



## Finance for Home Energy Upgrades

Roisin Mulligan

# Policy Context for Low-Cost Finance



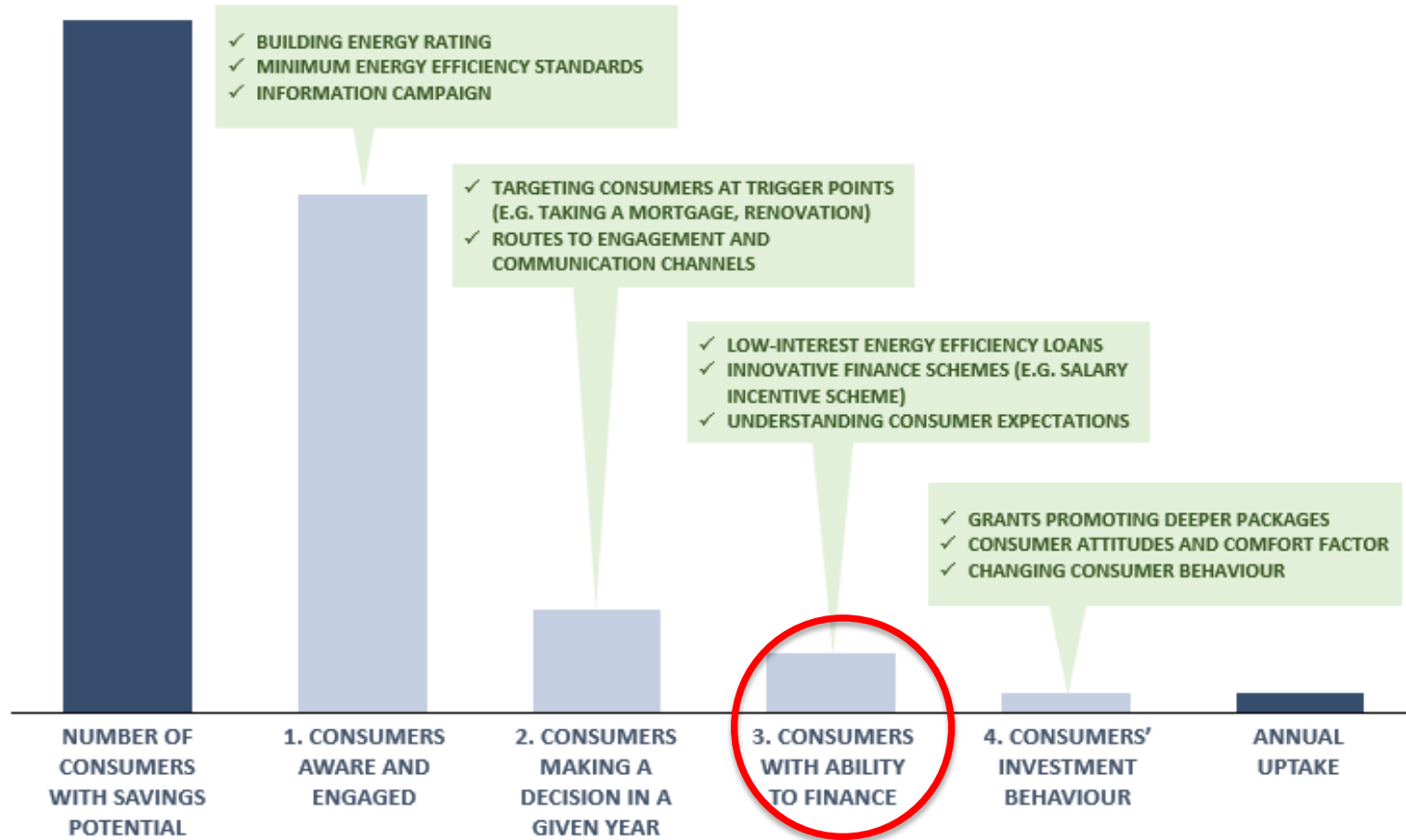
# Strategic alignment

- Climate Action Plan (CAP) targets for residential sector introduced in 2019 & restated in CAP 2021 & 2023:
  - 500,000 homes to be retrofitted to Building Energy Rating (BER) B2, or cost-optimal equivalent or carbon equivalent, by 2030.
  - 400,000 heat pumps installed in existing homes by 2030.
- CAP 2023 & National Retrofit Plan both identify the introduction of a new residential retrofit low-cost loan scheme as being a core element of a national approach to stimulating residential retrofit & achieving emissions targets.
- 2020 Programme for Government committed to introducing LCF
- Unlocking private finance for energy efficiency is a recurring priority in EU policy on energy efficiency.

# Consumer Research



# Consumer Decision-Making Framework



**5. IMPROVING ATTRACTIVENESS OF SUBSIDY AND SUPPORT PROGRAMMES**

- ✓ ONE-STOP SHOP
- ✓ TRUSTED ADVISORS THROUGHOUT
- ✓ LEARNINGS FROM SEAI PROGRAMMES
- ✓ SEAI BEHAVIOURAL ECONOMICS TEAM
- ✓ NEW SEAI PILOTS AND TRIALS
- ✓ PROMOTING DEEPER RETROFITS VIA POLICY DESIGN

## Research

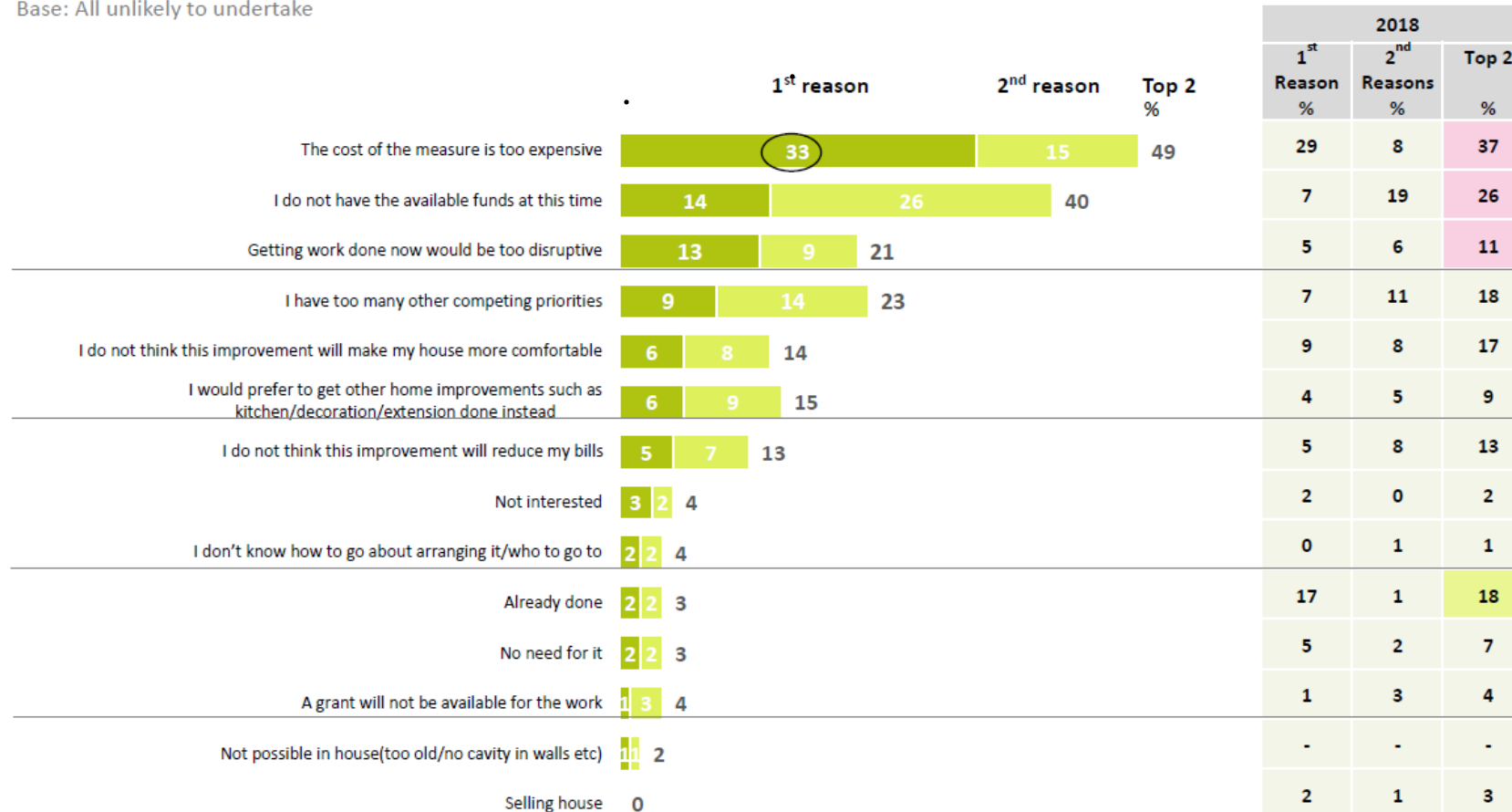
- Consumer surveys
- Focus groups
- Design thinking exercises
- Pilots and trials
- Funded research studies
- Data analysis & Modelling
- SEAI programme delivery experience

# Those Less likely to Upgrade - Too Expensive/Don't have Funds

Cost perception and lack of funding are the most important (prompted) deterrents to investment, with significant increases in respondents citing these reasons. There is also a reduction in respondents stating they have already made these upgrades in 2018.



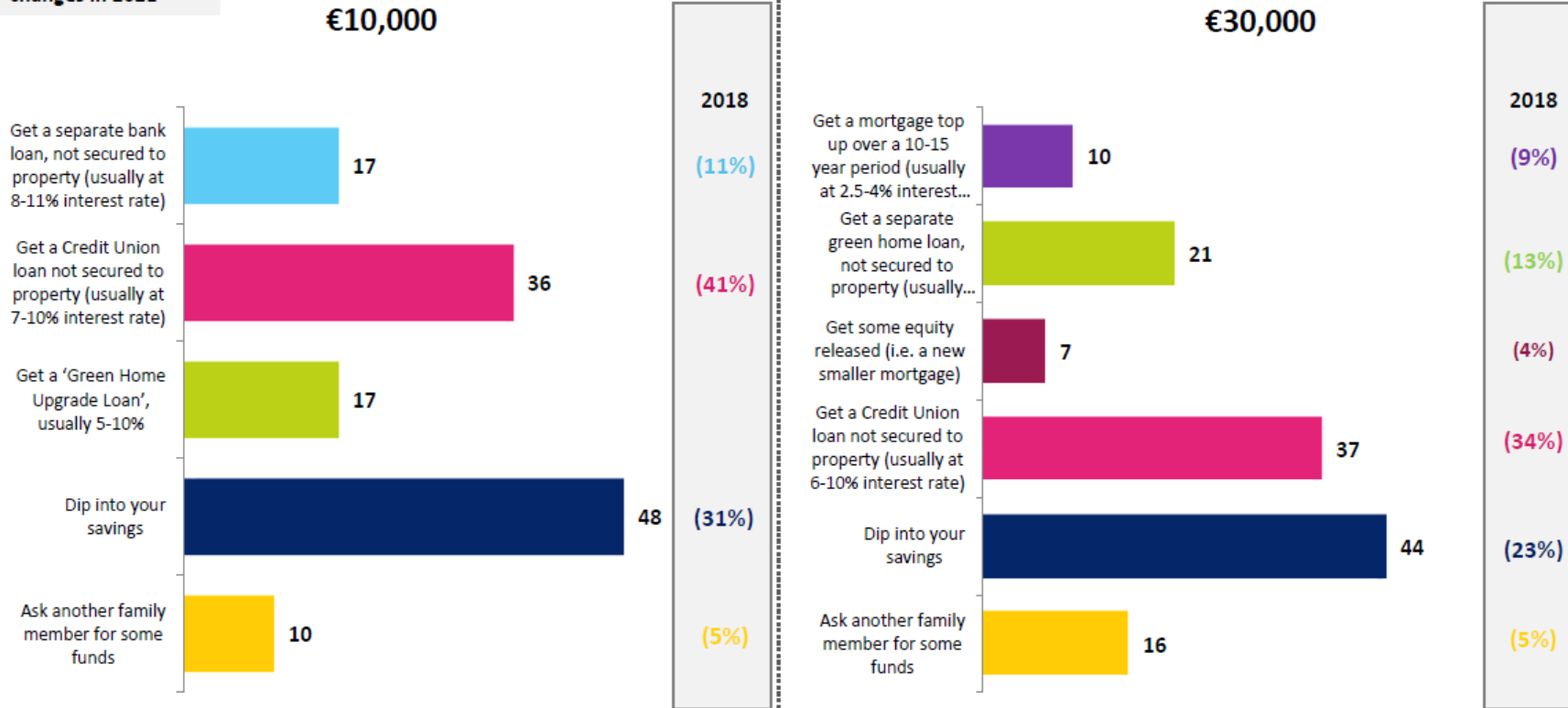
Base: All unlikely to undertake



# People more Willing to Borrow

Base: All householders - 658

\* Answer options changes in 2021



Albeit almost 2 in 5 opt for a loan/equity release for a 30k outlay.

Q.62c If you needed to get €10,000 to undertake some work on your home, which approach would you need to choose?

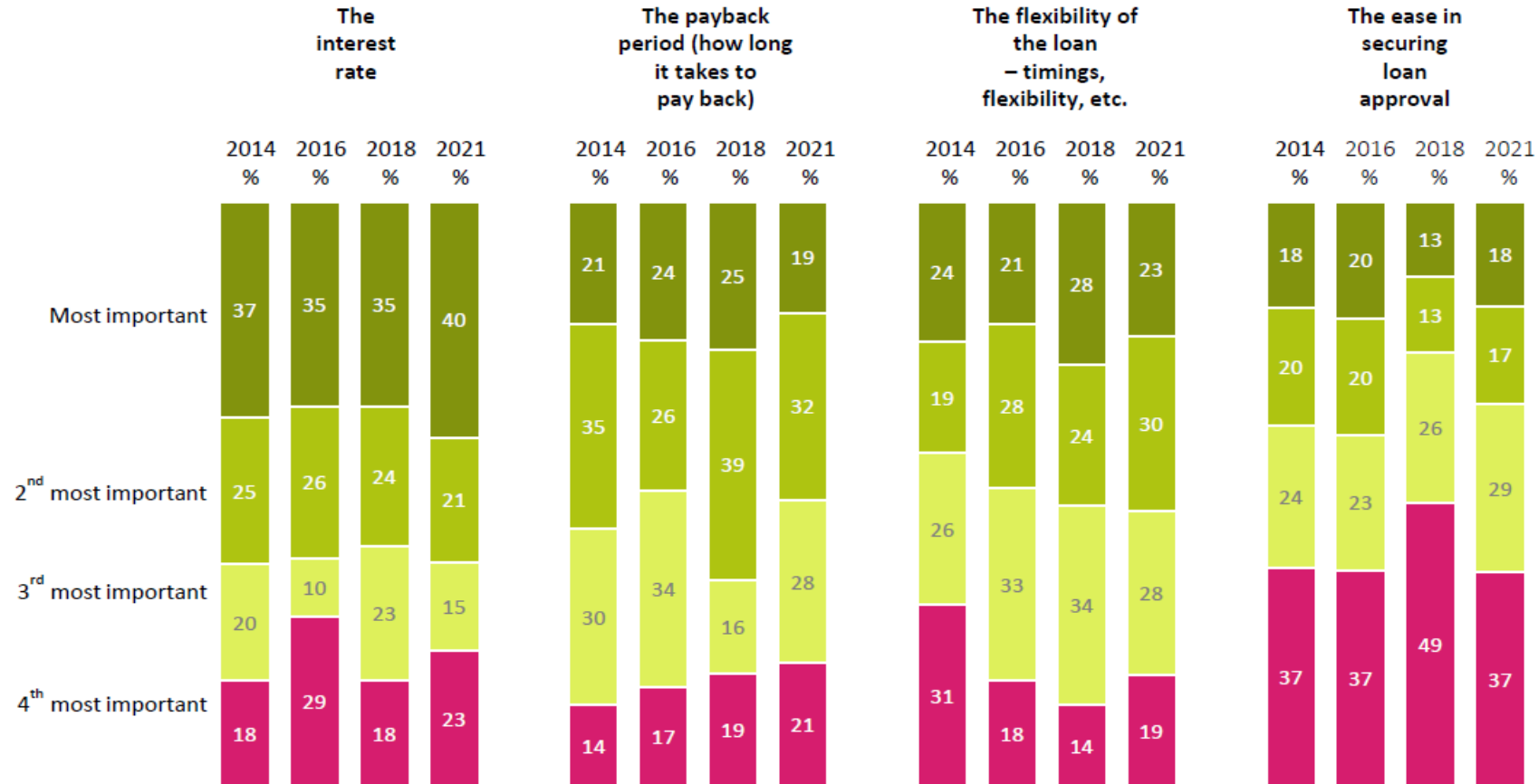
Q.62D If you needed to get a complete energy up-grade on your home, which typically costs €20,000- €30,000, which approach would you need to choose?



# Interest rate remains the most important consideration when getting a loan. Payback period and flexibility have decreased, while ease securing a loan increased in importance from 2018



Base: All Would Consider Loans for Improvements – 486



Q.92A Please rank in order of importance, the following aspects of a loan (ie why you go with one provider over another)?



# Choice Modelling and Cost Benefit Analysis



# Choice Modelling Key Findings-Loans

- Flexibility in choosing preferred repayment length is important for Irish consumers – No optimum repayment length
- Reducing the loan interest rate can increase uptake significantly
- Grants are still needed to maximise the uptake rate
- Consumers perceive a ‘bonus’ in relation to a loan that is Government backed in comparison to normal bank loan
- A combined Grant and low interest rate is the most attractive to encourage action

# Current Finance Market



# The Current Lending Market

## Green Mortgages

- Reduction in standard mortgage rate
- Range from A3 to B3 Building Energy Rating (BER)
- Terms from 5 – 10 years
- Rates – fixed with a discount of around 0.2% on normal rates

## Green Personal Loans

- Both Fixed and Variable Terms that can be up to 10 years...but most offered at 5-7 years
- Rated from 4.9% upwards...but most in the 6.5%+ band

# Home Energy Upgrade Loan Scheme



# Home Energy Upgrade Loan Scheme

Government-backed, low-cost loans available through participating finance providers

The Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI) scheme will encourage homeowners to invest in energy efficiency, thereby improving comfort and reducing emissions.

The home energy upgrade works must qualify for a home energy grant from the SEAI, with a focus on co-ordinated projects



# Tenets of Impending Loan Scheme

- SBCI, backed by the EIB Group, will provide a guarantee to lenders
- Government Support to lower the Interest Rate
- Works must be eligible for SEAI grant scheme to qualify

## Key benefits include:

Reduced interest rate on loans to consumers

Availability of longer loan terms and higher value unsecured loans

Loan funds are provided upfront (for payment of deposits & interim works payments)

Demonstrates market potential and risk profile for lenders

'Bonus' factor associated with 'government-backed' loans for homeowners

[roisin.mulligan@seai.ie](mailto:roisin.mulligan@seai.ie)

 Follow @SEAI\_ie







Anseo chun gnó a fhorbairt  
Corparáid Baincéireachta Straitéiseach na hÉireann

Here to build business  
Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland

# HOME ENERGY UPGRADE LOAN SCHEME (KEY INFO)

# Who is involved?



Anseo chun gnó a fhorbairt  
Corparáid Baincéireachta Straitéiseach na hÉireann  
Here to build business  
Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



SEAI-registered  
One Stop Shops and  
Energy Partners



Finance Providers

# What you should know about HEULS?

The Home Energy Upgrade Loan Scheme (HEULS) aims to make **residential energy upgrades** more **accessible** and **affordable** for eligible **homeowners**.

## Loan Purpose

Loans must be used for the purposes of **upgrading the energy efficiency and decarbonisation** of a qualifying **residential property** located in the Republic of Ireland.



# Key Features



€5K - €75K

Applicants can borrow between €5,000 and €75,000 per property.



1 - 10 Years

Flexible repayment terms from 1 to 10 years.



Unsecured Loans

No security or personal guarantee required.



Interest Rate

Interest rates will be significantly lower than those currently available in the market.

# Who is eligible?

**Homeowners and small landlords investing in comprehensive energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades**



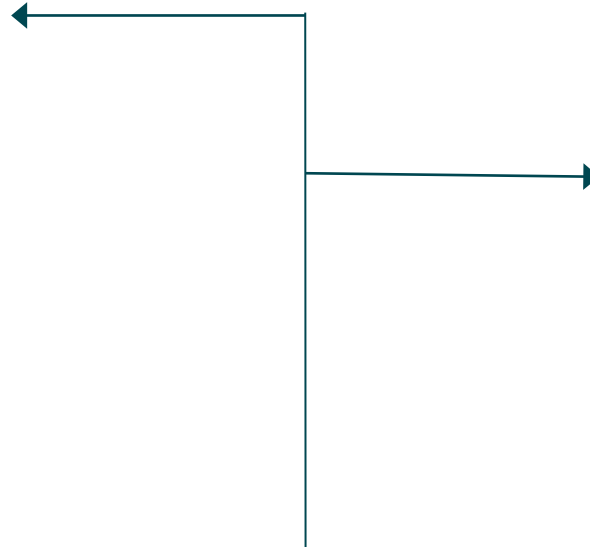
# How to be eligible?

The home energy upgrade works must qualify for a **home energy grant from SEAI**



BEFORE

Example



AFTER

# What is Excluded?



Finance to works for a non-residential property



Refinance of existing debt



Finance of any form of fossil fuel boilers



Finance to works that have previously received a SEAI grant and completed works

# How to Apply?

There is a **two-step process** to apply for a loan under HEULS.



## 1<sup>st</sup> STEP

Home Energy Assessment or BER with quotation for works

2 Steps



## 2<sup>nd</sup> STEP

Credit application process



# Growth and Sustainability Loan Scheme



**Anseo chun gnó a fhorbairt**

Corparáid Baincúireachta Straitéiseach na hÉireann

**Here to build business**

Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland

[sbci.gov.ie](http://sbci.gov.ie)

# CONTENTS



**01**      **SCHEME OVERVIEW**

---

**02**      **CLIMATE ACTION & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

---

**03**      **HOW TO APPLY**

---

**04**      **EXCLUSIONS**

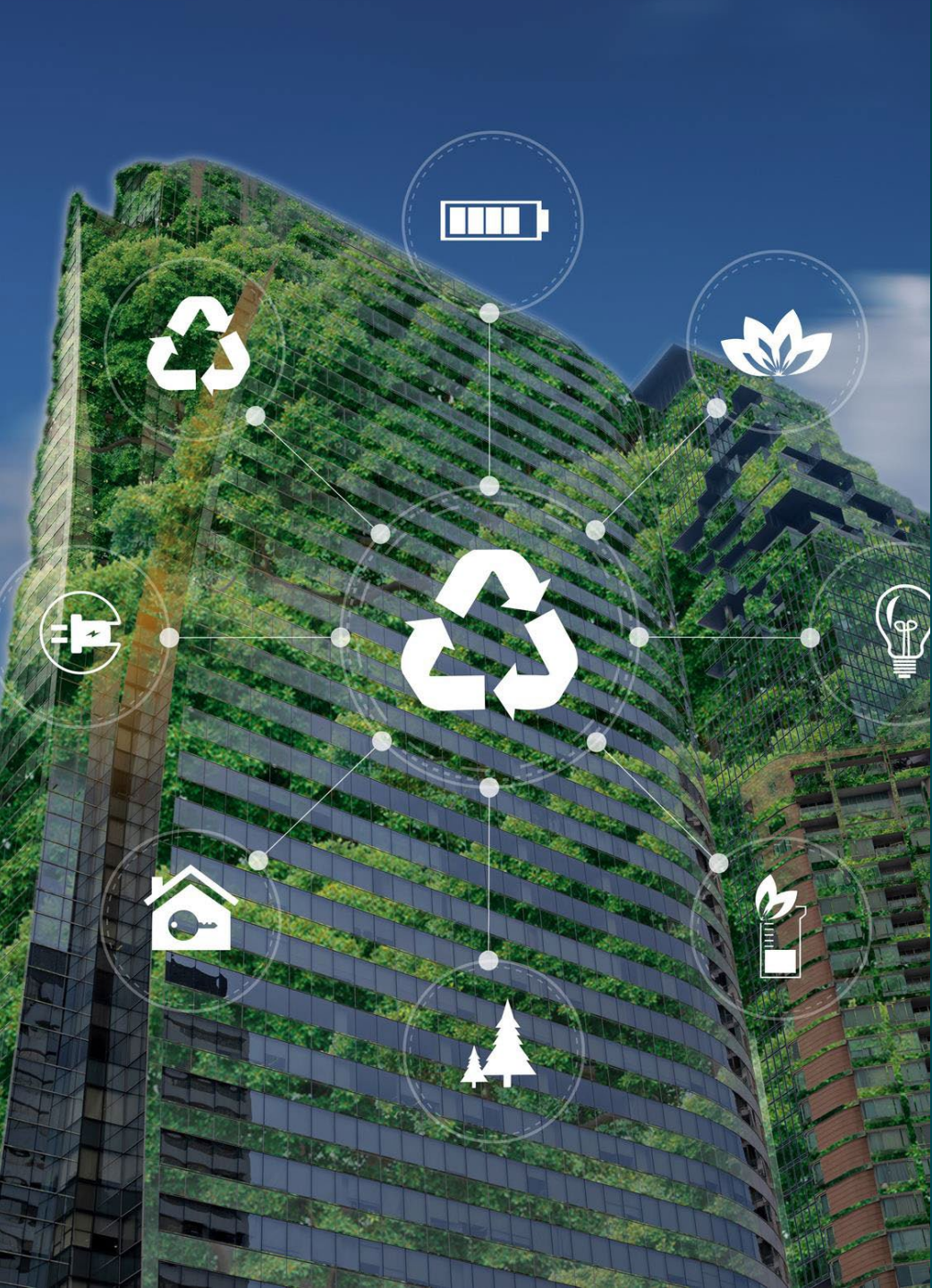
---

**05**      **FAQs**

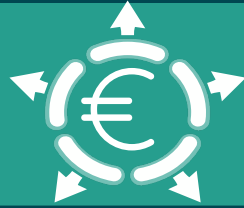
---

# Scheme Overview

0



# SCHEME OVERVIEW



€500M  
Discounted  
medium to long  
term loans



SME  
Small Mid-Cap  
Farmers & Fishers



Supported by  
Government  
Funding & Aligned  
with Policy



Distributed  
Through On-  
Lender Network



An Roinn Fiontar,  
Trádála agus Fostaíochta  
Department of Enterprise,  
Trade and Employment



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine



European  
Investment *Advisory Hub*  
Europe's gateway to investment support

# SCHEME FEATURES



**Loan amounts from €25,000 to €3,000,000**



**Loan term from 7 to 10 years**



**Unsecured loans up to €500,000**



**Loan purpose of enterprise growth and resilience, climate action and environmental sustainability**



**Reduced interest rate, with additional sustainability discount**

# SMEs & SMALL MID-CAPS

## *Scheme Eligibility Criteria*

Qualifying enterprises will be an SME or a Small Mid-Cap, including farmers, fishers, and foresters, which is:

- (i) established or has a branch in Ireland; and
- (ii) economically viable (which determination shall be made by the relevant On-Lender in accordance with its policies and procedures)

SMEs are defined by the standard EU definition [[Commission Regulation 2003/361/EC](#)] as enterprises that:

have fewer than 250 employees

have a turnover of €50 million or less (or €43 million or less on their balance sheet)

are independent and autonomous, i.e., not part of a wider group of enterprises

have less than 25% of their capital held by public bodies

A small mid-cap is an enterprise that is not an SME but has fewer than 500 employees.

Small mid-caps will comprise a maximum of 5% of the portfolio value.

# LOAN PURPOSE





# Climate Action & Environmental Sustainability

0



# HOW TO QUALIFY



## Green Enterprise – SME

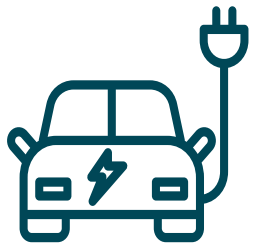
Enterprises that have revenue of 90% plus concentrated in areas under Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability such as:

Renewable energy, energy efficiency, circular economy, waste prevention and recycling.



## Green Enterprise – Farmer

Farm holdings participating in sustainable programmes such as the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine's Organic Farming Scheme, the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) and Bord Bia's Sustainable Farming Origin Green programme



## Investment in Green Measures

Broad range of investments include but are not limited to:

Building upgrades and renovations, Roof and wall insulation, Replacement windows, Replacement of existing lighting with energy efficient LEDs, Electric vehicles and, electric vehicle charging points, Manufacturing of energy efficient equipment / renewable energy equipment, Minimum tillage equipment, Tractor and harvester replacement, Agriculture building renovation or upgrade

# GREEN ENTERPRISE - SME



**Green Enterprise – SME**

Enterprises that have revenue of 90% plus concentrated in areas under Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability such as: Renewable energy, energy efficiency, circular economy, waste prevention and recycling.



Type	SME	Kevin - Owns a company specialising in recycling electronics.  Investment in new facilities and equipment to begin refurbishing computers for resale.	<p><b>Qualification criteria</b></p> <p>Investments in activities that are key to net resource saving through reuse, repair, refurbish, remanufacturing, repurpose or recycling activities.</p>
Employees	10		
Turnover	1,250,000		
Loan Amount	300k		

**If you are a Green Enterprise – SME**

You will need to provide an accountants letter detailing the eligible sector/s you are active in and the proportion of the business income from those activities, over the most recent 12 months for which financial information is available

- ✓ Be from a qualified, external accountant
- ✓ Be on accounting firm’s letterhead
- ✓ Contain the signature of the accountant
- ✓ Confirm that revenue from eligible sectors equals or exceeds 90% of the applicant’s turnover

**Loan Purpose**


- Does not need to be for a Green Measure
- Same purpose available as loans for Growth and Resilience


# GREEN ENTERPRISE – FARMER (Eco-Label Holder)



## Green Enterprise – Farmer

Farm holdings participating in sustainable programmes such as the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine’s Organic Farming Scheme, the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) and Bord Bia’s Sustainable Farming Origin Green programme. Criteria is unique to Ireland - effect of being in both schemes ties in with Government policy on CO2 emissions and sustainable farming practices and was a precondition from both the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine and the EIB Group.

	Type	SME	<p>Daniel – Mixed dairy &amp; beef farmer Based in the midlands.</p> <p>Purpose driven capital expenditure - investing in a combination of energy saving measures along with traditional agricultural machinery.</p>	<p><b>Qualification criteria:</b></p> <p>Qualifies as a Green Enterprise – Green Eco Label (Farmer) through combined Origin Green &amp; Acres Tier 2 membership.</p> <p>ACRES scheme has circa 45,000 members (35% of all farmers) and Origin green has circa 50,000.</p>
	Employees	2		
	Turnover	200k		
	Loan amount	100k		

	Type	SME	<p>Louise – Horticulture – Organic Farmer Inherited part of family farm &amp; has changed farm system from stock farming to organic horticulture.</p> <p>Investment in rain-water harvesting unit &amp; new green-house structure.</p>	<p><b>Qualification criteria:</b></p> <p>Qualifies as a Green Enterprise – Green Eco Label (Farmer) through Organic Farm status.</p>
	Employees	1		
	Turnover	150k		
	Loan amount	250k		

\*Horticulture farming in Ireland: production of fruit, vegetables and plants, or horticulture has a farmgate value of circa €400 million; There is approx. 4k organic farmers across various sectors in Ireland as of 2023 – an increase of 2k on 2022 figures.

# INVESTMENT IN GREEN MEASURES

## Green Checker Introduction

Applicants who are not green SMEs or green farmers can still use the green part of the growth and sustainability loan scheme. They can do this through the SBCI Green Checker. This is a bespoke tool made for the SBCI, based on a tool from the European Investment Advisory Hub. Users pick options from the checker and enter the relevant information for their green investment and the checker verifies if their investment is considered green and is available for the green portion of the Growth and Sustainability loan scheme.

## What is Currently Included in the Green Checker?

There are a wide array of investments already included in the green checker under the following categories the individual measures are included in the next slide:



### Agriculture

Min-till equipment, irrigation system modernisation, tractor/harvester replacement



### Energy Efficiency in Buildings

Comprehensive building renovation, replacement windows, green roofs & walls



### Energy Efficiency in Industry

Compressor replacement, electric motor replacement



### Renewable Energy Generation

Solar thermal hot water systems, small-scale wind-turbines, electric energy storage



### Manufacturing of Green Technologies

Manufacturing of energy efficient equipment & renewable energy equipment



### Mobility and Transport

Infrastructure for low carbon transport, light commercial vehicles, passenger cars/buses

# INVESTMENT IN GREEN MEASURES



	Type	SME	<p>Peter - a food processor with a significant energy footprint is facing increasing demand from consumers on the environmental footprint of their operation.</p> <p>In the medium to long term Peter is planning to reposition the business as a sustainable &amp; eco-friendly business.</p>	<p><b>Qualification Criteria:</b></p> <p>Investing in a combination of energy saving equipment and retrofitting parts of their facility</p>
	Employees	12		
	Turnover	1.5m		
	Loan amount	400k		

**Eligibility / Green Checker**

- Eligibility will be verified on the SBCI Hub via the EIB Green Gateway (Green Checker Tool)
- This tool will calculate project/product data input by applicant and produce a PDF document confirming eligibility
- In addition to eligibility, the SME can download a copy of the PDF report with estimated Co2 emission savings and other relevant energy saving / renewable energy information specific to the measure they are investing in.

# INVESTMENT IN GREEN MEASURES



## Energy Efficiency in Buildings

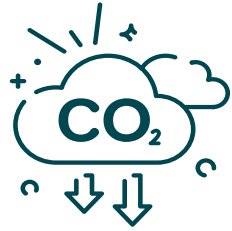
- Basement and ground floor insulation
- External shading devices
- Green roofs and walls
- Roof insulation
- Wall insulation
- Window replacement
- Air conditioner replacement
- Boiler replacement
- Building automation and control
- Circulation pump replacement
- Heat emission controls
- Heat pump water heater
- Modernisation of lighting technology
- Smart meters for electricity and gas
- Ventilation system upgrade and replacement



## Agriculture

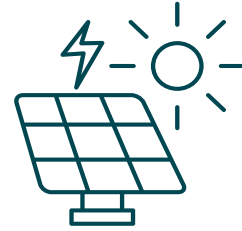
- Harvester Replacement
- Heating System replacement in green houses
- Irrigation pump replacement
- Irrigation system modernisation
  
- Modernisation of agricultural storage
- Min-tillage equipment
- Tractor replacement

# INVESTMENT IN GREEN MEASURES



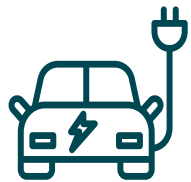
## Energy Efficiency in Industry

- Compressor replacement
- Electric and hybrid cooling trailers
- Electric motor replacement
- Variable speed drives (VSD's) on motors
- Warm air heater replacement
- Zero tailpipe emissions forklifts



## Renewable Energy Generation

- Electric energy storage
- Photovoltaic systems
- Small-scale wind turbines
- Solar thermal hot water systems
- Thermal energy storage



## Mobility and Transport

- Infrastructure for low carbon transport
- Inland waterway vessels for passenger transport
- Light commercial vehicles (vans<3.5 tonnes)
- Passenger cars category M and category L vehicles (motorbikes)
- Public transport



## Manufacturing of Green Technologies

- Manufacturing of energy efficient equipment
- Manufacturing of renewable energy equipment

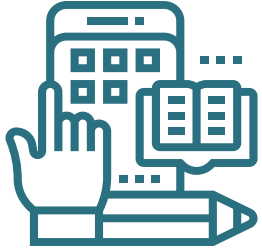


# HOW TO APPLY

# 0



# APPLICATION PROCESS



## **ELIGIBILITY APPLICATION** - - Digital application on the SBCI Hub

Some information needed for the application:

Tell us what sector your business is in and choose from a list of NACE Codes

A description of the project your business will undertake with the funding

Figures in relation to your business such as number of employees and annual turnover

A unique company identifier such as CRO, VAT or herd number

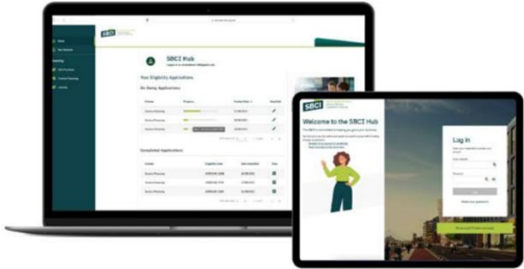


## **If you are a Green Enterprise – SME**

You will need to provide an accountants letter detailing the eligible sector/s you are active in and the proportion of the business income from those activities, over the most recent 12 months for which financial information is available

- ✓ Be from a qualified, external accountant
- ✓ Be on accounting firm's letterhead
- ✓ Contain the signature of the accountant
- ✓ Confirm that revenue from eligible sectors equals or exceeds 90% of the applicant's turnover

# APPLICATION PROCESS




## Welcome to the SBCI Hub

Register an account and apply for the Ukraine Credit Guarantee Scheme

- Register and Sign in
- Check your eligibility
- Begin funding process with an SBCI partner

Need support call [1800 804482](tel:1800804482)





### SME Eligibility Application for Growth & Sustainability Loan Scheme

Save & Close

- ✓ Before You Get Started
- ✓ Your Sector & NACE CODE
- **Business Eligibility**
- ✓ Sustainability Discount
- Loan Details
- State Aid
- Your Business Details

## Eligibility Questionnaire

The following two sections will make sure your business passes the minimum eligibility criteria for the Scheme.  
If successful, you can continue through the process. If not, we will tell you what options are open to you.

### Business Eligibility

Please complete the following fields

**Was the business established in Ireland and is it currently operating in Ireland?**  
This Scheme is only open to businesses established and operating in Ireland.

Yes  No

### Some helpful info

**Part of a Group**  
If a company is part of a group of companies, the employee, annual turnover and annual balance sheet limits apply to the group, and the group's consolidated figures should be inserted into this Application Form.

**Annual Turnover**  
This relates to the € value of your business turnover in the last financial year. If you are in start-up phase and have not recorded any sales, please insert €0.00.

# ELIGIBILITY LETTER - SAMPLE


**Private & Confidential**

Miss Test User  
Test Co Ltd  
747 Coolridge Street  
Lucan  
Lucan  
Dublin  
D22R887

Dear Miss User,

We acknowledge receipt of your Eligibility Application for SBCI discounted funding on the 20/06/2023.

Based on the information declared by you in that application, we are pleased to advise that you are eligible to apply for discounted funding. Please review the information below to ensure you are fully aware of the next steps you should take to proceed with a funding application.

 **Green Farmer Sustainability Discount Applied**

Sustainability Discount  
**Yes**

Green Farmer  
**Yes**

Green Investment  
**No**

**Your Eligibility Code**

**10001133-23LH**

**About your eligibility code**

- This code will expire on 20/12/2023.
- You can also find it in the "Completed Applications" part of the SBCI Hub.

# CONTROL OF USE OF FUNDS

Control of Use of Funds requires documentary evidence that demonstrates the funds drawn under a qualifying Scheme loan will be / have been used for the specific climate action and environmental sustainability measure undertaken for which eligibility was sought and awarded in the Growth and Sustainability Loan Scheme.

Such documentation must evidence the cost(s) of said qualifying expenditure in such form as invoices, purchase contracts, price quotation/technical offer, project implementation documents etc. or a combination thereof. For multiple transactions / measures, documentation evidencing each of the individual costs is required. Documentation should be from a verifiable and or recognisable source/ authority, for example from an energy auditor or supplier.

## *What documents / evidence is acceptable?*

Acceptable evidence varies depending on the type of investment being undertaken by the enterprise, however it is expected that the type of measure and associated cost is identifiable to the Finance Provider and the Guarantor should it be required.

*Sample types of documentation include one or a combination of the following as appropriate:*

- Invoice
- Quotation
- Receipt
- Purchase Contract
- Technical Offer
- Project Implementation Document
- Accredited energy audits
- Building performance assessments
- Technical consultations (architects, energy consultants, energy simulation etc)

# EXCLUSIONS

0



# EXCLUSIONS

## ***Excluded Activities***

- Finance of pure real estate development activity, i.e., financing of land, including agricultural land and an activity with a sole purpose of renovating and re-leasing or re-selling existing buildings, as well as building new projects as for example: buying land and/or building real estate with the aim to increase the value of the property. However, buying or renting of land or buildings or facilities ancillary or instrumental to permitted or eligible business activities may be considered eligible.
- Financing of activities constituting pure financial transactions (legitimate ancillary business e.g. Purchase of shares) i.e. the use of the financing received under the scheme for the mere purchase of financial instruments, with the exception of eligible business transfers.
- Loans to undertaking in difficulty as defined in Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014
- Finance of activities forbidden by National or EU law.

## ***On account of the De Minimis regulations:***

- financing of SMEs and Small Mid-Caps that are subject to, or fulfil the criteria under domestic law for being placed in, collective insolvency proceedings; or,
- in the case of Small Mid-Caps only, have a credit rating of below B-.
- Finance of specific export operations, or finance contingent upon the use of domestic over imported products, the purpose should not apply to financing the establishment and operation of a distribution network in other States, or current expenditure linked to the export activity.

# EXCLUSIONS

## *Financing in 'EIF Restricted Sectors'*

- Illegal Economic Activities:
  - Any production, trade or other activity, which is illegal under the laws or regulations of the home jurisdiction for such production, trade or activity (“**Illegal Economic Activity**”). Human cloning for reproduction purposes is considered an Illegal Economic Activity.
- Tobacco:
  - The production of and trade in tobacco and related products.
- Production of and Trade in Weapons and Ammunition:
  - The financing of the production of and trade in weapons and ammunition of any kind. This restriction does not apply to the extent such activities are part of or accessory to explicit European Union policies.
- Casinos:
  - Casinos and equivalent enterprises.
- IT Sector Restrictions:
  - Research, development, or technical applications relating to electronic data programs or solutions, which aim specifically at supporting any activity included in the Restricted Sectors referred to under 1. to 4. (inclusive) above; internet gambling and online casinos; or pornography, or which are intended to enable to illegally: enter into electronic data networks; or download electronic data.
- Life Science Sector Restrictions:
  - When providing support to the financing of the research, development or technical applications relating to human cloning for research or therapeutic purposes; and Genetically Modified Organisms (“**GMOs**”), the Counter-Guarantor will require from the Intermediary appropriate specific assurance on the control of legal, regulatory and ethical issues linked to such human cloning for research or therapeutic purposes and/or GMOs.
- Fossil fuel-based energy production and related activities:
  - Coal mining, processing, transport and storage; Oil exploration & production, refining, transport, distribution and storage; Natural gas exploration & production, liquefaction, regasification, transport, distribution and storage; or Electric power generation exceeding the Emissions Performance Standard (i.e. 250 grams of CO<sub>2</sub>e per kWh of electricity), applicable to fossil fuel-fired power and cogeneration plants, geothermal and hydropower plants with large reservoirs.
- Energy-intensive and/or high CO<sub>2</sub>-emitting industries and sectors (as per NACE Code exclusions)

# EXCLUSIONS

*Restrictions specific to fisheries and aquaculture (specified in operational guide for on-lenders and will be published on sbci.ie)*

Article 1 Scope This Regulation applies to aid granted to undertakings in the fishery and aquaculture sector, with the exception of:

- a) aid the amount of which is fixed on the basis of price or quantity of products purchased or put on the market;
- b) aid to export-related activities towards third countries or Member States, namely aid directly linked to the quantities exported, to the establishment and operation of a distribution network or to other current expenditure linked to the export activity;
- c) aid contingent upon the use of domestic over imported goods;
- d) aid for the purchase of fishing vessels;
- e) aid for the modernisation or replacement of main or ancillary engines of fishing vessels; aid to operations increasing the fishing capacity of a vessel or equipment increasing the ability of a vessel to find fish;
- f) aid for the construction of new fishing vessels or importation of fishing vessels;
- g) aid to the temporary or permanent cessation of fishing activities unless specifically provided for in the Regulation (EU) No 508/2014;
- h) aid to exploratory fishing; aid to the transfer of ownership of a business;
- i) aid to direct restocking, unless explicitly provided for as a conservation measure by a Union legal act or in the case of experimental restocking.



# EXCLUSIONS

*Restrictions specific to agriculture (specified in operational guide for on-lenders and will be published on sbci.gov.ie)*

***Loans may not be used:***

- a) to fund export-related activities towards third countries or other EU Member States (namely aid directly linked to the quantities exported), to the establishment and operation of a distribution network or to other current costs linked to export activity;
- b) in a manner that requires the undertaking to use domestic over imported goods.
- c) to support investments required to comply with EU standards in force.
- d) to support the purchase of production rights, payment entitlements and annual plants
- e) to support the planting of annual plants;
- f) to support drainage works;
- g) to support the purchase of animals; or
- h) to acquire land
- i) Projects which are linked to the production on farm-level of biofuels or energy from renewable sources are permitted provided production is limited to the average annual consumption of fuel or energy of the farm. Investments in installations, the primary purpose of which is energy production from biomass, shall not be eligible unless a minimum percentage of heat energy is utilised. Investments in connection with the production of food based biofuels are ineligible.
- j) Projects shall be in conformity with EU legislation and with Irish law on environmental protection under the Protection of the Environment Act 2003. For investment requiring an environmental impact assessment under Directive 2011/92/EU the aid shall be subject to the condition that such assessment shall have been carried out and the development consent shall have been granted for the investment project concerned before the date of granting the individual aid.



# FAQs

0

# FAQs



## **How long does the SBCI eligibility code remain valid for?**

The SBCI eligibility code is valid for six months from the date of issue, but it is always subject to the scheme remaining open and having funding available.



## **Can I use the same SBCI eligibility code more than once?**

The eligibility code can be used multiple times, provided that you don't exceed the maximum loan amount available under the scheme and the eligibility code hasn't expired.



## **If I have more than one loan of €500,000 are both unsecured?**

If the loans are with two different on-lenders, they will both be on an unsecured basis. If they are with the same on-lender, then security may be required for the amount in excess of €500,000.



## **What does “registered and operating in Ireland” mean?**

It means that the applicant operates their business and has a registered business address in Ireland.

# FAQs



**Can client purchase property without security (loan amount under €500k) and finance 100% of cost?**

All loans under €500k to be unsecured. Refer to bank's internal credit policy re: 100% finance.



**Development funding: where part of a primary medical centre is let to a pharmacy / HSE.**

Property development is eligible for use in the business (i.e. owner/occupier). A portion of the property can be let subject to this being ancillary to the business (e.g. a pharmacy in a medical centre). Any third party letting exceeding 20% of the area unlikely to be ancillary to the overall.



**If funds already approved, can a client seek approval under the scheme if borrowing under a different entity? Eg Sole Trader to Ltd**

A different borrowing entity would require a new eligibility approval from SBCI. Refinancing is not permitted under the scheme however, SBCI would not consider it to be refinancing where a customer has received a sanction from the bank but has not yet drawn down the loan.

# ELIGIBILITY APPLICATION SUPPORT



**MORE INFO**

**[www.sbci.gov.ie](http://www.sbci.gov.ie)**



**1800 804 482**



# KEEP IN TOUCH



**@SBCIreland**



**Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland**



**Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland**



**sbc\_i\_irl**



**Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland - SBCI**