Protocol. The Programme Compliance Committee is made up of cross functional Managers who review all exceptions or concerns identified as a potential risk of fraud or significant non-compliance and provide prompt and objective direction and support to line management and staff in the mitigation of these risks. Where SEAI identify grants/scheme amounts repayable to it arising from irregularities or breaches in the grants' terms and conditions, grant refunds/ repayments are pursued from the relevant homeowner/contractors. Where necessary, cases are notified to the Garda National Economic Crime Bureau.

RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK

SEAI has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, to mitigate those risks.

A risk register is in place which identifies the key risks facing SEAI and these have been identified, evaluated and graded according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the ARC and the Board on a bi-annual basis. Risk management is a standing item on the ARC and Board Agendas. The outcome of the risk assessments is used to plan the internal audit plan for the year and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. In 2020, the risk register was updated throughout the year to identify and mitigate the risks to SEAI arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibility for operation of controls assigned to specific staff.

I confirm that a control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- Procedures for all key business processes have been documented;
- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability;
- There is an appropriate budgeting system with an annual budget which is kept under review by senior management;
- There are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the information and communication technology systems;
- There are appropriate systems in place to protect the security of information and maintenance of an adequate control environment during the period of remote working resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic;

- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets; and
- Control procedures over grant funding to outside agencies ensure adequate control over approval of grants and monitoring and review of grantees to ensure grant funding has been applied for the purpose intended.

ONGOING MONITORING AND REVIEW

Formal procedures have been established for monitoring control processes and control deficiencies are communicated to those responsible for taking corrective action and to management and the Board, where relevant, in a timely way. I confirm that the following ongoing monitoring systems are in place:

- Key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies;
- Reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned; and
- There are regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual performance and financial reports which indicate performance against budgets/forecasts.

In October 2020 senior management considered a paper from the Office of the Controller & Auditor General entitled "OCAG insights: The impact of COVID-19 on your control environment" which was issued to all public bodies. Senior management was satisfied that all of the issues raised had been addressed by SEAI. Any material process changes required to facilitate ongoing operations were communicated to the ARC.

This document was also considered as part of internal audit review of the system of internal control in operation throughout the year.

PROCUREMENT

I confirm that SEAI has procedures in place to ensure compliance with current procurement rules and guidelines and that during 2020 SEAI complied with those procedures.

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

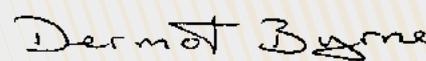
I confirm that SEAI has procedures to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. SEAI's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors, the Audit and Risk Committee which oversees their work, and the senior management within SEAI responsible for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

I confirm that the Board conducted an annual review of the effectiveness of the internal controls for 2020 and signed off on this review on 31 March 2021.

INTERNAL CONTROL ISSUES

No weaknesses in internal control were identified in relation to 2020 that require disclosure in the financial statements.

Signed on behalf of the Board



Dermot Byrne

Chairperson
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

28 June 2021

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General

Report for Presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

OPINION ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

I have audited the financial statements of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2020 as required under the provisions of section 24 of the Sustainable Energy Act 2002. The financial statements comprise.

- the statement of income and expenditure and retained revenue reserves
- the statement of comprehensive income
- the statement of financial position
- the statement of cash flows, and
- the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland at 31 December 2020 and of its income and expenditure for 2020 in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 — The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

BASIS OF OPINION

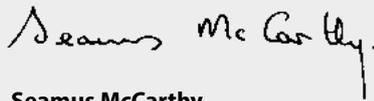
I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as promulgated by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions. My responsibilities under those standards are described in the appendix to this report. I am independent of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the standards.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

REPORT ON INFORMATION OTHER THAN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, AND ON OTHER MATTERS

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland has presented certain other information together with the financial statements. This comprises the annual report, the governance statement and Board members' report, and the statement on internal control. My responsibilities to report in relation to such information, and on certain other matters upon which I report by exception, are described in the appendix to this report.

I have nothing to report in that regard.



Seamus McCarthy
Comptroller and Auditor General

29 June 2021

APPENDIX TO THE REPORT

Responsibilities of Board members

As detailed in the governance statement and Board members' report, the Board members are responsible for

- the preparation of financial statements in the form prescribed under section 24 of the Sustainable Energy Act 2002
- ensuring that the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with FRS 102
- ensuring the regularity of transactions
- assessing whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate, and
- such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Responsibilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I am required under section 24 of the Sustainable Energy Act 2002 to audit the financial statements of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and to report thereon to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

My objective in carrying out the audit is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if,

individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. In doing so,

- I identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal controls.
- I evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures.
- I conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, on whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's ability to continue as a going concern.

If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland to cease to continue as a going concern.

- I evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Information other than the financial statements

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information presented with those statements, and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, I am required under the ISAs to read the other information presented and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or with knowledge obtained during the audit, or if it otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

Reporting on other matters

My audit is conducted by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation. I report if I identify material matters relating to the manner in which public business has been conducted.

I seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit. I report if I identify any material instance where public money has not been applied for the purposes intended or where transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them.

I also report by exception if, in my opinion,

- I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or
- the accounting records were not sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records.

Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves

For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	NOTES	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
INCOME			
State Grants	3	145,546	176,734
Building Energy Rating	9	2,756	3,271
EU Contract Income	4	263	75
Other Income	5	132	572
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions for the year	15(c)	2,347	2,067
Pension Contributions Remitted to DECC and DPER	6.1	(322)	(308)
Total Income		150,722	182,411
EXPENDITURE			
Administration Expenditure	6	15,687	15,034
Programme Expenditure	7	133,501	158,131
Building Energy Rating	9	2,422	3,078
Total Expenditure		151,610	176,243
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the Year before appropriations		(888)	6,168
Movement in amounts due to DECC	8	(87)	(56)
Transfer from/(to) Capital Account	13	637	(4,321)
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the Year after appropriations		(338)	1,791
Surplus at 1 January		2,355	564
Surplus at 31 December		2,017	2,355

The Statement of Cash Flows and Notes 1 to 21 form part of these financial statements.



Dermot Byrne
Chairperson
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

28 June 2021



William Walsh
Chief Executive Officer
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

28 June 2021

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

	NOTES	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Surplus for the Year after Appropriations		(338)	1,791
Experience Gain/(Loss) on Retirement Benefit Obligations		(647)	553
Actuarial (Loss)/Gain arising from Changes in Assumptions underlying the present value of Retirement Benefit Obligations		(4,883)	(6,746)
Actuarial (Loss)/Gain in Year	15	(5,530)	(6,193)
Adjustment to Deferred Retirement Benefit Funding	15	5,530	6,193
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		(338)	1,791

The Statement of Cash Flows and Notes 1 to 21 form part of these financial statements.



Dermot Byrne
Chairperson
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

28 June 2021



William Walsh
Chief Executive Officer
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

28 June 2021

Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2020

	NOTES	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment	10	4,013	4,650
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	14	4,980	4,916
Receivables & Prepayments	11	1,255	2,061
		6,235	6,977
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables & Accruals	12	(4,218)	(4,622)
Net Current Assets		2,017	2,355
Retirement Benefit Obligation	15 B	(47,768)	(39,891)
Deferred Retirement Benefit Funding Asset	15 B	47,768	39,891
Total Net Assets		6,030	7,005
REPRESENTING			
Capital Account	13	4,013	4,650
Retained Revenue Reserves		2,017	2,355
		6,030	7,005

The Statement of Cash Flows and Notes 1 to 21 form part of these financial statements.



Dermot Byrne
Chairperson
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
28 June 2021



William Walsh
Chief Executive Officer
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
28 June 2021

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 31 December 2020

NOTES	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Excess Income over Expenditure	(338)	1,791
Transfer to Capital Account 13	(637)	4,321
Bank Interest Paid	69	44
Depreciation of Fixed Assets 10	932	864
(Increase)/Decrease in Accounts receivable 11	806	(585)
Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts payable	(404)	(990)
Net Cash Flow From Operating Activities	428	5,445
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Payments to Acquire Property, Plant & Equipment 10	(295)	(5,185)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Bank Interest Paid	(69)	(44)
Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	64	216
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	64	216
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 1 January	4,916	4,700
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 31 December (Note 14)	4,980	4,916

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied throughout the year and for all the preceding years.

(A) Period of Financial Statements

The financial statements cover the year from 1 January to 31 December 2020.

(B) Statement of Compliance

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis, except as stated below. They are prepared in compliance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102"), as issued by the Financial Reporting Council. The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in the format approved by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications. The unit of currency in which the financial statements are denominated is the Euro.

(C) State Grants

State Grants (Note 3) in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves reflect the amount received in the year.

(D) Grant Expenditure

Grant Commitments are recognised as expenditure in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves when all conditions pertaining to the grant or a phased payment thereof, have been complied with. Grant Commitments will be reduced on payment of a grant or the expiration of the grant agreement.

All open Grant Commitments are disclosed in Note 16.

(E) Tangible Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis in order to write off the cost of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Building Fitout Costs	10%
Motor Vehicles	20%
IT Equipment & Software	33.33%
Office Equipment	33.33%
Ocean Programme	33.33%

Land is stated at cost. Where there is an indication that the recoverable amounts of an asset is less than its carrying value, an impairment review is performed. If the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount resulting in an impairment loss. Impairment losses are recognised immediately in the Statement of Income and Expenditure.

Assets with a value of less than €1,000 are fully depreciated in the year of acquisition. A full year's depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition; no depreciation is charged in the year of disposal.

The gain or loss, being the difference between the sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset, arising on disposal or retirement of an item of tangible assets is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves.

Fully depreciated plant and equipment are retained in the financial statements until they are no longer in use.

IT Systems Development costs that relate to specific SEAI programmes are expensed in the year in which they occur. Management have considered the policy and believe due to the dynamic and changing nature of the programmes it is appropriate to expense these costs.

(F) Superannuation

Section 17 of the Sustainable Energy Act 2002 provides for the establishment of superannuation schemes by the Authority. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme for the purposes of the Pensions Act, 1990.

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees in the period and are shown net of staff pension contributions which are refunded to the Department in accordance with agency financing arrangements. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and offset by grants received in the year to discharge pension payments. Actuarial gains or losses arising on the scheme liabilities are reflected in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Reserves and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the DECC.

Pension liabilities represent the present value of future pension payments earned by staff to date. Deferred pension funding represents the corresponding asset which is to be recovered in future periods from the DECC.

The Authority also operates the Single Public Service Pension Scheme (Single Scheme) which is the defined benefit pension scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1 January 2013. Single Scheme member's contributions are paid over to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. The related liabilities in relation to future pension payments and corresponding asset are included in SEAI's financial statements.

(G) Capital Account

The Capital Account represents the unamortised value of income used to purchase fixed assets.

(H) Leases

Lease Payments under operating leases are recognised as an expense over the period which SEAI obtains benefit from the premises.

(I) Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)

EPBD income is generated by the Authority under the Building Energy Rating (BER) scheme (S.I. No. 243 of 2012 European Communities (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2012, previously dealt with under S.I. No. 666 of 2006 European Communities (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2006 as amended). Under the legislation a building owner must provide a BER Certificate and Advisory Report to prospective buyers or tenants when a building is constructed, sold or rented.

There are various fees payable in respect of BER including a fee upon assessor registration and a levy in respect of each BER assessment submitted in the period to the Authority for the purposes of issuing a BER Certificate. EPBD Income is accounted for on an accruals basis.

(J) EU Contract Income

EU contract income is from activities in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy including technology promotion, information dissemination, research and event co-ordination and management. Income is recognised in line with the terms of the contract and is based on the timing and performance requirements of the contract. Funds are either remitted to DECC on receipt, or retained within SEAI, based on the terms of the contract.

(K) Other Income

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis in line with the timing of the performance requirements.

(L) Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

In relation to pension costs, the assumptions underlying the actuarial valuations for which the amounts recognised in the financial statements are determined (including discount rates, rates of increase in future compensation levels, mortality rates and healthcare cost trend rates) are updated annually based on current economic conditions, and for any relevant changes to the terms and conditions of the pension and post-retirement plans.

The assumptions can be affected by:

- (i) the discount rate, changes in the rate of return on high-quality corporate bonds
- (ii) future compensation levels, future labour market conditions

2. Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent measures to manage public health have presented significant challenges for SEAI and throughout the economy in 2020. Externally, restrictions have resulted in reduced output across a number of sectors and SEAI supported activities. Restrictions in the construction sector in particular have resulted in lower than anticipated output, particularly across some home retrofit programmes. SEAI continues to adhere to the latest public health advice and provide guidance to those working on supported schemes as required. Although difficult to quantify, this undoubtedly had an impact on the ability of SEAI to maximise our support of the sustainable energy sector in Ireland in 2020.

Internally, SEAI staff continue to work remotely with sufficient processes and IT capability in place in advance of the onset of the pandemic, to ensure this orderly transition. SEAI staff continue to frequently consult with stakeholders and where possible, key services have remained in place. The Board and management team continue to engage constructively to guide SEAI through current issues and formulate the future plans of the Authority.

SEAI is a fully funded government body. SEAI continues to receive support from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. SEAI will continue to work to stimulate and support the sustainable energy sector in Ireland over the coming months and years.

3. State Grants

Under section 22(1) of the Sustainable Energy Act 2002 the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications provides funding to the Authority for the performance of its functions.

All funding is provided through the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (Vote 29).

	Vote Subhead	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
SEAI ADMINISTRATION			
– Current	B3	12,385	12,387
– Capital	B3	–	4,998
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PROGRAMMES			
– Current	B4	11,437	11,437
– Capital	B4	115,777	139,737
ENERGY RESEARCH PROGRAMMES			
– Current	B5	708	825
– Capital	B5	5,239	7,350
Total Programme Expenditure		145,546	176,734

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED

4. EU Contract Income

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
OceanSET (b)	129	–
AFLOWT (b)	50	17
OPIN (b)	45	9
RERD&D Era Net (b)	–	56
Odyssey Mure (a)	3	(6)
Ocean Era Net (a)	–	14
Concerted Action V EPBD (a)	–	(37)
Other (a)	36	22
	263	75

(a) These projects are considered appropriations in aid and therefore all receipts are remitted to DECC as received.

(b) These projects are in addition to vote and therefore funds received are retained within SEAI.

5. Other Income

Other income consists of proceeds from courses and receipts of sponsorship.

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Other income	50	37
RERD&D Co-funding income	82	535
	132	572

Renewable Energy Research, Development & Deployment co-funding income is received from other government agencies to partially fund research grants. Income is recognised in line with the value of the grant issued and the percentage of co-funding attributed to each research award.

6. Administration Expenditure

Administration Expenditure is made up of the following items:

		2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Salaries & related charges	6.1	7,056	7,372
Pension costs	15(a)	2,288	2,093
Recruitment, Training & Education		248	263
Advertising and Promotion		219	255
General Professional fees	6.2	90	141
Rent, Rates and Service Charges	6.3	2,866	2,121
Information Technology	6.4	1,486	1,255
General Administration	6.5	1,434	1,534
		15,687	15,034

6.1 Salaries and Related Charges

		2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Staff short-term benefits		5,955	5,835
Employers PRSI		609	592
Agency/Contract Staff		420	867
Board Member Emoluments	18	72	78
		7,056	7,372

The allocation basis of the costs of agency staff was adjusted in 2020. In cases where the work of a particular staff member could be directly attributed to a programme the cost was recognised as a programme cost.

No termination payments were paid in the year (2019: €0).

No overtime payments were paid in the year (2019: €0).

The Authority remitted €166,793 (2019: €159,899) in employee superannuation contributions to its parent department DECC in 2020 in respect of the SEAI's superannuation scheme. It also remitted €155,194 (2019: €147,675) to DPER in respect of Single Scheme members. The Authority is not required to make employer contributions under the schemes.

Chief Executive's Remuneration

The former CEO resigned on 27th September 2019. The Value of his remuneration in 2019 was €101,268 and expenses were €1,254.

The Interim CEO was appointed on 27th September 2019. The value of his remuneration as Interim CEO in 2020 was €128,528 (2019: €31,972) and expenses were €691 (2019: €644).

The CEO pension entitlement does not extend beyond the standard entitlements in the public sector single pension scheme. The contract of employment does not include a performance related award scheme or any benefit-in-kinds/perquisites.

Key Management Remuneration

Key management personnel in SEAI in 2020 and 2019 consisted of the CEO and seven Heads of Departments. The total value of the employee benefits for key management personnel is set out below:

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Salaries	898,497	897,504

The management's pension entitlements do not extend beyond the standard entitlements in the model public sector scheme or the public sector single scheme. Contracts of Employment do not include a performance related reward scheme or any benefit-in-kind/perquisites

Additional superannuation Contribution (ASC)

€199,576 (2019: €240,289) of additional superannuation contribution (ASC) has been deducted from salaries and has been paid over to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications during the year. This replaced the pension related deduction (PRD) at the beginning of 2019.

Board Fees

Board fees are disclosed in Note 18.

Permanent & Long-Term Contract

The average number of permanent and long-term contract employees for the period was 95 (2019: 92). The number of full-time equivalent employees at the end of the period was 93.1 (2019: 90.6).

6.2 General Consultancy and Professional Fees

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Strategic Advice	19	91
Secretarial Fees	71	50
	90	141

6.3 Rent, Rates and Service Charges

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Rent	1,988	1,760
Rates	–	67
Service Charges	764	253
Utilities	114	41
	2,866	2,121

During 2019 SEAI relocated to a new head office, with additional floor area, more suited to organisational needs. The premises is located at 3 Park Place, Hatch Street Upper, Dublin 2, D02 FX65.

2020 was the first year of full occupancy of the new head office. This has resulted in an increased level of service charges in 2020 when compared with the comparative year.

6.4 Information Technology

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
IT Licenses & General Expenditure	739	534
IT Maintenance and Support	547	621
IT Systems development	200	100
	1,486	1,255

6.5 General Administration

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Travel & Subsistence – Staff	3	23
Travel & Subsistence - Board	–	1
Depreciation	932	864
Audit fees – external	35	35
Audit fees - internal	70	29
Insurance and Legal	142	183
Other	252	399
	1,434	1,534

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED

7. Programme Expenditure

Programme expenditure is made up of the following items:

		2020	2019
		€'000	€'000
ENERGY EFFICIENCY			
Better Energy Warmer Homes	7.1	24,024	40,528
Better Energy Warmth & Wellbeing	7.2	2,236	8,230
Better Energy Homes	7.3	20,012	25,654
Solar PV	7.4	8,060	4,833
Deep Retrofit Pilot	7.5	8,327	6,092
Community Energy	7.6	19,346	20,660
Retrofit Development Programme	7.7	1,575	1,222
Better Energy Financing	7.8	407	802
Industry & Business Programme	7.9	4,444	5,387
Public Sector Energy Efficiency	7.10	9,967	10,546
Schools Programme	7.11	371	501
Market Surveillance	7.12	417	341
RENEWABLE ENERGY			
Renewable Energy Research, Development & Deployment	7.13	3,641	4,165
Ocean Energy	7.14	2,316	3,753
Support Scheme for Renewable Heat	7.15	749	1,105
INNOVATION & INTEGRATION			
Strategic Policy Analysis	7.16	945	1,198
Energy Statistics and Modelling	7.17	303	386
TRANSPORT			
Electric Vehicles	7.18	26,361	22,728
		133,501	158,131

All administration costs directly related to programme expenditure are included in programme costs above.

Certain comparative figures have been re-classified and re-presented on the same basis as those for the current year.

7.1 Better Energy Warmer Homes

	2020	2019
	€'000	€'000
Private Contractors	21,175	37,311
Technical Services & Inspections	1,989	2,398
Customer Management & Quality Assurance	240	266
Other Costs	215	95
IT Systems Development & Maintenance	403	456
Travel Costs	2	2
	24,024	40,528

The Better Energy Warmer Homes scheme supports upgrading the energy efficiency of privately-owned homes experiencing fuel poverty. In 2020, 1,524 (2019: 3,077) upgrades were carried out under the Better Energy Warmer Homes scheme. The number of homes completed was impacted significantly by the COVID-19 pandemic, preventing upgrade works from taking place at various times throughout the year.

7.2 Better Energy Warmth & Wellbeing

	2020	2019
	€'000	€'000
Private Contractors	1,872	7,850
Technical Services & Inspections	240	301
Programme Operation/Promotion	124	79
	2,236	8,230

The Warmth and Wellbeing Scheme aims to improve the living conditions of vulnerable people living with chronic respiratory conditions. In 2020, 91 (2019: 347) upgrades were carried out and paid for under the Warmth & Wellbeing Scheme. The scheme was developed as a pilot to understand the positive impacts of retrofits for people living with respiratory conditions. In 2020, the number of homes completed was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

7.3 Better Energy Homes

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Grants Issued	17,080	22,563
Technical Services & Inspections	1,171	1,202
Operational Delivery	1,357	1,049
Other Costs	85	157
IT Costs	300	587
Advertising	17	87
Travel Costs	2	9
	20,012	25,654

The Better Energy Homes Programme is a national retrofitting programme that is available to all homeowners, including landlords, without means testing. It incentivises homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient. This is achieved through the provision of grants for a suite of measures which can be selected individually, or in combination and on a step basis to achieve a more comprehensive retrofit over time. In 2020, grants were paid on 12,227 homes (2019: 18,218). The number of completions was impacted by construction shutdowns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

7.4 Solar PV

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Grants Issued	7,355	4,276
Technical Services & Inspections	191	161
Operational Delivery	369	193
Travel Costs	–	3
IT Costs	145	200
	8,060	4,833

The Solar PV Scheme provides support towards the purchase and installation of a solar photovoltaic (PV) system and/or battery energy storage system (BESS). This is a once-off payment to a homeowner based on the installation of products which meet the requirements of the scheme. The grant amount payable is based on the capacities of the solar PV and BESS systems installed.

7.5 Deep Retrofit Pilot

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Grants Issued	7,961	5,837
Technical Services & Inspections	98	69
IT Systems Development	268	182
Travel Costs	–	4
	8,327	6,092

The Deep Retrofit Pilot programme was created to tackle housing energy efficiency challenges in Ireland. It investigates the challenges and opportunities of deep retrofit. The learning from these pilots will inform our approach towards a large scale deep retrofit of buildings in Ireland. The pilot scheme has successfully completed 196 deep retrofit homes in 2020 (2019: 111), with a total of 527 homes completed to date since the programme launch in 2017. Insights from these homes will greatly inform on solutions required to achieve deep retrofit to A-BER Rating and also the future needs of large scale deep retrofit in Ireland. The Deep Retrofit Pilot is closed to new applications.

7.6 Community Energy

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Grants Issued	17,591	18,953
Technical Services & Inspections	104	156
Travel Costs	4	29
IT Costs	146	46
SEC Mentoring Support	1,106	815
Other Operational Costs	395	661
	19,346	20,660

Community Grants: The Better Energy Communities (BEC) grant programme supports projects at a community level, specifically seeking to test innovative and pioneering partnerships for delivery between the public and private sectors, domestic and non-domestic sectors, commercial and not-for-profit organisations including energy poor homes.

Community Network: The Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) Network programme involves building capacity in communities to enable delivery of large-scale sustainable energy projects and the transition to sustainable energy communities and has developed a national SEC network with over 485 members. The SEC Network is supported by a panel of Regional and County Mentors procured and managed by SEAI. SEAI also provides support to communities in the development of a local Energy Masterplan which is a baseline of energy use in the community and a register of suitable sustainable energy projects which the Community can consider in the future.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED

7.7 Retrofit Development Programme

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Programme & Systems Development	1,058	901
Technical Services & Inspections	301	253
Other Costs	213	49
Client Advisory	–	–
Travel Costs	3	19
	1,575	1,222

Retrofit Development supports the wider development of the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme pursuant to implementation of Article 7 of Energy Efficiency Directive 2012 and the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan. This includes administration and energy credit management of the energy supplier obligation scheme and supports ongoing development of new retrofit programmes. An amended Directive on Energy Efficiency (2018/2002) will commence a new phase of the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme (EEOS) in 2021 and run until 2030.

7.8 Better Energy Financing

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Grants Issued	251	621
Commissioned Reports	43	44
Other Programme Operations / Promotion	80	54
IT Systems	32	77
Travel and Subsistence	1	6
	407	802

The Better Energy Financing (BEF) project is a Government initiative working to identify market-based solutions that could be developed as an alternative or in conjunction with direct Exchequer funding and overcome the reluctance of consumers to take on debt for energy efficiency improvements. Learning from this Programme is directly applied in development of new retrofit delivery strategy.

7.9 Industry and Business Programme

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
EXEED	2,939	2,877
Energy Agreements and LIEN	443	311
SME Capital Pilots	34	1,301
Promoting Energy Efficiency in Business	230	155
ACA/Triple E Operational Costs	140	155
SME & Other Industry Costs	354	347
IT Systems Development & Maintenance Costs	304	224
Travel Costs	–	17
	4,444	5,387

This programme supports efforts across all business sectors to accelerate adoption of energy efficiency. This is achieved through capital grant support, networks, training and services promoting structured energy management to world class standards, while developing markets for energy efficiency advice and services.

SEAI EXEED Certified is an asset certification scheme addressing lifetime energy and carbon performance through Energy Efficiency Design management. EXEED Certified can be applied in any business within commercial, industrial and public sectors. EXEED supports energy efficient design (EED) management through grants for design challenges and capital investments which require an incentive for investment.

7.10 Public Sector Energy Efficiency

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Public Sector Capital Grants	8,125	8,419
Client Advisory Services	1,295	1,498
IT Development & Maintenance	252	357
Other Operational Costs	287	247
Travel Costs	8	25
	9,967	10,546

This programme promotes structured energy management practices and delivers direct energy efficiency advice, mentoring, training and specialist technical supports to public sector organisations. It includes a comprehensive structure for public bodies to report and track energy consumption. In 2020 pathfinder actions were continued to test approaches and build scale for retrofit actions in central government buildings, schools, water and waste, and health.

7.11 Schools Programme

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Schools Programme	371	501
	371	501

SEAI's education programme helps inform the attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours of primary and post primary school children with respect to sustainable energy. The programme comprises a mix of curriculum aligned teaching resources, interactive pupil workshops, student competitions and teacher training as well as the creation of relevant publications.

7.12 Market Surveillance

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Market Surveillance	396	288
IT Costs	18	40
Travel Costs	3	13
	417	341

SEAI acts as Managing Agent and carries out market surveillance activities on behalf of the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment who is the Market Surveillance Authority. Market Surveillance includes Ecodesign Requirements for Energy-Related Products (EU Directive 2009/125/EC), Labelling and Standard Product Information for Energy-Related Products (EU Directive 2010/30/EU) and Labelling of Tyres with respect to Fuel Efficiency and Other Essential Parameters (EC Regulation 1222/2009).

7.13 Renewable Energy Research, Development & Deployment

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Grants Issued	3,414	3,972
Other Programme Operation	144	40
IT Development & Maintenance	30	22
Commissioned Studies/Reports	49	103
Travel Costs	4	28
	3,641	4,165

SEAI's National Energy RD&D Funding Programme supports innovative and targeted actions which assist in the delivery of policy priorities including those outlined in the Climate Action Plan, the Programme for Government and the 2030 Climate and Energy Framework.

The overarching objectives of the SEAI National Energy Research Development and Demonstration (RD&D) Funding Programme are to accelerate development and deployment of energy related products in Ireland, enable technical barriers to be overcome, develop Ireland's research capacity and provide support to policy makers using outcomes from supported projects.

7.14 Ocean Energy

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Grants Issued	470	1,740
Sub Contracted Works	1,439	1,859
Other Costs	406	136
Travel Costs	1	18
	2,316	3,753

The Ocean Energy Programme is administered by SEAI to implement the Government's policy decision to accelerate the development of Ocean Energy in Ireland, as set out in the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan. The programme supports national and European coordination and research test sites.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED

7.15 Support Scheme for Renewable Heat

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Grants Issued	12	–
Technical Advice	205	288
Programme Operation	452	488
IT systems Development	80	328
Travel and Subsistence	–	1
	749	1,105

The Support Scheme for Renewable Heat (SSRH) supports the switching of fossil fuel heating systems to eligible renewable energy technologies, including biomass boiler, heat pump and biofuel (anaerobic digestion) heating systems. The scheme provides two forms of support mechanisms - a tariff payment as operating aid for biomass and anaerobic heating systems and a grant payment as investment aid for heat pump systems. The scheme opened in 2019 for applications following the state aid notification and approval process.

7.16 Strategic Policy Analysis

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Programme Operation	351	576
Commissioned Research	435	399
Travel Costs	–	3
IT Costs	159	220
	945	1,198

This programme provides independent advice and information on technical, financial and social issues relating to sustainable energy development and deployment. This advice is tailored by SEAI to inform sustainable energy policy development in Ireland.

7.17 Energy Statistics and Modelling

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Commissioned Research/Research	143	73
Other Costs	48	185
Travel Costs	5	29
IT Development and Maintenance	107	99
	303	386

This programme fulfils SEAI's responsibility for developing, maintaining and publishing comprehensive national and sectoral statistics for energy production, transformation and end-use. This also includes detailed modelling studies and policy analysis to provide an independent evidence base to support national policy making, and participation in a range of national and international policy discussion and evaluation activities.

7.18 Electric Vehicles

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Grants Issued	25,666	22,339
Other Costs	447	306
Advertising	74	(6)
IT Development & Maintenance	174	88
Travel Costs	–	1
	26,361	22,728

This programme is supporting the deployment of electric vehicle technology and charging infrastructure in the Irish transport system and provides grant aid towards the purchase of electric vehicles and home chargers. An additional 4,843 electric vehicles and over 3,500 home chargers were grant aided under this programme in 2020.

8. Appropriations

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
EU Contract Income	39	14
Grant Refunds	44	37
Other	4	5
	87	56

Non - Exchequer funds received by SEAI are remitted back to the DECC. As such funds are recognised as income, a corresponding liability to DECC is also recognised. These receipts are included as Appropriations-in-Aid on the Vote.

The above note details the movement in the amount due to the DECC during 2020.

EU Contract income (Note 4) is accrued on an annual basis and can fluctuate from year to year based on the updated progress of the contract.

9. Building Energy Rating

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Outsourced Programme Operation	751	590
Programme Delivery and Development	157	287
Quality Assurance	899	1,050
IT Support & Maintenance	473	515
IT System Development	139	624
Travel Costs	3	12
	2,422	3,078

SEAI has been designated as the Issuing Authority with responsibility for registering BER assessors, provision of IT tools and systems for assessments, logging BER assessments on the national register and overall scheme management and promotion.

The BER scheme income for the year was €2,755,595 (2019: €3,270,675) resulting in a profit in the year of €333,798 (2019: (€193,225)).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED

10. Property, Plant and Equipment

	IT Equipment & Software €'000	Ocean Programme €'000	Office Equipment €'000	Building Fit out €'000	Motor Vehicles €'000	Land & Buildings €'000	Total €'000
COST:							
Balance at 1 January 2020	1,476	1,726	498	4,211	59	120	8,090
Disposals	(281)	–	–	–	–	–	(281)
Additions	283	12	–	–	–	–	295
Balance at 31 December 2020	1,478	1,738	498	4,211	59	120	8,104
DEPRECIATION:							
Balance at 1 January 2020	(1,069)	(1,720)	(173)	(454)	(24)	–	(3,440)
Disposals	281	–	–	–	–	–	281
Charge for Current year	(337)	(4)	(162)	(417)	(12)	–	(932)
Balance at 31 December 2020	(1,125)	(1,724)	(335)	(871)	(36)	–	(4,091)
Net Book Value Balance at 31 December 2020	353	14	163	3,340	23	120	4,013
Net Book Value at 31 December 2019	407	6	325	3,757	35	120	4,650

11. Receivables & Prepayments

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Dundalk Concerto Bid	32	32
RERD&D Co-funding income	197	277
EPBD Receivables	260	252
Prepayments	688	1,420
Other Receivables	78	80
	1,255	2,061

12. Payables & Accruals

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Payables	519	589
Accruals	757	1,095
Dundalk 2020 Holistic Project	94	92
VAT & RCT	1,247	1,210
PSWT	529	609
PAYE/PRSI	203	179
Other Payables	130	104
Deferred Income	739	744
	4,218	4,622

13. Capital Account

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Opening balance	4,650	328
TRANSFER (TO)/ FROM STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND RETAINED REVENUE RESERVES:		
Amount capitalised in respect of purchased assets	295	5,187
Net amount released on disposal	–	(2)
Amortisation in line with asset depreciation	(932)	(864)
	(637)	4,321
Balance at end of year	4,013	4,650

14. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Current Bank Account	10	10
Savings Account	2,325	2,665
EPBD Account	1,833	1,574
	4,168	4,249
EU Funds Account	812	667
	4,980	4,916

The EPBD Account is the designated bank account for the Buildings Energy Rating programme (see Note 9).

SEAI is either partner or lead for a number EU funded projects. In cases where SEAI acts as project lead funds are received and advanced to other agencies. All funds contained within this account relates to these EU projects.

15. Retirement Benefit Costs

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) operates unfunded defined benefit superannuation schemes for staff. The results set out below are based on an actuarial valuation of the pension liabilities in respect of serving and former staff of SEAI as at 31 December 2020. This valuation was carried out by a qualified independent actuary for the purposes of the accounting standard, Financial Reporting Standard No. 102 (FRS 102).

A. Analysis of Retirement Benefit Costs Charged to Expenditure

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Current Service Costs	2,192	1,759
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	418	642
Staff Superannuation Deductions	(322)	(308)
Pension Cost in the period	2,288	2,093

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED

B. Analysis of the movement in Liability during the year

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Scheme liability at 1 January	39,891	31,631
Current service cost	2,192	1,759
Interest cost	418	642
Actuarial loss / (gain)	5,530	6,193
Benefits paid in the year	(263)	(334)
Scheme Liability at 31 December	47,768	39,891

C. Deferred Funding for Pensions

SEAI recognises these amounts as an asset corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for pensions on the basis of the set of assumptions described below and a number of past events. SEAI has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice.

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Funding recoverable in respect of current year pension costs	2,610	2,401
State Grant applied to pay pensions	(263)	(334)
	2,347	2,067

The deferred funding asset for pensions as at 31 December 2020 amounted to €47,768,000 (2019: €39,891,000).

D. History of experience gains and losses

Experience Gains/ (Losses) on scheme liabilities	2020 €'000	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Amount (€)	(647)	553	(554)
Percentage of present value of the scheme liabilities	(1.3%)	1.4%	(1.7%)
Total amount recognised in Statement of Comprehensive Income	(5,530)	(6,193)	34
Percentage of present value of the scheme liabilities	11.6%	15.5%	0.1%

The cumulative actuarial loss recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income amounts to €23,401,000 (2019: €17,871,000).

E. General Description of the Schemes

The SEAI pension scheme is a defined benefit final salary pension arrangement with benefits and contributions defined by reference to current “model” public sector scheme regulations. For class D PRSI contributors the scheme provides a pension (one eightieth per year of service), a gratuity or lump sum (three eightieths per year of service) and spouse's and children's pensions. For class A PRSI contributors the scheme provides a pension (one two hundredths per year of service) up to a threshold of 3 1/3 times the maximum annual rate of the state contributory pension, a gratuity or lump sum (three eightieths per year of service) and spouse's and children's pensions. Normal Retirement Age is a member's 65th birthday, and pre 2004 members have an entitlement to retire without actuarial reduction from age 60. Pensions in payment (and deferment) normally increase in line with general public sector salary inflation.

The Single Public Service Pension Scheme (Single Scheme) is the defined benefit pension scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1 January 2013 in accordance with the Public Service Pension (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012. The scheme provides for a pension and retirement lump sum based on career-average pensionable remuneration, and spouse's and children's pensions. The minimum pension age is 66 years (rising in line with State pension age changes). It includes an actuarially-reduced early retirement facility from age 55. Pensions in payment increase in line with the consumer price index.

The valuation used for FRS102 disclosures has been based on a full actuarial valuation on 29th January 2021 by a qualified independent actuary taking account of the requirements of the FRS in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 31 December 2020.

The main financial assumptions used were:

	At 31/12/20	At 31/12/19	At 31/12/18
Discount rate	0.50%	1.00%	1.94%
Rate of increase in salaries	2.70%	2.80%	3.10%
Rate of increase in pensions	1.40%	1.50%	3.10%
Inflation	1.40%	1.50%	1.80%

Mortality Tables used are as follows:

Active & Deferred	Pre-Retirement	Post-Retirement
Male	73.0% of ILT15	58.0% of ILT15
Female	77.0% of ILT15	62.0% of ILT15

Based on these tables, the future life expectancy at age 65 for males and females is as follows:

	Current pensioner (in 2020) at age 65	Future pensioner (in 2040) at age 65
Male	21.8 years	24.1 years
Female	24.2 years	26.2 years

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – CONTINUED

16. Grant Commitments and grant repayments/refunds**(i) Grant Commitments**

It is estimated that the maximum future payments likely to arise from commitments entered into under various support schemes will amount to €87.54m (2019: €73.37m).

	Committed As at 1 Jan 2020 €'000	Committed During the period €'000	De-committed €'000	Payments €'000	Committed As at 31 Dec 2020 €'000
ENERGY EFFICIENCY					
Better Energy Homes	15,303	23,039	(8,919)	(17,078)	12,345
Deep Retrofit	12,101	1,906	–	(8,133)	5,874
EXEED	3,066	4,138	(541)	(2,721)	3,942
SME Grants	462	–	(430)	(32)	–
Public Sector Energy Efficiency	928	11,021	(355)	(7,858)	3,736
Community Energy	14,375	27,767	(2,577)	(17,611)	21,954
Better Energy Finance	283	–	–	(251)	32
RENEWABLE ENERGY					
Renewable Energy Research, Development & Deployment	14,433	557	(562)	(2,986)	11,442
Ocean	1,426	340	–	(481)	1,285
Support Scheme for Renewable Heat	4,987	13,642	–	(12)	18,617
TRANSPORT					
Electric Vehicles	6,170	32,290	(4,525)	(25,626)	8,309
	73,534	114,700	(17,909)	(82,789)	87,536

17. Related Parties Disclosures

Total compensation paid to the CEO and the Board, including Board members' fees and expenses and total CEO remuneration amounted to €201,467 (2019: €211,346). For a breakdown of the remuneration and benefits paid to key management personnel, please refer to note 6.1 and note 18.

The Board adopted procedures in accordance with Section 18 of the Sustainable Energy Act, 2002 and in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in relation to the disclosure of interests by Board Members and these procedures have been adhered to in the year. In accordance with SEAI's Conflict of Interest Policy, six Board members excused themselves from Board decisions, in relation to various SEAI grant proposals, in order to avoid any potential or perceived conflict of interest.

18. Board Members Fees and Expenses

SEAI pays fees and expenses to its Board members in accordance with Department of Public Expenditure and Reform regulations and circulars. SEAI applied the decision of the Government of March 2010 in respect of fees for members of State Bodies. Board member fees are rounded to the nearest €'000. No Board member expenses were paid in 2020 (2019: €318).

Board Fees	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Julie O'Neill (a)	3	12
Anne Farrell (b)	–	–
Michael Wall (a)	8	8
Lisa Ryan (a)	8	8
Peter Brennan (a)	8	8
Joe O'Carroll (c)	8	6
Michael Mc Garry (d)	–	6
Kate Ruddock (f)	8	8
Kevin Brady (f)	–	–
Andrew Ennis (g)	7	7
Ann Markey (g)	7	7
Lean Doody (j)	8	8
Werner Kruckow (i)	4	–
Jim Gannon (h)	3	–
Total	72	78

19. Operating Leases – Premises

During 2019 SEAI relocated their head office to 3 Park Place, Hatch Street, Dublin 2. SEAI have signed a lease for 25 years, effective from 14 May 2018. The rent will be reviewed every five years, the first of which will be after five years from the Term Commencement Date of Lease on 14 May 2023. The authority also has sub offices located in Cork, Dundalk and Sligo.

The following are the future non-cancellable minimum lease payments under operating leases for each of the listed periods:

	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Operating Leases		
Within 1 Year	1,999	1,951
During 2 to 5 Years	7,974	7,794
Over 5 Years	32,355	35,342
Total	42,329	45,087

Lease payments under operating leases are recognised as an expense over the period which SEAI obtains benefit from the premises.

Operating lease payment recognised as an expense in 2020 was €1,942,970 (2019: €1,759,700).

20. Comparative figures

Certain comparative figures for the year have been re-grouped and re-presented on the same basis as those for the current year.

21. Approval of Financial Statements

The Board approved the financial statements on 31st March 2021.





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