



Delivering Ireland's Energy Revolution

Annual Report and Financial Statements 2022

“This revolution requires fundamental change across all aspects of Irish society and will transform the way in which we all live.”

Dermot Byrne
Chairperson, SEAI Board

William Walsh
Chief Executive Officer, SEAI

Table of Contents

Introduction

Chairperson's statement and CEO review 2

Achievements in 2022 4

Our Impact

Transforming energy 6

Data and insights at SEAI 12

Research and technology 14

Delegated Functions 15

Governance

Energy Efficiency Report 18

Corporate Social Responsibility at SEAI 19

Corporate Governance 21

SEAI Risk Report 23

Finance

Governance Statement and Board Members' Report 25

Statement of Internal Control 32

Report of Comptroller and Auditor General 33

Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves 34

Statement of Comprehensive Income 35

Statement of Financial Position 36

Statement of Cash Flows 37

Notes to the Financial Statements 38



Chairperson's statement and CEO review

The last year has given all of us the starkest of contexts for the need for accelerated decarbonisation of the global energy system.

The **IPCC Climate Change Report 2023** makes for very sobering reading, clearly outlining that more than a century of burning fossil fuels, as well as unequal and unsustainable energy and land use, have led to global warming of 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels. This has resulted in more frequent and more intense extreme weather events that have already caused increasingly dangerous impacts on nature and people in every region of the world. "There is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all"¹. However, the report suggests that there are multiple, feasible and effective options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to human-caused climate change, and they are available now.

The report points out that climate action will not only reduce losses and damages for nature and people, but it will also provide wider benefits, underscoring the urgency of taking more ambitious action now to secure a liveable sustainable future for all.

Nationally, SEAI published the **National Interim Energy Balance 2022**, which produced further sobering insights as part of this global picture. While on one hand, we see a decrease in energy emissions, it is far short of where it needs to be, and many successes are unfortunately on the shoulders of global shocks to our society and economy. As the world began to emerge from the shadow of a global pandemic, **Russia's invasion of Ukraine** in February 2022

saw war return to Europe, triggering a global energy crisis. Our first thoughts must be of the appalling loss of life and the suffering for those caught up in the conflict. Beyond that it prompted very real concerns in Ireland and in Europe about the implications of our high reliance on imported fossil fuels. The geopolitical uncertainties stoked inflationary pressures and created a looming risk of recession. Not surprisingly, energy prices rose exponentially. People in homes and businesses across Ireland struggled in the face of spiking energy bills and a wider cost-of-living crisis. Demand for energy upgrades to homes and businesses escalated, and SEAI responded. We also saw how behaviours changed, with reductions in home heating greater than what could be accounted for by temperature effects, efficiency improvements, fuel-switching, or workforces returning to offices.

It is clear that it has taken tragic and significant global crises to impact the level of emission reductions we need to see, and our challenge is to motivate and support these changes to happen without these shocks. It is also clear from these crises that renewable, efficient, and clean indigenous energy supply is critical for Ireland, not just to meet our climate targets, but for a sustainable quality of life, a liveable future, and a secure Irish energy system. Depending on imported fossil fuels leaves Ireland and our people vulnerable to price shocks and geopolitical instability. **Homegrown affordable energy and independence** has emerged as a national priority, particularly as high fossil fuel prices look set to continue. Our earnest hope is that these stark wake-up calls drive the strategic long-term response required by all Governments, including our own, to catalyse our energy transition and realise our efficiency and renewable energy ambitions.

The EU's response in the form of the REPowerEU Plan fulfils some of that hope, and at home, 2022 saw some significant **energy policy developments** that bode well for accelerated pace.

In December, Minister Ryan published the **Climate Action Plan 2023**, the second update to CAP2019 and the first to be prepared under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021. This followed the introduction earlier in the year of Ireland's first economy-wide carbon budgets and sector emissions ceilings. The **first carbon budget programme**, comprising three successive five-year carbon budgets, was proposed by the Climate Change Advisory Council, and approved by Government and adopted by both Houses of the Oireachtas. The budgets can provide us with a framework for reducing our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and act as milestones on our path to our 2050 goal.

2022 was a year of strong delivery for SEAI despite post-pandemic supply chain challenges. This report attests to the very significant achievements in 2022, including in home energy upgrades, electric vehicle and charger deployment, energy communities, business supports, and public sector partnerships. As Ireland's National Retrofit Delivery Body, we are proud to say that SEAI grant-aided almost **27,200 home energy upgrades last year**, including more than 4,400 free energy upgrades to energy poor homes. Retrofitting empowers households to take back control of their bills and energy use, through measures such as better insulated homes, solar on rooftops, and a better understanding of how they can flexibly adjust their household energy demand. SEAI also launched the new One Stop Shop approach in 2022, offering a hassle-free, start-to-finish project management service for home energy upgrades.

1. AR6 Synthesis Report: Summary for Policymakers Headline Statements (ipcc.ch)

Other retrofit achievements in 2022 included providing significantly increased grant levels to support the cost of a typical deep retrofit to BER (Building Energy Rating) B2 or better, a significant increase in the number of fully funded energy upgrades for those at risk of energy poverty (up to 400 per month, from an average of 177 per month in 2021), and a significantly increased grant rate for attic and cavity wall insulation for all households, to urgently reduce energy use as part of the Government's response to exceptionally high energy prices.

Nonetheless, as global economies recovered, **supply chain** challenges prevailed, impacting delivery across several SEAI programmes with well-publicised shortages of electronic components in particular but also building products. Nationally, we are effectively in a period of economic full employment, resulting in serious labour shortages across all sectors. With many projects competing in a limited pool, this constrained the market's ability to respond to a significant rise in consumer demand for home energy upgrades. However, a strong signal from Government has been provided via Exchequer investment of €8 billion to 2030, which will enable the supply chain to further scale up, creating thousands of jobs, and deliver on this critical national objective.

Sometimes less obvious, but no less important than these very visible signs of Ireland's accelerating decarbonisation, is the critical work of SEAI's **research and policy insights** team. This vital engine allows us to understand how we are doing and what needs to change. The outputs support new solutions, inform evidence-based policy making and provide valuable analyses of Ireland's progress to climate targets. Most significantly in 2022 SEAI published the **National Heat Study**, providing an evidence base to inform pathways and policies to deliver net zero emissions from heating by 2050. For a sector that is 94% served by fossil fuels to meet its demand, tackling efficiency in heat

demand, and moving to renewables is critical, and it has to happen now.

There is real momentum for change, and the Government's determination to drive Ireland's clean energy transition could not be clearer, as evidenced by the Climate Action Plan, the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, and the Carbon Budget Process. In 2022 SEAI published '**Delivering Ireland's Energy Revolution: Statement of Strategy 2022-2025**', which is our response to these challenges and to the ambitious targets set by Government. The strategy is firmly focused on delivery, and on driving Ireland's sustainable energy transformation for the benefit of all society. It is an exciting strategy outlining SEAI's mandate to enable the revolutionary scale and urgency required to deliver Ireland's energy transition.

Through 2022, SEAI was already undergoing considerable growth. To deliver our mission SEAI has grown fourfold over the last five years, and this growth is underpinned by the increasing urgency of our work. We are also in the process of implementing a significant programme of change and transformation to streamline and improve our operations. Our people are critical to delivering our targets and fundamental societal change, by creating solutions, and partnering expertly, and openly communicating our message to external stakeholders to enable us to be at the heart of Ireland's energy revolution. SEAI implemented a **major recruitment wave** in February 2022 to build capacity across a wide range of skills and disciplines. This process has continued into 2023, supported by the launch of our People Strategy, and we expect to have approximately 235 staff on board by the end of 2023. This pace of growth is essential if we are to fulfil the mandate assigned to us. Indeed, it is likely that the increasing urgency and scale of the climate emergency will necessitate further growth and recruitment through the middle of the decade.

SEAI's mandate also broadened to include additional regulatory roles towards the end of 2022, with SEAI designated under statute as the Market Surveillance Authority for Ecodesign and energy labelling for energy-related products and tyres.

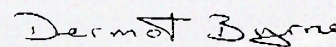
As any public body grows in scale, budget, and stature, only excellence in **Governance** can assure primary stakeholders, and the public at large, that allocated budgets are being used wisely and correctly, focused on achievement of stated objectives. It is significant so that we retained our National Standards Authority of Ireland SWIFT3000 certification. We value the trust and confidence shown to us, and we are committed to delivering our targets through a well-governed and customer-centric system, while collaborating with our stakeholders to enable the energy transition. SEAI is on the right trajectory, and we want to bring all communities and organisations with us on this journey.

We recognise that the concept of speed is critical in what we do. That is why in SEAI we are driving transformative action with technologies available now and within reach. To stay within a 1.5°C increase as agreed in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, we cannot afford to wait for future technologies that are not currently available. **We have to do everything we can with technology available now**, avoiding naive faith in future solutions that do not exist today. We must prevent at all costs any possible locking-in to dead-end routes or short-term goals.

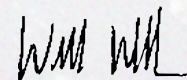
What we in SEAI do every day enables Ireland's energy revolution. This revolution requires fundamental change across all aspects of Irish society and will transform the way in which we all live. Revolution may sound scary, but renewable and sustainable energy systems will protect our quality of life, our energy security, and most importantly support

those who are most vulnerable in our society. There is a lot done but more to do, and we are here to collaborate and activate everyone's sustainable energy transition.

As CEO and Chair, we wish to thank the management and staff of SEAI for their continued passion and commitment over the past year, particularly against the backdrop of an energy crisis, increasing climate action urgency, and growth within SEAI to enable the Authority to deliver upon our broad mandate. Their outstanding contributions continue to be pivotal to the success and mission of SEAI. We also wish to sincerely thank our Board for their strategic oversight, effectiveness, governance, and guidance. Finally, we are grateful for the strong relationships we have with the Department for the Environment, Climate, and Communications, and the Department of Transport, where we are part of Zero Emissions Vehicles Ireland, both under the responsibility of Minister for the Environment, Climate, Communications and Transport, Eamon Ryan TD.



Dermot Byrne
Chairperson, SEAI Board



William Walsh
Chief Executive Officer, SEAI

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland 2022 achievements



Citizens and Communities

1. Enhanced home energy upgrade schemes launched with new One Stop Shops offering homeowners full service from survey, to works and grant draw down.
2. Grant support towards almost 27,200 home energy upgrade projects including more than 4,400 energy poor homes.
3. SEAI community energy network now has over 700 member organisations nationwide, comprising more than 35,000 citizens. SEAI co-funded 41 community energy master plans.
4. More than 130,000 BERs (Building Energy Ratings) were published in 2022.
5. Delivered 760 school workshops with over 19,000 students participating.

Business, Public and Transport

6. Grant aided the purchase of 10,894 battery electric vehicles and over 16,000 EV home chargers.
7. Launched a commercial EV fleet trial which will provide 200 businesses with a trial EV and charger for a three-month period.
8. SEAI Public Sector Partnership scaled up support to 350 public bodies in their Climate Action Roadmap development, energy management and emissions reduction strategy.
9. Support Scheme for Renewable Heat has to date offered 15-year contracts to 90 installations, amounting to 90 GWh of renewable heat annually.
10. Launched new solar PV grant for businesses.

11. Grant-aided 873 high quality SME energy audits and delivered online energy management training to over 180 SMEs.
12. More than 5,500 users now registered with SEAI Energy Academy with over 2,000 course certificates issued in 2022.

Research and Policy Insights

13. Launched the Local Authority Climate Action Plan dashboard which includes a range of Irish energy and technology data enabling plans to be delivered with greater detail.
14. Awarded funding to 44 new energy research, development, and demonstration projects.
15. Funded six ocean/offshore applicants through the 2022 SEAI LiR Industry Access Programme.
16. Hosted the 2022 National Energy Research and Policy Conference: Societal Transformation for Delivering Ireland's Energy Revolution.
17. Published Ireland's National Heat Study, providing important analysis towards the preparation of Climate Action Plan 2023.

Organisation and Service Delivery

18. Published "Delivering Ireland's Energy Revolution" a new strategy for 2022–2025.
19. SEAI participated in seven Oireachtas committee sessions across several areas of our remit.
20. Contact centre served almost 280,000 voice, email, and webchat transactions across all programmes.
21. Hosted SEAI's first live Energy Show since 2019 with almost 2,500 attendees.
22. Delivered a hugely successful Energy Awards with 107 nominations received.
23. Web engagement saw over two million web sessions on www.seai.ie

Our Impact

Clean energy is vital
for **the health and
wellbeing of our country
and future generations.**

Transforming energy	6
Data and insights at SEAI	12
Research and technology	14
Delegated Functions	15

Community Grant helps an essential part of life on Arranmore Island

Arranmore Cultural Centre availed of SEAI's Community Grant scheme and is benefitting from energy upgrades and new future-proof features.

THE PROJECT

The Arranmore Cultural Centre on Arranmore Island which is situated off the coast of County Donegal, provides an array of different services and amenities to all visitors, from the local community and beyond, including meeting rooms for hire, a café and an archive covering the Donegal Islands.

Committed to reducing their carbon footprint and in turn, reducing the energy costs associated with the running of the centre, the decision was made to participate in SEAI's Community Grant scheme.

As part of the scheme, the walls of Arranmore Cultural Centre were pumped for more efficient energy retention and a wood pellet burner was installed, replacing the oil

burner which the building relied on previously for energy. The wood pellet burner now heats the entire centre, while also providing heating for the water supply to the centre's café. Solar PV panels were also installed on the centre's roof, which has played a huge role in the significant reduction of electricity consumption.

"As a small community here, with the rising costs of bills within the organisation, I suppose the big thing is that we don't have that oil bill every year"

TOMÁS COISDEALBHA



THE RESULT

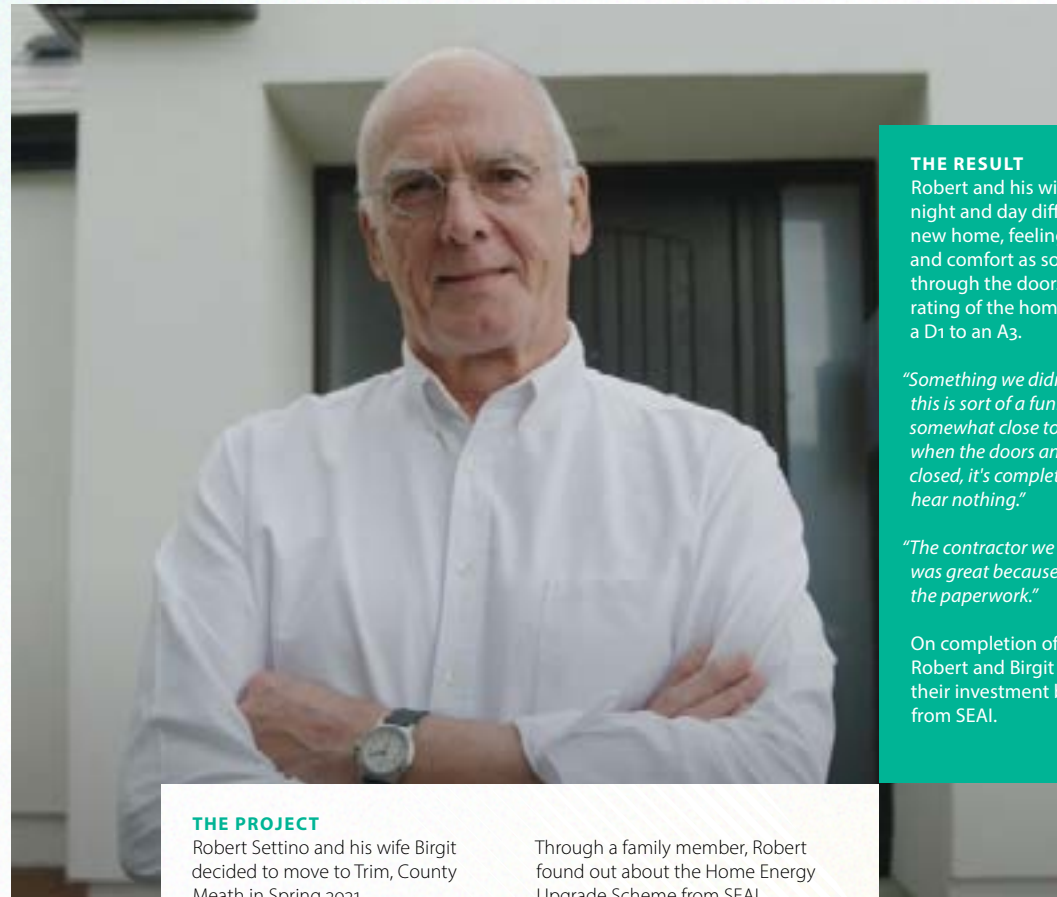
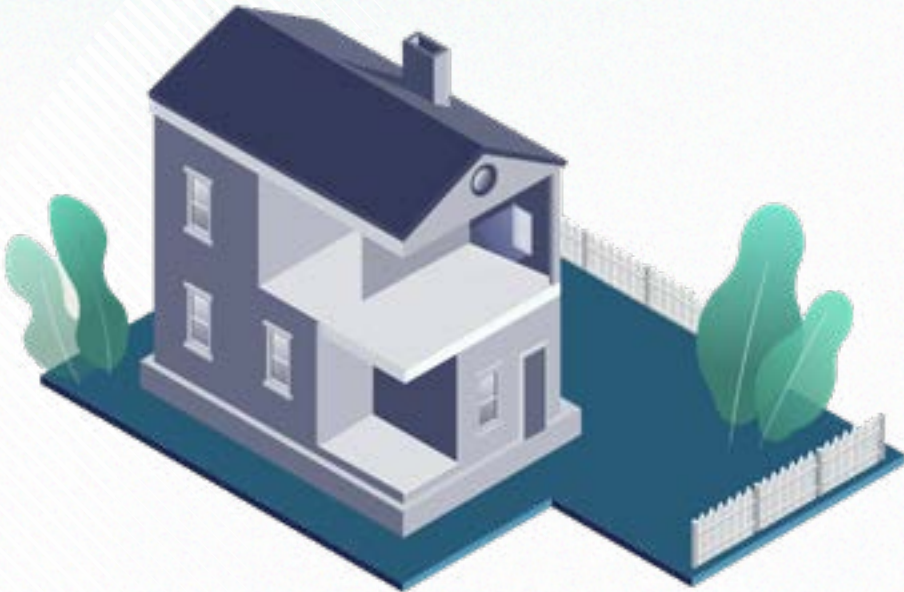
According to Tomás Coisdealbha, Comharchumann Oileán Arranmore, the use of the wood pellet burner for the centre's heating has entirely removed the oil bill the centre would have paid previously, with costs amounting to between €3,000 to €4,000 annually. While costs are still incurred for the purchase of the wood pellets, that's an insignificant expense in comparison to the previous oil bill.



SEAI's Community Grant supports energy efficiency community projects through capital funding, partnerships, and technical support. The programme supports new approaches to achieving energy efficiency in Irish communities. Upgrades can take place across building types to reduce energy use and costs throughout the community.

Energy upgrade for a County Meath home

Meath homeowner upgraded his home from a BER D1 to a BER A3 and is now enjoying the comfort levels one can expect to feel in an energy efficient home.



THE PROJECT

Robert Settino and his wife Birgit decided to move to Trim, County Meath in Spring 2021.

Originally from Boston, Robert was looking for a home in Ireland and jumped at the chance when they saw a suitable home in Trim come on the market for sale.

Unfortunately, the house had not been well built or well-maintained. In addition to the works that the house clearly required, there were further issues.

"The one thing that I noticed in addition to the work that needed to be done, was the house was cold and I knew just walking around, bare-foot, that I could feel the chill in the house," said Robert.

Through a family member, Robert found out about the Home Energy Upgrade Scheme from SEAI.

The Home Energy Upgrade included the installation of a new Air to Water Heat Pump system, operating at 12 KW. The upgrade also involved the replacement of all existing radiators in the house, adding thermostatic radiator valves, the installation of new triple glazed windows, in addition to external and internal wall insulation and mineral wool attic insulation.

"It was the right move, and it was a good move!"

ROBERT SETTINO

THE RESULT

Robert and his wife Birgit notice a night and day difference in their new home, feeling the warmth and comfort as soon as you walk through the door. The energy rating of the home has gone from a D1 to an A3.

"Something we didn't expect, and this is sort of a funny benefit, we live somewhat close to a busy road, and when the doors and windows are closed, it's completely quiet here, you hear nothing."

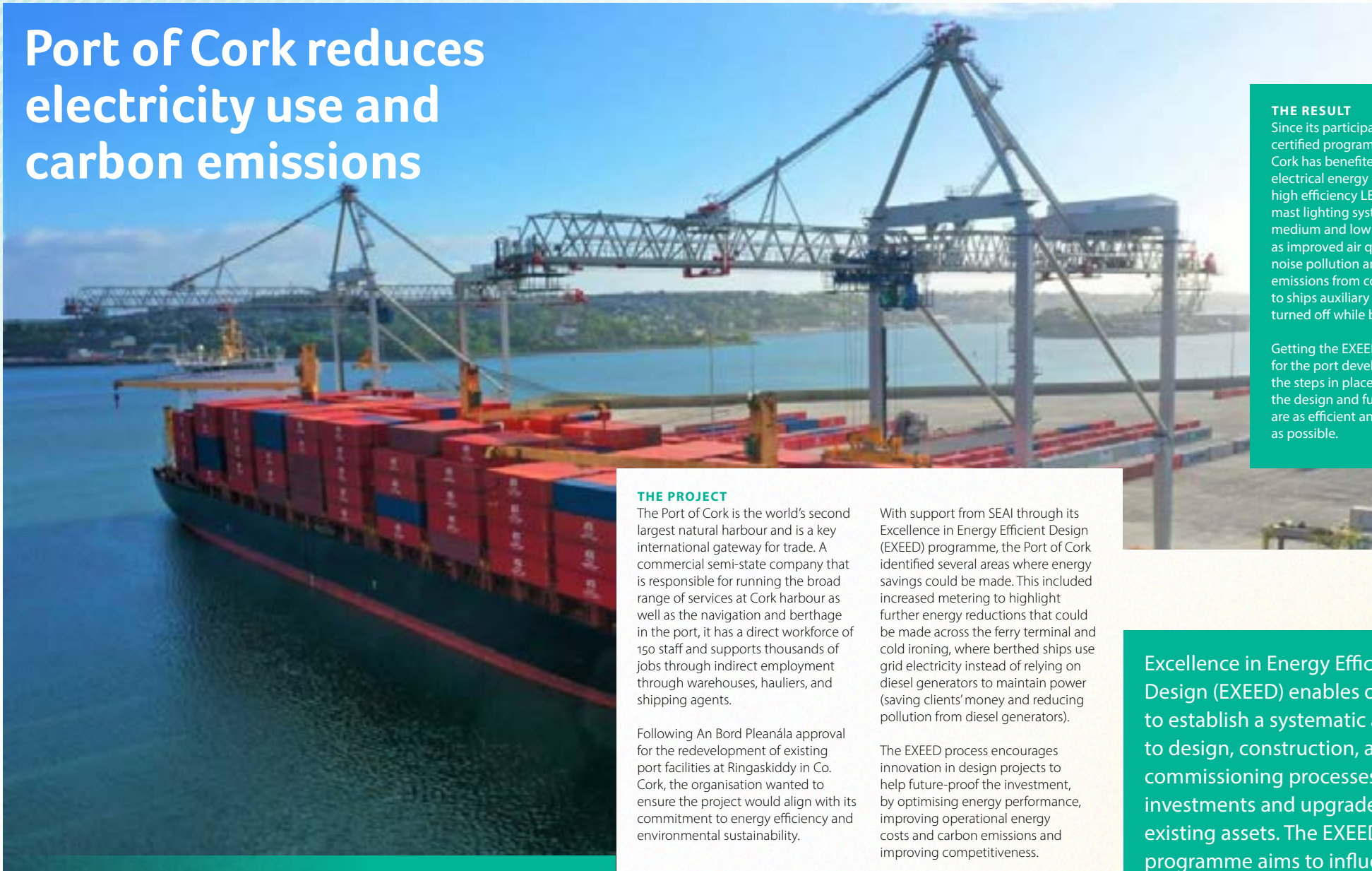
"The contractor we worked with was great because they did all of the paperwork."

On completion of the project, Robert and Birgit received 25% of their investment back via a grant from SEAI.



SEAI Home Energy grants provide a range of home energy upgrade options as well as individual grants to make your home warmer and more energy efficient.

Port of Cork reduces electricity use and carbon emissions



THE PROJECT

The Port of Cork is the world's second largest natural harbour and is a key international gateway for trade. A commercial semi-state company that is responsible for running the broad range of services at Cork harbour as well as the navigation and berthage in the port, it has a direct workforce of 150 staff and supports thousands of jobs through indirect employment through warehouses, hauliers, and shipping agents.

Following An Bord Pleanála approval for the redevelopment of existing port facilities at Ringaskiddy in Co. Cork, the organisation wanted to ensure the project would align with its commitment to energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.

With support from SEAI through its Excellence in Energy Efficient Design (EXEED) programme, the Port of Cork identified several areas where energy savings could be made. This included increased metering to highlight further energy reductions that could be made across the ferry terminal and cold ironing, where berthed ships use grid electricity instead of relying on diesel generators to maintain power (saving clients' money and reducing pollution from diesel generators).

The EXEED process encourages innovation in design projects to help future-proof the investment, by optimising energy performance, improving operational energy costs and carbon emissions and improving competitiveness.

THE RESULT

Since its participation in the EXEED certified programme, the Port of Cork has benefited from reduced electrical energy consumption from high efficiency LED lighting for high mast lighting systems with high, medium and low zoning as well as improved air quality, reduced noise pollution and reduced CO₂ emissions from cold-ironing due to ships auxiliary engines being turned off while berthed.

Getting the EXEED certification for the port development put the steps in place to ensure that the design and future operations are as efficient and carbon friendly as possible.



Excellence in Energy Efficiency Design (EXEED) enables organisations to establish a systematic approach to design, construction, and commissioning processes for new investments and upgrades to existing assets. The EXEED certified programme aims to influence and deliver new best practices in energy efficient design management.

Electric success: KN Circet's green fleet is miles ahead

KN Circet, a leading provider to the telecommunications, transport, infrastructure and power sectors in Ireland, UK and internationally, introduced electric vehicles to their fleet in Ireland.



THE PROJECT

The company, which employs 3,500 people, and boast a fleet of over 1,500 vehicles, was looking for new ways to cut costs, improve fuel efficiency and reduce carbon emissions while maintaining driver safety across its operations.

Following considerable research in the area, they decided to introduce electric vehicles (EVs) to their fleet in Ireland.

They invested €1.1 million in 29 Hyundai Kona electric vans, the first EVs to join KN Circet's existing vehicle line-up, making it one of the largest EV fleets in operation in Ireland today.

With such a large fleet of vehicles, making the switch to electric required time and commitment from the company. Firstly, they had to identify how suitable an electric vehicle would be for the business – this was based on several factors, including how often the vehicle would be used, the distance it would travel each day and where it was located. The ultimate vision for the company was to go fully electric and carbon free.

KN Circet based the selection process on where they could identify the best savings along with the greatest environmental impact. They also took into consideration the availability of charging points – the company had to ensure that drivers had the technical support to successfully implement the move to electric - which resulted in the addition of 12 EV charging stations.

"We think all businesses can incorporate an element of EVs into their daily workflow. Research the facts and keep an open mind"

**RAY VERSCHOYLE, TRANSPORT
MANAGER IRELAND, KN CIRCET**

THE RESULT

Along with a reduction in its overall CO₂ emissions and improving public perception of the company, KN Circet is making savings of €8,033 per month with their new electric fleet.

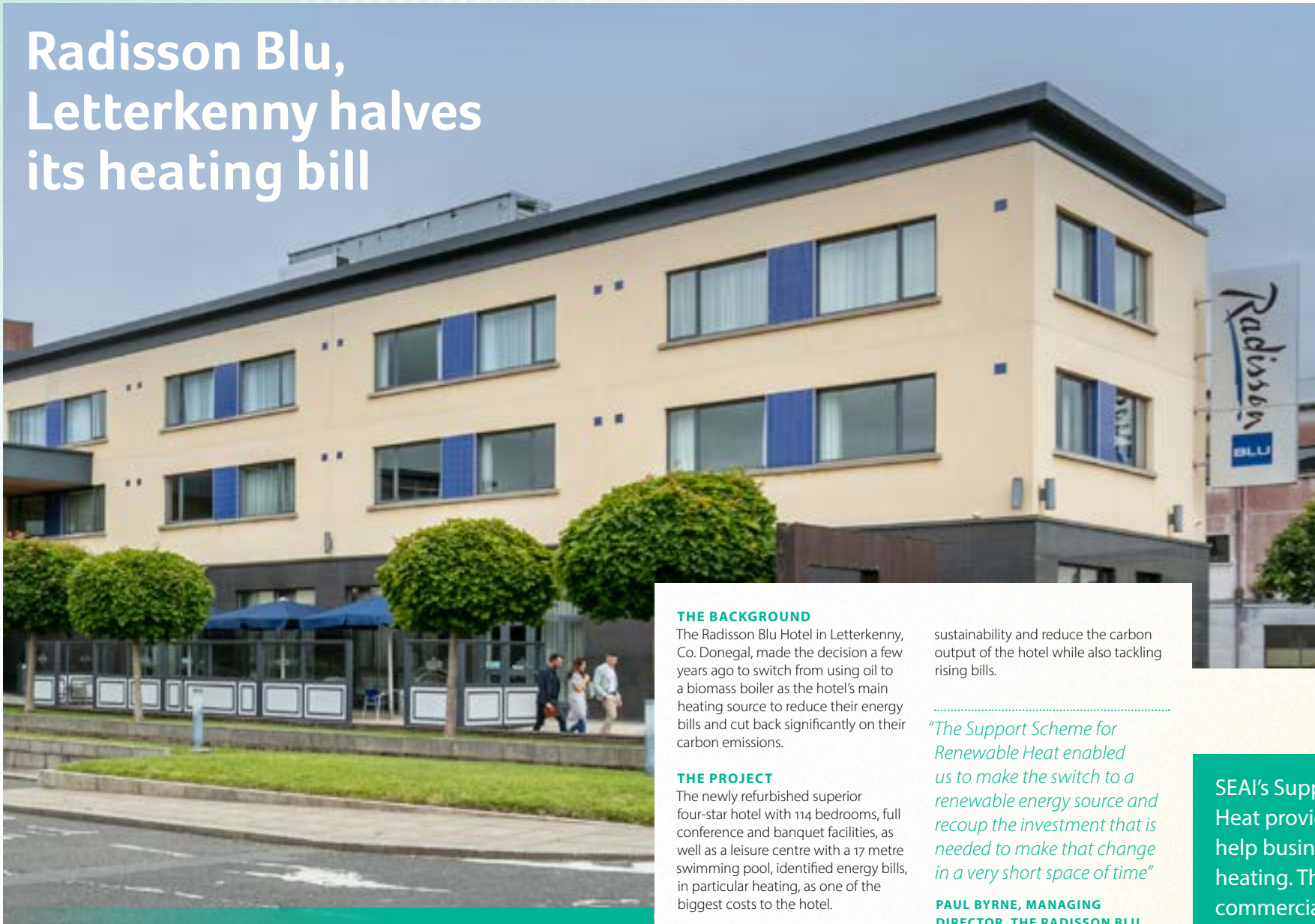
After experiencing the benefits of using electric vehicles, KN Circet has ordered a further six to add to their growing electric fleet. The telecoms company will continue to monitor opportunities where they can increase this number and further reduce their costs and CO₂ emissions.



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Radisson Blu, Letterkenny halves its heating bill



THE RESULT

The cost of heating for the hotel reduced by approximately 50% based on 2019 figures while considering that no oil has subsequently been purchased for the hotel, the saving reached approximately 70% in 2022. This is with the payments from the Support Scheme for Renewable Heat considered.

"The investment and effort that is required is worthwhile. The benefits kick into your bottom line almost instantly and to be able to reduce our energy costs is vital for us in staying competitive," said Paul.

THE BACKGROUND

The Radisson Blu Hotel in Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, made the decision a few years ago to switch from using oil to a biomass boiler as the hotel's main heating source to reduce their energy bills and cut back significantly on their carbon emissions.

THE PROJECT

The newly refurbished superior four-star hotel with 114 bedrooms, full conference and banquet facilities, as well as a leisure centre with a 17 metre swimming pool, identified energy bills, in particular heating, as one of the biggest costs to the hotel.

Paul Byrne, the Managing Director of the hotel saw SEAI's Support Scheme for Renewable Heat as an opportunity for his hotel to put a real focus on

sustainability and reduce the carbon output of the hotel while also tackling rising bills.

"The Support Scheme for Renewable Heat enabled us to make the switch to a renewable energy source and recoup the investment that is needed to make that change in a very short space of time"

PAUL BYRNE, MANAGING DIRECTOR, THE RADISSON BLU HOTEL, LETTERKENNY



SEAI's Support Scheme for Renewable Heat provides financial support to help businesses move to renewable heating. The scheme is open to commercial, industrial, agricultural, district heating, public sector, and other non-domestic heat users.

Cavan County Council upgrades street lighting

Cavan County Council has been upgrading their streetlights to greener, more energy efficient LED technology as part of its ongoing Streetlight LED Retrofit Scheme.

THE PROJECT

Working towards its statutory energy efficiency target to be 50% more energy efficient by 2030, Cavan County Council is participating in an SEAI-supported LED upgrade project.

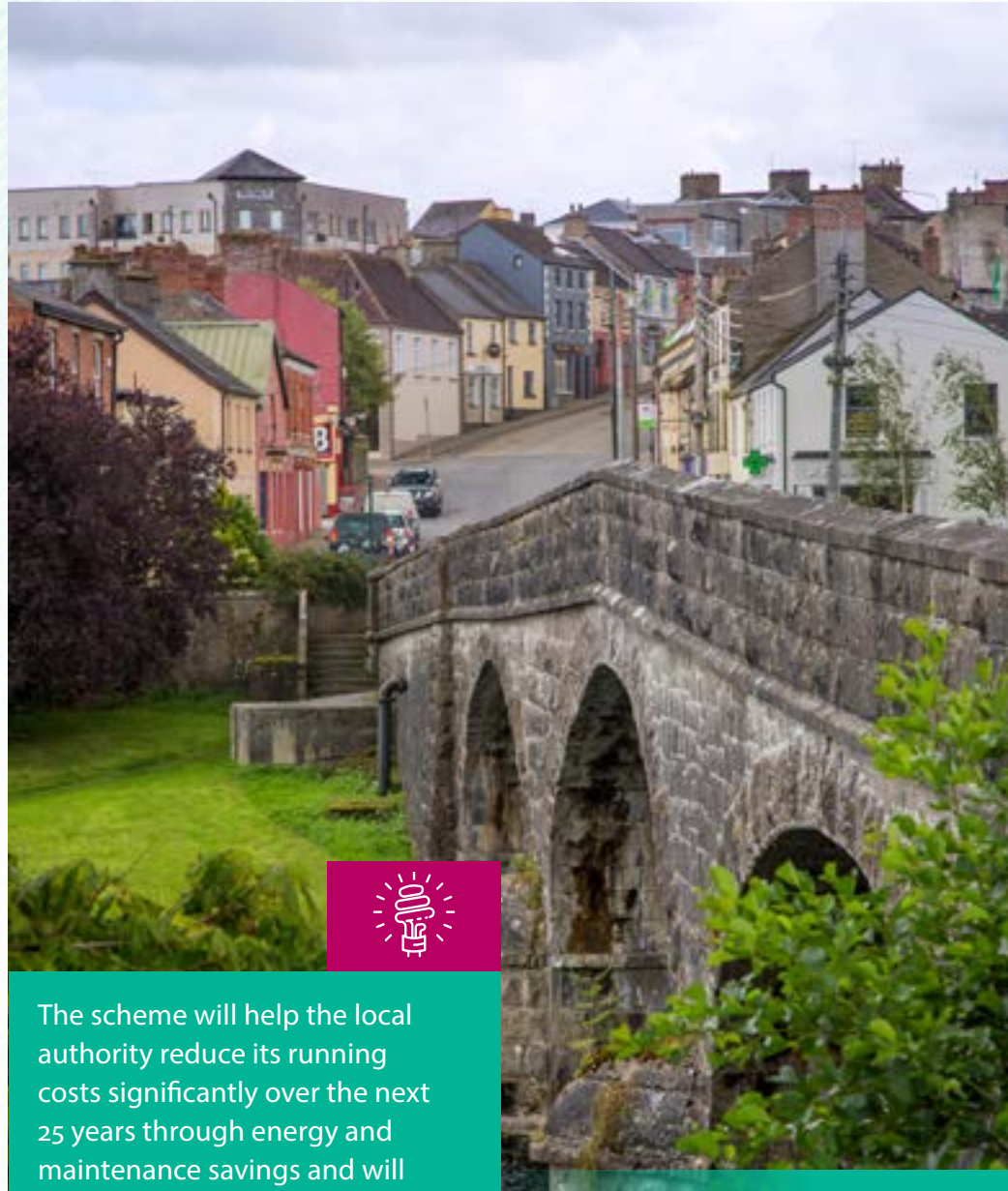
The scheme will help the local authority reduce its running costs significantly over the next 25 years through energy and maintenance savings and will contribute positively to their carbon reduction goals.

The work included the conversion of streetlight units to LED technology. The new LED lights have a central management system with an individual photocell to trigger lights on in darkness.

THE RESULT

Cavan County Council has so far completed LED lighting upgrades to over 60% of its 6,860 units public lighting inventory, with an average energy saving of 40–50% per lantern.

The upgrades carried out in 2020 resulted in approximately 21,000 kWh saved compared to the previous year equating to approximately €40,000 savings. A similar level of savings is expected annually as a result of these works.



The scheme will help the local authority reduce its running costs significantly over the next 25 years through energy and maintenance savings and will contribute positively to its carbon reduction goals.

LED Technology

Many businesses and organisations still rely on inefficient technology to meet their lighting needs. However, advances in lighting technology, specifically LEDs and lighting controls, offer great opportunities to improve the quality, affordability and reliability of light.

LEDs provide good colour temperature, colour rendering, longer lifetime and increased efficiency. Lighting controls ensure that lights are only on when and where they are needed.

The combination of these technologies are helping businesses to save money through reduced energy consumption and maintenance costs.

The best lighting for your business or organisation is one which is fit for purpose.

Research and policy insights at SEAI



Outputs from the Statistics and Modelling teams illustrate progress on energy-related targets, energy-related emissions, and future pathways for the transformation of Ireland's energy system – with the aim of net-zero emissions by 2050.



Informing national energy policy

Effective energy policy must be based on the best available evidence. SEAI's Data and Insights team fulfils SEAI's legal mandate to annually produce Ireland's national energy statistics and national energy projections.

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NET-ZERO

The aim for emissions in Ireland by 2050

SEAI's Behavioural Economics Unit investigates how Irish consumers use energy and make purchasing decisions to encourage measurable changes to energy-related behaviour. The Policy and Programme Evaluation Unit was established during 2022 to produce evidence-based assessments of the impacts of SEAI programmes and Government policies, and to produce insights for the advice of policy makers in the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), and wider climate policy fora. SEAI's work in this area informs the Government's Climate Action Plans, National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP), the National Housing Retrofit Taskforce, and other policy initiatives, in collaboration with DECC. In addition to advice provided directly to Government, significant outputs in 2022 included:



CONSUMERS' ABILITY TO OPERATE HEAT PUMPS

Realising the full potential of heat pumps in reducing carbon emissions relies not only on their adoption but also on correct operation once installed.

In September 2022, the Behavioural Economics Unit published the results of research investigating consumers' ability to operate heat pumps and their controls, and the potential for an intervention to improve this. The study found that consumers do indeed encounter difficulties operating heat pumps, but that this can be partially remedied through a simple intervention. Providing simplified instructions in the form of a 'quick start guide' improved performance on heat pump controls tasks by 11% on average, compared with providing them with the standard manual only. The report makes several recommendations based on the findings for heat pump manufacturers, installers, and policymakers.

ENERGY CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS

Throughout 2022, the Behavioural Economics Unit conducted behavioural research to inform DECC's energy crisis communications. We conducted online experiments to test what kind of framing of the Reduce Your Use campaign might be most effective at motivating behaviour change and launched the ongoing Behavioural Energy and Travel Tracker – a monthly survey providing detailed insights into travel and home energy behaviour in Ireland over time. We also published a set of recommendations regarding communication strategies to encourage energy conservation based on a rapid review of available behavioural science literature.

BEHAVIOURAL INSIGHTS TOOLKIT FOR ENERGY POLICY PRACTITIONERS

The Behavioural Economics Unit continues to be actively involved in several international networks and collaborations, including the IEA Users TCP Behavioural Insights Platform. Last year, the platform's members worked together to produce a toolkit to help policymakers, civil servants and professionals apply insights from behavioural science to demand-side energy policy. The toolkit helps those designing programmes to consider how people may respond to those programmes and increase the likelihood they achieve their intended outcomes.



National Heat Study

The National Heat Study was published at the beginning of 2022, providing a comprehensive analysis of current heating and cooling in Ireland.

It was published as a series of eight reports, along with supporting material. The first seven reports assemble state-of-the-art knowledge on technology, infrastructure, and low carbon fuel options. The final report, Net Zero by 2050, uses this information to model four broad pathways to achieve net-zero CO₂ emissions from heating and cooling by 2050. A summary document of Net Zero by 2050 was also published highlighting the key insights, evidence and actions for consideration following the study.

The following are some of the key insights of the study:

- District heating is a technology that offers additional potential. It is proven and available now.
- Heat pumps are a prominent technology in all scenarios and in all sectors. Rapid emissions cuts require deploying the technology at scale.
- Available domestic solid and gaseous biomass fuels are used in all scenarios. Nationally appropriate sustainability governance is required to minimise upstream emissions, align with circular and bioeconomy goals, and avoid increasing emissions in non-energy sectors.
- Net-zero emission pathways with the lowest cumulative emissions use more electric heating technologies. Scenarios focused on a hydrogen gas grid have more cumulative emissions.
- A timetable for fossil fuel phase-out in all sectors is needed as soon as possible to meet net-zero by 2050.



Ireland's Energy Projections

Enhancements to the National Energy Modelling Framework (NEMF) made during the heat study project were incorporated to facilitate the process of producing the National Energy Projections.

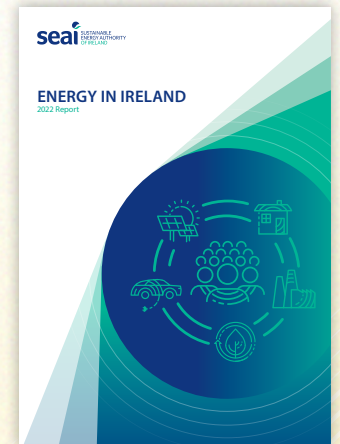
While these projections are submitted annually, the NEMF has been improved to allow for more dynamic incorporation of detailed policy information as it becomes available to maintain up-to-date versions of alternative projection scenarios throughout the year. This allows for continuous iteration and impact assessment of measures from the latest Climate Action Plan and other stated commitments to provide more bespoke and timely analysis outside of the annual projections cycle. The suite of data outputs and visualisations was also improved to enhance transparency of model assumptions and add context to the projections on carbon budgets and European directives. This allows for enhanced benchmarking of possible trajectories and illustration of the interplay between relevant targets for Ireland projected to 2030 and beyond.

Energy in Ireland Report 2022

SEAI's definitive report on Ireland's energy supply, transformation, and sectoral demand was updated in December 2022. The report had a new focus on energy-related emissions for our carbon budgets, and stronger use of provisional monthly data to provide pacier energy statistics.

Some key insights were that energy-related emissions increased by 5.4% in 2021, largely due to a 7.1% increase in energy demand from the transport sector due to Covid-19 rebounds, and greater use of coal and oil in our electricity generation. The report also highlighted the changes in Ireland's renewable energy share results, as the EU moved from the first to the second Renewable Energy Directive in 2021.

The report highlights the need to quickly shift away from fossil fuels to renewables to ensure a clean and secure supply of energy, and the need to both increase our generation of renewable electricity, and our switch-over to technologies driven by this clean energy.



Supporting research

SEAI's Research and Technology department supports solutions to decarbonise Ireland's energy use and system.

The department comprises analytical, technical, and subject area experts from engineering, science or similar technical backgrounds who are focused on developing solutions to the challenge of decarbonising Ireland's energy system.

This includes teams in the areas of research funding, renewable electricity (onshore and offshore), decarbonised heat (heating, cooling, and bioenergy), fostering international energy research and coordinating innovation.

They support and provide the technical knowledge upon which important energy policy decisions are based, informing, and supporting energy research priorities, supporting market development within the energy sector and contributing expert representation and public information on sustainable energy.

During 2022, they further enhanced Ireland's energy research capacity by awarding circa €19 million for new Research, Development and Demonstration projects and launched SEAI's Fellowship Pilot Programme. Additionally, SEAI has enhanced national coordination of energy research through leveraging co-funding from strategic partnership and the formation of the Energy Research Funders' Forum, with representation across several Government departments and state agencies. SEAI facilitated the bridging of energy research, with policy makers, industry, and citizens through the 2022 National Energy Research and Policy Conference: Societal Transformation for Delivering Ireland's Energy Revolution, reaching 591 delegates.

Following the 2021 launch of SEAI's National Heat Study, SEAI's decarbonised heat programme evolved to reflect this momentous evidence basis for Ireland's heat pathways. In 2022, the team grew to incorporate specific units looking at heating, cooling and district heating and bioenergy. The team has been central to significant national momentum, being active in key roles on Government committees, providing evidence-based analysis, and advancing district heating and biomass sustainability.

€19 million awarded for new research, development and demonstration projects

The Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) team has contributed to the pending plan led regime through coordination of national environmental assessments. The ORE team has continued to support advancing technology development through funding device test time through the 2022 SEAI LiR Industry Access Programme and advancement of the Atlantic Marine Energy Test Site onshore works. The Wind and Electricity team has been key in supporting Climate Action Plan actions relating to regional and local authorities' renewable electricity strategies and developing the Roadmap for Renewable Electricity Corporate Power Purchase Agreements. Further support, and in satisfaction of EU DG Competition requirements, SEAI completed the baseline survey of the Community Measures mandated in the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS).

The Research and Technology Department represented Ireland abroad at UNFCCC's COP27 in Egypt as the national delegate, strengthened Irish-French collaboration through a Memorandum of Understanding with the French Agency for Ecological transition (ADEME) and represented Ireland as pillar lead for marine renewable energy at the EU's DG MARE Atlantic Strategy. During 2022, the team grew Ireland's International Energy Agency (IEA) Technology Collaboration Programme activity, adding 35 new Irish experts.



Left to right: Dr Ellen O' Connor (Research Fellow), Dr Bernadette Power (Project Lead) and Dr John Eakins (Co-Investigator)

In a national survey conducted by the project, over two-thirds of respondents reported that they would consider investing in a local wind farm if given the opportunity.

Co-wind project: innovative approaches to achieving a social license

THE PROJECT

The research project aims to identify measures focused on public participation in decision making, opportunities for direct investment and co-ownership in projects by the public and enhancing current practice by developers in operating community benefit schemes.

THE FINDINGS

In a national survey conducted through the project, over two-thirds of respondents reported that they would consider investing in a local wind farm if given the opportunity while almost half of respondents said an opportunity to buy shares in a wind farm would increase their willingness to agree to a turbine being located within 1km of their home. Further research outputs will be available when the project closes in late 2023.

Delegated Functions

SEAI has delegated responsibility from the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications in the areas of Market Surveillance for energy labelling and eco-design and the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme.

Market Surveillance Authority

SEAI is now the Market Surveillance Authority (MSA) in respect of the EU Ecodesign Directive and the EU energy and tyre labelling regulations with legislation enacting the transfer of the MSA from the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications to SEAI entering into force in December 2022.

Therefore, for the majority of 2022, SEAI continued to support the Minister in his capacity as the Market Surveillance Authority.

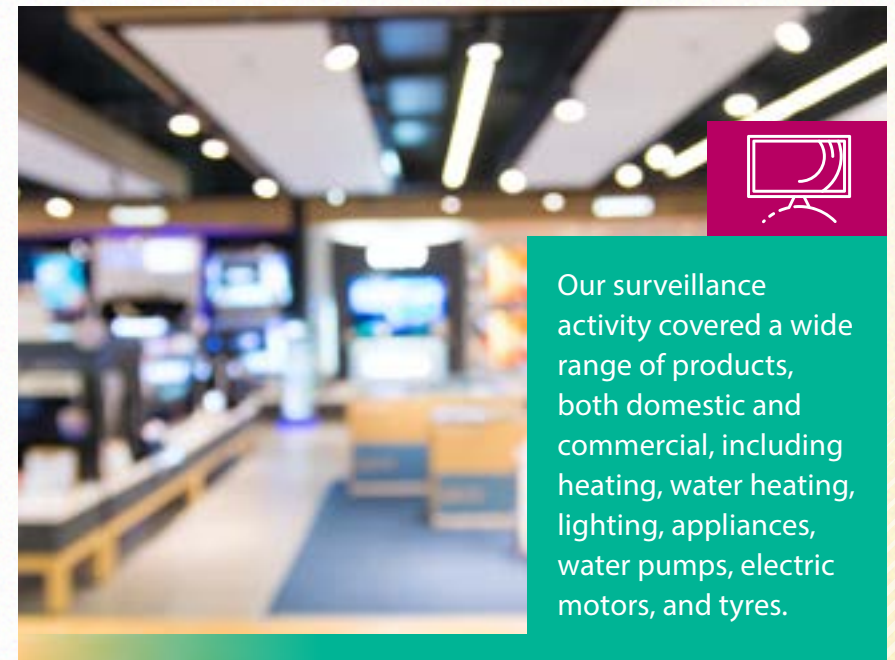
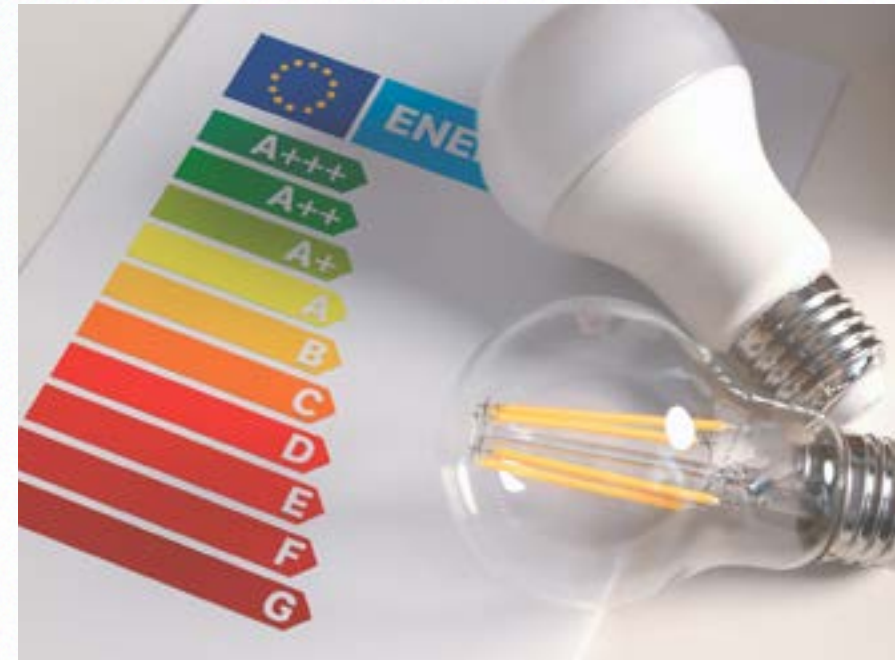
The MSA Unit expanded considerably during 2022, in preparation for becoming the Market Surveillance Authority, with the addition of several new roles to enhance the legal and technical capacity of the team

During 2022, SEAI inspected 110 retail outlets to assess their compliance with the EU Energy Labelling Regulations. 72% of the 20,873 products inspected were compliant, which maintains a downward trend in compliance caused

by extraneous factors including the Covid-19 pandemic (2020), energy labelling rescaling (2021) and most recently by Brexit, which resulted in a significant number of products on display being considered non-compliant due to the presence of the UK energy label. We have published a statement on the display and provision of UK energy labels and are engaging with retailers and manufacturers in relation to this issue. Consequently, we are confident that compliance levels will rebound in the near future.

SEAI also inspected 85 retailer websites and 35 advertisements to assess labelling compliance. Although the number of instances of non-compliance remains relatively high, the significant improvement in compliance noted last year has been sustained, particularly across the websites of larger retailers. Improvement comes through market engagement and SEAI continues to engage with retailers to address non-compliance including through inspections, one-to-one meetings, webinars, and the provision of retailer compliance guidance.

Our surveillance activity covered a wide range of products, both domestic and commercial, including heating, water heating, lighting, appliances, water pumps, electric motors, and tyres. Following market screening and risk assessment, we undertook compliance assessments of 215 products and laboratory tested 30, taking action to address several non-compliances. We also developed guidance, where needed, to support manufacturers in complying with the regulations. We participated in the multi-annual EU EEPLIANT₃ project (2019-2023) undertaking joint activities with MSAs from other EU countries. Through these projects we share best practice and work together in coordinated market surveillance campaigns. We led an IT Tools work package through which we hope to leverage artificial intelligence, robotics, and web crawling technologies to help us in tackling the breadth and scale of our responsibilities. We also developed and deployed a case management system with a view to significantly improving the efficiency and effectiveness of our work.



Our surveillance activity covered a wide range of products, both domestic and commercial, including heating, water heating, lighting, appliances, water pumps, electric motors, and tyres.

Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme

The largest energy companies operating in Ireland are obligated to deliver annual energy efficiency savings under the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme (EEOS).

To meet the targets, they support homes, businesses, and other organisations to invest in energy efficiency measures such as heat pumps, insulation, and electric vehicles. The obligated parties' participation must be material to the energy savings achieved, which they can demonstrate by, for example, making financial contributions towards projects (often alongside SEAI grants, where available) or offering practical supports such as quality audits and measurement and verification of savings. SEAI is designated the scheme administrator with responsibility for compliance oversight, monitoring progress to targets and scheme delivery. There is a robust quality management system underpinning the scheme, to ensure that only eligible savings are accepted.

The scheme was first introduced in 2014 as the principal policy measure for meeting Ireland's 2020 energy efficiency target under Article 7 of the Energy Efficiency Directive, alongside other alternative policy measures. Following a recast of the EU Energy Efficiency Directive in 2018, the EEOS and a number of alternative measures are required to achieve Ireland's 2030 Article 7 target for energy efficiency. Following a period of consultation by the Minister in 2021, new regulations were published in October 2022 for a new phase of the scheme that will run from 2023 to 2030.

Obligated parties have been given an extended deadline for their 2022 targets (until June 2023), to support their transition to the new requirements. During 2022, they achieved just over 198 GWh of final energy savings across their three sub-target areas (non-residential, residential and energy poverty).

- Approximately 151 GWh of savings were achieved in the non-residential sector, through 93 individual projects across 350 sites across Ireland. Obligated parties achieved these savings by supporting organisations across a wide range of sectors, such as hospitality, retail, transport, public sector organisations and heavy industry including dairy, distilleries, and pharmaceuticals. 95% of these savings were achieved through industrial process improvements, heating upgrades, transport projects, ventilation and cooling upgrades, lighting projects and fabric upgrades.
- Just over 47 GWh of savings were achieved through almost 9,400 home energy upgrades, including approximately 8.6 GWh of savings in homes experiencing energy poverty.
- Almost half of the residential savings were achieved by supporting the uptake of energy efficiency measures in conjunction with SEAI grant schemes. Of these, insulation and heating measures were the most popular, followed by deeper retrofits with multiple measures.
- Over 25 GWh of the residential savings were achieved outside of the SEAI grant schemes. The installation of electric vehicle chargers made the highest contribution here, followed by heating upgrades, primarily heat pumps. Heating controls, deeper retrofits with multiple measures and fabric upgrades were also supported.



The EEOS was first introduced in 2014 as the principal policy measure for meeting Ireland's 2020 energy efficiency target under Article 7 of the Energy Efficiency Directive, alongside other alternative policy measures.

Governance

Energy Efficiency Report	18
Corporate Social Responsibility at SEAI	19
Corporate Governance	21
SEAI Risk Report	23

Energy Efficiency Report

SEAI's energy use for 2022 shows a 55% improvement since the 2009 baseline year. However, on a year-on-year basis, SEAI's direct energy consumption for offices rose as a result of the return to office post Covid, with considerably higher occupancy levels from mid-2022.

SEAI's energy efficiency improves when

- We reduce energy use through demand reduction activity
- Any necessary increase in floor area is achieved with more efficient building services or use
- The national power generation efficiency or renewable contribution improves and the resulting primary energy conversion factor improves.

All three of the above factors have played a role in SEAI's energy efficiency improvement of 55% from the baseline year, meaning SEAI has already surpassed its 2050 target for energy efficiency. SEAI's move to a new A3 rated office building in 2019 has played a big part in this.

SEAI's Green Team is highly active, primarily focusing on energy decarbonisation and energy efficiency as well as developing the organisational climate action roadmap. As we return to more office-based activity, we have a plan to recertify to ISO50001.

During winter 2022/23 SEAI fully met its obligations under the Reduce Your Use mandate for all public sector bodies. We are currently achieving reductions in lighting and heating use through changes to lighting levels and smart controls, adjusting the setpoint of heating energy services to 19°C, maintenance, and operational control audits and checks.

SEAI supported the implementation of the Reduce Your Use mandate, collaborating with the Office of Public Works to support energy awareness campaigns across the public sector. We engaged with 224 public sector bodies availing of this support and resources, accounting for 81% of the public sector's energy use. SEAI also delivered an enhanced Engaging People Accelerator Programme to train and support organisations in developing a staff engagement programme on energy in the workplace. This commenced in the fourth quarter of 2022 with 19 public bodies on board, accounting for a combined energy bill of over €60 million.

Although energy efficiency improved by 55% following the move to our new headquarter in Dublin, our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions increased by 50% from our GHG baseline (2016–2018 average). This was primarily because the baseline year represented our lowest energy consumption in our former Dublin HQ which had a significantly smaller floor footprint. The new building floor space is more than double that of the previous location to accommodate the significant increase in the staff headcount. While the new building is much more energy efficient than the previous building, the primary energy factor has increased as the new HQ is mechanically rather than naturally ventilated and, during 2022 in continuing the response to Covid-19 as staff returned to the office, greater circulation rates were required meaning higher air treatment and energy demand.

SEAI's first Climate Action Roadmap has been approved by the Board of SEAI and can be viewed on our website. The roadmap to 2030 comprises several actions including the consideration of full decarbonisation of the heating system and other uses, energy demand reduction actions including maintaining Reduce Your Use mandated actions and ISO50001 recertification. We will also consider the energy benefits that can be derived from blended working as the workforce in SEAI continues to expand to meet our mandate.

Energy use across the four offices and company vehicles is summarised in the table below

ENERGY USE	2022	2021
DIRECT CONSUMPTION FOR OFFICES AND POOL CARS	250,730	235,290
Electricity: Lighting, ICT, Office power, Heating Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) + 2 × Electric Vehicles + 3 × EV charging points (kWh TFC)		
Natural gas for heating (kWh TFC)	197,596	206,799
Marked gas oil for heating (kWh TFC)	0	0
LPG for Heating (kWh)	8,390	6,305*
Totals for Direct Consumption	456,716	448,394*
CO₂ Emissions (kg)	124,515	127,787*

* The 6,305 kWh figure for LPG (previously 4,664 kWh) reflects final agreed consumption for SEAI. The consumption is typically based upon allocations in multi-tenant buildings occupied by SEAI. Estimated allocations were used during COVID-19.

Corporate Social Responsibility at SEAI

SEAI actively demonstrates Corporate Social Responsibility, or CSR, at an organisational level and it forms a central part of the conversation with our diverse stakeholders.

SEAI is passionate about sustainability and through our people, processes and programmes we seek to drive a positive impact on society, employees, stakeholders, and the environment.

In 2022 as a society, we continued to emerge from the pandemic however the impact of the war in Ukraine on increasing energy prices provided an urgent need to assist citizens and organisations to focus on energy efficiency. We continued to focus on wellbeing and flexible supports for staff.

There are five pillars of CSR under which we have set out our actions:

1. The Community: Interaction with community partners and organisations.

2. The Environment: Reduce, reuse, recycle resources.

3. The Marketplace: Responsible commercial decisions with suppliers and customers.

4. The Workplace: Supporting and engaging employees.

5. Our Communications and Governance: How we communicate about our sustainable business practices

Achievements to date

1. The Communities we support

- We provided direct support by way of mentoring and advice to a national network of 700 sustainable energy communities nationwide which continues to grow year on year.
- We have directly supported 24 community energy projects.
- We developed the renewable energy community support scheme.
- We provided 760 workshops for schools (teachers and pupils).



2. The Environment we protect

While sustainability is at the heart of everything, we do in SEAI – sustainable energy is our core business. We consider sustainable energy from two aspects –

1. The energy we use as an organisation and
2. The energy-use we influence through our programmes.

In relation to our own energy use:

- Our head office is an A3 BER rated building and we are continuing to learn how we use this building, and any building we occupy, more efficiently reducing the use of fossil fuels.
- We have a fully active Green Team who meet twice monthly and comprise of management and staff from across the organisation. SEAI follows best practice energy management and have previously received accreditation to ISO50001.

- The Green Team is chaired by the Director of Business and Public sectors and is fully supported by the Board of SEAI, the CEO and Executive.
- The mandate of the Green team in 2022 was to focus primarily on reducing our use of fossil fuels and continuing to improve our energy efficiency particularly in our new head office as we returned to the offices.
- We implemented the Government mandate to reduce our energy use during the winter of 2022 and 2023.

In addition, during 2022 we also continued to reduce our environmental footprint beyond the scope of our energy use through the following initiatives:

- Purchasing recycled printer paper, compostable tea bags, fewer plastic items such as cups and name badges. We are also researching the green policies of suppliers
- Removal of plastic water cups.

- Employee book-sharing library.
- Continued use of compostable coffee cups, cutlery and takeaway containers.
- Continued segregation of office waste.
- Working towards being a paperless office across the organisation.



Achievements to date (continued)

3. The Marketplace we develop

The business of sustainable energy is growing every day, and this relates to the second aspect referred to above namely the **energy-use we influence**.

Our programmes are generating sustainable energy business activity across every sector, and we are helping to develop the markets related to sustainable energy best practices and standards including the following.

- The provision of advice and support to citizens and organisations in reducing the use of fossil fuels and their replacement with renewable energy sources.
- Home energy upgrades.
- Community energy activity.
- Business and Industry decarbonisation.
- Public Sector Climate Action leadership.
- Transport decarbonisation including the switch to electrification.
- Renewable energy generation for electricity and heat.

4. The Workplace we enjoy

- During 2022 SEAI continued to recruit new staff into the organisation and given the scale and pace at which the organisation is growing there has been a particular focus on our staff induction programme to assist with integration into the teams and the workplace.
- As part of the recruitment in 2022 we also recruited a Head of HR and a Learning and Development manager and initiated a new staff learning and development programme.
- In 2021 SEAI commenced a transformation programme (Project Evolve) which is a multi-year programme of change within the organisation. Throughout 2022 SEAI has continued to drive transformational change across the organisation by designing innovative solutions and implementing changes that build scale and deliver on the mandate set out in the Climate Action Plan.
- To encourage and support the wellbeing of our teams, we have arranged several initiatives, online and in office including yoga classes, relevant mindfulness webinars, and coffee mornings across the organisation.
- We provide an Employee Assistance Programme which provides confidential counselling, parent and career coaching, unlimited specialist information, and an online wellbeing support portal to our direct and in-direct staff and their families.
- We have an active Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee who have been consulting across the organisation and developing an EDI Strategy. As we continued to return to the office and recruit new staff in 2022 remote working has provided insights into how we may prepare a new Equality, Inclusion and Diversity strategy for the future.
- Employee Health and Safety activity has continued in a remote working environment, including ergonomic assessments and toolbox talks on relevant issues.
- Employee Health Screening and wellbeing assistance is provided for all employees.
- The Women in Energy Group is an SEAI employee-led initiative supporting and encouraging female engagement within the energy sector.
- The Smarter Travel Workplaces Step Challenges and Smarter Travel Cycling Challenges which ran throughout the year encouraged staff teams to get active, promoting sustainable mobility.
- The Cycle to Work and Tax Saver Public Transport Scheme is available to all.
- Employees have the use of the company electric vehicle for business related travel which reduces emissions and advocates for their usefulness.
- Sustainable event procurement is particularly important for our event planning for which we now use a checklist of environmental measures from potential venues.
- The purchase of energy efficient ICT equipment, accounting for environmental, energy efficiency and cooling standards.



5. Our Communications

How we communicate the sustainable energy message internally and externally is central to all SEAI activity.

- We communicate best practices, share case studies, and provide sustainable energy information knowledge and expertise to every part of society.
- A key pillar of the Project Evolve which has been to the forefront of the programme in 2022 is Customer focus and a full review of the customer journey to deliver improved customer experiences.
- Communications review has been carried out in many parts of the organisation and is an ongoing process to ensure a better service. This includes a review of our website, application process and customer charter.



Corporate Governance

The overall SEAI Governance Statement and Board Members Report, as required by the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016 is set out in the attached Financial Statements for 2022.

SWIFT 3000 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CERTIFICATION/ EXTERNAL EVALUATION

In April 2011, SEAI became the first organisation in Europe, either public or private, to be awarded certification under the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) SWIFT 3000 standard.

This is a standard relating to a Code of Practice for Corporate Governance assessment in Ireland. The objective is to assess the corporate governance frameworks of organisations and specifically, the level of compliance by organisations with governance codes and best practice. A further review of SEAI compliance with the SWIFT 3000 requirements was completed in December 2020. Arising from this latest assessment, SEAI maintained this important corporate governance certification. SEAI, therefore, continues to operate to best practice corporate governance standards. The SWIFT 3000 certification process involves a comprehensive external review of SEAI Board structures, processes, procedures, and material including compliance with SEAI legislation, the SEAI Code of Governance Framework, Declarations of Interests by Board members, and operation of Board Committees etc.

GOVERNANCE

While the primary source of corporate governance for SEAI is the Sustainable Energy Act, 2002 the agency is also required to comply with a range of other statutory (National and EU) and administrative requirements. SEAI affirms that it complied with its obligations to meet these requirements. The following procedures are in place to ensure compliance with specific requirements:

General Administrative and Policy requirements

At national level, SEAI works closely with the relevant officials in the Department of Environment Climate and Communications, and officials from other Government Departments and state agencies. This is necessary in the context of advancing its objectives and ensuring compliance with statutory, administrative and Ministerial / Government requirements. At local level, SEAI works closely with other state agencies and a wide range of local organisations and public representatives to proactively develop sustainable energy policy and initiatives. This underpins the overall national strategic objective that SEAI will be central to bringing about a low carbon economy through measures and activities focused on the transition to a smarter and more sustainable energy future. This work and interaction are carried out in accordance with various policy directives issued by the Minister for Environment Climate and Communications.

Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies

In September 2016, the SEAI Board formally adopted the revised Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, issued by the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform in August 2016. SEAI provides briefings for Board members on the requirements of the Code and has put in place a range of actions, procedures, and initiatives to ensure compliance with the Code. As referred to above, SEAI is also evaluated on its compliance with this Code under the SWIFT 3000 certification process. In addition, SEAI has its own holistic Code of Governance Framework for the organisation, incorporating the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. This Code of Governance Framework is reviewed by the SEAI Board on an annual basis and is available on the SEAI website www.seai.ie.

Against this background, SEAI confirms compliance with the following Sections of the Code of Practice issued by the Minister for Finance.

Section 1: Role of the Board

The Board is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records, which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, its financial position and enables it to ensure that the financial statements comply with Section 24 of the Sustainable Energy Act 2002. The maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information on the SEAI Website is the responsibility of the Board.

The Board is responsible for approving the annual plan and budget. An evaluation of the performance of SEAI by reference to the annual plan and budget was considered in January 2023 in respect of 2022.

The Board is responsible for safeguarding its assets and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities. The Board considers that the financial statements of SEAI give a true and fair view of the financial performance and financial position of SEAI at 31 December 2022.

SECTION 1.2: ETHICAL STANDARDS

As stated above, the SEAI Board, in consultation with SEAI senior management has devised a specific SEAI Code of Governance Framework. This sets out the appropriate structures and procedures to ensure that the governance and accountability arrangements are robust and effective across the Authority. This Framework includes a Code of Business Conduct for Board members, the conduct required at Board meetings. Board members and designated staff members are also required to comply with the Ethics in Public Office legislation on an annual basis.

SECTION 1.7: MATTERS FOR DECISION BY THE BOARD

The SEAI Board has approved a formal Schedule of Matters specifically reserved to it for decision, to ensure that the direction and control of the body is firmly in their hands. This is set out in the SEAI Code of Governance Framework.

SECTION 1.11: CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The SEAI Board has established comprehensive procedures to monitor and manage potential conflicts of interests of management and Board members.

SECTION 1.14: PROTECTED DISCLOSURE

The SEAI Board at its meeting on 2 November 2022, approved a revised Protected Disclosures (Whistle-blowers) Policy Charter, which takes account of the new requirements arising from the Protected Disclosures (Amendment) Act 2022. This is reviewed on an annual basis as part of the review of the SEAI Code of Governance Framework.

SECTION 1.17: STATEMENT OF STRATEGY

SEAI's Strategy "Delivering Ireland's Energy Revolution" covers the period from 2022 to 2025 and was formally launched by the Minister on June 2022 and is available on the SEAI website www.seai.ie. The strategy was approved by the Board and submitted to the Minister for Environment Climate and Communication in accordance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

Section 6: Business and Financial reporting

The SEAI Financial Statements are audited annually by the Comptroller and Auditor General and submitted to the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications with the SEAI Annual Report in compliance with the Sustainable Energy Act 2002. This includes an examination of the annual Statement of Internal Control (SIC). The Chair submits these reports in accordance with the requirements set out in Paragraph 1.9 of the Business and Financial requirements of the revised Code. In this regard, SEAI confirms that it complies with Government policy in relation to the total remuneration for the Chief Executive Officer and the remuneration of other staff in accordance with the arrangements set out by the Department of Public

Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform. In addition, SEAI complies with the guidelines covering the payment of fees to Chairpersons and Directors / members of State Bodies. The schedule of Board fees and expenses for Board members is set out in the Governance Statement.

Section 7: Risk management and Internal Control

SECTION 7.1: RISK MANAGEMENT
A comprehensive risk assessment and management policy has been developed in SEAI and the overall risk management framework has been approved by the Board. The SEAI Board and the Audit and Risk Committee have established appropriate mechanisms to ensure that it is fully operational and monitors and reviews its effectiveness.

SECTIONS 7.4: REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL CONTROL

An effective system of internal control is maintained and operated by SEAI. The system of internal financial controls is reviewed on an annual basis by the outsourced internal auditors, and this was the case in respect of 2022. The requirements in relation to this review, as set out in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, have been applied in respect of 2022.

The review of internal controls and the associated Statement of Internal Control (SIC) for 2022 have been approved by the SEAI Audit and Risk Committee and the Board. The review is confirmed in the annual letter from the Chairperson to the Minister for Environment Climate and Communications, in addition, the Chairpersons' statement on internal financial controls is included in the Annual Report (see page 32).

SECTION 7.7: INTERNAL AUDIT

SEAI has a properly constituted Internal Audit function in accordance with the principles set out in the Code of Practice and has a formal Charter, which has been approved by the Board.

SECTION 7.12: AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

SEAI has an established Audit and Risk Committee with specific terms of reference, approved by the Board, which are reviewed on an annual basis.

Section 8: Parent Department and Oversight role

SECTION 8.4: OVERSIGHT AGREEMENTS

The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications and SEAI have a formal Oversight and Performance Framework/Service Level Agreement in place, which is reviewed on an annual basis. Following discussions between the Department and SEAI, the current arrangement has been extended.

SECTION 8.16: PROCEDURES FOR PROCUREMENT

SEAI has an appropriate Public Procurement process, which is compliant with the current value thresholds for the application of EU and national rules. Competitive tendering is standard procedure in this procurement process.

SECTION 8.44: TAX COMPLIANCE

The Chairperson, in the separate letter furnished to the Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications confirms that SEAI has complied with its obligations under tax law.

Guidelines for the Appraisal and Management of Capital Expenditure Proposals

SEAI has well established and robust procedures in place for the Appraisal and Management of Capital Expenditure projects arising under the Capital (grants) programmes.

Employment Equality Acts 1998–2015

SEAI is committed to a policy of equal opportunities and equality is an established priority in the organisation. SEAI has a progressive equality and diversity agenda and operates a number of schemes providing staff with opportunities in

relation to meeting their career and personnel needs including study leave, educational programmes etc. The SEAI Performance and Growth Planning Process also facilitates career and personal development. SEAI values diversity and strives to be an equality employer where individual contribution is encouraged, and differences valued. SEAI is committed to maintaining and developing a balanced work / life environment for all staff.

Annex 2020 to the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies on Gender Balance, Diversity and Inclusion

As at 31 December 2022, the Board had five (42%) female and seven (58%) male members. The Board therefore meets the Government target of a minimum of 40% representation of each gender in the membership of State Boards.

The following measures will continue to be applied to maintain and support gender balance on this Board:

There will be close coordination and cooperation between SEAI and the Minister for Environment Climate and Communications in relation to Board appointments. Board appointments, when they arise, are made by the Minister in accordance with the Sustainable Energy Act 2002, as amended by the Energy Act 2016. The requirements of Annex 2020 will be applied in relation to all Board appointments.

The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005

This Act, which replaces the provisions of the Safety, Health and Welfare Act 1988, consolidates and updates the existing law. SEAI continues to take appropriate measures to protect the safety, health and welfare of all employees and visitors and promote awareness within its offices to meet the provisions of this Act. This extends to the Public Health (Tobacco) Acts 2002 and 2004.

Customer Charter

SEAI has published a Customer Charter, setting out its commitment to a high quality of service. This Charter includes a procedure for dealing with complaints, if they arise. In 2022, 261 complaints were received under this Charter. This is also available on www.seai.ie.

Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997

SEAI comes under the remit of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997 which came into effect on 2 January 1998, and the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2002 which came into effect on 7 August 2002.

It is a policy of SEAI to ensure that all invoices are paid promptly. Procedures are in place, however, to ensure that late interest is paid, if required.

Ethics in Public Office Act, 1995 and Standards in Public Office Act, 2001

In accordance with the above Acts, SEAI Board Members furnish each year, to the Secretary, completed Statements of Interests in compliance with the provisions of the Acts. In addition, SEAI staff members, holding designated positions, comply with both Acts.

Freedom of Information Act, 1997, Freedom of Information (Amendment) Act 2003 and Freedom of Information Act 2014

SEAI is a prescribed body under the Freedom of Information Acts and complies fully with the requirements set out in the Acts. Requests for information under the Acts should be addressed to the FOI Officer at foi@seai.ie.

Data Protection Acts 1988–2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

SEAI is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Acts. Data protection is concerned with the protection of the individual's fundamental right to privacy and to exercise control over how their personal information is used. SEAI has appointed a Data Protection Officer (DPO) who can assist data subjects in exercising their rights under data protection legislation. Such requests can be addressed to dataprotection@seai.ie

Official Languages Act 2003 and Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021

SEAI comes under the remit of the Official Languages Act 2003, which was signed into law on 14 July 2003 to provide a statutory framework for the delivery of services through the Irish language. In accordance with Section 10 of the Act, this Annual Report is published simultaneously in both Irish and English. The Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 was signed into law on 22 December 2022 and is designed to make a significant contribution to the quality of services in Irish provided to the public by State bodies.

Public Sector Duty

As a public body, SEAI acknowledges its role and obligation to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect the human rights of our employees, customers, service users and everyone affected by our policies and plans. This is mandated by the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, under Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Act 2014. In January 2023 SEAI launched its new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategy, aligned to its organisational and people strategies, and informed by the work completed in achieving its Silver Investor in Diversity accreditation from the Irish Centre for Diversity. SEAI has an EDI Committee and many of the objectives under the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty will be addressed through this EDI strategy.

SEAI Risk Report

APPROACH TO RISK MANAGEMENT

SEAI applies best practice, as outlined in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016) and ISO 31000, in the identification, assessment, and control of risks to ensure that, in so far as possible, they are reduced to a level acceptable to the Board in the achievement of its objectives. The effective management of risks and the pursuit of opportunities supports the development and effective implementation of SEAI's strategy.

All personnel at SEAI have a responsibility to engage in good risk management practices and contribute to the identification, management and reporting of risks, risk events and known/potential control deficiencies.

RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

SEAI's Risk Management Framework takes a holistic approach including defined policies and procedures, coupled with a risk management culture that has been fostered within the organisation.

The Board of SEAI is responsible for establishing the foundation for risk management throughout the organisation by clearly articulating and communicating its tolerance for risk ("Risk Appetite") on an ongoing basis. Risk appetite sets the understanding of SEAI's ability to take risk, articulated and quantified in a manner that is meaningful for day-to-day decisions. SEAI Management are responsible for ensuring SEAI operates in a manner that is consistent with the Board's Risk Appetite.

The management of risk is integrated across all levels of the organisation, so that each level supports another. Risk management is led from the top and based upon clearly defined structures and responsibilities. It is embedded in the normal working routines and activities of the organisation, with all staff conscious of the relevance of risk in pursuit of their objectives.

Following the launch of SEAI's Statement of Strategy 2022–2025, the Board, supported by the management team, conducted a risk review workshop during 2022 considering both internal and external risk factors and their potential impact on the achievement of SEAI's objectives.

PRINCIPAL RISKS IN 2022 AND BEYOND

During 2022, SEAI continued to adapt to the challenges of an increasing urgency to scale up activities nationally on sustainability against a backdrop of a constrained supply chain for energy technologies and services, the invasion of Ukraine and persistent increase in inflation significant factors. SEAI continues to adapt and update the Risk Management Framework, to navigate the challenges and inform key decisions, ensuring an appropriate balance is struck between the achievement of objectives and management of risks. A key aspect of the Risk Management Framework is regular communication and engagement with the Department of Environment, Climate, and Communications our customers, staff, supply chain and market.

The table opposite summarises the principal risks that SEAI managed during 2022 and continues to manage into 2023:

Risk Area	Risk Description	Mitigation
Strategic	<p>STRATEGIC MANDATE/DELIVERY RISK SEAI is at the heart of delivering the Government's Climate Action Plan. The Plan sets ambitious goals and targets for 2030.</p> <p>SEAI's mandate is expanding and increasing in complexity in support of actions set out in the Climate Action plan 2023 ("CAP23"). This increased mandate is being delivered against the backdrop of the wider economic and social/political challenges outlined below.</p>	<p>To achieve our strategic objectives and ambitions, in support of the Climate Action Plan, and deliver on the enhanced role in the regulatory area, SEAI has been scaling up its operations, expanding its workforce and sourcing new skills and talent to develop and progress activities new to SEAI and Ireland.</p> <p>SEAI continues to work on new and existing initiatives across the domestic and non-domestic sectors to create awareness and stimulate demand in support of the achievement of challenging targets.</p>
Economic	<p>SUPPLY CHAIN RISK Supply chain challenges continued during 2022, owing to a lack of contractor capacity in areas, shortage of skilled labour, rising inflation and increased material costs.</p>	<p>SEAI has been monitoring the impact of the supply chain challenges as well as engaging with the supply chain, enhancing our understanding of other market conditions and how to respond to these challenges.</p> <p>SEAI collaborated with external agencies to drive skills development in 2022 and into 2023.</p>
Social / Geopolitical	<p>ENERGY TRANSITION RISK New perspectives and dimensions to the urgency of transition created uncertainty with potential to impact the delivery of goals and objectives during 2022 with issues such as the cost of fossil fuels for energy and the security of energy supply to the fore in particular following the invasion of Ukraine.</p>	<p>During 2022, SEAI collaborated with colleagues in our parent Department and other state agencies and actively participated in the 'Reduce Your Use' campaign and on the Energy Security Emergency Group (ESG), adapting policies where appropriate.</p> <p>SEAI continued organisational focus on delivery of key programmes.</p>
Finance	<p>FINANCIAL LOSS / FRAUD RISK Given the nature of SEAI's business, including the provision of grant supports, it must continually manage the potential for financial loss or fraud.</p>	<p>SEAI has implemented robust financial and other controls and checks to prevent and detect fraud and error. These controls are subject to yearly review for appropriateness and effectiveness.</p>
Technology	<p>CYBER SECURITY RISK Risk of a Cyber-attack leading to business continuity disruption, potentially including compromised networks, systems, or data.</p>	<p>SEAI has an Information Security Management System (ISMS) which is aligned to ISO27001 and includes regular training of staff and system penetration testing.</p>

Finance



Governance Statement and Board Members' Report	25
Statement of Internal Control	32
Report of Comptroller and Auditor General	33
Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves	34
Statement of Comprehensive Income	35
Statement of Financial Position	36
Statement of Cash Flows	37
Notes to the Financial Statements	38

Governance Statement and Board Members' Report

For the Year Ended 31 December 2022

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) was established with effect from 1st May 2002, pursuant to the Sustainable Energy Act 2002 (as amended).

The functions of the Authority are set out in Section 6 of the 2002 Act. The principal functions of SEAI as prescribed in the 2002 Act (as amended) are to:

- promote and assist the production, supply and use of energy, including from renewable sources, in environmentally, economically sustainable and efficient ways;
- promote and assist the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants associated with energy use;
- promote and assist research and development of technologies and to provide advice, information and guidance on energy related matters;
- licence, regulate and control activities so directed by the Minister from time to time.

SEAI adheres to relevant laws and regulations governing its activities and to the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, 2016 (as amended) ("the Code").

This Governance report sets out SEAI's governance structures and details the main areas of focus of the SEAI Board in 2022.

BOARD STRUCTURE

The Board structure is prescribed by statute. Board members are appointed by the Minister for The Environment, Climate and Communications, ("the Minister") with the consent of the Minister for Finance, in accordance with the Sustainable Energy Act 2002, as amended by the Energy Act 2016. The Minister designates one member of the Board (other than the Chief Executive) as Chairperson for a period not greater than 5 years. Board members are appointed for up to 5-year periods and may be reappointed up to a maximum period of 8 years in accordance with Annex 2020, on Gender Balance Diversity and Inclusion, of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. The Chief Executive Officer is an ex officio member of the Board.

The Board is accountable to the Minister. The Minister's objectives and priorities are communicated to the Board through the formulation of National Development Plans, Climate Action Plans and a Performance Delivery Agreement as well as annual Service Level Plans. There is regular dialogue between the Chair, the CEO, management of SEAI and the Minister and his/her officials.

The Board has established a committee structure to assist it in discharging its responsibilities.

The regular day-to-day management, control, and direction of SEAI are the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Senior Management Team. The CEO and the Senior Management Team follow the broad strategic direction set by the Board and ensure that all Board members have a clear understanding of matters of relevance to the operation of SEAI, including those relating to the delivery of its mandate as set by the Minister. The CEO acts as a direct liaison between the Board and management of SEAI.

ROLE OF THE BOARD AND BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

The broad role of the Board is set out in Section 10 of the Sustainable Energy Act 2002 and the more specific responsibilities of the Board, both individually and corporately, are detailed in the SEAI Code of Governance Framework, which is approved on an annual basis by the Board and is available on the SEAI Website (www.seai.ie).

The Board is responsible for setting the broad strategy and policies for the organisation. It is responsible for the system of internal control and for putting in place processes and procedures for ensuring that the system is effective. It performs these functions directly and through the

operation of specific Board Committees in accordance with approved Terms of Reference. Responsibility for the implementation of policy rests with the executive management of SEAI.

The Board has certain matters specifically reserved for Board decision and the standing items considered by the Board include:

- Quorum and Declaration of Interest requirements
- Verification of Minutes of previous meeting
- Matters arising and associated Action Points
- Chairperson's Report
- CEO Report
- Finance, Budget, and Expenditure Reports
- SEAI Strategy developments and performance reports
- Consideration of procurement and grant proposals, in accordance with approved delegated authority
- Consideration of Committee reports
- Corporate Risk Review /Risk management
- Governance and reserved matters

Section 24 (2) of the Sustainable Energy Act 2002 requires the Authority to keep, in such form as may be approved by the Minister, with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, all proper and usual accounts of money received and expended by it. In preparing these financial statements, the Board of SEAI is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.

- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that it will continue in operation; and
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

The Board is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records, which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, its financial position and enables it to ensure that the financial statements comply with Section 24 of the Sustainable Energy Act 2002. The maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information on the SEAI Website is the responsibility of the Board.

The Board is responsible for approving the annual plan and budget. An evaluation of the performance of SEAI by reference to the annual plan and budget was considered in January 2023 in respect of 2022.

The Board is responsible for safeguarding its assets and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

The Board considers that the financial statements of SEAI give a true and fair view of the financial performance and financial position of SEAI at 31 December 2022.

BOARD EFFECTIVENESS

The Board is responsible for setting the broad strategy and policies for the organisation. It is responsible for the system of internal control and for putting in place processes and procedures for ensuring that the system is effective. An appropriate and comprehensive induction and development process is in place for Board members. New members, on their appointment, are provided with

extensive briefing on the agency and its operations.

SEAI continues to retain its SWIFT 3000 certification status, which is an independent examination and evaluation by the NSAI assessors of the SEAI corporate governance procedures and compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. The latest NSAI evaluation was completed in January 2021. In January 2023, in the context of reviewing overall Board effectiveness, the Board carried out a comprehensive review of its activities, operations and outcomes for 2022.

The Board had ten meetings during 2022. Two of these took place on a remote basis through Microsoft Teams with the remaining eight taking part in person (one in the RDS and seven in Three Park Place). In relation to these Board matters for 2022, the Board considered the comprehensive summary of strategic leadership activities/decisions, and oversight/governance and its monitoring of the systems and controls in SEAI. Overall, this analysis demonstrated that the Board made every effort to discharge its responsibilities, in an appropriate and efficient manner, in accordance with the requirements set out in the Sustainable Energy Act 2002 and the revised Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. The external evaluation/assessment associated with the SWIFT 3000 Corporate Governance certification process, confirms overall SEAI compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

Board Membership



Dermot Byrne
Chairperson
Appointed 1 September 2020

Dermot's background is in utility engineering and management. He was CEO of EirGrid through its initiation and growth phase, from 2005 to 2012. Prior to that he served as Head of ESB Networks. Since retiring from EirGrid, Dermot has served on a number of Boards including that of Element Power (a wind development company), and VITA (an Irish overseas development agency with a strong focus on rural communities and climate action in East Africa) which he chaired. Dermot is a Fellow of Engineers Ireland and served as its president in 2016/17. On behalf of DCENR (now DECC) he chaired an expert group to develop a National Energy Research Strategy. The report of the group – Energy Innovation Ireland - was published in 2016.



Dr Peter Brennan
Appointed 6 May 2015, reappointed 9 May 2018, resigned at end of term on 8 May 2023

Peter is Managing Director of EPS Consulting, a public policy research consultancy, and Chairman of Bid Services, Ireland's largest tender and procurement advisory company. He has a particular interest and expertise in climate change and energy. He chaired the IEA's Climate Change Research Group from 2007 to 2015 and was an advisor to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Climate Change and Energy. He lectured on the DCU Masters and Certificate Programme on Sustainable Energy Finance. He is author of an eBook on business opportunities in the green economy. He was IBEC's Director for European Affairs and Strategy Development and was Director of the Brussels based Irish Business Bureau from 1986 to 2001. In his earlier career he worked in the Departments of Industry and Energy and Foreign Affairs.



Dr Lisa Ryan
Appointed 6th May 2015, reappointed 9 May 2018, resigned at end of term on 8 May 2022

Lisa is professor in energy economics in the School of Economics in UCD and energy economics lead at UCD Energy Institute with expertise in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and climate change economics. She was the senior energy economist in the Energy Efficiency Unit at the International Energy Agency (IEA) in Paris until summer 2013 where she led projects relating to energy efficiency finance, transport, and cross-sectoral policy. She has previously worked as an independent consultant in energy and environmental economics for international and Irish governmental organisations, as well as the private and public sectors. Lisa has a PhD in environmental economics from University College Dublin.



Kate Ruddock
Appointed 16 February 2017, resigned at end of term on 15 February 2022

Kate has spent much of her career in the NGO sector working with environmental organisations and networks including Friends of the Earth, the Stop Climate Chaos coalition, and the Irish Environmental Network. She has experience in sustainable energy policy, community energy projects and environmental education and advocates for Ireland to play its fair share in responding to the climate and biodiversity crisis. Kate has a Degree in Natural Science from Trinity College Dublin, a Masters in Environmental Sustainability from the University of Edinburgh and a Certificate in Renewable Energy from Dundalk Institute of Technology.



Andrew Ennis
Appointed 14 July 2017, reappointed 14 July 2022

Andrew is Renewable Energy Director with Bartra Capital, which has investment activities in several areas in the Irish infrastructure market including, housing, healthcare, commercial property, and renewable energy. He is a Chartered Accountant and holds a B. Comm and M. Acc from U.C.D. Andrew has over 16 years' corporate finance experience in the Irish infrastructure market, specialising in energy and renewable energy. Andrew has previously worked for the NewERA Unit of the National Treasury Management Agency which was established to provide corporate finance advice to the Irish Government in relation to the management and disposal of State assets and investment in key economic infrastructure. He also worked with NCB Corporate Finance (now part of Investec Ireland), specialising in infrastructure mergers and acquisitions, valuations, and fundraising.



Ann Markey
Appointed 14 July 2017, reappointed 14 July 2022

Ann is a Fellow of Chartered Accountants Ireland and an experienced business leader, committee chair and non-executive director. She has extensive experience in the electricity industry and was a senior executive with ESB and with Greencoat Capital, a leading renewable energy investment company. Her experience spans traditional electricity businesses as well as investing in low carbon technology and renewable energy companies. She is an independent non-executive director of Foresight Solar Fund Limited, a FTSE 250 company, which invests in utility scale ground-based solar PV and battery storage assets in the UK, Spain, and Australia. She is also a non-executive director of Velocys plc, an AIM listed, UK-headquartered international sustainable fuels technology company. She was a member of the Audit & Risk Committee of the HSE until March 2023. She was appointed to the Board of the Land Development Agency in November 2022.

Board Membership (continued)



Léan Doody
Appointed 31 October 2018

Léan is Director of Integrated Cities and Planning Leader Europe, for Arup. She has over 20 years of professional experience in the industry which includes working with a variety of clients from city and national governments to private developers, and on a variety of projects involving extensive strategy and policy work on the application of smart technologies. Recent project work includes digital strategy and policy work for the Danish and Singaporean governments, the Greater London Authority, Dublin City Council, Sydney, Canberra and major master planning projects in Madrid, Singapore, and Dubai. In this evolving field she has been active in working with research institutes and industry bodies to set international standards and research agendas, including the British Standards Institute and Cambridge University's Centre for Smart Infrastructure and Construction. She is an Honorary Senior Lecturer at University College London in the Department of Science, Technology, Engineering and Public Policy and an external examiner at the Royal College of Art in London.



Joe O'Carroll
Appointed 28 February 2019

Joe has over 25 years' experience in the Energy, Sustainability, Forestry and Digital Technologies sectors. He has worked in Ireland, the UK, USA, Africa, and the Balkans. An Agricultural Science Graduate from UCD, he has an MBA (UCC) and a Diploma in Company Direction (Institute of Directors). He has completed executive training programmes at the IMI Dublin and the Kennedy School at Harvard. Having founded, scaled, and sold his own renewable energy business between 2008 and 2017 he has held senior management positions covering areas such as general management, strategy, commercialisation, sales & marketing, and fundraising. Joe was General Manager of a series of Innovation Hubs in the Mid-East Region, including MERITS – a hub for Tech StartUps, and the Equine Innovation Hub at the Irish National Stud from 2020 – 2022. He is currently Investment Director at Gresham House, a London Stock Exchange listed, speciality asset manager, where he runs the Irish Strategic Forestry Fund. He holds board positions with Treemetrics – a SaaS business based in Cork, Fairways and FunDays – Europe's leading Golf Tour operator, and Lochlann Enterprises – a technical consultancy business in the Pharma sector.



Justina Corcoran
Appointed 7 May 2020

Justina currently holds the position of Head of Retail Energy Policy and Regulation, in the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. She has over 25 years' professional experience, in the public sector, across a broad and varied number of Departments. As the former Head of Internal Audit in the Department she understands and is passionate about promoting and ensuring that a strong and effective system of Governance and Internal Control exists and flourishes within an Organisation. In recent years, Justina completed the ACCA Professional Accounting qualification achieving 1st place in Ireland (2nd worldwide) on the Governance Risk and Ethics professional level paper and 1st place in Ireland (8th Place Worldwide) on the Advanced Corporate Reporting Professional level paper. She has also held leadership roles in relation to National Projects such as Climate Adaptations, Sustainable Development Goals, and the National Postcodes System ("Eircodes").



Sharon O'Connor
Appointed 1 September 2020

Sharon is a Fellow and Chartered Director of the Institute of Directors with over twenty-five years senior leadership experience. A Chartered Fellow of the Institute of Personnel Development, she is also professionally qualified in Marketing. She recently completed a syr. term as Chair of the Education Authority NI, a regional organization employing 44,000 with a budget of £2bn. Formerly Chief Executive of Derry City Council, she has a strong interest in local government and she served on the Accounts Commission for Scotland and the National Oversight and Audit Commission. Sharon is a NED with the NI Transport Holding Co. (Translink) and David MacBrayne Ltd (CalMac). Previous and current work spans the private, public, and community/voluntary sectors as a business owner and consultant. She is particularly interested in community planning, regeneration, and innovation in the public sector.



Maria O'Dwyer
Appointed 17 June 2022

Maria is Head of Asset Management with Uisce Éireann and a Chartered engineer with over 20 years' experience in the engineering and utility sector. She is an effective and strategic leader, with a keen focus on delivering through empowering people. In her career to date Maria has held a number of senior management roles in both Gas Networks Ireland and Uisce Éireann where she had responsibility for delivering large multifaceted programmes and national transformations. Maria has a Research Master's degree in Engineering Science augmenting her primary degree in Electronic Engineering (University College Dublin). Maria also holds Postgraduate Diplomas in Supply Chain Management (University College Cork), Business and Executive Coaching (Smurfit Business School) and a Diploma in Company Direction (Institute of Directors). Maria previously served as a Director on the Board of Irish Water.



Robert Wasson
Appointed 17 June 2022

Robert's background is in utility management and regulation, asset management and management consulting. On the utility side, he held various senior management roles in ESB and ESB International, both in Ireland and overseas. He was responsible for transitioning Northern Ireland Electricity into new ownership following its acquisition by ESB, then becoming an Executive Director. Previous board work includes as an NED at Drogheda Port, and two terms as Chair of Lagan Valley Regional Park in Northern Ireland. In consulting, he led KPMG's Strategy and Performance Improvement practice in Ireland, and went on to found Watershed Consulting, which became a leading boutique consultancy and interim management provider. Robert is an MBA alumnus of the Smurfit School at UCD and is a Chartered Director. He is a member of both the Institute of Directors, and the Institution of Engineering and Technology in the UK.

Board Membership (continued)



Barry McMullin
Appointed 17 June 2022

Barry is a Full Professor in the Faculty of Engineering and Computing at Dublin City University. He has worked and published across a wide variety of fields, with a special focus on the interdisciplinary application of complex systems science. He has recently led research projects investigating the potential role of negative emissions technologies in Ireland, the application of multi-gas greenhouse gas budgets in national climate action scenarios, and the use of open access software and datasets in developing deep decarbonisation scenarios for the Irish energy system. He has held various senior roles in DCU including serving as Faculty Executive Dean, and as a member of DCU's Academic Council, Senior Management Group, and University Executive Committee. He is a member of the Engineers Ireland Energy, Environment and Climate Action Division, serving as Division Committee Chair for 2021–2023.



Ciarán Hayes
Appointed 9 May 2023

Ciarán Hayes is Principal of Ciarán Hayes Consultancy Ltd., a consultancy established in 2021 providing strategic advice to the public and private sector. Over a long Local Government career across five Local Authorities, he has 21 years senior management experience culminating as Chief Executive of Sligo County Council. While Chief Executive, he established the Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) and governance structure facilitating the management of Local Government's sectoral challenges and opportunities arising from the circular economy, sustainability, and climate change. He completed a Harvard University Senior Fellowship in December 2022 researching climate change, holds a BA Degree in Local Government and Higher Diploma in Computer Studies. The Senior Fellowship followed earlier periods of study in Harvard, Boston College and Irish College, Leuven, Belgium. He was appointed a member of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) in July 2021.



William Walsh
CEO

William Walsh is Chief Executive Officer in SEAI, having previously held the position of both Chief Operations Officer and Chief Financial Officer. William joined SEAI in 2013. Prior to joining SEAI he worked for IFI where he held a number of roles including Assistant Chief Executive Officer and Director. Prior to that he held senior management positions in the private sector. William is a Chartered Accountant, holds a Bachelor of Business Studies from Dublin City University, a Graduate diploma in Strategy, Innovation and Change from UCD and a Diploma in Company Direction from the IOD.



Board Membership (continued)

BOARD MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Three Board Members, Kate Ruddock, Dr Lisa Ryan and Peter Brennan resigned at the end of their terms on 15 February 2022, 8 May 2022 and 8 May 2023 respectively. Three new Board Members were appointed on 17 June 2022, Robert Wasson, Maria O'Dwyer and Barry McMullin. Ciarán Hayes was appointed on 9 May 2023.

BOARD COMMITTEES

Following the Board appointments in June 2022 and the reappointments in July 2022, the Board reviewed the composition of its Committees in September 2022. The following Committees are now established:

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

This Committee supports the Board in discharging its legal and accounting responsibilities; communicates with external auditors and evaluates and oversees the internal audit function; reviews financial planning, the system of internal controls, the risk management and assessment process, including the SEAI Risk Register, and oversees budgeting and banking arrangements. The Committee is independent from the financial management of the organisation and ensures that the internal control systems, including audit activities are monitored actively. The Committee reports to the Board after each meeting and formally, in writing, annually.

During 2022, the Committee had an active programme of work and addressed a wide range of financial, internal control, risk management and governance issues. Overall, six meetings were held during the year. The Committee has continued to provide an independent and objective view of issues outside of the day-to-day management structures.

Members:

Ann Markey

Chair

Appointed 6 February 2019, reappointed 28 September 2022

Lisa Ryan

Appointed on 27 July 2016, resigned 8 May 2022

Martina Maher

External member, appointed 31 July 2019, reappointed 25 May 2022

Sharon O'Connor

Appointed 4 November 2020, reappointed 28 September 2022

Joe O'Carroll

Appointed 30 June 2021, reappointed 28 September 2022

Robert Wasson

Appointed 28 September 2022

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

This Committee is responsible for reviewing the terms and conditions of employment of the CEO, within the guidelines established by Government. It is also responsible for reviewing and assessing the performance of the CEO on an annual basis in the context of agreed goals and objectives and the Service Level Agreement between SEAI and the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. In addition, the Committee approves the Authority's Action Plan in respect of any Public Sector Agreements, where applicable. The Committee held two meetings during 2022.

Members: (All originally appointed on 4 November 2020 and reappointed on 28 September 2022)

Dermot Byrne

Board Chair

Justina Corcoran

Sharon O'Connor

BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SECTOR COMMITTEE (FORMERLY SUPPORT SCHEME FOR RENEWABLE HEAT - SSRH) COMMITTEE

The Committee is responsible for ensuring appropriate oversight and monitoring of developments/outputs in relation to the SEAI Business and Public Sector Programme and also the Support Scheme for Renewable Heat. This Committee has a role to play in advising on matters in relation to the funding of industry/business. The Committee held seven meetings during 2022.

Members:

Andrew Ennis

Chair

Appointed 30 June 2021, reappointed 28 September 2022

Ann Markey

Appointed 30 June 2021, reappointed 28 September 2022

Kate Ruddock

Appointed 30 June 2021, resigned 15 February 2022

Joe O'Carroll

Appointed 30 June 2021, reappointed 28 September 2022

Barry McMullin

Appointed 28 September 2022

NATIONAL RETROFIT DELIVERY BODY (NRDB), FORMERLY NATIONAL RETROFIT TASK FORCE COMMITTEE

This Committee has responsibility to oversee and monitor developments, at a strategic level, in relation to the establishment and operation of the NRDB within SEAI. This includes approval of an NRDB Implementation Plan. It is also responsible for monitoring and reviewing the outputs from the NRDB in the context of the annual SEAI Business Plans. The Committee held three meetings during 2022.

Members:

Peter Brennan

Chair

Appointed 30 June 2021, reappointed 28 September 2022, resigned at end of term on 8th May 2023

Kate Ruddock

Appointed 30 June 2021, resigned 15 February 2022

Léan Doody

Appointed 30 June 2021, reappointed 28 September 2022

Dermot Byrne

Board Chair

Appointed 30 June 2021 until 28 September 2022

Robert Wasson

Appointed 28 September 2022

Maria O'Dwyer

Appointed 28 September 2022

RESEARCH POLICY AND INSIGHTS COMMITTEE

The Committee has responsibility for monitoring strategic communications and measures to enhance SEAI's impact in dissemination of data and insights across the energy ecosystem. It also oversees the provision of strategic energy policy insights and advice to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and other Government Departments and the delivery of SEAI's statutory functions relating to Energy Statistics, Energy Modelling, and the National Energy Modelling Framework. The Committee held five meetings during 2022.

Members:

Lisa Ryan

Chair

Appointed 30 June 2021, resigned 8 May 2022

Dermot Byrne

Acting Chair from 9 May 2022 to 28 September 2022

Peter Brennan

Appointed 30 June 2021, reappointed 28 September 2022, resigned at end of term on 8th May 2023.

Andrew Ennis

Appointed 30 June 2021 until 28 September 2022

Justina Corcoran

Appointed 30 June 2021, appointed Chair on 28 September 2022

Barry McMullin

Appointed 28 September 2022

Maria O'Dwyer

Appointed 28 September 2022

Board Membership (continued)

BOARD AND COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE

The Board had 10 meetings during 2022. 2 of these took place on a remote basis through Microsoft Teams, 1 was in person in the RDS and the remaining 7 took part in person in Three Park Place.

Board Member	Board 10 Meetings	Audit and Risk Committee 6 Meetings	Performance Management and Remuneration Committee 2 Meetings	National Retrofit Delivery Body Committee 3 Meetings	Business and Public Sector Committee 7 Meetings	Research Policy and Insights Committee 5 Meetings	Board Fees 2022
Dermot Byrne	10	N/A	2	2	1	4	€11,970
Peter Brennan (e)	9	N/A	N/A	3	N/A	3	€7,695
Sharon O'Connor	9	5	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	€7,695
Lisa Ryan (a)	4	2	N/A	N/A	N/A	3	€2,711
Kate Ruddock (b)	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	€994
Andrew Ennis (d)	9	N/A	N/A	N/A	7	4	€7,695
Ann Markey (d)	9	6	N/A	N/A	7	N/A	€7,695
Léan Doody	9	N/A	N/A	3	N/A	N/A	€7,695
Joe O'Carroll	10	5	N/A	N/A	7	N/A	€7,695
Justina Corcoran	7	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	3	-
William Walsh	10	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-
Barry McMullin (c)	4	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	1	-
Maria O'Dwyer (c)	4	N/A	N/A	1	N/A	1	-
Robert Wasson (c)	4	1	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	€4,147
Total							€65,992

- a. Resigned on 8 May 2022 at end of term.
- b. Resigned on 15 February 2022 at end of term.
- c. Appointed 17 June 2022
- d. Reappointed 14 July 2022
- e. Resigned on 8th May 2023 at end of term

Four Board members, Justina Corcoran, William Walsh (CEO), Barry McMullin and Maria O'Dwyer did not receive Board fees under the One Person One salary (OPOS) principle.

Expenses to the value of €915 were paid to Board members in 2022.

Board Membership (continued)

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF STATE BODIES REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Board is responsible for ensuring that SEAI has structures and systems in place to comply with requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. The following disclosures are required by the Code.

EMPLOYEE SHORT-TERM BENEFITS

Employees' short-term benefits in excess of €60,000 are categorised into the following bands:

Benefit Band €	Number of Employees 2022	Number of Employees 2021
60,000 – 69,999	20	16
70,000 – 79,999	19	8
80,000 – 89,999	9	9
90,000 – 99,999	13	14
100,000 – 109,999	4	2
110,000 – 119,999	3	2
120,000 – 129,999	3	0
130,000 – 139,999	1	0
140,000 – 149,999	0	1
150,000 – 159,999	0	0
160,000 – 169,999	1	0

For the purposes of this disclosure, short-term employee benefits in relation to services rendered during the reporting period include salary, and other allowances where applicable but exclude employer's PRSI.

The movement in the numbers of staff in salary brackets is reflective of the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest (FEMPI) pay restoration and the recruitment of additional staff in line with the approved head count and Work Force Plan.

CONSULTANCY COSTS

Consultancy costs include the cost of external advice to management and exclude outsourced 'business-as-usual' functions.

Detail	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Professional Advice	641	625
Human Resources	74	65
Programme / Organisational Improvement	273	784
Scheme Development	1,784	1,436
Total	2,772	2,910

Detail	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Consultancy Costs capitalised	–	–
Consultancy costs charged to the Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves	2,772	2,910
Total	2,772	2,910

LEGAL COSTS AND SETTLEMENTS

The table below provides a breakdown of legal costs recognised as expenditure in the reporting period. A settlement of €15,000 was made during 2022 (2021: Nil).

Detail	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Legal Advice	533	557
Legal Fees – Legal proceedings	93	31
Settlement	15	–
Total	641	588

TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE EXPENDITURE

The Statement of Income & Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves includes the following travel and subsistence expenditure which is categorised as follows:

Detail	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Domestic – Employee	52	19
International – Employee	14	3
Total	66	22

HOSPITALITY AND STAFF WELFARE EXPENDITURE

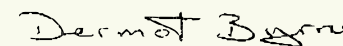
The Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves includes the following hospitality expenditure, no client related hospitality was incurred.

Detail	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Staff Welfare and Hospitality	28	15

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The Board has adopted the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies and has put procedures in place to ensure compliance with the Code. SEAI was in full compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Signed on behalf of the Board



Dermot Byrne

Chairperson
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

28 June 2023

Statement of Internal Control

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

On behalf of the Board of Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), I acknowledge the Board's responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal control is maintained and operated. This responsibility takes account of the requirements of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies 2016, (as amended).

PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a tolerable level rather than to eliminate it. The system can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or detected in a timely way.

The system of internal control, which accords with guidance issued by the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform has been in place in the Authority for the year ended 31 December 2022 and up to the date of approval of the financial statements.

CAPACITY TO HANDLE RISK

SEAI has an established Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) with specific Terms of Reference approved by the Board. This Committee comprised of four Board members and one external member. During 2022, the ARC reviewed and addressed a wide range of financial, internal control, risk management and governance matters, including, but not limited to:

- Financial Statements for 2021
- SEAI Risk Framework, Risk Register and Risk Appetite
- Several Internal Audit Reports including the implementation of any recommendations arising
- SEAI Budget, Forecast and financial performance
- Delegated Authority Framework
- Policies and Procedures
- Cyber Security risks

SEAI has established an internal audit function which is adequately resourced and conducts a programme of work agreed with the ARC. The internal audit work programme is currently outsourced to Mazars. The 2022 Audit Plan was completed. Internal audit is satisfied that SEAI's systems in relation to governance and control arrangements operated effectively and considered the additional measures adopted by SEAI in the remote working environment, thereby providing reasonable assurance in relation to the sufficiency and operation of internal controls to mitigate and/or manage those inherent risks to which SEAI's activities are exposed and/or the achievement of SEAI's objectives.

The organisation has developed a risk management policy which sets out its risk appetite, the risk management processes in place and details the roles and responsibilities of staff in relation to risk. The policy has been issued to all staff who are expected to work within SEAI's risk management policies, to alert management on emerging risks

and control weaknesses and assume responsibility for risks and controls within their own area of work.

SEAI has procedures in place for monitoring areas of potential fraud risk and has comprehensive anti-fraud policies and procedures in place including detection and monitoring of activities, internal audit programmes and management oversight and control. SEAI also has systems and controls in place to monitor compliances with terms and conditions of grant payments. Where SEAI identifies grants/scheme amounts repayable to it arising from irregularities or breaches in the grants' terms and conditions, grant refunds/repayments are pursued from the relevant recipients. Where necessary, cases are notified to the Garda National Economic Crime Bureau.

RISK AND CONTROL FRAMEWORK

SEAI has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, to mitigate those risks.

A risk register is in place which identifies the key risks facing SEAI and these have been identified, evaluated, and graded according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the ARC and the Board on a bi-annual basis. Risk management is a standing item on the ARC and Board Agendas. The outcome of the risk assessments is used to plan the internal audit plan for the year and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level. The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibility for operation of controls is assigned to specific staff.

I confirm that a control environment containing the following elements is in place:

- Procedures for all key business processes have been documented.
- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability.
- There is an appropriate budgeting system with an annual review which is kept under review by senior management and the Board.
- There are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the information and communication technology systems.
- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets; and
- Control procedures over grant funding to ensure adequate control over approval of grants and monitoring and review of grantees to ensure grant funding has been applied for the purpose intended.

ONGOING MONITORING AND REVIEW

Formal procedures have been established for monitoring control processes and control deficiencies are communicated to those responsible for taking corrective action and to management and the Board, where relevant, in a timely way. I confirm that the following ongoing monitoring systems are in place:

- Key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies.

- Reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned; and
- There are regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual performance and financial reports which indicate performance against budgets/forecasts.

PROCUREMENT

I confirm that SEAI has procedures in place to ensure compliance with current procurement rules and guidelines and that during 2022 SEAI complied with those procedures.

REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

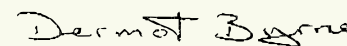
I confirm that SEAI has procedures to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. SEAI's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors, the Audit and Risk Committee which oversees their work, and the senior management within SEAI responsible for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

I confirm that the Board conducted an annual review of the effectiveness of the internal controls for 2022 and signed off on this review in March 2023.

INTERNAL CONTROL ISSUES

No weaknesses in internal control were identified in relation to 2022 that require disclosure in the financial statements.

Signed on behalf of the Board



Dermot Byrne
Chairperson
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

28 June 2023

Report of Comptroller and Auditor General

Report for presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

OPINION ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

I have audited the financial statements of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland for the year ended 31 December 2022 as required under the provisions of section 24 of the Sustainable Energy Act 2002. The financial statements comprise

- the statement of income and expenditure and retained revenue reserves
- the statement of comprehensive income
- the statement of financial position
- the statement of cash flows, and
- the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland at 31 December 2022 and of its income and expenditure for 2022 in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 — *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland*.

BASIS OF OPINION

I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as promulgated by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions. My responsibilities under those standards are described in the appendix to this report. I am independent of the Sustainable Energy

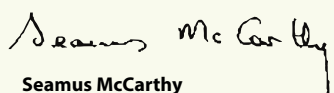
Authority of Ireland and have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the standards.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

REPORT ON INFORMATION OTHER THAN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, AND ON OTHER MATTERS

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland has presented certain other information together with the financial statements. This comprises the annual report, the governance statement and Board members' report, and the statement on internal control. My responsibilities to report in relation to such information, and on certain other matters upon which I report by exception, are described in the appendix to this report.

I have nothing to report in that regard.



Seamus McCarthy
Comptroller and Auditor General
of Ireland

30 June 2023

APPENDIX TO THE REPORT Responsibilities of Board members

As detailed in the governance statement and Board members' report, the Board members are responsible for

- the preparation of annual financial statements in the form prescribed under section 24 of the Sustainable Energy Act 2002
- ensuring that the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with FRS 102
- ensuring the regularity of transactions
- assessing whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate, and
- such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Responsibilities of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I am required under section 24 of the Sustainable Energy Act 2002 to audit the financial statements of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and to report thereon to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

My objective in carrying out the audit is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement due to fraud or error. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a

material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. In doing so,

- I identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error; design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks; and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal controls.
- I evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures.
- I conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit

evidence obtained, on whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland to cease to continue as a going concern.

- I evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

I report by exception if, in my opinion,

- I have not received all the information and explanations I required for my audit, or
- the accounting records were not sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited, or

- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records.

Information other than the financial statements

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information presented with those statements, and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, I am required under the ISAs to read the other information presented and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or with knowledge obtained during the audit, or if it otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

Reporting on other matters

My audit is conducted by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation. I report if I identify material matters relating to the manner in which public business has been conducted.

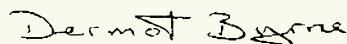
I seek to obtain evidence about the regularity of financial transactions in the course of audit. I report if I identify any material instance where public money has not been applied for the purposes intended or where transactions did not conform to the authorities governing them.

Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves

for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

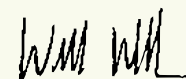
	NOTES	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
INCOME			
State Grants	3	336,190	225,820
Building Energy Rating	9	4,382	3,154
EU Contract Income	4	211	325
Other Income	5	431	175
Net Deferred Funding for Pensions for the year	15(c)	3,786	2,461
Pension Contributions Remitted to DECC & DPENDPDR	6.1	(543)	(404)
Total Income		344,457	231,531
EXPENDITURE			
Administration Expenditure	6	23,246	18,797
Programme Expenditure	7	317,377	209,893
Building Energy Rating	9	2,301	2,139
Total Expenditure		342,924	230,829
Surplus for the Year before appropriations		1,533	702
Movement in amounts due to DECC	8	(24)	(69)
Transfer from Capital Account	13	487	795
Surplus for the Year after appropriations		1,996	1,428
Surplus at 1 January		3,445	2,017
Surplus at 31 December		5,441	3,445

The Statement of Cash Flows and Notes 1 to 21 form part of these financial statements.



Dermot Byrne
Chairperson
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

28 June 2023



William Walsh
Chief Executive Officer
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

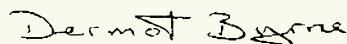
28 June 2023

Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

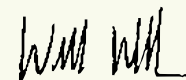
	NOTES	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Surplus for the Year after Appropriations		1,996	1,428
Experience (Loss) on Retirement Benefit Obligations		(2,535)	(149)
Actuarial Gain / (Loss) arising from Changes in Assumptions underlying the present value of Retirement Benefit Obligations		20,822	(36)
Actuarial Gain / (Loss) in Year	15	18,287	(185)
Adjustment to Deferred Retirement Benefit Funding	15	(18,287)	185
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		1,996	1,428

The Statement of Cash Flows and Notes 1 to 21 form part of these financial statements.



Dermot Byrne
Chairperson
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

28 June 2023



William Walsh
Chief Executive Officer
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

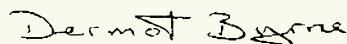
28 June 2023

Statement of Financial Position

as at 31 December 2022

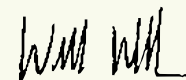
	NOTES	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment	10	2,731	3,218
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	14	10,371	6,525
Receivables & Prepayments	11	2,387	1,729
		12,758	8,254
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables & Accruals	12	(7,317)	(4,809)
Net Current Assets		5,441	3,445
Retirement Benefit Obligation	15 (b)	(35,913)	(50,414)
Deferred Retirement Benefit Funding Asset	15 (b)	35,913	50,414
Total Net Assets		8,172	6,663
REPRESENTING			
Capital Account	13	2,731	3,218
Retained Revenue Reserves		5,441	3,445
		8,172	6,663

The Statement of Cash Flows and Notes 1 to 21 form part of these financial statements.



Dermot Byrne
Chairperson
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

28 June 2023



William Walsh
Chief Executive Officer
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

28 June 2023

Statement of Cash Flows

for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

	NOTES	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Excess Income over Expenditure		1,996	1,428
Transfer to Capital Account	13	(487)	(795)
Bank Interest Paid		54	83
Depreciation of Fixed Assets	10	643	908
(Increase) in Accounts receivable	11	(658)	(474)
Increase in Accounts payable	12	2,508	591
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities		4,056	1,741
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments to Acquire Property, Plant & Equipment	10	(156)	(113)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Bank Interest Paid		(54)	(83)
Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents		3,846	1,545
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents		3,846	1,545
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 1 January		6,525	4,980
Cash and Cash Equivalents at 31 December	14	10,371	6,525

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Accounting Policies

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied throughout the year and for all the preceding years.

(A) Period of Financial Statements

The financial statements cover the year from 1 January to 31 December 2022.

(B) Statement of Compliance

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis, except as stated below. They are prepared in compliance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102"), as issued by the Financial Reporting Council. The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in the format approved by the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications. The unit of currency in which the financial statements are denominated is the Euro.

(C) State Grant

State Grants (Note 3) in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves reflect the amount received in the year.

(D) Grant Expenditure

Grant Commitments are recognised as expenditure in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves when all conditions pertaining to the grant or a phased payment thereof, have been complied with. Grant Commitments will be reduced on payment of a grant or the expiration of the grant agreement.

All open Grant Commitments are disclosed in Note 16.

(E) Tangible Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis to write off the cost of fixed assets over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Building Fitout Costs	10%
Motor Vehicles	20%
IT Equipment & Software	33.33%
Office Equipment	33.33%
Ocean Programme	33.33%

Land is stated at cost. Where there is an indication that the recoverable amount of an asset is less than its carrying value, an impairment review is performed. If the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount resulting in an impairment loss. Impairment losses are recognised immediately in the Statement of Income and Expenditure.

Assets with a value of less than €1,000 are fully depreciated in the year of acquisition. A full year's depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition; no depreciation is charged in the year of disposal.

The gain or loss, being the difference between the sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset, arising on disposal or retirement of an item of tangible assets is recognised in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves.

Fully depreciated plant and equipment are retained in the financial statements until they are no longer in use.

IT Systems Development costs that relate to specific SEAI programmes are expensed in the year in which they occur. Management have considered the policy and believe due to the dynamic and changing nature of the programmes it is appropriate to expense these costs.

(F) Superannuation

Section 17 of the Sustainable Energy Act 2002 provides for the establishment of superannuation schemes by the Authority. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme for the purposes of the Pensions Act, 1990.

Pension costs reflect pension benefits earned by employees in the period and are shown net of staff pension contributions which are refunded to the Department in accordance with agency financing arrangements. An amount corresponding to the pension charge is recognised as income to the extent that it is recoverable from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and offset by grants received in the year to discharge pension payments. Actuarial gains or losses arising on the scheme liabilities are reflected in the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Reserves and a corresponding adjustment is recognised in the amount recoverable from the DECC.

Pension liabilities represent the present value of future pension payments earned by staff to date. Deferred pension funding represents the corresponding asset which is to be recovered in future periods from the DECC.

The Authority also operates the Single Public Service Pension Scheme (Single Scheme) which is the defined benefit pension scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1 January 2013. Single Scheme member's contributions are paid over to the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform. The related liabilities in relation to future pension payments and corresponding asset are included in SEAI's financial statements.

(G) Capital Account

The Capital Account represents the unamortised value of income used to purchase fixed assets.

(H) Leases

Lease Payments under operating leases are recognised as an expense over the period which SEAI obtains benefit from the premises.

(I) Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)

EPBD income is generated by the Authority under the Building Energy Rating (BER) scheme (S.I. No. 243 of 2012 European

Communities (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2012, previously dealt with under S.I. No. 666 of 2006 European Communities (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2006 as amended). Under the legislation a building owner must provide a BER Certificate and Advisory Report to prospective buyers or tenants when a building is constructed, sold or rented.

There are various fees payable in respect of BER including a fee upon assessor registration and a levy in respect of each BER assessment submitted in the period to the Authority for the purposes of issuing a BER Certificate. EPBD Income is accounted for on an accruals basis.

(J) EU Contract Income

EU contract income is from activities in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy including technology promotion, information dissemination, research and event co-ordination and management. Income is recognised in line with the terms of the contract and is based on the timing and performance requirements of the contract. Funds are either remitted to DECC, or retained within SEAI, based on the terms of the contract.

(K) Other Income

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis in line with the timing of the performance requirements.

(L) Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

In relation to pension costs, the assumptions underlying the actuarial valuations for which the amounts recognised in the financial statements are determined (including discount rates, rates of increase in future compensation levels, mortality rates and healthcare cost trend rates) are updated annually based on current economic conditions, and for any relevant changes to the terms and conditions of the pension and post-retirement plans.

The assumptions can be affected by:

- (i) the discount rate, changes in the rate of return on high-quality corporate bonds
- (ii) future compensation levels, future labour market conditions
- (iii) The rate of inflation

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

2. Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic initially presented challenges for SEAI in 2022 albeit to a somewhat lesser extent than 2021. Public health restrictions were in operation during January 2022 and did lead to a period of construction lock-down, the level of activity and expenditure in 2022 exceeded that of 2021 across most programmes as activity picked up following the removal of restrictions.

SEAI staff returned to the office on a hybrid basis during the year following the end of the lockdown restrictions. Well established processes and IT capability are in place to support this working environment. The Board and management team continue to guide SEAI through the changing landscape and grow its scale and depth of activities in line with Government strategy and targets set out in the Climate Action Plan 2023.

SEAI is a fully funded government body. SEAI receives support from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications and the Department of Transport.

3. State Grants

Under section 22(1) of the Sustainable Energy Act 2002 the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications provides funding to the Authority for the performance of its functions.

All funding is provided through the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) (Vote 29) and the Department of Transport (DoT) (Vote 31). With effect from 2021 DoT provides all funding in relation to the Electric Vehicle Programme.

	Vote 29 Subhead	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
SEAI			
Administration			
– Current	B3	19,509	16,098
– Capital	B3	–	–
Residential/ Community Energy Efficiency			
– Current	B4	7,859	7,477
– Capital	B4	192,426	101,392
Business and Public Sector			
– Current	B5	4,666	4,059
– Capital	B5	39,010	18,476
Energy Research Programmes			
– Current	B7	1,302	872
– Capital	B7	6,689	7,978
Total DECC Funding		271,461	156,352
Up to and including 2021, Business and Public Sector funding was included under Subhead B4. A new Subhead B5 was included in 2022 to account for that spend separately by The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.			
	Vote 31 Subhead	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Electric Vehicles Programme			
– Current	B3	885	1,078
– Capital	B3	63,844	68,390
Total DoT Funding		64,729	69,468
Total State Grants		336,190	225,820

4. EU Contract Income

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
AFLOWT (b)	95	219
OPIN (b)	29	37
RD&D ERA Net (b)	87	43
Other (a)	–	26
	211	325
(a) These projects are considered appropriations in aid and therefore all receipts are remitted to DECC as received.		
(b) These projects are in addition to voted funds and therefore funds received are retained within SEAI.		
5. Other Income		
	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Other income	31	47
RERD&D Co-funding income	400	128
	431	175

Renewable Energy Research, Development & Deployment co-funding income is received from other government agencies to partially fund research grants. Income is recognised in line with the value of the grant issued and the percentage of co-funding attributed to each research award.

6. Administration Expenditure

Administration Expenditure is made up of the following items:

		2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Salaries & related charges	6.1	11,694	8,654
Pension costs	15(A)	3,570	2,474
Recruitment, Training & Education		457	340
Advertising and Promotion		472	390
General Professional fees	6.2	352	380
Rent, Rates and Service Charges	6.3	2,931	2,862
Information Technology	6.4	2,246	2,084
General Administration	6.5	1,524	1,613
		23,246	18,797

6.1 Salaries and Related Charges

		2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Staff short-term benefits		9,882	7,251
Employers PRSI		1,052	763
Agency/Contract Staff		694	564
Board Member Emoluments	18	66	76
		11,694	8,654

In cases where the work of a particular agency staff member could be directly attributed to a programme the cost was recognised as a programme cost.

No termination payments were paid in the year (2021: €0).

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

No overtime payments were incurred by SEAI in the year (2021: €0).

The Authority remitted €192,680 (2021: €175,526) in employee superannuation contributions to its parent department DECC in 2022 in respect of the SEAI's superannuation scheme. It also remitted €349,870 (2021: €228,622) to DPENDPDR in respect of Single Scheme members. The Authority is not required to make employer contributions under the schemes.

Additional superannuation Contribution (ASC)

€273,830 (2021: €218,544) of additional superannuation contribution (ASC) has been deducted from salaries and has been paid over to the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications during the year.

Chief Executive's Remuneration

The current CEO was formally appointed in January 2021 having previously served as acting CEO in 2020. The CEO remuneration in 2022 was €163,188 (2021: €147,947) and expenses were €1,785 (2021: €423).

The CEO pension entitlement does not extend beyond the standard entitlements in the model public sector scheme. The contract of employment does not include a performance related award scheme or any benefit-in-kinds/perquisites.

Key Management Remuneration

The total value of the employee benefits for 16 (2021:13) key management personnel is set out below:

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Salaries	1,738,670	1,137,109

The management's pension entitlements do not extend beyond the standard entitlements in the model public sector scheme or the public sector single scheme. Contracts of Employment do not include a performance related reward scheme or any benefit-in-kind/perquisites.

Board Fees

Board fees are disclosed in Note 18.

Permanent & Long-Term Contract

The average number of permanent and long-term contract employees for the period was 151 (2021: 127). The number of full-time equivalent employees at the end of the period was 168 (2021: 125.5).

6.2 General Consultancy and Professional Fees

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Strategic Advice	281	290
Board Secretary Fees	71	90
	352	380

6.3 Rent, Rates and Service Charges

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Rent	1,965	2,074
Rates	185	206
Service Charges	781	582
	2,931	2,862

6.4 Information Technology

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
IT Licenses & General Expenditure	1,233	843
IT Maintenance and Support	952	735
IT Systems development	61	506
	2,246	2,084

6.5 General Administration

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Travel & Subsistence – Staff	6	2
Travel & Subsistence – Board	1	–
Depreciation	643	908
Audit fees – external	35	35
Audit fees – internal	73	59
Insurance and Legal	397	374
Other	369	235
	1,524	1,613

7. Programme Expenditure

Programme expenditure is made up of the following items:

		2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Residential & Community Energy Efficiency			
Better Energy Warmer Homes	7.1	93,559	38,802
Better Energy Warmth & Wellbeing	7.2	5,233	3,346
Better Energy Homes	7.3	38,151	16,640
One Stop Shop/NHR Scheme	7.4	13,672	11,030
Deep Retrofit Pilot	7.5	299	1,244
Community Energy	7.6	19,944	24,090
Renewable Energy Support Scheme			
Communities	7.7	499	224
Solar PV	7.8	25,634	10,229
Non-Domestic Microgeneration	7.9	137	–
Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme	7.10	784	1,540
Building Energy Rating – Capital Development	7.11	1,614	657
Business and Public Sector			
Public Sector Energy Efficiency	7.12	36,304	15,761
Industry & Business Programme	7.13	2,825	1,249
Energy Show	7.14	39	42
EXEED	7.15	1,720	3,922
Schools Programme	7.16	227	125
Market Surveillance	7.17	1,472	839
Support Scheme for Renewable Heat	7.18	1,089	582
Renewable Energy			
Renewable Energy Research, Development & Deployment	7.19	4,672	6,378
Offshore Energy	7.20	2,817	2,444
Innovation & Integration			
Strategic Policy Analysis	7.21	838	735
Energy Statistics and Modelling	7.22	1,052	555
Transport			
Electric Vehicles	7.23	64,796	69,459
		317,377	209,893

Certain comparative figures have been re-classified and re-presented on the same basis as those for the current year.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

7.1 Better Energy Warmer Homes

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Energy Upgrades	86,528	34,824
Technical Services & Inspections	5,872	2,843
Operational Delivery	451	355
Other Operational Costs	232	103
IT Systems Development & Maintenance	474	677
Travel Costs	2	–
	93,559	38,802

The Better Energy Warmer Homes scheme supports upgrading the energy efficiency of privately-owned homes experiencing fuel poverty. Works are carried out by a panel of procured sub-contractors. In 2022, 4,264 (2021: 2,272) upgrades were carried out under the Better Energy Warmer Homes scheme.

7.2 Better Energy Warmth & Wellbeing

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Energy Upgrades	4,946	2,991
Technical Services & Inspections	287	302
Other Operational Costs	–	53
	5,233	3,346

The Warmth and Wellbeing Scheme was developed as a pilot scheme aimed at improving the living conditions of vulnerable people living with chronic respiratory conditions. Works are carried out by a panel of procured sub-contractors. In 2022, 174 (2021: 146) upgrades were carried out and paid for under the Warmth & Wellbeing Scheme. The scheme closed to new applicants on 28th February 2022 and key insights are due to be published by DECC in 2023. Insights from the pilot have also informed mainstream delivery.

7.3 Better Energy Homes

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Grants Issued	34,942	13,869
Technical Services & Inspections	1,115	1,035
Operational Delivery	1,698	1,430
Other Operational Costs	51	44
IT Costs	311	244
Advertising	26	18
Travel Costs	8	–
	38,151	16,640

The Better Energy Homes Programme is a national retrofitting programme that is available to all homeowners, including landlords, without means testing. It incentivises homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient. This is achieved through the provision of grants for a suite of measures which can be selected individually, or in combination and on a step basis to achieve a more comprehensive retrofit over time. In 2022, 11,806 grants were paid on homes (2021: 7,928).

7.4 One Stop Shop/NHR Scheme

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Grants Issued	11,091	9,314
Technical Services & Inspections	108	30
IT Costs	672	337
Demand Generation	1,179	893
Other Operational Costs	618	283
Commissioned Research	2	173
Travel Costs	2	–
	13,672	11,030

The One Stop Shop service (National Home Energy Upgrade Scheme) is aimed at engaging and providing capital grant support to private households, and registered Housing Associations who wish to participate in delivering a

“One Stop Shop” service for energy upgrade works. The scheme was launched in February 2022 and there were 643 homes upgraded in 2022. Costs also include innovative financing initiatives, commissioned research and demand generation activities aimed at informing and promoting the broader National Retrofit Strategy.

7.5 Deep Retrofit Pilot

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Grants Issued	100	1,136
Technical Services & Inspections	165	70
Other Operational Costs	34	38
	299	1,244

The Deep Retrofit Pilot programme was created to understand the challenges and opportunities of deep retrofit. The learning from these pilots has informed the approach towards large scale deep retrofit of buildings in Ireland. The pilot scheme has completed a total of 536 Homes to date since the programme launch in 2017. The Deep Retrofit Pilot is closed to new applications since 2021.

7.6 Community Energy

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Grants Issued	18,059	21,970
Technical Services & Inspections	77	96
IT Costs	446	143
Other Operational Costs	276	453
SEC Mentoring Support	1,074	1,424
Travel Costs	12	4
	19,944	24,090

Community Grants: The Better Energy Communities (BEC) grant programme supports projects at a community level, specifically seeking to test innovative and pioneering partnerships for delivery between the public and private sectors, domestic and non-domestic sectors, commercial and not-for-profit organisations including energy poor homes. The Communities supported work across all sectors of Irish Society including agriculture.

Community Network: The Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) Network programme involves building capacity in communities to enable delivery of large-scale sustainable energy projects and transitioning to sustainable energy communities. A national SEC network with 703 (2021: 618) members has been developed. The SEC Network is supported by a panel of Regional and County Mentors procured and managed by SEAI. SEAI also provides support to communities in the development of a local Energy Masterplan which is a baseline of energy use in the community and a register of suitable sustainable energy projects which the community can consider in the future.

7.7 Renewable Energy Support Scheme Communities

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Grants Issued	100	–
IT Costs	180	100
Other Operational Costs	103	102
Mentoring Support	115	22
Travel Costs	1	–
	499	224

RESS Communities: This programme previously sat within the Better Energy Communities (BEC) grant programme. From 2022 it became a stand-alone programme. The programme supports projects at a community level. In 2022 the programme launched temporary national community benefit register and completed phase 1 of the public portal for CBF national register.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

7.8 Solar PV

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Grants Issued	24,453	9,428
Technical Services & Inspections	479	230
Operational Delivery	551	451
IT Costs	151	120
	25,634	10,229

The Solar PV Scheme provides support towards the purchase and installation of a solar photovoltaic (PV) system and/or battery energy storage system (BESS). This is a once-off payment to a homeowner based on the installation of products which meet the requirements of the scheme. The grant amount payable is based on the capacities of the solar PV and BESS systems installed.

7.9 Non-Domestic Microgeneration

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Programme & Systems Development	137	-

Launched in September 2022, the Non-Domestic Microgeneration Grant (NDMG) provides financial assistance to help businesses and other sectors to install solar PV panels to generate electricity on site. This technology reduces commercial electricity costs and increases security of supply, while enhancing a positive sustainability image. Grants are available for systems up to a maximum 6kWp.

7.10 Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Programme & Systems Development	371	1,000
Technical Services & Inspections	109	260
Other Operational Costs	299	280
Travel Costs	5	-
	784	1,540

The Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme (EEOS) supports the wider development of the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme pursuant to implementation of Article 7 of Energy Efficiency Directive the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan. It also supports the ongoing development of new national retrofit programmes business information systems. In 2019 the EU Commission recast the Energy Efficiency Directive that will cover the period from 2021-2030. SEAI is the administrator for energy credit management for the Scheme. Following transposition, this requires the development and launch of a new Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme from 2022 to 2030. SEAI has delegated responsibility from the Minister in specific areas of Scheme operations.

7.11 Building Energy Rating – Capital Development

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Programme & Systems Development	1,614	657

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications fund the capital development of the Building Energy Rating (BER) programme. The remainder of the programme costs are self-funded from the revenue generated and are separately disclosed in note 9.

7.12 Public Sector Energy Efficiency

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Public Sector Capital Grants	34,571	14,228
Client Advisory Services	107	1,071
IT Costs	712	292
Other Operational Costs	907	169
Travel Costs	7	1
	36,304	15,761

This programme promotes structured energy management practices and delivers direct energy efficiency advice, mentoring, training and specialist technical supports to public sector organisations. It includes a comprehensive structure for public bodies to report and track energy consumption. In 2022, Public Sector Pathfinder actions were continued to test approaches and build scale for deep retrofit actions in central government buildings, schools, higher education, and health.

7.13 Industry and Business Programme

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
LIEN	595	484
SME Supports	190	136
Promoting Energy Efficiency in Business	223	74
Support Scheme for Energy Audits	1,746	16
ACA/Triple E Operational Costs	-	175
IT Costs	71	364
	2,825	1,249

The Industry and Business programme supports efforts across all business sectors to accelerate adoption of energy efficiency. This is achieved through capital grant support, networks, training and services promoting structured energy management to world class standards, while developing markets for energy efficiency advice and services. The SEAI Energy Academy was developed to help business increase

energy efficiency and reduce related costs. The Support Scheme for Energy Audits was launched in late 2021 and provides businesses with a grant to avail of a high quality Energy Audit from a registered assessor. The audit provides the business with details on energy usage, the areas using the most energy and the actions that the business can take to save energy.

Funding for the EXEED programme was within the Industry and Business programme up to and including 2021. It became a stand-alone programme from the beginning of 2022 and therefore has been disclosed separately in note 7.15 to the financial statements. Comparatives for Industry and Business have been restated also to reflect the change.

7.14 Energy Show

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Revenue	(386)	(104)
Advertising	99	17
Operational Delivery	326	129
	39	42

The Energy Show Ireland's leading business to business sustainable energy event. Due to the pandemic the 2020 and 2021 shows were held online. 2022 saw the return of the show to the RDS as an in-person event. The Energy Show Revenue and Costs were disclosed within the Industry and Business note in 2021.

7.15 EXEED

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Grants Issued	1,267	3,367
Technical Services and Inspections	5	22
Operational Delivery	342	422
IT Cost	104	111
Travel	2	-
	1,720	3,922

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

SEAI EXEED Certified is an asset certification scheme addressing lifetime energy and carbon performance through Energy Efficiency Design management. EXEED Certified can be applied in any business within commercial, industrial and public sectors. EXEED supports energy efficient design (EED) management through grants for design challenges and capital investments which require an incentive for investment.

7.16 Schools Programme

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Schools Programme	227	125

SEAI's education programme helps inform the attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours of primary and post primary school children with respect to sustainable energy. The programme comprises a mix of curriculum aligned teaching resources, interactive pupil workshops, student competitions and teacher training as well as the creation of relevant publications.

7.17 Market Surveillance

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Market Surveillance	1,122	773
IT Costs	340	66
Travel Costs	10	–
	1,472	839

SEAI acts as Managing Agent and carries out market surveillance activities on behalf of the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications. Market Surveillance includes Ecodesign Requirements for Energy-Related Products (EU Directive 2009/125/EC), Labelling and Standard Product Information for Energy-Related Products (EU Directive 2010/30/EU) and Labelling of Tyres with respect to Fuel Efficiency and Other Essential Parameters (EC Regulation 1222/2009).

7.18 Support Scheme for Renewable Heat

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Investment/Operating Aid	646	204
Technical Advice	20	75
Operational Delivery	371	221
Other Operational Costs	–	62
IT Costs	52	20
	1,089	582

The Support Scheme for Renewable Heat (SSRH) supports the switching of fossil fuel heating systems to eligible renewable energy technologies, including biomass boiler, heat pump and biofuel (anaerobic digestion) heating systems. The scheme provides two forms of support mechanisms – a tariff payment as operating aid for biomass and anaerobic heating systems and a grant payment as investment aid for heat pump systems. The scheme opened in 2019 for applications following the State aid notification and approval process.

7.19 Renewable Energy Research, Development & Deployment

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Grants Issued	4,343	6,075
Other Operational Costs	224	228
IT Costs	100	5
Commissioned Research	–	68
Travel Costs	5	2
	4,672	6,378

SEAI's National Energy RD&D Funding Programme supports innovative and targeted actions which assist in the delivery of policy priorities including those outlined in the Climate Action Plan, the Programme for Government and the 2030 Climate and Energy Framework. 2022 spend consists of payments to existing awards (140 multi-annual awards live in 2022, awarded in 2018, 2019 and 2021), to the new awards from

the 2022 Call (44 projects) and to strategic partnerships.

The overarching objectives of the SEAI National Energy Research Development and Demonstration (RD&D) Funding Programme are to accelerate development and deployment of energy related products in Ireland, enable technical barriers to be overcome, develop Ireland's research capacity and provide support to policy makers using outcomes from supported projects.

7.20 Offshore Energy

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Grants Issued	193	311
Sub-Contracted Works	2,055	1,801
Other Operational Costs	560	332
Travel Costs	9	–
	2,817	2,444

The Offshore Energy Programme is administered by SEAI to implement the Government's policy decision to accelerate the development of Offshore and Ocean Energy in Ireland, as set out in the Climate Action Plan and the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan. The programme supports national and European coordination and research test sites.

7.21 Strategic Policy Analysis

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Programme Operation	810	302
Commissioned Research	–	371
IT Costs	20	62
Travel	8	–
	838	735

This programme provides independent advice and information on technical, financial and social issues relating to sustainable energy development and deployment. This advice is tailored by SEAI to inform sustainable energy policy development in Ireland.

7.22 Energy Statistics and Modelling

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Commissioned Research	241	185
Other Operational Costs	694	245
IT Costs	113	125
Travel Costs	4	–
	1,052	555

This programme fulfills SEAI's responsibility for developing, maintaining and publishing comprehensive national and sectoral statistics for energy production, transformation and end-use. This also includes detailed modelling studies and policy analysis to provide an independent evidence base to support national policy making, and participation in a range of national and international policy discussion and evaluation activities.

7.23 Electric Vehicles

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Grants Issued	62,756	68,142
Operational Delivery	784	684
Other Costs	890	81
Advertising	–	372
IT Development & Maintenance	343	180
Commissioned Research	23	–
	64,796	69,459

This programme is supporting the deployment of electric vehicle technology and charging infrastructure in the Irish transport system and provides grant aid towards the purchase of electric vehicles and home chargers. A total of 10,894 (2021: 13,432) electric vehicles and 16,299 (2021: 8,379) home chargers were grant aided under this programme in 2022.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

8. Appropriations

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
EU Contract Income	–	20
Grant Refunds	23	17
Other	1	32
	24	69

Non – Exchequer funds received by SEAI are remitted back to the DECC. As such funds are recognised as income, a corresponding liability to DECC is also recognised. These receipts are included as Appropriations-in-Aid on the Vote. The above note details the movement in the amount due to the DECC during 2022.

EU Contract income (Note 4) is accrued on an annual basis and can fluctuate from year to year based on the updated progress of the contract.

9. Building Energy Rating

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Operational Delivery	831	873
Programme Development	79	117
Quality Assurance	935	797
IT Support & Maintenance	325	344
IT System Development	125	8
Travel Costs	6	–
	2,301	2,139

SEAI has been designated as the Issuing Authority with responsibility for registering BER assessors, provision of IT tools and systems for assessments, logging BER assessments on the national register and overall scheme management and promotion.

The BER scheme income for the year was €4,382,220 (2021: €3,153,795) resulting in a surplus in the year of €2,081,069 (2021: (€1,015,309)).

10. Property, Plant and Equipment

	IT Equipment & Software €'000	Ocean Programme €'000	Office Equipment €'000	Building Fit out €'000	Motor Vehicles €'000	Land & Buildings €'000	Total €'000
Cost							
Balance at 1 January 2022	1,595	868	498	4,211	59	120	7,351
Disposals	(146)	–	–	–	–	–	(146)
Additions	156	–	–	–	–	–	156
Balance at 31 December 2022	1,605	868	498	4,211	59	120	7,361
Accumulated depreciation							
Balance at 1 January 2022	(1,437)	(862)	(498)	(1,288)	(48)	–	(4,133)
Disposals	146	–	–	–	–	–	146
Charge for Current year	(214)	–	–	(418)	(11)	–	(643)
Balance at 31 December 2022	(1,505)	(862)	(498)	(1,706)	(59)	–	(4,630)
Net book value							
Balance at 31 December 2022	100	6	–	2,505	–	120	2,731
Balance at 31 December 2021	158	6	–	2,923	11	120	3,218

11. Receivables & Prepayments

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
RERD&D Co-funding income	114	146
EPBD Receivables	372	292
Prepayments	996	1,129
Other Receivables	905	162
	2,387	1,729

12. Payables & Accruals

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Trade Creditors	590	325
Accruals	1,151	948
VAT & RCT	2,776	1,516
PSWT	866	692
PAYE/PRSI	365	265
Other Payables	351	210
Deferred Income	1,218	853
	7,317	4,809

13. Capital Account

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Opening balance	3,218	4,013
Transfer (to)/from Statement of Income and Expenditure and Retained Revenue Reserves:		
Amount capitalised in respect of purchased assets	156	121
Net amount released on disposal	–	(8)
Amortisation in line with asset depreciation	(643)	(908)
	(487)	(795)
Balance at end of year	2,731	3,218

14. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Current Bank Account	10	10
Savings Account	5,093	3,055
EPBD Account	4,619	2,666
	9,722	5,731
EU Funds Account	649	794
	10,371	6,525

The EPBD Account is the designated bank account for the Buildings Energy Rating programme (see Note 9).

SEAI is either partner or lead for a number of EU funded projects. In cases where SEAI acts as project lead funds are received and advanced to other agencies. All funds held in the EU Funds account relate to these EU projects.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

15. Retirement Benefit Costs

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) operates unfunded defined benefit superannuation schemes for staff. The results set out below are based on an actuarial valuation of the pension liabilities in respect of serving and former staff of SEAI as of 31 December 2022. This valuation was carried out by a qualified independent actuary for the purposes of the accounting standard, Financial Reporting Standard No. 102 (FRS 102).

A. Analysis of Retirement Benefit Costs Charged to Expenditure

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Current Service Costs	3,419	2,628
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	694	250
Staff Superannuation Deductions (Note 6.1)	(543)	(404)
Pension Cost in the period	3,570	2,474

B. Analysis of the movement in Liability during the year

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Scheme liability at 1 January	50,414	47,768
Current service cost	3,419	2,628
Interest cost	694	250
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(18,287)	185
Benefits paid in the year	(327)	(417)
Scheme Liability at 31 December	35,913	50,414

C. Deferred Funding for Pensions

SEAI recognises these amounts as an asset corresponding to the unfunded deferred liability for pensions on the basis of the set of assumptions described below and a number of past events. SEAI has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice.

Net Deferred Funding for Pensions for the Year	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Funding recoverable in respect of current year pension costs	4,113	2,878
State Grant applied to pay pensions	(327)	(417)
	3,786	2,461

The deferred funding asset for pensions as at 31 December 2022 amounted to €35,913,000. (2021: €50,414,000).

D. History of experience gains and losses

Experience Gains/(Losses) on scheme liabilities	2022 €'000	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Amount (€)	(2,535)	(149)	(647)
Percentage of present value of the scheme liabilities	7.06%	0.3%	1.3%
Total amount recognised in Statement of Comprehensive Income	18,287	(185)	(5,530)
Percentage of present value of the scheme liabilities	50.92%	0.4%	11.6%

The cumulative actuarial loss recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income amounts to €5,299,000 (2021: €23,586,000).

E. General Description of the Schemes

The SEAI pension scheme is a defined benefit final salary pension arrangement with benefits and contributions defined by reference to current "model" public sector scheme regulations. For class D PRSI contributors the scheme provides a pension (one eightieth per year of service), a gratuity or lump sum (three eightieths per year of service) and spouse's and children's pensions. For class A PRSI contributors the scheme provides a pension (one two hundredths per year of service) up to a threshold of 3 1/3 times the maximum annual rate of the state contributory pension, a gratuity or lump sum (three eightieths per year of service) and spouse's and children's pensions. Normal Retirement Age is a member's 65th birthday, and pre 2004 members have an entitlement to retire without actuarial reduction from age 60. Pensions in payment (and deferment) normally increase in line with general public sector salary inflation.

The Single Public Service Pension Scheme (Single Scheme) is the defined benefit pension scheme for pensionable public servants appointed on or after 1 January 2013 in accordance with the Public Service Pension (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012. The scheme provides for a pension and retirement lump sum based on career-average pensionable remuneration, and spouse's and children's pensions. The minimum pension age is 66 years (rising in line with State pension age changes). It includes an actuarially reduced early retirement facility from age 55. Pensions in payment increase in line with the consumer price index.

The valuation used for FRS102 disclosures has been based on a full actuarial valuation on 20th January 2023 by a qualified independent actuary taking account of the requirements of the FRS in order to assess the scheme liabilities at 31 December 2022.

The main financial assumptions used were:

	At 31/12/22	At 31/12/21	At 31/12/20
Discount rate	3.70%	1.30%	0.50%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.90%	3.50%	2.70%
Rate of increase in pensions*	2.60%	2.20%	1.40%
Inflation	2.60%	2.20%	1.40%

*The rate of pension increase is noted as being 2.60% p.a. (i.e. equal to inflation). This would apply to Single-Scheme members only. For final-salary members, pension increases were assumed at a rate of 3.65% p.a.

Mortality Tables used are as follows:

Active & Deferred	Pre-Retirement	Post-Retirement
Male	73.0% of ILT15	58.0% of ILT15
Female	77.0% of ILT15	62.0% of ILT15

Based on these tables, the future life expectancy at age 65 for males and females is as follows:

	Current pensioner (in 2022) at age 65	Future pensioner (in 2042) at age 65
Male	22.1 years	24.3 years
Female	24.4 years	26.4 years

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

16. Grant Commitments and grant repayments/refunds

(i) Grant Commitments

It is estimated that the maximum future payments likely to arise from commitments entered under various support schemes will amount to €263.292m (2021: €123.591m / €180.295m as reanalysed).

	Committed As at 1 Jan 2022 €'000	Committed During the period €'000	De- committed €'000	Payments €'000	Committed As at 31 Dec 2022 €'000
Residential & Community Energy Efficiency					
Better Energy Warmer Homes	56,310	98,083	–	97,962	56,431
Better Energy Homes	11,526	75,813	(15,122)	36,093	36,124
Solar PV	9,048	40,538	(5,471)	24,962	19,153
Deep Retrofit	1,777	453	–	265	1,965
Community Energy	17,189	46,435	(5,731)	19,583	38,310
National Home Retrofit Scheme	12,685	24,915	(9,549)	11,543	16,508
RESS Communities	–	673	–	387	286
Non-Domestic Microgen	–	276	–	133	143
Business and Public Sector					
Public Sector Energy Efficiency	5,036	46,652	–	35,233	16,455
EXEED	2,044	2,169	(599)	1,243	2,371
Industry & Business Programme	394	2,599	(52)	1,814	1,127
Renewable Energy					
Renewable Energy RD&D	19,127	9,031	(241)	4,313	23,604
Offshore Energy	694	1,375	–	193	1,876
Support Scheme for Renewable Heat	30,343	8,039	(1,931)	720	35,731
Transport					
Electric Vehicles	14,122	65,176	(2,245)	63,845	13,208
	180,295	422,227	(40,941)	298,289	263,292

In preparation of the 2022 Financial Statements a review was completed for all capital commitments, and we deemed it was appropriate to include the Better Energy Warmer Homes values (2021 €56.310m). Previously these were omitted as they are procured services. Industry & Business programme values (2021 €0.394m) have also been included in 2022. Some programmes have been re-grouped to correspond to the structure within the Programme Expenditure note (Note 7).

17. Related Parties Disclosures

The Board adopted procedures in accordance with Section 18 of the Sustainable Energy Act, 2002 and in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform in relation to the disclosure of interests by Board Members and these procedures have been adhered to in the year. During 2022, there were four cases where individual Board Members did not participate in the decisions on specific grants and procurements in accordance with the SEAI Conflict of Interest Policy. SEAI maintain a register of such cases.

18. Board Members Fees and Expenses

SEAI pays fees and expenses to its Board members in accordance with Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform regulations and circulars. SEAI applied the decision of the Government of March 2010 in respect of fees for members of State Bodies. Board member fees are rounded to the nearest €'000. Board member expenses of €915 were paid in 2022 (2021: €276).

	2022 €'000	2021 €'000
Board Fees		
Michael Wall	–	3
Dermot Byrne	12	12
Peter Brennan	8	8
Sharon O'Connor	8	7
Lisa Ryan	3	8
Kate Ruddock	1	8
Andrew Ennis	8	7
Ann Markey	8	7
Léan Doody	8	8
Joe O'Carroll	8	8
Justina Corcoran	–	–
William Walsh	–	–
Barry McMullin	–	–
Maria O'Dwyer	–	–
Robert Wasson	4	–
Total	68	76

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

19. Operating Leases – Premises

SEAI's head office is located at 3 Park Place, Hatch Street, Dublin 2 under a 25-year lease. The authority also leases sub-offices located in Cork, Dundalk and Sligo.

The following are the future non-minimum lease payments under operating leases for each of the listed periods:

	2022 €'000	2021 (As restated) €'000
Operating Leases		
Within 1 Year	2,005	2,005
During 2 to 5 Years	7,911	7,941
Over 5 Years	30,355	32,330
Total	40,271	42,276

The operating lease commitment disclosed in the 2021 Financial statements was €40,356,238. One year was omitted from the underlying calculation and the 2021 values have been restated above to reflect this.

Lease payments under operating leases are recognised as an expense over the period which SEAI obtains benefit from the premises.

Operating lease payment recognised as an expense in 2022 was €1,966,555 (2021: €2,074,532).

20. Comparative figures

Certain comparative figures for the year have been re-grouped and re-presented on the same basis as those for the current year.

21. Approval of Financial Statements

The Board approved the financial statements on 28 June 2023.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland