

**IDENTIFY:****AN ENERGY EFFICIENT CLUBHOUSE**

Your club can make quick and easy energy savings by taking simple actions around the clubhouse and ground. Through a mixture of behavioural changes, low-cost actions and building upgrades, your club can reduce energy use, save money on bills, and make your club buildings more comfortable for club users.

By upgrading their building fabric Louth club Clan na Gael not only saved money on energy bills but increased the use of their clubhouse by club members and outside groups. Learn more at: <https://learning.gaa.ie/greenclub/casestudies>

This infosheet recommends three main action areas for your club to reduce energy use and to save money on energy bills: **Energy Efficient Behaviour, Insulation and Lighting.**

Energy Efficient Behaviour

There may be immediate savings that your club can make by introducing small changes to how you manage your energy.

- Establishing a baseline for your club's energy use to help you identify any unexpected, unusual or unnecessary energy use. See the 'Understand Your Usage' infosheet at: <https://learning.gaa.ie/greenclub/energy> for more advice.
- Identify your club's major energy users – if your club's energy use is mainly on lighting and heating, small changes to timings and temperature settings could result in significant savings.
- Undertake spot checks to identify where heating, lighting and equipment is being left on unnecessarily.
- Consider reducing your heating temperature by 1°C – this could save you up to 10% on your heating.
- Block off draughts and avoid leaving windows and doors open when heating is in use.
- Regularly service and check boilers and generators to maintain efficiency. Clean filters in fridges and ventilation to limit unnecessary energy use.
- Plan your water heating to ensure that you are not wasting energy and money on hot water that isn't being used.
- Communicate your energy efficient practices to club members and to outside club users – use the resources at: <https://learning.gaa.ie/greenclub/energy>
- Turn off for the holidays – check your bills and meter or conduct spot checks at times when the club isn't in use to make sure lighting, heating or equipment isn't left running.
- If your club is a very high energy user, consider installing an energy management system to measure and manage your energy use. Ask your SEAI mentor (26 counties) or an energy expert for advice.





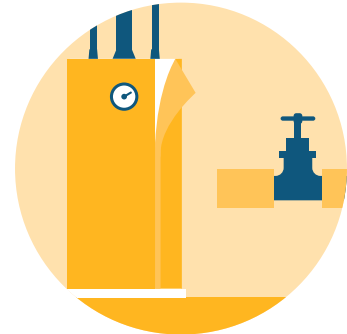
Insulation

Save energy and money and make your clubhouse more comfortable by reducing draughts and insulating where possible.

- Check the seals on doors and windows to reduce draughts.
- Insulate your attic or roof space - up to 30% of heat can be lost through your clubhouse roof.
- Consider wall and floor insulation – up to 30% of heat can be lost through walls and 10% through floors.
- Insulating water tanks as well as interior and exterior water pipes will save on water heating costs and can help protect pipes from freezing in winter.
- Double or triple glazed windows will greatly reduce heat loss
- Having a well-insulated clubhouse can open up other energy saving options, like heat pumps, for your club. See the heat pump infosheet at: <https://learning.gaa.ie/greenclub/energy>

For more information on insulation see:

<https://www.seai.ie/home-energy/home-upgrades/guide-to-upgrades/>



Lighting

Clubhouse lighting can account for up to 30% of clubhouse energy bills and many clubs can make savings by managing lighting use and investing in lighting upgrades.

- Dust off lights at least once a year to enhance lighting performance and maximise natural light use when possible by having blinds and curtains open in meeting rooms during daylight hours.
- Conduct spot checks to make sure lighting isn't turned on when it's not needed.
- Put posters and stickers at light switches to remind club members and external club users to turn lighting off after use.
- When replacing bulbs, choose LED alternatives where available. This will lead to immediate energy savings.
- Consider upgrading bulbs and fixtures to LED – survey the bulbs in your clubhouse and if the majority are non-LED, consider a full upgrade. Talk to your SEC mentor (26-counties) or to a lighting professional for advice.
- Consider the use of timers and sensors on lighting – timers are relatively low cost and result in immediate usage savings while sensors can reduce lighting usage by 30%.
- Manage your external lighting, e.g. over doors and entrances, in car parks and on walkways, to ensure it is only in use when needed (consider the use of timers or sensors) and that lighting levels are appropriate for safe use as well as for the environment. Managing use of external lighting responsibly will also reduce potential harmful impacts on local wildlife.



See:

<https://www.seai.ie/publications/SEAI-Energy-Efficient-LED-Lighting-Guide.pdf>

for more advice and guidance and

<https://powerni.co.uk/business-electricity/energy-saving-products/led-lighting>

for clubs in the six counties.