

Energy upgrade supports for GAA clubs

Communities working together

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) works with a wide range of communities in carrying out building energy efficiency projects and improving the energy performance of their local buildings and facilities, including GAA clubs. These projects improve the quality and comfort of these buildings. They also help to lower energy bills so the savings can go towards other community resources. SEAI administers a number of Government funded grant schemes to support investment in energy efficiency and renewables.

Better Energy Communities

The exchequer funded Better Energy Communities (BEC) programme aims to upgrade existing buildings and facilities to the highest standard of energy efficiency and renewable energy usage possible. In doing so, it reduces energy costs for the community and our collective CO₂ emissions.



BEC assists energy efficiency community projects through capital funding, partnerships, and technical support. Through BEC, communities receive Government grant funding to help them upgrade local buildings, businesses and homes. Measures supported include; insulation, heating control upgrades and installation of renewable energy sources.

Over the past five years, the Better Energy Communities programme has funded over 300 community projects, resulting in energy improvements in over 12,000 homes and hundreds of community and public buildings throughout the country.

In 2016, seven GAA clubs received funding through Better Energy Communities, including Ramor United GFC and Kilinkere GFC in Cavan, Piltown GAA in Kilkenny, HollyCross GAA in Tipperary, Na Fianna in Dublin, Brian Dillons Hurling & Football Club in Cork and Na Piarsaigh GAA, Limerick.

BEC involved the whole community and partnership is essential for a successful application. Projects typically include community facilities, churches, businesses and homes. There must be upgrades to domestic and non-domestic buildings in the application. These partnerships can be assisted by SEAI if required.

Grant Amount	Eligible Costs	Schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 30% is typical• Up to 50% possible for not-for-profit/community sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy efficiency works (capital costs)• Project Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual cycle• Application by end of Jan• Grants awarded by April• Works complete by October

Brian Dillons Hurling & Football Club in Cork City was part of community energy efficiency drive, which also saw the upgrade of three churches, a library, three local businesses and 121 homes. The club adopted a fabric first approach and installed attic and cavity wall insulation. They also upgraded windows and doors. Once they had addressed heat loss from their club, they looked at renewable sources of energy, and installed PV panels, which reduces their hot water costs.

Benefits of Energy Upgrades

More comfortable buildings
Lower energy costs
Environmental sustainability



More information: <https://www.seai.ie/grants/community-grants/>

EXEED

EXEED (Excellence in Energy Efficient Design) is a certification process that incentivises and rewards energy efficiency in the design process.

The benefit of EXEED is that energy performance is considered at the very beginning of the design of a new build or major upgrade, reducing energy consumption and operational costs for the lifetime of the building. The EXEED process could apply at the design stage of new GAA facilities or in identifying energy saving opportunities in major upgrade works to existing buildings. EXEED is a certification process, so a level of commitment is required. Typically, a project can receive 30% of capital costs and 50% for professional services up to maximum €250k. If you are considering a new build or a major upgrade to existing buildings, EXEED could be good option for you to ensure that you build with energy performance in mind.

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