

**IDENTIFY:****SEAI COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMMES**

This information applies to clubs in the 26-counties. Clubs in the six counties should consult <https://powerni.co.uk/business-electricity/energy-saving-products> and the NI Sustainable Energy Programme (<https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/programme/nisep/>) and stay up-to-date with any relevant funding opportunities communicated to their club secretary by Ulster GAA.

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) runs community programmes that can be of great benefit to clubs and communities seeking to better understand their energy use and to pursue opportunities for energy savings and investments. Of particular relevance to GAA clubs are the Sustainable Energy Communities programme and the Community Grants Scheme.

Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs)

WHAT ARE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES?

- Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) are composed of groups in the community who come together, supported by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), to improve how energy is used in and for the benefit of their community.
- An SEC can be made up of different groupings within a community – e.g., householders, businesses, community groups, sports clubs.
- SECs can also be composed of groups from within a particular sector, as with a recently-established SEC for farmers in West Kerry and an SEC for GAA clubs in Mayo.

See <https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/sustainable-energy-communities/> for more details.

WHAT DO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES DO?

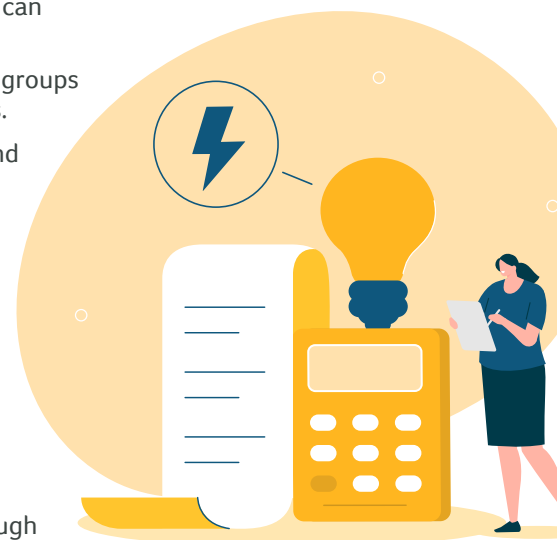
- SECs look at how energy is currently being used and at how communities can manage energy in a sustainable, holistic way.
- SECs provide expert mentorship through the SEAI to support community groups in coming together to identify and plan towards community energy goals.
- The SEC pathway is designed around the three steps of Learn-Plan-Do and the common goals of SECs are:
 - To use less energy
 - To use clean energy
 - To use smart energy technology

WHY SHOULD OUR CLUB JOIN AN SEC?

Clubs joining SECs will gain:

- Access to a regional and national networks of best energy practice.
- Access to an energy mentor to guide them and fellow SEC members through the programme steps and support their progress.
- Support in carrying out an energy master plan – a holistic, baseline review of the club and community's energy usage that will allow the SEC to plan its energy strategy.

By joining an SEC, the club will also have the opportunity to support its members and community in understanding their energy use and identifying opportunities for energy saving.





HOW CAN WE JOIN AN SEC?

GAA clubs can:

1. **Join an existing SEC.** Check <https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/sustainable-energy-communities/sec-map/> for any existing SECs in your community.
2. **Create a new SEC** in your local area. Join with other local groups and individuals - ideally a mix of householders, business and community groups – and register your SEC with the SEAI <https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/sustainable-energy-communities/community-network/sec-membership-registration/>
3. **Create a GAA SEC** in your county. GAA clubs and grounds in a county or local area can come together to form a GAA SEC. If you are partnering with other clubs or your county board on an SEC, contact sec@seai.ie to register or visit <https://www.seai.ie/community-energy/sustainable-energy-communities/community-network/sec-membership-registration/>

Community Grants

WHO CAN APPLY FOR SEAI COMMUNITY GRANTS?

- GAA clubs that have assessed their energy usage and drawn up an energy action plan and/or a register of opportunities – either through their SEC or independently – can apply for funding for certain energy projects as part of a community application through the SEAI Community Grant scheme. See <https://www.seai.ie/grants/community-grants/overview/>
- Grants are awarded on a community basis – i.e., not to individual applicants but to multiple organisations within a community that have partnered on an application

HOW CAN OUR CLUB APPLY FOR A COMMUNITY GRANT?

- Contact a project coordinator: <https://www.seai.ie/grants/community-grants/project-coordinator/>
Your project coordinator will advise you on your club's project and can build the community partnership for the grant application.
- Some local authorities can also act as SEAI Community Grant project coordinators. Your local authority point of contact (see <https://learning.gaa.ie/greenclub>) can advise you on whether your local authority is currently involved in SEAI Community Grant coordination. Louth Green Club Clan na Gael partnered with Louth County Council on their successful application. See <https://learning.gaa.ie/greenclub/casestudies> for their story.



TOP TIPS

Applications to Community Grant Schemes are stronger when there are a diverse range of groups involved. Consider approaching local businesses, sponsors and other community groups in the area who are interested in energy projects about partnering in your application. Talk to your project coordinator for advice and guidance on this.
<https://www.seai.ie/grants/community-grants/project-coordinator/>