



Bere Island Sustainable Energy Community

Update from the Bere Island Sustainable Energy Community (SEC)

The BI SEC has been working to progress the focus areas identified in the Energy Master Plan of 2021. To this end, we have been working on the main areas of **transport**, **building upgrades** and **renewable energy**.

Transport has centred on the electrification of road vehicles and marine vessels as follows:

- An electric minibus and charging system at BIPG is underway with tenders for their supply being prepared for distribution;
- Electric vehicle charge points are also planned at the west and east ends of the island;
- An electric bike scheme is working to resolve insurance issues so that this can be realised;
- In the longer term, the electrification of boats and ferries is planned. The technical aspects are understood and plans are being developed with assistance from the European Union.

In the area of **building upgrades**:

- The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) launched new grants in 2021 to help homeowners to improve their homes' energy efficiency. These grants focus on insulation and building improvements such as windows and doors, as well as grants of energy efficient heating and hot water provision. You can find out more on <https://www.seai.ie/grants/>
- A first, relatively inexpensive step for homeowners to consider is to implement better insulation and draught-proofing of windows and doors. This will reduce heat loss in the home and thus potentially reduce heating costs.

Renewable energy, in the form of solar PV panels, has been installed in several homes and businesses on the island. This has:

- Substantially reduced electricity costs for those homes and businesses for the sunny 9 out of 12 months in the year;
- Produced electricity that can be used as generated or stored in a battery for use later;
- Provided us with a group of people on the island who would be happy to talk you through the benefits and costs of this decision. Please contact the BIPG on 027 75099 or bereislandenergy@gmail.com if you would like to understand your potential benefits;

Lastly, the payback time for investment in solar PV has, due to the soaring energy prices, reduced hugely, making it an even more beneficial option to consider.

