

Announcement on the Deep Retrofit Pilot Programme

12th August, 2019

The Deep Retrofit Pilot Programme was launched by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland in 2017 as a three-year Pilot to investigate the challenges and opportunities of deep retrofit in Ireland. Housing poses one of the greatest energy efficiency challenges in Ireland, the learnings from this pilot are intended to inform policy options for the large-scale roll-out of significant home energy retrofitting of homes. Now in its final year, the Deep Retrofit Pilot closed for applications on 19th July 2019 with available funding fully committed to 350 deep retrofit upgrades across 55 discrete projects. The portfolio of projects now under grant offer represents a sufficiently diverse range of building archetypes to complete the initial evidence base sought as a fundamental objective of the pilot. SEAI and DCCAE will now undertake a review of the pilot. This review is likely to extend well into 2020.

There was strong, sustained demand for the pilot programme as a direct result of the increased, positive dialogue across Irish society regarding climate change. Interest in the pilot accelerated rapidly in 2019 requiring discussions on future options with key stakeholders including the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment. Now the Deep Retrofit Pilot is closed, in-depth evaluations of completed houses will, in time, provide insights which will in turn inform future policy interventions towards achieving our climate action ambitions. These may include different financial incentives.

SEAI appreciates the support and commitment Service Providers have made under the Deep Retrofit Pilot to ensure the full drawdown of the pilot's funding. The All of Government Climate Action Plan sets targets for upgrading our housing stock. The main priorities are to improve the energy efficiency of our homes by upgrading to a B2 Building Energy Rating (BER) and to support the switch to renewable sources for heat and electricity. In this regard, the SEAI and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment are fully committed to incentivising building retrofits in line with the Climate Action Plan and the latest Building Regulations, as well as making the energy upgrades more accessible and attractive for homeowners. The activities outlined in the Climate Action Plan will take not just technical, but also supply chain and homeowner learnings from the Deep Retrofit Pilot Programme. The aim is to put in place new retrofitting delivery models which will group retrofit projects together to achieve economies of scale, to devolve this activity to a more local level, to leverage private finance and to ensure greater facilitation of investment as outlined in the All of Government Climate Action Plan

Full details of grant offerings, which continue to be available as normal, can be found on the SEAI website www.seai.ie/grants/home-energy-grants.

Further details are available from SEAI:

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