

Solar Meitheal Webinar

Thursday 25th April

7:00 – 8:00 pm



Housekeeping

This event is being recorded



Attendees are muted with cameras off



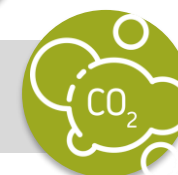
Questions submitted by clicking Q&A icon



Questions will be answered at end of event



A recording will be distributed after the event



An FAQ will be created and shared from all questions submitted



Webinar Presenters

- **Susan Richardson (Host)**

Programme Manager

Sustainable Energy Communities Programme, SEAI

- **Mel Gavin**

R&D Coordinator

Atlantic Technological University (ATU) Sligo

SEC Regional Coordinator Border/West

Agenda

Time	Activity
7:00 – 7:10 pm	Introduction and Agenda
7:10 – 7:30 pm	Solar Meitheal Explainer
7:30 – 7:40 pm	Introduction to SEC Panellists
7:40 – 7:59 pm	SEC Panellists Discussion & Audience Q&A
7:59 – 8:00 pm	Closing Remarks

Solar PV – Current Grants

Domestic Grants

- Solar PV 0-2 KWp €800/KWp
- Solar PV 2-4 KWp €250/KWp
 - Maximum Grant = €2,100



[SEAI SEC Workshop Series | Workshop 8: Solar Electricity
Solar PV for homeowners \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Solar Electricity PV Grants | Home Energy Grants | SEAI](#)

Solar Meitheal Toolkit



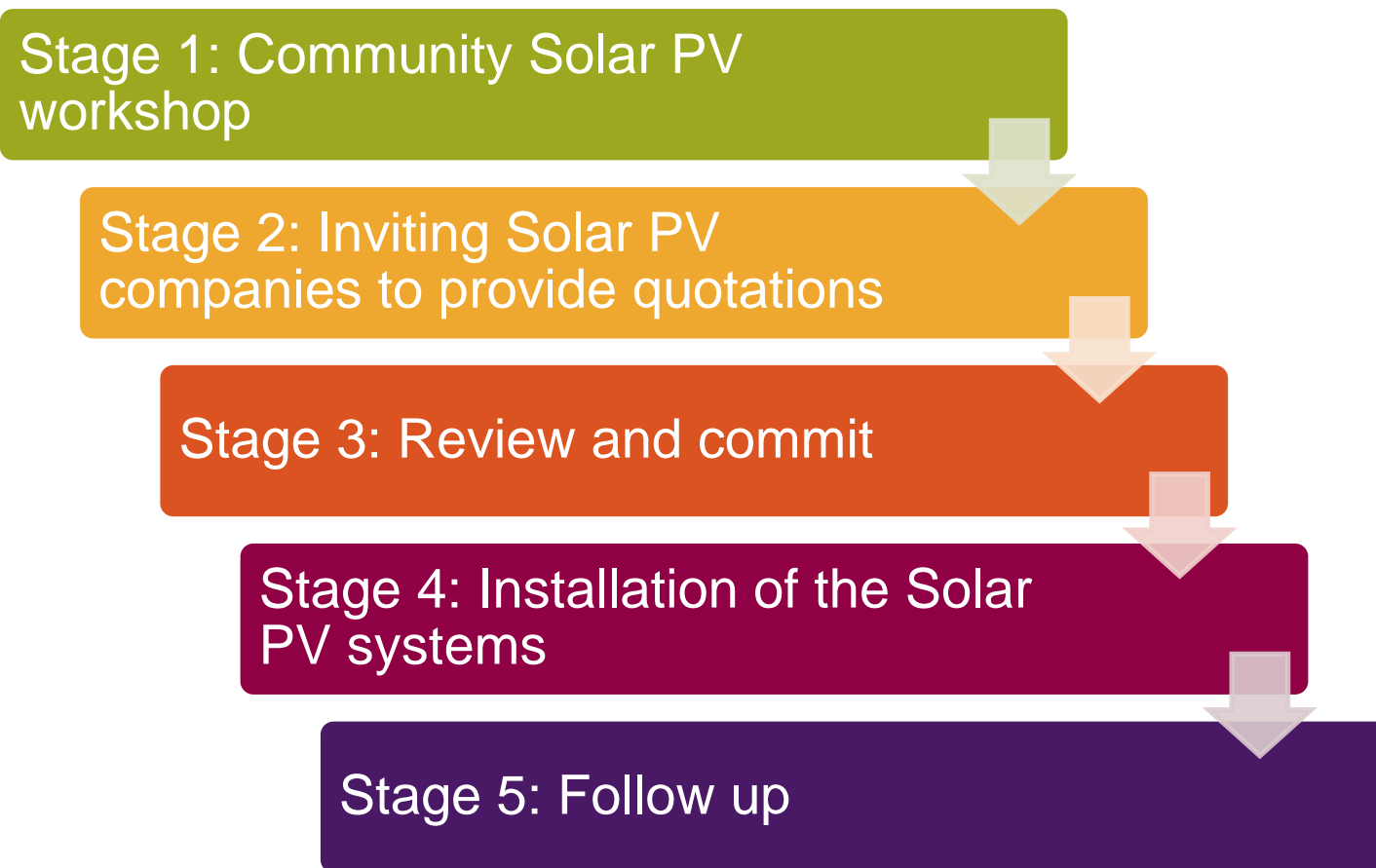
What is a 'Solar Meitheal'?

Meitheal is an Irish term which describes neighbours coming together to complete common tasks in their community. Traditionally, this would have included cutting turf and harvesting crops.

In a Solar Meitheal, the community come together to support the installation of Solar PV systems in their homes. The common stages of a Solar Meitheal are illustrated below and detailed in the following sections.

What is a 'Solar Meitheal'?

Common stages of a Solar Meitheal are illustrated here and detailed in the following sections. This is not a rigid sequence and will vary for different SECs.



Stage 1: Community PV workshop

- Invite the local homeowners
- Present the concept of the Solar Meitheal
- Provide information to **help them decide** if Solar PV is a good option for them

Additional tools	Notes
Solar PV for homes (pdf document)	Guidance document to help a homeowner understand how Solar PV works, and if it is a good option for their home. <u>Includes guidance on seeking quotations from Solar PV Installers</u>
Solar PV for homes (PowerPoint)	Summary of the above document, more suitable for presentation.
Solar PV – toolkit for homes (Excel)	Spreadsheet to calculate the potential value of a Solar PV system. Requires familiarity with Excel.
SEAI Payback Calculator for Domestic Solar PV (SEAI webtool)	Online tool for quick calculation of estimated payback. https://www.seai.ie/tools/solar-electricity-calculator/

Stage 1: Community PV workshop

- Invite the local homeowners
- Present the concept of the Solar Meitheal
- Provide information to **help them decide** if Solar PV is a good option for them

Typical outcomes for Stage 1:

- **Local homeowners better informed** on the potential value of Solar PV.
- The SEC receives consent (sign up) from homeowners to seek Solar PV quotations on their behalf.
- The homeowners provide the details of their home for the purpose of seeking quotations.

Stage 2: Inviting Solar PV companies

- Sometimes combined with Stage 1
- When contacting Solar PV companies ask if they can offer a Solar Meitheal discount.
- Set a deadline for return of quotations so that the project maintains momentum.

Additional tools	Notes
SEAI register of Solar PV Companies (SEAI webpage)	You can find a list of registered Solar PV companies at: https://www.seai.ie/grants/find-a-registered-professional/solar-pv-companies/ This allows you to search by county.

Stage 2: Inviting Solar PV companies

- Sometimes combined with Stage 1
- When contacting Solar PV companies ask if they can offer a Solar Meitheal discount.
- Set a deadline for return of quotations so that the project maintains momentum.

Typical outcomes for Stage 2:

- 2-3 Solar PV companies engaged to provide quotations.
- List of confirmed homeowners, and their home details, sent to the companies.
- Quotations returned to the homeowners (or the SEC) from each supplier

Stage 3: Review and commit

- Challenging stage.
- Assessing the value of each offer from the Solar PV companies requires some understanding of the technology and terminology
- The assessment can be carried out by the homeowners or by the SEC team (with the homeowner's consent).

Additional tools	Notes
See all in Stage 1	
Solar PV quote comparison tool (Excel)*	Spreadsheet to compare quotations on a like-for-like basis. Requires familiarity with Excel.
How to apply for a Solar PV grant (PowerPoint)	Presentation with step-by-step guide on using the SEAI Solar PV grant online Application portal.
SEAI Application Portal (SEAI webpage)	https://mgen.seai.ie/

* The quote comparison tool compares simple cost figures e.g. €/kWp

Each homeowner should also consider their own experience of the quality of communication with the Solar PV companies.

Stage 3: Review and commit

- Challenging stage.
- Assessing the value of each offer from the Solar PV companies requires some understanding of the technology and terminology
- The assessment can be carried out by the homeowners or by the SEC team (with the homeowner's consent).

Typical outcomes for Stage 3:

- Local homeowners are better informed on the typical costs of Solar PV and the experience of reviewing quotations.
- List of homeowners committed to Solar PV installation.
- Homeowners agree contracts with their preferred Solar PV Companies.
- Solar PV grant applications approved.

Stage 4: Solar PV Installations

- Generally between the homeowners and their preferred Solar PV Companies
- The SEC may discuss site visits during the works with the Solar PV Companies
- Homeowners may record aspects of the installation to help the SEC with Stage 5

Typical outcomes for Stage 4:

- Solar PV systems installed on local homes.
- Homeowner experience and feedback collated for Stage 5.

Stage 5: Follow up

- Stage 5 is an opportunity to use the experience of the project to engage more homes and/or businesses
- Can be used to explore other energy upgrade opportunities

Typical outcomes for Stage 5:

- Engagement with wider group of homes and/or businesses in the community that are interested in Solar PV.
- Consideration for a follow up community project e.g. Insulation Meitheal.

Thank you, any questions?
Please put them in the Q&A



Introductions

- Avril Ní Shearcaigh – Aran Islands Energy Co-op SEC
- Adam Calihman – Greystones & Delgany SEC
- Martina O’Kearney Flynn – Glenmalure SEC
- Carol Loftus – Mulranny SEC

Thank you for your time this evening

