

Annual Report 2021



**Creating a clean
energy future
for Ireland**



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



CONTENTS

Chairperson's Statement	2
Chief Executive's Review	4
SEAI's New Executive Team	6
Achievements in 2021	8

Our Impact

National Retrofit	12
Business, Public Sector and Transport	16
Research and Policy Insight	23
Delegated functions	26
2021 Highlights	28

Governance

Energy Efficiency Report	32
Corporate Social Responsibility at SEAI	34
Corporate Governance	36
SEAI Risk Report	40

Finance

Governance Statement and Board Members' Report	44
SEAI Board	46
Statement of Internal Control	52
Report of Comptroller and Auditor General	54
Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves	56
Statement of Comprehensive Income	57
Statement of Financial Position	58
Statement of Cash Flows	59
Notes to the Financial Statements	60





Chairperson's Statement

It is an inescapable fact that year on year our earth's climate is getting warmer and warmer, and evidence of the devastating consequences of climate change - on peoples, communities and ecosystems – mounts and mounts. 2021 was no different.

The accumulation of carbon emissions in our atmosphere continues to increase unsustainably, to such an extent as to represent an existential threat to the world as we know it. Against this background, COP26 was held in Glasgow in October 2021, bringing together world political and business leaders, scientists, activists and citizens, with a shared objective of 'keeping 1.5°C Alive'. At COP26 broad agreement was reached on 'The Glasgow Climate Pact', which sees almost 200 countries committing to accelerate climate action across the areas of Mitigation, Adaptation, Finance and Collaboration. A conclusion from COP26 is that the goal of 1.5°C remains in sight, but only if every country delivers on what they have pledged.

In this spirit of global collaboration Ireland is playing its part, and I am heartened by the heightened urgency of national sustainable energy policy which has never been greater. In 2021 the Climate Action Plan was published, and the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act was signed into law, bringing with it onerous sectoral carbon budgets which must be adhered to. These budgets disaggregate the Climate Action Plan so that annual and sectoral progress towards the 2030 targets can be measured and managed. The seriousness of this commitment is further evidenced by the substantially increased budgets being allocated to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and its programmes.

SEAI has received the full endorsement of our parent Department and that of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform to expand the staff headcount to almost 250 by 2023. The first major step in this growth and reorganisation was the establishment of four directorates and the appointment of four new directors in 2021. This, coupled with the appointment of a new permanent CEO and the first phases of recruitment of staff across all grades and disciplines, sees SEAI rapidly evolving into an organisation with the depth and breadth of skills and experience to drive forward and deliver on the expectations of our stakeholders. At the same time, our focus will always be on efficient and effective delivery and maximising value for the public purse.

If there was a single aspect of our sustainable energy transition that was more in the limelight in 2021 than any others, then that has to be retrofit. And indeed, that continues to be the case deep into 2022. Domestic retrofit is far and away the most publicly prominent target within the Climate Action Plan – namely 500,000 BER B2 home energy upgrades. In 2021, SEAI applied substantial resources to the development of the One Stop Shop service offering, which was ultimately launched in February of this year. Key benefits of this service for homeowners are the reduced hassle, more generous grants, and lower financing requirements. However, the key enabler for the long-term success is the agreement for SEAI to offer multi-annual grant commitments to the service providers. This will provide certainty and continuity in a previously volatile environment. The launch of the National Retrofit Plan – underpinned by the principles of fairness, universality, customer-centric, cost-optimal and industry-led - reflects the creativity and pursuit of innovative solutions that marks out SEAI's passion for securing the ambitious targets in all aspects of the Climate Action Plan.

Of course there are, and will continue to be, challenges along the way. We have already experienced during periods in 2020 and 2021 the almost total shut down of retrofit work due to the pandemic. This has resulted in a pent-up demand in our Warmer Homes scheme, which we are working hard to alleviate. There was perhaps one positive arising from the first year of the pandemic, if it could be deemed as such: its impact on energy use. With the economy substantially locked down for several months, we experienced a dramatic reduction in transport energy use and associated carbon emissions. This gave us first-hand experience of what might be necessary to achieve a single 7% reduction in annual emissions. It also showed us that, with sufficient urgency and willingness, collective effort on energy is both possible and effective.

However, the gains were short-lived. SEAI's recently published Interim Energy Balance for 2021 shows that the post Covid-19 recovery – while welcome in itself - has brought with it a virtually complete rebound in those same energy reductions. It also

prompted dramatic increases in energy prices as demand soared. This perhaps illustrates more than anything that, as a society, we are not yet convinced of the pressing urgency of the climate crisis. The Interim Energy Balance for 2021 also demonstrated the complex interplay of Ireland's energy system. Lower wind and hydro availability, coupled with an unplanned outage of gas generation capacity, resulted in a substantial increase in the carbon intensity of electricity generation.

Sadly too, February 2022 saw the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This geopolitical catastrophe, which has caused so much death, destruction and displacement of peoples, has also prompted very genuine energy security of supply concerns internationally. In the context of the National Retrofit Plan, the impact of the post-Covid recovery and the war in Ukraine has given rise to concerns regarding the supply and price of materials, and of price inflation generally. Taking a longer term view, and sensitive to those suffering most in Ukraine, it is fair to say that this crisis has actually become a catalyst of sorts for Europe's sustainable energy transition. A desire to stop importing fuels from Russia, coupled with a fear that the flows might stop at any time, means the EU is redoubling its efforts to reduce its reliance on imported fossil fuels. Initially this may mean seeking alternative supplies from other jurisdictions, but in the longer term it means moving away from fossil fuels for good, in favour of renewable sources such as wind, solar, hydro and wave.

Looking to the future, SEAI's recently published National Heat Study identifies the opportunity for Ireland's clean energy transition if we succeed in substantially decarbonising our electricity system, primarily through the electrification of substantial parts of our heat portfolio. If we are to square this circle, while also decarbonising our transport sector, then we must achieve a massive and widescale deployment of renewable electricity generation in the form of onshore and offshore wind, and utility scale solar. This necessitates supportive policies, efficient planning and consenting processes and perhaps most importantly broad societal acceptance nationally. It is no longer enough to simply want a clean energy transition; we all must support it.

The increasing scale of the SEAI organisation and its budget means that strong and transparent Governance is more important than ever. In this regard SEAI has maintained its Swift3000 certification and will continue to pursue the very highest standards of governance in all its dealings. We are also conscious of the need to scale our programmes dramatically and rapidly, making them easily accessible to all energy users. In striking the right balance, we will be constantly vigilant that quality customer service is not compromised by bureaucracy that adds no governance value.

At SEAI we are extraordinarily lucky to have such a close and collaborative working relationship with Minister Eamonn Ryan and his officials in the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and in the Department of Transport. We are grateful for their continued, unstinting support in all our endeavours. Our cooperative approach underpins the formation of strong policy and its effective implementation.

I want to thank my colleagues on the Board of SEAI who have embraced the ever-increasing scale of SEAI and the attaching governance challenges, and who continue to show extraordinary commitment to the vision and values espoused by the Authority.

Finally, I want to again thank the staff of SEAI for their continued dedication and commitment over the past year, and their positive and proactive engagement with the changes underway, changes that will enable the Authority to fully deliver on its mandate. We have witnessed some truly world changing and historic events in the past two years. I am hopeful that we are also at a historic turning point for sustainable energy in Ireland. What I am sure of is the readiness, willingness and enthusiasm of the staff and management of SEAI to lead Ireland's sustainable energy revolution into the future.



Dermot Byrne
Chairperson
SEAI Board

Chief Executive's Review

Having worked in the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland since 2013, I was honoured and delighted to be appointed by the Board of SEAI as its CEO in early 2021. SEAI's mission is one of real purpose, its people are deeply passionate about their work, and it has a unique opportunity to impact our energy future. When the opportunity to lead this work arose in 2021, I felt there would be no better job in the world.

It is fair to say that 2021 picked up where 2020 left off. The world was in the midst of the continuing pandemic and SEAI, like most organisations in Ireland, was working from home. Thus continued the combined challenges of efficient and effective programme delivery while safeguarding the health and wellbeing of all staff. If 2020 was about learning new ways of working, 2021 was about refining them, making them even better, and staying hopeful for the future.

Even through the pandemic, it is abundantly clear that there is momentum and an appetite for change among business, the public sector, communities, householders, and vehicle owners. This comes at a vital time as the challenge ahead is unprecedented. Only sustained year-on-year emissions reductions will see us meet our targets and make our national contribution to the global aim of limiting warming to 1.5°C. Our ambition over the next decade is to far outstrip the rates of change previously achieved. Ireland needs to dramatically shift away from fossil fuel use for electricity, heat, and transport.

Notwithstanding the challenges of the pandemic, SEAI had a clear mandate to comprehensively deliver on annual programme targets. In many instances, delivery was relatively seamless and unhindered by the pandemic. Overall SEAI delivered €196 million of Government investment in Ireland's sustainable energy transition, a record year despite the significant challenges encountered. As a result, more than 11,300 homes are more comfortable and efficient, there are 13,400 more EVs in use, more than 600 communities are planning their own clean energy transition, public sector energy efficiency exceeds 30%, and thousands of businesses are more competitive.

One significant challenge in 2021 was the lock-down of the construction sector for several months which forced us to halt our home energy upgrade programmes. When restrictions were lifted, pent up demand across the construction sector, coupled with an evident loss of capacity in the sector during the pandemic, hampered speedy recovery. Pace of works in our programmes was slow to recover, but as I write this, we are perhaps approaching normal capacity. Unfortunately, this also resulted in increased waiting lists on services for vulnerable energy poor householders. We have taken several actions and will continue to drive solutions to cut waiting times as much as possible.

SEAI's activities go far beyond supporting energy upgrades and capital projects. Among other key deliverables in 2021 were:

- Established a Non-Domestic Retrofit framework to support the Public Sector Pathfinders and Commercial Retrofit scheme.
- Relunched EXEED Certified as an emissions-based scheme and developing a strong pipeline of projects. 73 new company engagements supported through SEAI Stage-1 grant, 20 companies offered Stage-2 capital grants.
- Launched the Support Scheme for Energy Audits, a business-friendly scheme supporting high quality SME audits.
- Delivered nine targeted knowledge sharing and training events to network members including topics such as ISO50001, energy auditing, energy performance indices and decarbonisation of Industry.
- Formal closure and reporting of energy credit allocations to Obligated Parties, delivering an additional 5,236 GWh primary energy saving, equivalent to an offset in emissions of 1.2MT CO₂e, over the period of EEOS (2014-2020) Scheme.

“
If 2020 was about learning new ways of working, 2021 was about refining them, making them even better, and staying hopeful for the future.
 ”



- Delivered the comprehensive market surveillance compliance programme for energy labelling and eco-design, consisting of 190 retailer inspections, 150 product technical compliance validations, 16 company head office engagements and seven industry/stakeholder meetings.
- Developed modelling and analysis for Ireland's first ever National Heat Study. (The study was published in February of this year). This included providing analysis through the National Energy Modelling Framework to fulfil on Ireland's National Comprehensive Assessment of the potential for efficient heating and cooling in Ireland under the EU Energy Efficiency Directive.
- Awarded 50 new National Energy Research, Development and Demonstration projects, €19.5 million in funding.
- Published updates to key statistical publications including Energy in Ireland, Energy prices reports, Renewable Energy and Energy Related CO₂ Emissions in Ireland. Upgraded SEAI's Energy Data Portal to include a new dashboard on energy related CO₂ emissions.

Established in 2002, SEAI has grown and evolved considerably in its first twenty years, successfully delivering a wide range of policy objectives. The period to 2030 will likely be the most important in Ireland's clean energy transition. Collectively we must turn the juggernaut and wean ourselves off fossil fuels through a combination of greater energy efficiency and more use of renewables and we must urgently increase our pace. This urgency is evident in the way sustainable energy and climate action has become a whole of government area. Having secured the mandate to grow our staff resources, my focus in 2021 was to establish an organisational structure to efficiently and effectively fulfil the growing demands on the organisation, not just from our own parent department but across government. During the year we appointed four new directors to lead the key pillars of organisational delivery (national retrofit; research and policy insights; business, public and transport sectors; and corporate services). We also hired staff throughout the business to support the growing ambition for SEAI. As we accelerate delivery and collaboration in reducing energy related carbon emissions over the coming years, we recognise the challenges of inflation, labour supply and supply chain issues. We are considering these

issues carefully and engaging with our stakeholders to best mitigate these challenges.

SEAI is now able to engage with almost every sector of Irish life to support the necessary changes in how we source and use energy. We work with all stakeholders to optimise schemes and improve offerings to drive emissions reductions from our energy system. The demands on Ireland's energy and environment require us to work at pace and to deliver even greater results. That is what we intend to do. Not just because it is our mission, but because it will ensure the broad range of benefits will flow to Irish citizens and businesses. These include: cheaper to run, warmer and healthier buildings; improved air quality; increased business competitiveness; improved security of energy supply; and many others. If we achieve our mission, our legacy will be a healthy Ireland and a healthy planet for future generations.

William Walsh
 Chief Executive Officer
 Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

SEAI's New Executive Team



Dr Ciaran Byrne

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL RETROFIT

Dr Ciaran Byrne joined SEAI in 2021 as Director of National Retrofit. Prior to this role he was the first Chief Executive Officer of Inland Fisheries Ireland and served in that capacity for ten years.

As Chief Executive Officer he was instrumental in establishing Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) in 2010, following the amalgamation of eight separate State Agencies. Subsequently Ciaran focused on transforming the organisation into a modern, vibrant State Agency relevant for all stakeholders and capable of delivering on its core mandate. Prior to the role of CEO of IFI, Ciaran was the CEO of the Central Fisheries Board, and he also held several positions both in industry and in the charity sector.

Ciaran is a chartered management accountant and served his time working in industry where he gained an understanding of the SME sector. He holds a degree and Ph.D. in science from Trinity College Dublin where he authored several peer reviewed scientific publications, and he has recently completed a Masters Degree in Business. Ciaran was admitted as a Chartered Director, with the Institute of Directors in 2017.



Margie McCarthy

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND POLICY INSIGHTS

Margie McCarthy joined SEAI in 2021 as Director of Research and Policy Insights. Margie's key responsibilities are for analytical and research functions within SEAI including the development and delivery of energy data and insights to support policy decisions, and investment in innovative energy research which contribute to Ireland's energy transition. As a member of the Executive Leadership Team of SEAI, Margie contributes to the development and implementation of organisational strategy and operationalising that strategy for optimal delivery of results.

Margie is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of Engineers Ireland. She joined SEAI from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), where she served as Head of Education and Public Engagement and as Interim Director of Science for Society. Margie has served on several national education and skills policy groups and is currently Chairperson of the Gender Balance in STEM Education Advisory Group to the Department of Education.



Declan Meally

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS, PUBLIC SECTOR AND TRANSPORT

Declan Meally was appointed to the position of Director of Business, Public Sector and Transport in 2021. Declan joined SEAI in 2005 and has been involved in the successful delivery of many of the organisation's programmes.

Declan has served as Head of Department across a number of areas at SEAI including Industry, Marine/Ocean Energy, Smart Grid, Transport, Communities and more recently National Retrofit.

He is a chartered mechanical engineer and has worked for over twenty years in management in both the public and private sectors. Prior to joining SEAI, Declan worked in management in Xerox Europe Limited and Aer Rianta as well as the Defence Forces.



Marion O'Brien

DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

Marion O'Brien joined SEAI in 2021 as Director of Corporate Services. Prior to joining SEAI, Marion worked in airport management where she held a variety of roles in Finance, Strategy, Company Administration, Risk and Governance, spanning both national and international aspects of the business. Her most recent role, prior to joining SEAI, was that of Chief Governance & Strategy Officer and Group Company Secretary with daa plc, also serving as a Director of a number of daa plc subsidiary entities.

Marion is a Fellow of the Chartered Certified Accountants of Ireland, holds a BA from the University of Limerick, an MBS from Dublin City University and Diplomas in Corporate Governance and Strategy from UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School. Marion is currently a non-executive Director on the Personal Injuries Assessment ("PIAB") Board and Ordnance Survey Ireland ("OSi") Board and previously served as an independent external member of Dublin City University ("DCU") audit committee.

Some of SEAI's achievements in 2021

Corporate

€196m



was invested to support Ireland's clean energy transition



1.2 m+

web sessions on www.seai.ie

195,000

voice, email and webchat transactions served across all programmes through our contact centre



Citizens and Communities

€100m



grant support for 11,368 home energy upgrades, including 2,272 energy poor homes

600+



member organisations now in SEAI community energy network

185

school workshops as part of our education programme



95,000+

BERs were published through SEAI systems

Business, Public Sector and Transport

Research, Policy, and Insights

34%

improvement in public sector bodies' energy efficiency, up from 29% the previous year



50

new National Energy Research, Development and Demonstration projects awarded €19.5 million in funding



400+

SMEs registered with Support Scheme for Energy Audits



Continued to develop the Irish Wind Energy Research Network to promote Irish wind energy research to national stakeholders

1,000+

delegates attended workshops and business briefing events



Represented Ireland at UNFCCC's COP26 in Glasgow as a National Delegate



€63m

support towards purchase of 13,432 electric vehicles

€5m

support towards the installation of 8,379 EV home chargers







Our Impact

Clean energy is vital
for the health and well-
being of our country
and future generations



National Retrofit

Communities

SEAI's Sustainable Energy Community Network had over 600 members by the end of 2021. 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.

Inishowen Sustainable Energy Community leads the way

The Inishowen community, located in Inishowen, County Donegal won the SEAI Inspirational Energy Community Award 2021.

Established in January 2019, Inishowen Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) is the result of a collaboration between lead partner Inishowen Development Partnership, Inishowen Co-Op, Donegal County Council, and a diverse range of stakeholders across the Inishowen community. It was established with a common focus on sustainability and a vision to change the energy landscape in the region.

Inishowen SEC has engaged a broad cross section of the community to plan, support and deliver an Energy Master Plan for the region, which officially launched on July 8th, 2021.

The SEC has also been involved in several projects in supporting energy upgrades using SEAI grants, including Ireland's most northerly home, which was upgraded from a G BER rating to an A rating. There were many initiatives, including the installation of a geothermal heat pump at the local community creche which is generating savings of €2,500 - €3,000 per annum. The installation of solar PV panels at a local family farm has resulted in energy savings of up to 50%.



Pictured above: Paul McGonigle, Inishowen SEC (R) with members of the McCabe family farm.

“ Inishowen SEC has engaged a broad cross section of the community to plan, support and deliver an Energy Master Plan for the region. ”

The installation of solar PV panels at a local family farm has resulted in energy savings of up to

50%



Tipperary town retrofits community building



Knockanrawley Resource Centre in Tipperary provides a wide range of community supports and services for all age groups, including training, education and hosting a Men's Shed.

The centre's team recently participated in the Better Energy Communities programme and availed of SEAI grant support for an energy upgrade to the resource centre.

The works included new windows and doors, cavity, and external insulation, and upgraded lighting. The total cost of the project was €140,000 and the centre received €77,500 in grant funding, amounting to over 50% of the final cost.

Communities can now avail of the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS)

With the introduction of a dedicated Community Preference category in the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) auctions, communities for the first time in Ireland have a tangible route to market for their projects that is supported by the Irish Government.

SEAI has been appointed as the implementation body for some of the community elements of the RESS scheme, which includes the Community Enabling Framework.

The Community Enabling Framework will support communities to develop their own renewable energy generation projects and compete in the RESS auctions by providing support through information resources, financial supports, and trusted advisory expert support services.

The initial grants to support communities with their RESS projects were launched in November and eligible community projects that were successful in the first auction were invited to avail of these supports.

“ SEAI has been appointed as the implementation body for some of the community elements of the RESS scheme, which includes the Community Enabling Framework. ”

National Retrofit

Residential

SEAI launched a new national communications campaign to promote home energy upgrades, incorporating case studies of grant recipients and a dedicated podcast series.

Building demand for home energy grants

In 2021, SEAI launched its multi-annual home energy upgrade campaign to support the Government's Climate Action Plan to upgrade 500,000 homes to a B2 and install 400,000 heat pumps by 2030. The overarching goal of the campaign is to create a national movement that motivates and inspires half a million homeowners to invest in home energy upgrades and achieve a B2 rated home. The campaign messaging and call to action is to "Discover a new world of comfort and join the thousands of Irish homes enjoying a home energy upgrade with government grants from SEAI. Search SEAI Home Energy Upgrades."

In developing our campaign strategy, we drew on SEAI's bank of existing consumer research and the expertise of our Behavioural Economics team. We conducted pre-campaign qualitative and quantitative research to inform the campaign messaging and set baseline measurements. These insights informed our long-term integrated and multi-channelled campaign strategy, comprising of TV, video on demand, out of home, press, radio, digital, pay per click, PR, website, social media, podcasts, events, supply chain engagement and marketing collateral.

The new campaign web landing page on seai.ie promotes a whole-house approach to energy upgrades, the importance of a BER assessment and interactive tools to promote the benefits of a home energy upgrade. It provides a three-step approach to planning a home energy upgrade and a grant route comparison table to simplify SEAI grant messaging.

To date, the campaign has generated significant media coverage securing multiple national and regional press, radio, and TV interviews, as well as requests to support current affairs programmes such as Prime Time and Claire Byrne Live, all of which keeps the conversation going and our focus on the Government's targets within the Climate Action Plan.



Upgrade to a comfortable and warm home



Pictured above: Cormac Madden, ESB.

Cormac Madden has worked for ESB for many years so is no stranger to energy efficiency and the benefits it brings. He knew about heat pumps long before they became the 'must-have' heating system for homes moving away from fossil fuels. He knew that over time, he could reduce their home's carbon emissions and make the house warmer and more comfortable to live in.

Cormac and his wife started with attic insulation and a few years later, they also got external wall insulation. In 2016, he wanted to tackle any remaining sources of heat loss to bring the house to an even higher standard. This involved replacing doors and windows and getting an air to water heat pump and a ventilation system installed. As a final measure, they installed solar PV.

Cormac contracted Electric Ireland Superhomes, an energy agency, to manage the heat pump installation and solar PV. Superhomes provided a project manager, who oversaw all the works and managed third-party contractors, which was a great relief to Cormac.

Cormac availed of all the relevant SEAI grants which helped considerably with financing the project.

The house has now achieved an A3 energy rating, making it very efficient and very pleasant to live in. Cormac and his family never have to think about the heating as it maintains a constant comfortable temperature.

BER A3

The house has now achieved an A3 energy rating, making it very efficient and very pleasant to live in



Podcast mini-series on home energy upgrades

SEAI's podcast 180 Degrees ran for its third season in 2021. The team decided to create a mini-series of three episodes dedicated to home energy upgrades, supporting the coinciding campaign.

The episodes featured a range of content. We interviewed people on the streets of Dublin to get their opinions, we featured Cormac (on this page) who discussed his home in depth, and we heard from experts in interior design and renewable energy on how to get the best from your upgrade. These episodes proved very popular, achieving on average 1,000 listens each.



Business, Public Sector and Transport

Electric vehicles

2021 was a busy year for electric vehicle (EV) dealerships. Despite initial COVID-19 restrictions during the first quarter, 16,531 new EVs were sold, taxed and registered in 2021. SEAI supported the purchase of 13,432 EVs (battery electric vehicles (BEV) and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV)) in 2021 to a value of €63.19m. The PHEV grant was discontinued at the end of 2021.

EV DEALER TRAINING

In such a busy market, SEAI provided ongoing supports and training to EV dealerships in the form of:

1. A new Energy Academy module, which covers the dealer interaction with the EV purchase grant system software including grant application submission right up to grant payment requests.
2. Dealer training webinars. Two are hosted per year before each of the sales periods. The first sales period is January to June and the second sales period is July to December. These webinars explain the grant processes and any updates that may have occurred.
3. 'How To' videos and process documents are provided on our website to guide dealers through our system and application processes.



COMPARE THE COSTS OF EVS

SEAI launched its 'Total Cost of Ownership' comparator online tool and journey costs calculator on seai.ie.

This allows users to browse and compare the full range of new electric, petrol and diesel vehicles in Ireland. They can see how much they can save in costs and emissions by selecting up to three different models and the tool gives them a thorough breakdown and comparison of the three. Once a user has progressed through the tool, they're invited to find their local EV dealership.

The journey costs calculator then asks users to input their estimated annual mileage and see how their petrol or diesel costs compare to that of an EV. Again, users are encouraged to 'Find a dealer' afterwards.

A DEALER'S POINT OF VIEW

As part of the podcast 180 Degrees, SEAI interviewed Michael Coghlan, Windsor Ireland, about the most common questions customers have when buying an EV. He said the first question is always about range and he and his colleagues tackle that by asking what their requirements are. Because "most people drive 50-60km a day. It's still of no concern to people because the real convenience is, as we point out to them, you plug your car in at night and you get up and have a full charge."

Michael is encouraged by the growing interest in EVs and says the simple SEAI grant process really helps both the dealer and the consumer. For him, the biggest obstacle remains the charging infrastructure because it can limit those who can't install a home charger. He hopes more providers come on board and increase the number of public chargers around the country.



10,000

visits to www.drivingelectric.ie

Don't drive to extinction

SEAI ran a national advertising campaign to promote the uptake of electric vehicles (EVs) starting in late December 2020. This was in support of Government targets to significantly ramp up the use of EVs by 2030. The theme of the campaign was "Don't drive to extinction, drive electric."

The campaign used a humorous, tongue in cheek approach with dinosaur characters to educate the audience that petrol and diesel cars are on the way out and EVs are here to stay. The intent was to encourage people not to get left behind (like the dinosaurs) and to join the growing movement of EV drivers. The multiple benefits of EVs (lower running costs, environment, range, grants and technology) were communicated through four separate press executions. radio, digital and social ads all supported this messaging throughout the campaign.

The key call to action for the campaign was to visit www.drivingelectric.ie for more information. It ran for ten weeks into March 2021 and resulted in more than 10,000 web visits.



Business, Public Sector and Transport (continued)

Supporting Irish business

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

A hydro-powered hotel

Recently declared a carbon neutral property, The Falls Hotel & Spa was the winner of the 2021 SEAI Energy Award for Innovative Deployment of Renewable Energy.

The hotel in Ennistymon, County Clare, is a family run hotel with 140 bedrooms, nine apartments, a spa and leisure centre with a swimming pool.

Its owners, the McCarthys, wanted to make the hotel more sustainable and reduce the environmental impact of their business on the world around them. The River Inagh and cascades run alongside the hotel and so the McCarthys investigated the possibility of harnessing the energy of the river to power the hotel.

They installed a 220kWh hydroelectric turbine on the river. They worked in consultation with Clare County Council, the Shannon Regional Fisheries Board and the Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht to ensure that the project was carried out as safely as possible.

A year after the turbine installation, the hotel had reduced their energy consumption by 812,000 kWh of electricity. This counteracts the emission of an estimated 550 tonnes of carbon. It now provides up to 70% of the hotel's annual energy needs. In winter this can reach 100% when the river is in full flow. This has transferred into savings of approximately 60% of their annual electricity bills.

A year after the turbine installation, the hotel had reduced their energy consumption by

812,000 kWh

of electricity.

“ Its owners, the McCarthys, wanted to make the hotel more sustainable and reduce the environmental impact of their business on the world around them. ”

Aiming for carbon neutrality by 2030

Pfizer Grange Castle, Dublin, won the SEAI Energy Award for Large Business - Exemplary Energy Management in 2021. The Biotechnology Campus at Grange Castle is the first Pfizer site to outline plans of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030.

Since their energy programme was introduced in 2012, it has evolved from an engineering led system to an organisational wide programme. ISO50001 was achieved in 2016 and although production numbers have doubled since 2012, their CO₂ emissions have reduced by 18%.

Some of the energy efficiency measures taken include appointing energy champions throughout the business, hosting daily energy meetings, and monitoring 100 key energy performance indicators.

An active and engaged member of SEAI's Large Industry Energy Network, the diverse range of projects and initiatives achieved by Pfizer Grange Castle, including commitment from leadership and active collaboration across multiple staff, stakeholders, and consultants to achieve results, is an excellent model for any large business looking to tackle their own energy outputs.



Pictured above: Stephen Callinan, Site Utilities and Energy Lead, Pfizer Grange Castle.

MSD Carlow makes energy efficient design a priority

The Carlow-based pharmaceutical company uses energy efficient design principles in its newly constructed laboratory.

MSD Carlow is an advanced, high-volume facility for the aseptic fill and finish of human vaccines and biologic therapies. The facility is designed to handle multiple products and has the capability to formulate and aseptically fill both vials and syringes.

The new QO Laboratory Building was designed and constructed as a 2,311m² standalone facility complementing an existing production building. The functional spaces include an open plan laboratory, lab support areas, office spaces and a dedicated plantroom.

With support from SEAI, MSD followed the Excellence in Energy Efficient Design (EXEED) process and the building is now EXEED certified. The EXEED standard encourages innovation in design projects to help future-proof the investment, by optimising energy performance, improving operational energy costs and carbon emissions and improving competitiveness.

Since the project was completed, MSD Carlow has seen a 27% improvement in energy performance and a 22% reduction in building operational energy costs. It is the first building in Ireland to be certified to LEED Gold and EXEED Designed Certifications.



Pictured above: The MSD Carlow Energy Team receiving their SEAI EXEED Designed certification.



MSD Carlow has seen a **27% improvement** in energy performance and a 22% reduction in building operational energy costs.

Business, Public Sector and Transport (continued)

Poultry farm switches to renewable heating

Martin Dempsey runs his family farm in County Mayo where he keeps pigs and poultry. The broiler production facility is an energy intensive process as it requires constant heating and lighting. Approximately 85% of the energy used on a typical poultry farm is heat and 15% is electricity.

Martin always had an interest in renewable energy sources and was one of the first to apply for SEAI's Support Scheme for Renewable Heat (SSRH), which is a government funded initiative designed to increase the energy generated from renewable sources in the heat sector.

It was determined a biomass boiler was the best option for Martin and the approximate cost of installation was €145,000. He uses wood chip in his boiler. Wood chips are normally cheaper than wood pellets on a euro per kWh basis.

As part of the SSRH, Martin receives an annual payment (tariff) of €23,778 from SEAI. This helps to bridge the gap of the installation and operational costs involved in switching from a fossil fuel heating system to a biomass boiler. He will continue to receive payment for 15 years.

Based on the cost savings of using wood chip and the SEAI tariff payments, it will take approximately 6.1 years for him to receive his payback on the initial installation costs.

Martin recognised that switching to renewable heat was one of the most important steps he could take to reduce the carbon footprint of his business. This switch would immediately remove 136 tonnes of carbon every year. He describes SSRH as "a great scheme, well written, no room for abuse. It's fit for purpose for sure."

“ A great scheme, well written, no room for abuse. It's fit for purpose for sure. ”

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 2020 results show a collective 34% energy efficiency improvement achieved by the public sector in the last 11 years, exceeding the target set for 2020.

Award winning efforts by An Post

An Post won the 2021 SEAI Energy Award for Leadership in the Public Sector - Exemplary Energy Performance. This was based on their commitment to net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2025.

An Post has one of the largest fleets in Europe and over 210,000 square metres of property under management. In 2018, they purchased their first electric vehicles (EVs), beginning the electrification of the light commercial transport fleet. They now have over 1,000 EVs, including Ireland's first 7.5 tonne electric trucks. In 2020, they rolled out 843 EVs, installed telematics to monitor vehicles and, despite Covid-19, continued the eco-driver training programme (32% of drivers trained). These projects have improved the fuel efficiency of the light commercial fleet from 9.63L/100km to 9.15L/100km.

All external lighting has been upgraded to energy efficient LEDs and internal lighting will be updated by the end of 2021. In four offices they have upgraded the heating controls and four new boilers have been installed. These initiatives combined have saved 484 tonnes of CO₂ in 2020.



An Post now have over 1,000 EVs, including Ireland's first

7.5 tonne

electric truck.



Business, Public Sector and Transport (continued)

Top marks for Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin

This post-primary school went from a C3 to a B2 Building Energy Rating (BER). To achieve this, extensive fabric upgrades were carried out through the 2020 Schools Energy Retrofit Pathfinder programme.

Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin, County Galway, was selected through the Public Sector Pathfinder Programme. The school was comprehensively assessed to identify suitable upgrade measures. These needed to deliver value to both the school and the programme learnings.

Fabric upgrades included:

- Applying external wall insulation to fair-faced concrete uninsulated walls
- Applying additional insulation to the spandrel panels of the curtain walling system
- Upgrades of roof insulation and roof lights
- New windows
- Air tightness improvements

Mechanical and electrical upgrades included the installation of the following:

- LED lighting system with occupancy and daylight control
- 11 kWp Solar PV system
- New high-efficiency LPG condensing boiler system to replace inefficient oil-fired boiler
- New radiators, pipework, and control systems
- EV charging

It is estimated these measures will yield 294,000 kWh energy savings and 70 tonnes of CO₂ emission savings per annum. The figures will be confirmed following a full year of occupancy.



It is estimated these measures will yield

294,000 kWh

energy savings and 70 tonnes of CO₂ emission savings per annum.

“ Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin, County Galway, was selected through the Public Sector Pathfinder Programme. The school was comprehensively assessed to identify suitable upgrade measures. ”



Research and Policy Insights

Energy research

The SEAI National Energy Research Development and Demonstration (RD&D) Funding Programme invests in innovative energy research projects which contribute to Ireland's transition to a clean and secure energy future.

In 2021, SEAI awarded 50 new projects of almost €20 million in Government funding, supporting and enabling a wide range of energy research in Ireland. The projects bring together leading academic institutes, industry, and not-for-profits to tackle key areas in our national efforts to transition to a low carbon society.

2021 NATIONAL ENERGY RESEARCH AND POLICY CONFERENCE

The 2021 National Energy Research and Policy Conference centred on the theme 'Decarbonising Transport'. This annual conference aims to facilitate discussion on the role of energy research and policy in achieving Ireland's long term clean energy goals. Over 560 attendees joined the online event, with over 30 experts participating in presentations and panel discussions.



Over

560

attendees joined the online event, with over 30 experts participating in presentations and panel discussions.

SEAI-FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECT EXPLORES LOCAL SUPPORT FOR WIND ENERGY PROJECTS IN IRELAND

AstonECO Management Ltd. were awarded funding through the 2019 SEAI RD&D Call for their project – 'Earning local support for wind energy projects in Ireland'. This project, completed in early 2021, resulted in the publication of a suite of documents exploring an engagement process undertaken by neighbours, project developers and relevant authorities to create locally supported sustainable energy projects.

The project considers the perspectives of all parties, including engineers, design teams, community members, planners, local authorities, corporate teams and investors. It involved considerable engagement throughout. Invaluable input was received from over 150 neighbours living close to existing or proposed wind turbines in nine counties in Ireland, as well as input from developers, wind energy project owners, communities, government officials and the research community.

The proposed guidance is intended to be adopted and adapted by communities, developers and policy makers alike, and to be tailored to their ambitions. The project also included the implementation of this process for a number of case studies to demonstrate the process in action.

The outcomes of this research project aim to create a clear pathway to harness Ireland's wind energy resource in a way that supports the sustainable development of many communities in Ireland.

John Aston, who led the project, notes that "Communities want to be involved in the energy revolution, not as shareholders but as co-design participants. The communities are open to this, but this will need a major mentality shift among our developers – most probably one that will need leadership from the Government".

Research and Policy Insights (continued)

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.

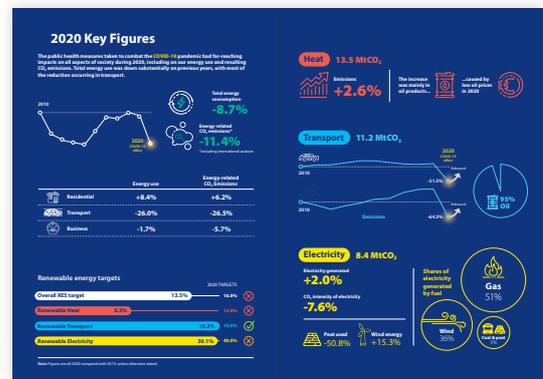
Our behavioural economics team investigates how consumers use energy and make purchasing decisions to encourage measurable changes to household and business energy behaviour. We deliver policy analysis to demonstrate the impact of existing Government policies and develop new ideas for the advice of policy 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 outputs in 2021 included:

ENERGY IN IRELAND 2021 REPORT

Our annual snapshot presenting definitive statistics on energy supply and use in Ireland was updated in 2021 and supplemented with companion reports on renewable energy and CO₂ emissions. The latest data highlights that the majority of our energy supply (over 86%) still came from fossil fuels in 2020, despite a growth in supply from renewables by over 8% in 2020. The impact of public health measures to combat COVID-19 led to a reduction in energy-related emissions of 4.3 million tonnes (11.5%) in 2020. However, early indications are that these have rebounded since. The clear message being that we need to significantly and urgently multiply our efforts to eliminate fossil fuels from our energy system.



THE NATIONAL HEAT STUDY

Much of the work to deliver the National Heat Study was conducted in 2021. This was the most detailed research study, including quantitative analysis and modelling, in to how we source and use heat in Ireland. A number of pathways to net-zero CO₂ emissions from heat were mapped with detailed data and analysis considered for the technology options and choices available. This seminal piece of work, when published in 2022, will inform heat policy in Ireland in the coming years.

THE NATIONAL ENERGY MODELLING FRAMEWORK

Over the last 15+ years SEAI has developed its capacity to model the impact of current and potential future Government sustainable energy policy. Each year we produce the National Energy Projections that inform Ireland's national greenhouse gas emissions projections. In 2020, significant upgrade projects were delivered on our modelling framework to enable more responsive and detailed policy insights to be produced for policy makers in Ireland. These are faster and more in-depth insights, leading to accelerated climate action.

Research and technology

SEAI's Research & Technology Department supports solutions to decarbonise Ireland's energy use and system.

The department plays a significant role representing Ireland abroad at the European Commission, International Energy Agency and 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 expert representation and public information on sustainable energy. The Department team is composed primarily of analytical and technical experts from engineering, science or similar technical backgrounds who are focused on developing solutions to the challenge of decarbonising Ireland's energy system.

This includes units in the areas of Research and Innovation, Renewable Electricity (Onshore & Offshore), Decarbonised Heat, Near Zero Energy Buildings and standards, and International and EU Energy Research.

Some 2021 highlights include:

FUNDING

During 2021, a further 50 research projects were successful under the SEAI National Energy Research Development and Demonstration Funding Programme, increasing the multi-annual funded portfolio to 150 projects.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY: ELECTRICITY AND WIND

The electricity and wind team published a report on Wind Farm Asset Management, supporting the Irish wind industry towards ISO 55001. This promotes an asset management approach throughout the life of wind farm projects.

The team promoted Irish wind energy research to national stakeholders, encouraged a greater engagement through the Irish Wind Energy Research network and supported Irish international collaboration through the International Energy Agency's wind tasks.

RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY: OFFSHORE

The offshore team continued support for Ireland's test facilities of LiR in UCC, Smart Bay in Galway, while continuing development of close-to-market testing facilities off the Mayo coast. In 2021, SEAI funded an industry access pilot for fully paid testing utilising the LiR facility. Six applications were successful across wave, wind, tidal and floating solar technologies.

The offshore team promoted Irish research development for offshore wind through engagement with the International Energy Agency, the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (offshore) and hosting knowledge share events.

INTERNATIONAL

The research and technology team is the Irish representative on the European Commission's Horizon Europe research funding programme, the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan and the Technology Cluster for the EU negotiation team on UNFCCC's COP. COP26 was attended in Glasgow as part of the Technology Cluster negotiation team.



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.

Market surveillance authority

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. SEAI will be designated the Market Surveillance Authority in 2022.

During 2021, SEAI inspected 110 retail outlets to assess their compliance with the EU Energy Labelling Regulations. 79% of the 24,572 products inspected were compliant, which is somewhat lower than in previous years. The primary reason for this was the rescaling of certain product categories by the European Commission, which commenced in March 2021, causing some confusion amongst retailers.

SEAI ameliorated compliance issues caused by the rescaling through organising an information campaign for retailers which included a webinar, video animation, updated retailer compliance guides, direct 1:1 advice and point of sale materials. We are confident that compliance levels will rise back to the levels seen previously in the near future.

SEAI inspected

110

retail outlets to assess their compliance with the EU Energy Labelling Regulations

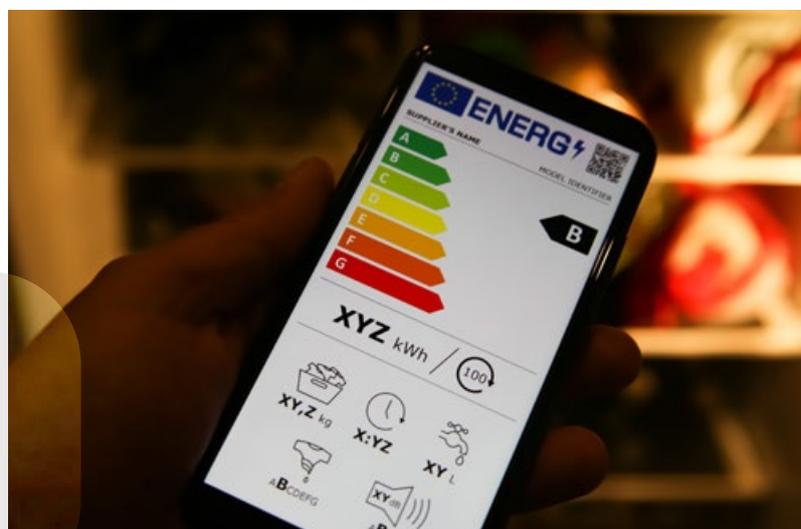


SEAI also inspected 85 retailer websites and 20 advertisements to assess labelling compliance. Although the number of instances of non-compliance remains high, there has been a very significant improvement in compliance, particularly across the websites of larger retailers. Improvement comes through market engagement and SEAI continues to engage with retailers to address non-compliance including 1:1 meetings, webinars and the development of retailer compliance guides.

Our surveillance activity covered a wide range of products, both domestic and commercial, including heating, water heating, lighting, appliances, water pumps, and electric motors. Following market screening and risk assessment, we undertook detailed

compliance assessments of 70 products and laboratory tested 30, taking action to address several non-compliances. We also developed guidance, where needed, to support manufacturers in complying with the regulations.

We participated in the multi-annual EU EEPLIANT3 project (2019-2023) undertaking joint activities with MSAs from other EU countries. Through these projects we share best practice and work together in coordinated market surveillance campaigns. We led an IT Tools work package through which we hope to leverage artificial intelligence, robotics and webcrawling technologies to help us in tackling the breadth and scale of our responsibilities, significantly improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our work.





Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme

All large energy suppliers are obligated to deliver energy efficiency savings under the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme (EEOS). These suppliers, known as obligated parties, must deliver their savings from across all final energy-using sectors. SEAI administers the scheme, with policy oversight by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

SEAI is responsible, on behalf of the Minister of the Environment, Climate and Communications, for the monitoring and measurement of savings achieved under the EEOS. Savings delivered under the scheme count towards each obligated party's target. These, in turn, are reported by Ireland to the EU under Article 7 of the Energy Efficiency Directive. SEAI's role is to confirm that the savings are compliant with the requirements of the Directive.

In 2021, SEAI closed out the first period of the scheme, which ran from 2014 to 2020. The scheme delivered over 5.1 TWh of energy efficiency savings in that period. These savings represent an offset in CO₂ emissions of around 1.2 Mt and recurring financial savings of approximately €250 million per year.

Following a recast of the Energy Efficiency Directive, the Minister of the Environment, Climate and Communications decided that Ireland will continue to use Energy Supplier Obligations in conjunction with alternative measures to meet its binding 2030 Article 7 target. 2021 saw the transitioning of the scheme to a new phase. The revised scheme aligns closely with the Climate Action Plan and Programme for Government commitments and has set larger targets for obligated parties. These targets will enable deeper retrofits in the domestic sector and facilitate projects with longer payback times in the commercial and industrial sectors.

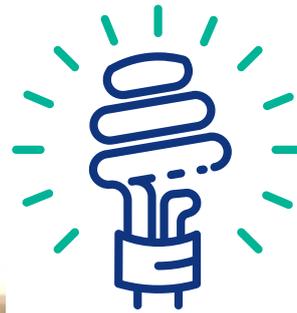
“ In 2021, SEAI closed out the first period of the scheme, which ran from 2014 to 2020. The scheme delivered over 5.1 TWh of energy efficiency savings in that period. ”

During the transition period, the operation of the scheme in 2021 delivered 405 GWh of final energy savings, representing a CO₂ emissions offset of 100 kt.

The scheme is a key facilitator of energy savings by large industrial energy users and obligated parties work with SEAI's large industry energy network member companies. In 2021, with support from an obligated party, a pharmaceutical ingredient manufacturer achieved savings of 1.4 GWh by replacing their existing fixed volume nitrogen generation system with a variable system capable of scaling to the site's demands.

SEAI is working with Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications on the final design of the scheme and on the drafting of the legislative framework underpinning the scheme.

2021 Highlights



The Provisional Energy Balance 2020 highlighted the impact of Covid-19 with overall energy use down by 9.2% in 2020.

Grants worth €14 million announced for projects that follow SEAI's EXEED (Excellence in Energy Efficient Design) standards.

500 communities are now part of the SEAI's community energy network leading the way in Ireland's energy transition.

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

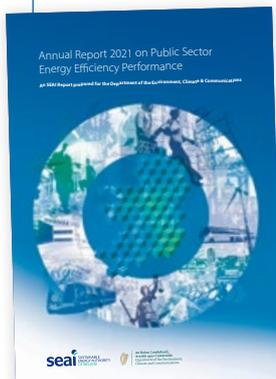
The Annual Report 2020 on Public Sector Energy Efficiency Performance showed public bodies achieved €1.55 billion in energy savings between 2009 and 2019.

€10 million funding was made available for energy research and innovation projects.



2,000 attendees tuned in for the first virtual SEAI Energy Show due to Covid-19 restrictions.

SEAI partnered with Local Authorities to provide bridge funding for community energy upgrades.



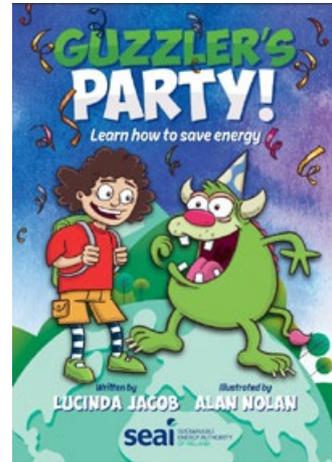


SEAI provided community grant support for the largest solar farm in the Republic of Ireland at the Eli Lilly plant in Cork.

SEAI's new BER Advisory Report gives homeowners a personalised roadmap to bring their home up to an energy rating of B2 or better.



€57 million in Government funding for 83 community and home energy projects announced by the Minister Eamon Ryan T.D.



Guzzler's Party launched as children's climate action storybook for students in Junior Infants to 2nd class.

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

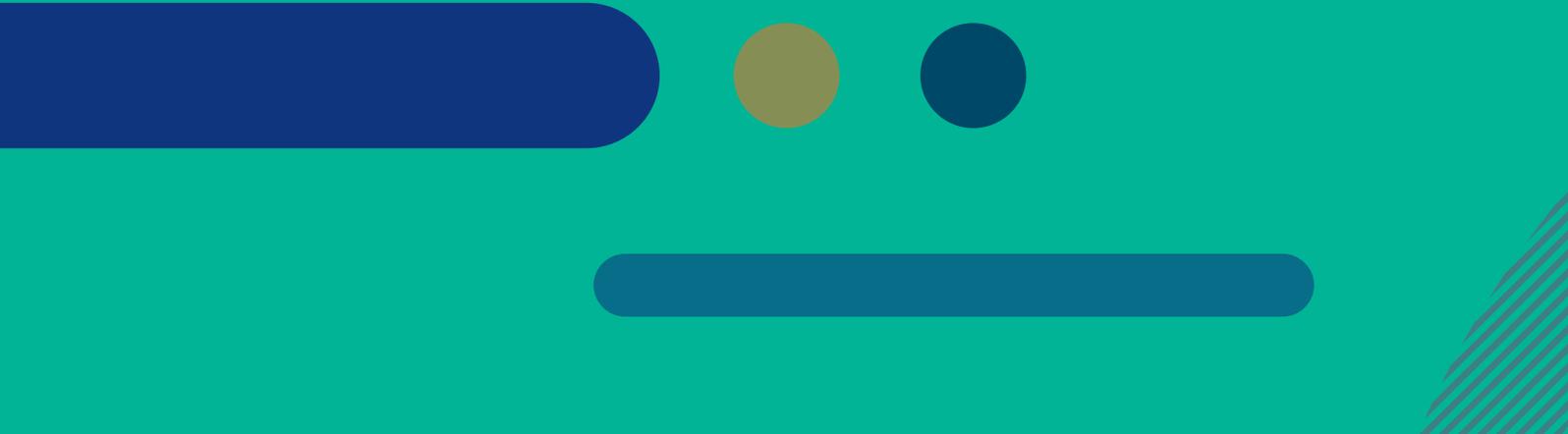
NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

SEAI Energy Awards 2021 celebrates sustainable energy champions in online ceremony.

SEAI ran a week-long Home Energy Challenge campaign showing consumers how to be more energy efficient at home.







Governance

We provide Government with robust evidence to inform energy policy



Energy efficiency report

SEAI's energy performance for 2021 demonstrates a reduction in final energy use of 10% from 2020. This has been another year of blended working between office and home due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Energy consumption was once again related to lower occupancy of the offices; however there remained a requirement for intermittent heating and ventilation hours to be extended to address the public health recommendations related to COVID-19.

The effect of our re-locating to our new Dublin office in October 2019 has not been fully explored since we have not yet had a full year's operation in the 3 Park Place office. Current planning for a blended work arrangement in line with the National Remote Work Strategy will provide for more formal arrangements. This will set a new standard for consumption from the latter part of 2022 and through subsequent years.

Once again, in 2021, Three Park Place represented circa 90% of SEAI's overall energy consumption across our four offices and two company electric vehicles. This reinforces the fact that the Dublin office will continue to be a key area of focus for energy efficiency and emission reduction improvements.



Energy use across the four offices and company vehicles is summarised in the table below.

Energy Use	2020	2021
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	235,290
Natural gas for heating (kWh TFC)	204,470	206,799
Marked gas oil for heating (kWh TFC)	0	0
LPG for Heating	3,154	4,664
Totals for Direct Consumption	496,269	446,753
CO₂ Emissions (kg)	136,305*	113,062

*We had neglected to include the CO₂ content of the LPG in last year's submission.

ENERGY-EFFICIENCY ACTIONS PROPOSED FOR 2022 - 2023

- A Green Team is being established to articulate the mission and plan for lowering SEAI's CO₂ emissions;
- The Green Team will use SEAI's 'Gap to Target' tool to plan our Climate Action Goals and to monitor and diagnose performance against the 2030 Targets:
 - 51% greenhouse gas emissions reduction target¹;
 - Improvement in energy efficiency to 50%.
 - Formulate SEAI's Climate Action Roadmap aligned with our climate ambition².
- SEAI will continue to engage in the Public Sector Monitoring and Reporting (M&R) System to track SEAI's implementation of the Climate Action Mandate;
- We plan to regain formal certification to ISO 50001:2018 Energy Management System Standard. This has been delayed due to remote working and reduced use of the office environment;
- SEAI will promote best practice among our workforce and welcome improvement initiatives on waste, energy, emissions, travel, procurement and digitalisation;
- We will continue to liaise with facilities management in Three Park Place in order to optimise our metering system and operational control of significant energy users.

¹ Note: During the reference years of 2016-2018, SEAI was located in a smaller footprint with lower staff numbers.

² This in compliance with the Climate Action & Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.

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.

In 2021 as a society, we began to enter a new chapter in the pandemic. Some activities, such as our involvement in communities, remained on hold due to public health guidance. Other activities, such as university placements and internships, started to recommence in line with best practice. We continued to focus on wellbeing and flexible supports for staff who continued to predominantly work remotely during this time of change and uncertainty.

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 2021 included Irish Cancer Society, St. Vincent de Paul, 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

Sustainability is at the heart of everything we do in SEAI. During the pandemic as we emerge from periods of restriction, we have continued with measures including:

- Smarter Travel Workplaces initiative to encourage employees to walk and cycle
- 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
- Introduction of paperless office across the organisation
- Our head office is an A3 BER rated building
- SEAI has two fully electric cars used by staff for business travel



The Marketplace

- Sustainable event procurement is particularly important for our event planning for which we now use a checklist of environmental measures from potential venues. In 2021 events took place virtually due to public health guidance, and we have learned from these experiences for future events.
- 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.



The Workplace

- To encourage and support the wellbeing of our teams throughout the pandemic, we have arranged a number of initiatives, including 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.
- We have relaunched our Equality, Inclusion and Diversity Committee. Remote working has provided insights into how we may prepare a new Equality, Inclusion and Diversity 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 Group is an SEAI employee-led initiative supporting and encouraging female engagement within the energy sector.
- The Smarter Travel Workplaces Step Challenges and Smarter Travel Cycling Challenges which ran throughout the year encouraged staff teams to get active, promoting sustainable mobility.
- The Cycle to Work and Tax Saver Public Transport Scheme is available to all.– 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 2021.

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 the outcome was presented to the SEAI Board in January 2021. Arising from this latest assessment, SEAI 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, and operation of Board Committees etc.

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 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 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. This is set out in the SEAI Code of Governance Framework.

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 on 8 December 2021, approved a revised Protected Disclosures (Whistle-blowers) Policy 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 Code of Governance Framework.

SECTION 1.17: STATEMENT OF STRATEGY

During 2021, the SEAI Board devoted substantial time to the development of a new Strategy for the organisation. The strategy was approved by the Board and submitted to the Minister for Environment Climate and Communication in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. This Strategy "Delivering Irelands Energy Revolution" covers the period from 2022 to 2025 and was formally approved by the Minister in June 2022.

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 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, 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 the Audit and Risk Committee have established appropriate mechanisms to ensure that it is fully operational and monitors and reviews 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 2021. 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 2021.

The review of internal controls and the associated Statement of Internal Control (SIC) for 2021 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 Environment Climate and Communications. In addition, the Chairpersons' statement on internal financial controls is included in the Annual Report (see page 52).

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 Environment, Climate and Communications and SEAI has a formal Oversight and Performance Framework/Service Level Agreement in place. Following discussions between DECC and SEAI, the current Agreement has been extended.

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 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 opportunities 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.

Annex 2020 to the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies on Gender Balance, Diversity and Inclusion.

As at 31 December 2021, the Board had 6 (55%) female and 5 (45%) male members, with one position vacant.

The Board therefore meets the Government target of a minimum of 40% representation of each gender in the membership of State Boards.

The following measures will continue to be applied in order to maintain and support gender balance on this Board:

There will be close coordination and cooperation between SEAI and the Minister for Environment Climate and Communications in relation to Board appointments. This will include discussions on varying the duration of Board terms. Board appointments, when they arise, are made by the Minister in accordance with the Sustainable Energy Act 2002, as amended by the Energy Act 2016. The requirements of Annex 2020 will be applied in relation to all Board appointments.

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. In 2021, 77 complaints were received under this Charter. 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.

SEAI Risk Report

APPROACH TO RISK MANAGEMENT

SEAI applies best practice, as outlined in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016) and ISO 31000, in the identification, assessment, and control of risks to ensure that they are reduced to a level acceptable to the Board in the achievement of its objectives. The effective management of risks and the pursuit of opportunities, supports the development and effective implementation of SEAI's strategy.

All personnel at SEAI have a responsibility to engage in good risk management practices and contribute to the identification, management and reporting of risks, risk events and known/potential control deficiencies.

RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

SEAI's Risk Management Framework takes a holistic approach including defined policies and procedures, coupled with a risk management culture that has been fostered within the organisation.

The Board of SEAI is responsible for establishing the foundation for risk management throughout the organisation by clearly articulating and communicating its tolerance for risk ("Risk Appetite") on an ongoing basis. Risk appetite sets the understanding of SEAI's ability to take risk, articulated and quantified in a manner that is meaningful for day-to-day decisions. SEAI Management are responsible for ensuring SEAI operates in a manner that is consistent with the Board's Risk Appetite.

The management of risk is integrated across all levels of the organisation, so that each level supports another. Risk management is led from the top and based upon clearly defined structures and responsibilities. It is embedded in the normal working routines and activities of the organisation, with all staff conscious of the relevance of risk in pursuit of their objectives.

PRINCIPAL RISKS IN 2021 AND BEYOND

During 2021, like others, SEAI continued to adapt to the unprecedented challenges posed by Covid-19. These challenges were compounded by a constrained supply chain for energy technologies and services and an increasing urgency to scale up activities nationally on sustainability to support society as a whole make a more progressive move towards a cleaner energy future for Ireland. During 2021, SEAI adapted the Risk Management Framework to navigate the challenges and inform key decisions, ensuring an appropriate balance was struck between the achievement of objectives and management of risks. A key aspect of the Risk Management Framework is regular communication and engagement with our parent government department, our customers, staff, supply chain and market.

In 2022, the security of supply and cost implications of Ireland's reliance on fossil fuel imports have become very evident. This further underpins the urgency of our energy transition. Through energy independence we can remove our reliance on imported fossil fuels, lower our carbon emissions and secure our future.

The following table summarises some of the key risks that SEAI managed during 2021 and will continue to manage into 2022.

Risk Area	Risk Description	Mitigation
Social/ Geopolitical	<p>COVID-19</p> <p>Given the nature of Covid-19 and in particular the specific lockdowns imposed, access to carry out works was restricted at the start of 2021.</p>	<p>SEAI responded in an agile way by implementing appropriate adjustments to our programmes of support, to ensure continuity of service while working remotely and retaining appropriate standards of governance and compliance. Demand for SEAI's grant support programmes rebounded strongly in mid to late 2021. SEAI will continue to respond to any impacts from Covid-19 during 2022.</p>
	<p>WAR IN UKRAINE</p> <p>The war in Ukraine, which commenced in 2022, is impacting the cost of fossil fuels for energy and potentially the security of energy supply.</p>	<p>During 2022, SEAI is monitoring the impacts of the Ukraine situation on the energy sector and how this conflict may affect Ireland. SEAI is collaborating with colleagues in our parent Department and other state agencies to adapt our programmes where such adaptations may help mitigate the cost and security of supply impacts of the current energy situation.</p>
Economic	<p>SUPPLY CHAIN</p> <p>There were several factors at play which contributed to the supply chain challenges experienced during 2021 including Covid Pandemic, Brexit, Suez Canal obstruction, labour supply and skillset, increasing costs and availability of materials and lead times.</p> <p>These challenges continue into 2022 and have been compounded by the evolving situation in Ukraine.</p>	<p>SEAI has been monitoring the impact of the supply chain challenges as well as engaging with the supply chain to enhance our understanding of the market conditions and how to respond to these challenges.</p> <p>SEAI is collaborating with external agencies to drive skills development in 2022.</p>
	<p>SCALING ORGANISATION</p> <p>SEAI is at the heart of delivering the Government's Climate Action Plan 2021. The Plan sets ambitious goals for 2030. To achieve our strategic objectives and ambitions, in support of the Climate Action Plan, SEAI needs to grow the organisation and scale up demand for and draw down of supports.</p>	<p>SEAI has been scaling up our operations to meet the challenge.</p> <p>The National Retrofit Programme and development of One Stop Shops which were developed during 2021 and launched early in 2022 are key responses to this challenge.</p>
Strategic Delivery	<p>RECRUITMENT</p> <p>Recruitment during 2021 was challenging due to a buoyant jobs market, a situation that continues into 2022.</p>	<p>SEAI ran a number of focused recruitment campaigns during 2021 for key roles and launched a National Recruitment Campaign in 2022.</p>
	<p>PROCESS</p> <p>An increase in the number of supports provided by SEAI coupled with an increasing demand each month put pressure on existing processes and workflows.</p>	<p>SEAI utilised its existing outsourcing model for certain key processes to manage increases in activity levels.</p> <p>In 2021, SEAI commenced a process of identifying a Target Operating Model that most appropriately addresses the changes required as the organisation evolves to deliver its expanding and enduring remit. A specific Transformation Project has been commenced in 2022, to deliver the new Target Operating Model on a phased basis.</p>
Finance	<p>FINANCIAL LOSS / FRAUD RISK</p> <p>Given the nature of SEAI's business, including the provision of grant supports, it must continually manage the potential for financial loss or fraud.</p>	<p>SEAI has implemented robust financial and other controls and checks to prevent and detect fraud and error. These controls are subject to yearly review for appropriateness and effectiveness.</p>
Technology	<p>CYBER SECURITY</p> <p>Risk of a Cyber-attack leading to business continuity disruption, potentially including compromised networks, systems, or data.</p>	<p>SEAI has an Information Security Management System (ISMS) which is aligned to ISO27001 and includes regular training of staff and system penetration testing.</p>





Finance

Energy efficiency
delivers measurable
economic and
employment benefits



Governance Statement and Board Members' Report

For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) was established with effect from 1st May 2002, pursuant to the Sustainable Energy Act 2002 (as amended).

The functions of the Authority are set out in Section 6 of the 2002 Act. The principal functions of SEAI as prescribed in the 2002 Act (as amended) are to:

- promote and assist the production, supply and use of energy, including from renewable sources, in environmentally, economically sustainable and efficient ways;
- promote and assist the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants associated with energy use;
- promote and assist research and development of technologies and to provide advice, information and guidance on energy related matters;
- licence, regulate and control activities so directed by the Minister from time to time.

SEAI adheres to relevant laws and regulations governing its activities and to the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, 2016 (as amended) ("the Code").

This Governance report sets out SEAI's governance structures and details the main areas of focus of the SEAI Board in 2021.

BOARD STRUCTURE

The Board structure is prescribed by statute. Board members are appointed by the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications, ("the Minister") with the consent of the Minister for Finance, in accordance with the Sustainable Energy Act 2002, as amended by the Energy Act 2016. The Minister 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 up to 5-year periods and may be reappointed up to a maximum period of 8 years in accordance with Annex 2020, on Gender Balance Diversity and Inclusion, of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. The Chief Executive Officer is an ex officio member of the Board.

The Board is accountable to the Minister. The Minister's objectives and priorities are communicated to the Board through the formulation of National Development Plans, Climate Action Plans and a Performance Delivery Agreement as well as annual Service Plans. There is regular dialogue between the Chair, the CEO, management of SEAI and the Minister and his/her officials.

The Board has established a Committee structure to assist it in discharging its responsibilities.

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 follow the broad strategic direction set by the Board and ensure that all Board members have a clear understanding of matters of relevance to the operation of SEAI, including those relating to the delivery of its mandate as set by the Minister. The CEO acts as a direct liaison between the Board and management of SEAI.

ROLE OF THE BOARD AND 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).

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 has certain 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 2022 in respect of 2021.

The Board is responsible for safeguarding its assets and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

The Board considers that the financial statements of SEAI give a true and fair view of the financial performance and financial position of SEAI at 31 December 2021. During 2021, 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.

BOARD EFFECTIVENESS

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. An appropriate and comprehensive induction and development process is in place for Board members. New members, on their appointment, are provided with extensive briefing on the agency and its operations.

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 NSAI evaluation was completed in November/ December 2020 and the outcome was presented to the Board in January 2021. In January 2022, in the context of reviewing overall Board effectiveness, the Board carried out a comprehensive review of its activities, operations and outcomes for 2021.

The Board had 12 meetings during 2021 and 11 of these took place on a remote basis through Microsoft Teams arising from the COVID-19 Pandemic. In relation to these Board matters for 2021, the Board considered the comprehensive summary of strategic leadership activities/decisions, and oversight/governance and its monitoring of the systems and controls in SEAI. Overall, this analysis demonstrated that the Board made every effort to discharge its responsibilities, in an appropriate and efficient manner, in accordance with the requirements set out in the Sustainable Energy Act 2002 and the revised Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. The external evaluation/assessment associated with the SWIFT 3000 Corporate Governance certification process, confirms overall SEAI compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

SEAI Board



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), and VITA (an Irish overseas development agency with a strong focus on rural communities and climate action in East Africa) which he chaired. 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.



Michael Wall

*Appointed 6th May 2015,
reappointed 9 May 2018,
resigned at end of term
on 8 May 2021*

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.



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 U.C.D. 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.



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 London listed solar PV investment company. She is also a non-executive director of Velocys plc, an AIM listed, UK-headquartered international sustainable fuels technology company. She is a member of the Audit & Risk Committee of the HSE. She was a Board member of the Digital Hub Development Agency until June 2021 and was Chair of its Audit & Risk Committee.



Léan Doody

Appointed 31 October 2018

Léan is Director of Integrated Cities and Planning Leader Europe, 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.

SEAI Board (continued)



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 Communications, Climate Action and Environment. 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. She also served on the National Oversight and Audit Commission. In September 2021, she was appointed as a Director of the Northern Ireland Transport Holding Company. 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.



William Walsh

CEO

William is Chief Executive Officer in SEAI, having previously held the position of both Chief Operations Officer and Chief Financial Officer. William joined SEAI 2013. Prior to joining SEAI he worked for IFI where he held a number of roles including Assistant Chief Executive Officer and Director. Prior to that he held senior management positions in the private sector. William is a Chartered Accountant, holds a Bachelor of Business Studies from Dublin City University and a Graduate Diploma in Strategy, Innovation and Change from UCD.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

One Board Member, Michael Wall resigned at the end of his term on 8 May 2021. William Walsh became an ex officio member of the Board on 25 March 2021 under Section 15(6) of the Sustainable Energy Act 2002, following his appointment as Chief Executive Officer of SEAI.

BOARD COMMITTEES

During May and June 2021, the SEAI Board carried out a review of its overall Committee structure. The following five Committees were established. The current membership of all Committees was approved by the SEAI Board on 30 June 2021.

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. The Committee reports to the Board after each meeting and formally, in writing, annually.

During 2021, the Committee had an active programme of work and addressed a wide range of financial, internal control, risk management and governance issues. Overall, nine (9) meetings were held during the

year and 8 of these were conducted on a remote basis. The Committee, therefore, largely operated on a similar basis to 2020 and is again of the view that it did not impact, in any serious way, on the overall effectiveness of the work of the Committee during the year. In these circumstances, the Committee has continued to provide an independent and objective view of issues outside of the day-to-day management structures.

Members

Ann Markey

Chair
Appointed 6 February 2019

Lisa Ryan

Appointed on 27 July 2016

Michael Wall

Appointed on 27 July 2016 and resigned 8 May 2021

Martina Maher

External member
Appointed 31 July 2019

Sharon O'Connor

Appointed 4 November 2020

Joe O'Carroll

Appointed 30 June 2021

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

This Committee is responsible for reviewing the terms and conditions of employment of 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. The Committee held two meetings during 2021.

Members

All originally appointed on 4 November 2020

Dermot Byrne

Board Chair

Justina Corcoran

Sharon O'Connor

BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SECTOR COMMITTEE (FORMERLY SUPPORT SCHEME FOR RENEWABLE HEAT – SSRH) COMMITTEE

The Committee is responsible for ensuring appropriate oversight and monitoring of developments/outputs in relation to the SEAI Business and Public Sector Programme and also the Support Scheme for Renewable Heat. This Committee has a role to play in advising on matters in relation to the funding of industry/business.

Members

All originally appointed on 1 May 2019

Andrew Ennis

Chair

Ann Markey

Kate Ruddock

Joe O'Carroll

NATIONAL RETROFIT DELIVERY BODY (NRDB), FORMERLY NATIONAL RETROFIT TASK FORCE COMMITTEE

This Committee has responsibility to oversee and monitor developments, at a strategic level, in relation to the establishment and operation of the NRDB within SEAI. This includes approval of an NRDB Implementation Plan. It is also responsible for monitoring and reviewing the outputs from the NRDB in the context of the annual SEAI Business Plans.

Members

Appointed on 3 June 2020, Dermot Byrne, appointed 30 September 2020

Peter Brennan

Chair

Kate Ruddock

Léan Doody

Dermot Byrne

Board Chair

Joe O'Carroll was a member of this Committee until 26 July 2021.

RESEARCH POLICY AND INSIGHTS COMMITTEE

This is a new Committee established by the Board in May 2021. The Committee has responsibility for monitoring strategic communications and measures to enhance SEAI's impact in dissemination of data and insights across the energy ecosystem. It also oversees the provision of strategic energy policy insights and advice to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and other Government Departments and the delivery of SEAI's statutory functions relating to Energy Statistics, Energy Modelling, and the National Energy Modelling Framework.

Members

All appointed on 30 June 2021

Lisa Ryan

Chair

Peter Brennan

Andrew Ennis

Justina Corcoran

Board Chair Dermot Byrne attends meetings of this Committee.

SEAI Board (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) with the exception of one meeting on September 29th, 2021, which was held in person in 3PP in accordance with Public Health Guidelines and the SEAI Health and Safety Officer on site to ensure compliance.

Board Member	Board 12 meetings	Audit and Risk Committee 9 meetings (c)	Performance Management and Remuneration Committee 2 meetings	National Retrofit Delivery Body Committee 4 meetings	Business and Public Sector Committee 5 meetings	Research Policy and Insights Committee 2 meetings	Board Fees 2021 (€)
Dermot Byrne	12	N/A	2	4	N/A	1	11,970
Peter Brennan	11	N/A	N/A	4	N/A	1	7,695
Sharon O'Connor	12	9	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	7,695
Lisa Ryan	11	9	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	7,695
Michael Wall (a)	5	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,718
Kate Ruddock	9	N/A	N/A	3	4	N/A	7,695
Andrew Ennis	12	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	2	7,695
Ann Markey	12	9	N/A	N/A	4	N/A	7,695
Léan Doody	12	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	7,695
Joe O'Carroll	11	3	N/A	3	4	N/A	7,695
Justina Corcoran	11	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	2	–
William Walsh (b)	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	–
Total							€76,248

a) Resigned on 8 May 2021 at end of term.

b) Joined the Board in ex officio Capacity on 25 March 2021 following appointment as CEO.

c) This Committee has one External Member.

There were two Board members Justina Corcoran and William Walsh (CEO) who did not receive Board fees under the One Person One salary (OPOS) principle.

Expenses to the value of €276 were paid to Board members in 2021.

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF STATE BODIES REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Board is responsible for ensuring that SEAI has structures and systems in place to comply with requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. The following disclosures are required by the Code.

EMPLOYEE SHORT-TERM BENEFITS

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

Benefit Band €	Number of Employees at 31 December 2021	Number of Employees at 31 December 2020
60,000 – 69,999	16	14
70,000 – 79,999	8	8
80,000 – 89,999	10	22
90,000 – 99,999	13	3
100,000 – 109,999	2	4
110,000 – 119,999	2	0
120,000 – 129,999	0	1
130,000 – 139,999	0	0
140,000 – 149,999	1	0

For the purposes of this disclosure, short-term employee benefits in relation to services rendered during the reporting period include salary, and other allowances where applicable 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	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Professional Advice	625	567
Human Resources	65	51
Programme/ Organisational Improvement	784	552
Scheme Development	1,436	933
Total	2,910	2,103

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Consultancy Costs capitalised	–	–
Consultancy costs charged to the Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves	2,910	2,103
Total	2,910	2,103

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 2021 (2020: Nil).

Detail	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Legal Advice	557	529
Legal Fees – Legal Proceedings	31	38
Total	588	567

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	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Domestic – Employee	19	32
International – Employee	3	7
Total	22	39

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	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Staff Welfare and Hospitality	15	12

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 2021.

Signed on behalf of the Board



Dermot Byrne
Chairperson
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

28 June 2022

Statement of 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 2016, (as amended). In relation to 2021, 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 2021 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. This Committee comprised of four Board members and one external member. The ARC was briefed on a range of key issues throughout 2021. Regular updates on Finance and operational matters, risk, internal controls and internal audits undertaken were provided by senior management to both the ARC and Board throughout 2021. Such updates included the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 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 facilitate effective work practices;
- Impact on budgets and grant programmes;
- Impacts and risks associated with or arising from doing business with key third parties;
- Cybersecurity risks, information provided to staff and mandatory training required.

SEAI has established an internal audit function which is adequately resourced and conducts a programme of work agreed with the ARC. The internal audit work programme is currently outsourced to Mazars. The 2021 Audit Plan was completed. Internal audit is satisfied that SEAI's systems in relation to governance and control arrangements operated effectively and considered the additional measures adopted by SEAI in the remote working environment, thereby providing reasonable assurance in relation to the sufficiency and operation of internal controls to mitigate and/or manage those inherent risks to which SEAI's activities are exposed and/or the achievement of SEAI's objectives.

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 has procedures in place for monitoring areas of potential fraud risk and has comprehensive anti-fraud policies and procedures in place including detection and monitoring of activities, internal audit programmes and management oversight and control. SEAI also has systems and controls in place to monitor compliance with terms and conditions of grant payments. Where SEAI identifies 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 recipients. 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 2021, the risk register was updated throughout the year to identify and mitigate the risks to SEAI arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors. The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibility for operation of controls is 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 and the Board;
- There are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the information and communication technology systems;
- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets; and

- Control procedures over grant funding to 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.

PROCUREMENT

I confirm that SEAI has procedures in place to ensure compliance with current procurement rules and guidelines and that during 2021 SEAI complied with those procedures.

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

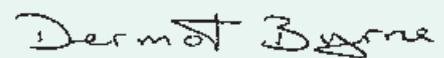
I confirm that SEAI has procedures to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. SEAI's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors, the Audit and Risk Committee which oversees 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 2021 and signed off on this review in March 2022.

INTERNAL CONTROL ISSUES

No weaknesses in internal control were identified in relation to 2021 that require disclosure in the financial statements.

Signed on behalf of the Board



Dermot Byrne

Chairperson

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

28 June 2022

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 2021 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 2021 and of its income and expenditure for 2021 in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 — *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland*.

BASIS OF OPINION

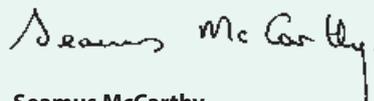
I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as promulgated by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions. My responsibilities under those standards are described in the appendix to this report. I am independent of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

30 June 2022

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 annual 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.

I 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.

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.

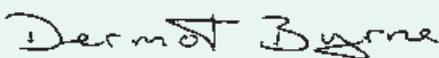
I seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit. I report if I identify any material instance where public money has not been applied for the purposes intended or where transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them.

Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves

For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	NOTES	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
INCOME			
State Grants	3	225,820	145,546
Building Energy Rating	9	3,154	2,756
EU Contract Income	4	325	263
Other Income	5	175	132
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions for the year	15(c)	2,461	2,347
Pension Contributions Remitted to DECC and DPER	6.1	(404)	(322)
Total Income		231,531	150,722
EXPENDITURE			
Administration Expenditure	6	18,797	15,687
Programme Expenditure	7	209,236	133,501
Building Energy Rating	9	2,796	2,422
Total Expenditure		230,829	151,610
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year before appropriations		702	(888)
Movement in amounts due to DECC	8	(69)	(87)
Transfer from/(to) Capital Account	13	795	637
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the Year after appropriations		1,428	(338)
Surplus at 1 January		2,017	2,355
Surplus at 31 December		3,445	2,017

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 2022



William Walsh
Chief Executive Officer
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
28 June 2022

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	NOTES	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the Year after Appropriations		1,428	(338)
Experience (Loss) on Retirement Benefit Obligations		(149)	(647)
Actuarial (Loss) arising from Changes in Assumptions underlying the present value of Retirement Benefit Obligations		(36)	(4,883)
Actuarial (Loss) in Year	15	(185)	(5,530)
Adjustment to Deferred Retirement Benefit Funding	15	185	5,530
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		1,428	(338)

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 2022



William Walsh
Chief Executive Officer
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

28 June 2022

Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2021

	NOTES	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment	10	3,218	4,013
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	14	6,525	4,980
Receivables & Prepayments	11	1,729	1,255
		8,254	6,235
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables & Accruals	12	(4,809)	(4,218)
Net Current Assets		3,445	2,017
Retirement Benefit Obligation	15 B	(50,414)	(47,768)
Deferred Retirement Benefit Funding Asset	15 B	50,414	47,768
Total Net Assets		6,663	6,030
REPRESENTING			
Capital Account	13	3,218	4,013
Retained Revenue Reserves		3,445	2,017
		6,663	6,030

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 2022



William Walsh
Chief Executive Officer
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
28 June 2022

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	NOTES	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Excess Income over Expenditure		1,428	(338)
Transfer to Capital Account	13	(795)	(637)
Bank Interest Paid		83	69
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	10	908	932
Decrease/(Increase) in Accounts receivable	11	(474)	806
(Decrease)/Increase in Accounts payable	12	591	(404)
Net Cash Flow From Operating Activities		1,741	428
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments to Acquire Property, Plant & Equipment	10	(113)	(295)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Bank Interest Paid		(83)	(69)
Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents		1,545	64
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents		1,545	64
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 1 January		4,980	4,916
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 31 December (Note 14)		6,525	4,980

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 2021.

(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 amount 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
- (iii) the rate of inflation

2. Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to present challenges for SEAI in 2021 albeit to a somewhat lesser extent than 2020. While public health restrictions, in operation during the year did lead to a period of construction lock-down, the level of activity and expenditure in 2021 exceeded that of 2020 across most programmes.

SEAI staff continued to work remotely during the year, with established processes and IT capability in place to support this working environment. The Board and management team continue to guide SEAI through the changing landscape and grow its scale and depth of activities in line with Government strategy and targets set out in the Climate Action Plan 2021.

SEAI is a fully funded government body. SEAI receives support from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and the Department of Transport.

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 (DECC) (Vote 29) and the Department of Transport (DoT) (Vote 31). With effect from 2021 DoT provides all funding in relation to the Electric Vehicle Programme.

	Vote Subhead	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
SEAI ADMINISTRATION			
– Current	B3	16,098	12,385
– Capital	B3	–	–
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PROGRAMMES			
– Current	B4	11,536	11,437
– Capital	B4	119,868	115,777
ENERGY RESEARCH PROGRAMMES			
– Current	B5	872	708
– Capital	B5	7,978	5,239
Total DECC Funding		156,352	145,546

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

	Vote Subhead	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
ELECTRIC VEHICLES PROGRAMME			
– Current	B6	1,078	–
– Capital	B6	68,390	–
Total DoT Funding		69,468	–
Total State Grants		225,820	145,546

4. EU Contract Income

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
OceanSET (b)	–	129
AFLOWT (b)	219	50
OPIN (b)	37	45
RD&D ERA Net (b)	43	–
Odyssey Mure (a)	–	3
Other (a)	26	36
	325	263

(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 voted funds and therefore funds received are retained within SEAI.

5. Other Income

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

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Other income	47	50
RERD&D Co-funding income	128	82
	175	132

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:

		2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Salaries & related charges	6.1	8,654	7,056
Pension costs	15(a)	2,474	2,288
Recruitment, Training & Education		340	248
Advertising and Promotion		390	219
General Professional fees	6.2	380	90
Rent, Rates and Service Charges	6.3	2,862	2,866
Information Technology	6.4	2,084	1,486
General Administration	6.5	1,613	1,434
		18,797	15,687

6.1 Salaries and Related Charges

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Staff short-term benefits	7,251	5,955
Employers PRSI	763	609
Agency/Contract Staff	564	420
Board Member Emoluments	18	72
	8,654	7,056

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 (2020: €0).

No overtime payments were incurred by SEAI in the year (2020: €0).

The Authority remitted €175,526 (2020: €166,793) in employee superannuation contributions to its parent department DECC in 2021 in respect of the SEAI's superannuation scheme. It also remitted €228,622 (2020: €155,194) to DPER in respect of Single Scheme members. The Authority is not required to make employer contributions under the schemes.

Additional superannuation Contribution (ASC)

€218,544 (2020: €199,576) 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.

Chief Executive's Remuneration

The current CEO was formally appointed in January 2021 having previously served as acting CEO in 2020. The CEO remuneration in 2021 was €146,190 (2020: €128,528) and expenses were €423 (2020: €691).

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

Key Management Remuneration

The total value of the employee benefits for key management personnel is set out below:

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Salaries	1,137,109	898,497

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.

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 127 (2020: 95). The number of full -time equivalent employees at the end of the period was 125.5 (2020: 93.1).

6.2 General Consultancy and Professional Fees

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Strategic Advice	290	19
Board Secretary Fees	90	71
	380	90

6.3 Rent, Rates and Service Charges

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Rent	2,074	1,988
Rates	206	–
Utilities	582	878
	2,862	2,866

Rates for the head office at Three Park Place became effective from 2021 for the first time. Credits were received in 2021 in respect of reduced light and heat expenses due to remote working, resulting in a reduction in service charges.

6.4 Information Technology

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
IT Licenses & General Expenditure	843	739
IT Maintenance and Support	735	547
IT Systems development	506	200
	2,084	1,486

6.5 General Administration

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Travel & Subsistence – Staff	2	3
Travel & Subsistence - Board	–	–
Depreciation	908	932
Audit fees – external	35	35
Audit fees - internal	59	70
Insurance and Legal	374	142
Other	235	252
	1,613	1,434

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

7. Programme Expenditure

Programme expenditure is made up of the following items:

		2021 €'000	2020 €'000
ENERGY EFFICIENCY			
Better Energy Warmer Homes	7.1	38,802	24,024
Better Energy Warmth & Wellbeing	7.2	3,346	2,236
Better Energy Homes	7.3	16,640	20,012
Solar PV	7.4	10,229	8,060
Deep Retrofit Pilot	7.5	1,244	8,327
Community Energy	7.6	24,314	17,564
National Home Retrofit Scheme	7.7	11,030	2,189
Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme	7.8	1,540	1,575
Industry & Business Programme	7.9	5,213	4,444
Public Sector Energy Efficiency	7.10	15,761	9,967
Schools Programme	7.11	125	371
Market Surveillance	7.12	839	417
RENEWABLE ENERGY			
Renewable Energy Research, Development & Deployment	7.13	6,378	3,641
Offshore Energy	7.14	2,444	2,316
Support Scheme for Renewable Heat	7.15	582	749
INNOVATION & INTEGRATION			
Strategic Policy Analysis	7.16	735	945
Energy Statistics and Modelling	7.17	555	303
TRANSPORT			
Electric Vehicles	7.18	69,459	26,361
		209,236	133,501

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

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Energy Upgrades	34,824	21,175
Technical Services & Inspections	2,843	1,989
Operational Delivery	355	240
Other Operational Costs	103	215
IT Systems Development & Maintenance	677	403
Travel Costs	-	2
	38,802	24,024

The Better Energy Warmer Homes scheme supports upgrading the energy efficiency of privately-owned homes experiencing fuel poverty. In 2021, 2,272 (2020: 1,524) upgrades were carried out under the Better Energy Warmer Homes scheme.

7.2 Better Energy Warmth & Wellbeing

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Energy Upgrades	2,991	1,872
Technical Services & Inspections	302	240
Other Operational Costs	53	124
	3,346	2,236

The Warmth and Wellbeing Scheme was developed as a pilot scheme aimed at improving the living conditions of vulnerable people living with chronic respiratory conditions. In 2021, 146 (2020: 91) upgrades were carried out and paid for under the Warmth & Wellbeing Scheme.

7.3 Better Energy Homes

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Grants Issued	13,869	17,080
Technical Services & Inspections	1,035	1,171
Operational Delivery	1,430	1,357
Other Operational Costs	44	85
IT Costs	244	300
Advertising	18	17
Travel Costs	–	2
	16,640	20,012

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 2021, grants were paid on 7,928 homes (2020: 12,227).

Expenditure in 2021 was impacted by lockdowns implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and changes to requirements for some measures in the scheme.

7.4 Solar PV

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Grants Issued	9,428	7,355
Technical Services & Inspections	230	191
Operational Delivery	451	369
IT Costs	120	145
	10,229	8,060

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

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Grants Issued	1,136	7,961
Technical Services & Inspections	70	98
Other Operational Costs	38	268
	1,244	8,327

The Deep Retrofit Pilot programme was created to understand the challenges and opportunities of deep retrofit. The learning from these pilots has informed the approach towards large scale deep retrofit of buildings in Ireland. The pilot scheme has completed a total of 536 homes to date since the programme launch in 2017. The Deep Retrofit Pilot is closed to new applications.

7.6 Community Energy

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Grants Issued	21,970	15,809
Technical Services & Inspections	96	104
IT Costs	243	146
Other Operational Costs	555	395
SEC Mentoring Support	1,446	1,106
Travel Costs	4	4
	24,314	17,564

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. The Communities supported work across all sectors of Irish Society including agriculture.

Community Network: The Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) Network programme involves building capacity in communities to enable delivery of large-scale sustainable energy projects and transitioning to sustainable energy communities. A national SEC network with over 618 (2020: 485) members has been developed. 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 National Home Retrofit Scheme

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Grants Issued	9,314	2,032
Technical Services & Inspections	30	5
IT Costs	337	32
Demand Generation	893	–
Other Operational Costs	283	75
Commissioned Research	173	43
Travel Costs	–	2
	11,030	2,189

The National Home Retrofit (NHR) scheme is aimed at engaging and providing capital grant support to private households, registered Housing Associations and Local Authorities who wish to participate in delivering a “One Stop Shop” type service for energy upgrade works. The scheme was piloted in 2020 with further projects funded in 2021. Costs also include innovative financing initiatives, commissioned research and demand generation activities aimed at informing and promoting the broader National Retrofit Strategy.

The scheme has informed the development of the new National Home Energy Upgrade Scheme (launched in February 2022) and the development of the One Stop Shop delivery model.

7.8 Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Programme & Systems Development	1,000	1,058
Technical Services & Inspections	260	301
Other Operational Costs	280	213
Travel Costs	–	3
	1,540	1,575

The Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme (EEOS) supports the wider development of the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme pursuant to implementation of Article 7 of Energy Efficiency Directive the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan. It also supports the ongoing development of new national retrofit programmes business information systems. In 2019 the EU Commission recast the Energy Efficiency Directive that will cover the period from 2021-2030. SEAI is the administrator for energy credit management for the Scheme. Following transposition, this requires the development and launch of a new Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme from 2022 to 2030. SEAI has delegated responsibility from the Minister in specific areas of Scheme operations.

7.9 Industry and Business Programme

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
EXEED	3,811	2,939
LIEN	484	443
SME Supports	153	388
Promoting Energy Efficiency in Business	115	230
ACA/Triple E Operational Costs	175	140
IT Costs	475	304
	5,213	4,444

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. The SEAI Energy Academy was developed to help business increase energy efficiency and reduce related costs. In 2021, the Support Scheme for Energy Audits was launched.

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

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Public Sector Capital Grants	14,228	8,125
Client Advisory Services	1,071	1,295
IT Costs	292	252
Other Operational Costs	169	287
Travel Costs	1	8
	15,761	9,967

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 2021, Public Sector Pathfinder actions were continued to test approaches and build scale for deep retrofit actions in central government buildings, schools, higher education, and health.

7.11 Schools Programme

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Schools Programme	125	371
	125	371

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

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Market Surveillance	773	396
IT Costs	66	18
Travel Costs	–	3
	839	417

SEAI acts as Managing Agent and carries out market surveillance activities on behalf of the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications. 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

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Grants Issued	6,075	3,414
Other Operational Costs	228	144
IT Costs	5	30
Commissioned Research	68	49
Travel Costs	2	4
	6,378	3,641

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. SEAI issued a new RD&D call in 2021 which led to an increase in the value of grants issued.

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 Offshore Energy

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Grants Issued	311	470
Sub- Contracted Works	1,801	1,439
Other Operational Costs	332	406
Travel Costs	–	1
	2,444	2,316

The Offshore Energy Programme is administered by SEAI to implement the Government's policy decision to accelerate the development of Offshore and Ocean Energy in Ireland, as set out in the Climate Action Plan and 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

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Investment/ Operating Aid	204	12
Technical Advice	75	205
Operational Delivery	221	249
Other Operational Costs	62	203
IT Costs	20	80
	582	749

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

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Programme Operation	302	272
Commissioned Research	371	514
IT Costs	62	159
	735	945

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

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Commissioned Research	185	143
Other Operational Costs	245	48
IT Costs	125	107
Travel Costs	-	5
	555	303

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

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Grants Issued	68,142	25,666
Operational Delivery	684	352
Other Costs	81	95
Advertising	372	74
IT Development & Maintenance	180	174
	69,459	26,361

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. A total of 13,432 (2020: 4,843) electric vehicles and 8,379 (2020: 3,523) home chargers were grant aided under this programme in 2021.

8. Appropriations

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
EU Contract Income	20	39
Grant Refunds	17	44
Other	32	4
	69	87

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 2021.

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

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Operational Delivery	873	751
Programme Development	221	157
Quality Assurance	797	899
IT Support & Maintenance	344	473
IT System Development	561	139
Travel Costs	-	3
	2,796	2,422

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 €3,153,795 (2020: €2,755,595) resulting in a surplus in the year of €357,814 (2020: (€333,798)).

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 2021	1,478	1,738	498	4,211	59	120	8,104
Disposals	(4)	(870)	–	–	–	–	(874)
Additions	121	–	–	–	–	–	121
Balance at 31 December 2021	1,595	868	498	4,211	59	120	7,351
DEPRECIATION:							
Balance at 1 January 2021	(1,125)	(1,724)	(335)	(871)	(36)	–	(4,091)
Disposals	4	862	–	–	–	–	866
Charge for Current year	(316)	–	(163)	(417)	(12)	–	(908)
Balance at 31 December 2021	(1,437)	(862)	(498)	(1,288)	(48)	–	(4,133)
Net Book Value Balance at 31 December 2021	158	6	–	2,923	11	120	3,218
Net Book Value at 31 December 2020	353	14	163	3,340	23	120	4,013

11. Receivables & Prepayments

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
RERD&D Co-funding income	146	197
EPBD Receivables	292	260
Prepayments	1,129	688
Other Receivables	162	110
	1,729	1,255

12. Payables & Accruals

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Trade Creditors	325	519
Accruals	948	757
VAT & RCT	1,516	1,247
PSWT	692	529
PAYE/PRSI	265	203
Other Payables	210	224
Deferred Income	853	739
	4,809	4,218

13. Capital Account

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Opening balance	4,013	4,650
TRANSFER (TO)/ FROM STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE AND RETAINED REVENUE RESERVES:		
Amount capitalised in respect of purchased assets	121	295
Net amount released on disposal	(8)	–
Amortisation in line with asset depreciation	(908)	(932)
	(795)	(637)
Balance at end of year	3,218	4,013

14. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Current Bank Account	10	10
Savings Account	3,055	2,325
EPBD Account	2,666	1,833
	5,731	4,168
EU Funds Account	794	812
	6,525	4,980

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 held in the EU Funds account relate 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 2021. 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

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Current Service Costs	2,628	2,192
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	250	418
Staff Superannuation Deductions (Note 6.1)	(404)	(322)
Pension Cost in the period	2,474	2,288

B. Analysis of the movement in Liability during the year

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Scheme liability at 1 January	47,768	39,891
Current service cost	2,628	2,192
Interest cost	250	418
Actuarial loss / (gain)	185	5,530
Benefits paid in the year	(417)	(263)
Scheme Liability at 31 December	50,414	47,768

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.

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions for the Year		
Funding recoverable in respect of current year pension costs	2,878	2,610
State Grant applied to pay pensions	(417)	(263)
	2,461	2,347

The deferred funding asset for pensions as at 31 December 2021 amounted to €50,414,000 (2020: €47,768,000).

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

D. History of experience gains and losses

Experience Gains/ (Losses) on scheme liabilities	2021 €'000	2020 €'000	2019 €'000
Amount (€)	(149)	(647)	553
Percentage of present value of the scheme liabilities	0.3%	1.3%	1.4%
Total amount recognised in Statement of Comprehensive Income	(185)	(5,530)	(6,193)
Percentage of present value of the scheme liabilities	0.4%	11.6%	15.5%

The cumulative actuarial loss recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income amounts to €23,586,000 (2020: €23,401,000).

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 20th January 2022 by a qualified independent actuary taking account of the requirements of the FRS in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 31 December 2021.

The main financial assumptions used were:

	At 31/12/21	At 31/12/20	At 31/12/19
Discount rate	1.30%	0.50%	1.00%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.50%	2.70%	2.80%
Rate of increase in pensions	2.20%	1.40%	1.50%
Inflation	2.20%	1.40%	1.50%

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 2021) at age 65	Future pensioner (in 2041) at age 65
Male	21.9 years	24.3 years
Female	24.2 years	26.3 years

16. Grant Commitments and grant repayments/refunds

(i) Grant Commitments

It is estimated that the maximum future payments likely to arise from commitments entered under various support schemes will amount to €123.591m (2020: €91.59m).

	Committed As at 1 Jan 2021 €'000	Committed During the period €'000	De-committed €'000	Payments €'000	Committed As at 31 Dec 2021 €'000
ENERGY EFFICIENCY					
Better Energy Homes	12,345	20,873	(7,831)	(13,861)	11,526
Solar PV	4,054	17,183	(2,754)	(9,435)	9,048
Deep Retrofit	5,874	–	(2,893)	(1,204)	1,777
EXEED	3,942	3,263	(1,788)	(3,373)	2,044
Public Sector Energy Efficiency	3,736	15,616	(88)	(14,228)	5,036
Community Energy	21,954	35,656	(18,525)	(21,896)	17,189
National Home Retrofit Scheme	32	22,078	(32)	(9,393)	12,685
RENEWABLE ENERGY					
Renewable Energy Research, Development & Deployment	11,442	12,753	(1)	(5,067)	19,127
Offshore Energy	1,285	51	(331)	(311)	694
Support Scheme for Renewable Heat	18,617	11,945	–	(219)	30,343
TRANSPORT					
Electric Vehicles	8,309	82,854	(8,738)	(68,303)	14,122
	91,590	222,272	(42,981)	(147,290)	123,591

Some programmes have been re-grouped to correspond to the structure within the Programme Expenditure note (Note 7).

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

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 €222,438 (2020: €201,467). 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. Board member expenses of €276 were paid in 2021 (2020: €0).

Board Fees	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Julie O'Neill	–	3
Michael Wall	3	8
Lisa Ryan	8	8
Peter Brennan	8	8
Joe O'Carroll	8	8
Kate Ruddock	8	8
Justina Corcoran	–	–
Andrew Ennis	7	7
Ann Markey	7	7
Lean Doody	8	8
Dermot Byrne	12	4
Sharon O'Connor	7	3
Total	76	72

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 five years from the commencement date of the lease on 14 May 2023. The authority also has sub offices located in Cork, Dundalk and Sligo.

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

	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
OPERATING LEASES		
Within 1 Year	2,006	1,999
During 2 to 5 Years	7,971	7,974
Over 5 Years	30,379	32,355
Total	40,356	42,329

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 2021 was €1,952,448 (2020: €1,942,970).

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 30 March 2022.



Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

Three Park Place
Hatch Street Upper
Dublin 2
Ireland
D02 FX65

e info@seai.ie
w www.seai.ie
t +353 1 808 2100

 |  |  |  @seai_ie



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland