

CASE STUDY- BETTER ENERGY WARMER HOMES



The Better Energy Warmer Homes scheme aims to improve the energy efficiency and warmth of homes owned by people on low incomes. It is operated by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and is delivered across both BMW and S&E regions. It was awarded funding from the Southern & Eastern Regional Operational Programme (2014-2020) for **Priority 4 “Support the shift towards a low-carbon economy”** under the **“Better Energy Homes Scheme”**, which is managed by SEAI.

Funding¹

Total project gross funding awarded to the scheme 2014-2018 was €58.6million² for the S&E region. Within 2018, SEAI provided works to over 5000 homes at a value of over €32million across the country. In 2018, the S&E region accounted for 65% of expenditure across over 3,000 homes (see table).

Outputs: Delivered **significant positive contribution to the lives of homeowners**. Since 2014, **within the S&E region 3,027 homes have been upgraded, with €58.6 million spent**.

Project Impacts: Provided **upgrades to thousands of homes** in both the BMW and the S&E regions, from **attic insulation to full deep energy upgrades**. The scheme has also **provided employment to contractors and other delivery staff** across the country, many in rural locations.

The scheme clearly delivers **additionality** given the homeowners who benefit from it: those in fuel poverty. Without the scheme funding, it is doubtful whether “deep” energy efficiency works would have gone ahead.

Lessons Learned

A key lesson is the importance of clearly explaining and defining what energy efficiency is, the benefits it brings, and most importantly what a homeowner can expect once works begin. Given the potential vulnerability of many recipients, the homeowner is central in the design, delivery and communication of the project.

This means that sometimes processes may be slower, but it ensures that homeowners are more informed, involved and comfortable during the process. A key output arising from this learning has been the development of the “Homeowner Welcome Pack” – a simple guide for homeowners on getting energy efficiency works.



Breakdown of expenditure by county in the S&E Region	
County	Cost
Co. Carlow	€284,919
Co. Clare	€656,465
Co. Cork	€3,219,158
Co. Dublin	€6,571,892
Co. Kerry	€2,240,881
Co. Kildare	€900,981
Co. Kilkenny	€355,177
Co. Limerick	€862,130
Co. Meath	€877,094
Co. Tipperary	€931,468
Co. Waterford	€1,083,426
Co. Wexford	€2,058,636
Co. Wicklow	€810,279
TOTAL	€ 20,852,506



“Applicant feedback: “called to advise that she has just had post works inspection carried out today. She called as she wanted to praise the scheme. She advised that from start to finish everything was amazing and would highly recommend the scheme to everybody.” (SEAI Customer Call Agent)

¹ Funding for Counties Cork, Waterford and Limerick include the cities

² Funding totals have been provided by SEAI; stipulated that financial figures for 2017 & 2018 are draft figures