

National Home Energy Upgrade Scheme Homeowner Guide

The Government has committed to upgrading half a million homes by 2030. This document describes the steps the homeowner needs to take in order to become part of this national movement to decarbonise our country.

So, you are considering a Home Energy Upgrade to transform the comfort levels of your home and reduce your energy bills. You want to invest in your home, and you are aware of the benefits:

- **Comfort:** You will enjoy a warmer, cosier and healthier home by upgrading your insulation and adding renewables.
- **Savings:** You will save on energy bills by using less energy and adding renewable energy to your home.
- **Environment:** An energy efficient home will reduce your emissions and your carbon footprint.
- **Value:** By upgrading your home to a B2 energy rating or higher you can increase the value of your property.

What are the next steps?

The process can be complex and confusing, and you will likely have many questions.

What insulation do I need? Can I afford to change from a boiler to a more sustainable heating system? What is a heat pump? Can I get new windows? What will it cost? What grants can I get? How do I find a good contractor? Can I get a loan? Do I have to leave my home while the work is being carried out? Who will manage it all?

Where do I start?

One Stop Shops

Fortunately, there are SEAI registered One Stop Shops available to guide you through the whole process and deliver a warm, comfortable home that saves on your heating bills and reduces your carbon footprint.

A One Stop Shop will manage your home energy upgrade from start to finish. They will provide all the contractors and specialists to guide you from initial home assessment and design through to project completion. They will identify the best solutions for your home, give you a quote on works, organise and manage works completion, present you with finance options, apply for the grants on your behalf and discount all available grant supports from the overall upgrade cost invoiced to you.

Is my home eligible for a National Home Energy Upgrade Grant?

Your One Stop Shop can determine if your home is eligible in the initial survey, but your home should:

- ✓ Be built on or before 2010
- ✓ Achieve a minimum BER B2 after the upgrades
- ✓ Complete a deep Upgrade (BER reduction in energy use of 100kWh/m²/year which your BER Assessor will advise you on.)

Step 1: Contact One Stop Shop

To find out more contact a Registered One Stop Shop, there's a list on the SEAI website. They will ask you some basic questions for a preliminary assessment to determine if your home is suitable for an energy upgrade and what supports are available. This may be done over the phone or online.

They can get a lot of technical information from your MPRN (electricity meter number) and any recent Building Energy Rating (BER) that may have been carried out on your home. This will help them to determine when your home was built, the house type and give them further details on your property, and its energy efficiency.

The One Stop Shop will then explain how to get more detailed advice on options for a home energy upgrade through a Home Energy Assessment. They will also explain your options, available grant supports and timelines for your home energy upgrade.

Step 2: Home Energy Assessment

Once you decide to continue your journey to get advice on a home energy upgrade, the One Stop Shop will conduct a detailed onsite review of your home with a Home Energy Assessment.

An energy expert will visit your home and complete a BER (Building Energy Rating) and a technical assessment. The assessment will also calculate the heat loss in your home and what is required to make it suitable for a heat pump. They will also ask for details of your heating costs over the previous year to help assess what cost savings may be available to you.

This assessment typically takes 1-2 hours, and you will receive a report recommending various efficiency and renewable upgrades to achieve a B2 BER or better energy rating. This will be tailored to your home and your requirements, with an estimate of the costs and what grants are available.

At this stage you will have a much better understanding of the energy efficiency and renewable options available. You will be presented with clear pathways to your warm and comfortable B2 or better energy rated home.

There is an SEAI grant available of €350 towards the cost of a Home Energy Assessment.

Step 3: Home Energy Upgrade

If you are happy with the options and quote provided by your One Stop Shop, then you can start your home energy upgrade. You will have peace of mind knowing all works will be organised and completed to the required standards and technical specifications.

The One Stop Shop will provide you with a contract for the home energy upgrade. They will take care of everything, including applying for grants, procuring, managing and coordinating the contractors completing all work, quality assuring the works, commissioning and handover of the project to you.

The One Stop Shop should have all the required information. You will know clearly what's involved and how long it will take. They can discuss if you are planning additional renovation or extension works at the same time (*these are not grant funded*) and how disruptive the works will be.

The One stop shop will clearly discount the grants from the overall cost of works invoiced to you, and the grant will be paid directly to the One Stop Shop.

The choice is yours

You are not committed to any One Stop Shop. If you are not completely satisfied with the proposal or service proposed after your Home Energy Assessment, then you are free to discuss options with another One Stop Shop.

You may also decide that a full home energy upgrade is not the best option for you at this time. Budget or other factors may mean you wish to go for a partial energy upgrade, which is still an option. Your One Stop Shop can also help you with that.

When choosing a One Stop Shop ask for references, discuss with your friends and neighbours what they have done and if they are satisfied with their home energy upgrades.

With SEAI's new National Home Energy Upgrade Scheme grants and a complete One Stop Shop service, there has never been a better time to upgrade your home's energy efficiency.

Grants Amounts

Private Homes				
Measure	Detached	Semi-Detached / End Terrace	Mid Terrace	Apartment
Heat Pump		€6,500		€4,500
Central Heating System for Heat Pump		€2,000		€1,000
Heat Pump Air-to-Air		€3,500		
Heating Controls only		€700		
Launch bonus for reaching B2 with a Heat Pump		€2,000		
Ceiling Insulation	€1,500	€1,300	€1,200	€800
Rafter Insulation	€3,000	€3,000	€2,000	€1,500
Cavity Wall Insulation	€1,700	€1,200	€800	€700
External Wall Insulation	€8,000	€6,000	€3,500	€3,000
Internal Wall Insulation	€4,500	€3,500	€2,000	€1,500
Windows (Complete Upgrade)	€4,000	€3,000	€1,800	€1,500
External Doors (max. 2)		€800 per door		
Floor Insulation		€3,500		
Solar Thermal		€1,200		
Solar PV		0 to 2 kWp €900/kWp 2 to 4 kWp €300/kWp		
Mechanical Ventilation		€1,500		
Air Tightness		€1,000		
Home Energy Assessment		€350		
Project Management	€2,000	€1,600	€1,200	€800