The objective of this guide is to answer the following questions:

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This Summary Guide is intended to assist you in applying for the Warmer Homes Scheme. Full details of the scheme can be found by referring to the <u>SEAI Scheme Guidelines</u> or the <u>Citizens Information (Warmer Homes Scheme)</u>.

- SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland) Customer Service 01 808 2100
- Citizens Information Phone Service on 0818 07 4000

Assistance in applying for the Warmer Homes Scheme is available from:

Local Community Groups :-

1.	Dunboyne Women's Shed	
2.	Dunboyne Friends of the Elderly	
3.	Dunboyne Active Retirement (DARA)	
4.	Dunboyne Men's Shed	

Useful Links:

- o SEAI Warmer Homes Guidelines
- Citizens Information <u>Warmer Homes Scheme</u>
- Warmer Homes Scheme <u>Application Form</u>
- Warmer Homes Scheme Online Application

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1. What is the Warmer Homes Scheme?

The Warmer Homes Scheme provides free energy efficiency upgrades for eligible homes. The aim of the Scheme is to make homes warmer, healthier and cheaper to run. You will also be reducing carbon emissions and helping climate action.

Upgrades may include:

- Attic insulation
- Cavity wall insulation or
- External wall insulation or
- o Internal wall insulation
- Other secondary measures such as lagging jackets, draught proofing and energy efficient lighting
- In some cases, renewable heating systems (not oil or gas) and/or window replacements may also be recommended

2. How much does the Warmer Homes Scheme cost?

If SEAI decide that <u>you and your home are eligible</u> to participate in the scheme and your home is <u>suitable for upgrading</u>, the works will be carried out at no cost to you.

3. Are you eligible for the Warmer Homes Scheme?

You must be in receipt of *any one* of the following welfare payments:

- Fuel Allowance as part of the National Fuel Scheme
- \circ Job Seekers Allowance for over 6 months and have a child under 7 years of age
- Working Family Payment
- **o** One-Parent Family Payment
- Domiciliary Care Allowance
- Carers Allowance and live with the person you are caring for
- Disability Allowance for over 6 months and have a child under 7 years of age

4. Does your home qualify for the Warmer Homes Scheme?

Your home must <u>comply with ALL</u> of the following:

- Your home must be in the Republic of Ireland
- You must own and live in your own home
- \circ $\,$ Your home must be your principal / main residence $\,$
- Your home must have been built and occupied before 1 January 2006
- You must not be planning a significant refurbishment by other parties
- Your home must have a BER (Building Energy Rating) or BER can be carried out at no charge

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5. If you just wish to confirm (online) if you are eligible you will need:

- Your PPSN number: on Public Services Card, Bus Pass, or Social Welfare document.
- Your MPRN: 11-digit number located at top of your electricity bill
- Proof of owning your home dated within last 12 months: e.g. home insurance policy, or mortgage statement, or title deeds, or LPT (Local property Tax) letter and utility bill

6. How to apply for the Scheme – you can apply online or by post:

Apply Online:

It is recommended that you complete the Warmer Homes Application Form (attached) before starting this online process. It will help you in gathering the information you will need for the online application.

- Click on the following link to start: <u>https://onlinewhs.powerappsportals.com/</u>
- Read through the online instructions and click on: "Apply Online" to continue.
- Enter your 11-digit MPRN (top of your electricity bill) and other details.
- Click on "Check my MPRN"
- If your details are accepted, you will be automatically directed to the next step in the application process.
- Continue to enter all relevant information and submit requested documents.

Apply By Post:

- Complete the Warmer Homes Scheme Application Form attached.
- Include all supporting documents requested.
- \circ Sign and date the form.
- Submit to:

Warmer Homes Scheme Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland PO Box 119 Cahirciveen Co. Kerry

7. Is your home considered suitable for the necessary upgrades?

You and your home may have been assessed as **eligible** for the scheme, but your home must then be assessed to determine if it is **suitable** for the upgrades.

If you qualify as an eligible applicant (Section 3) with an eligible Home (Section 4), SEAI will contact you to arrange for a surveyor to complete a full survey of your home. The survey typically takes between one and two hours. During this time, the surveyor will assess the overall suitability of your home for energy efficiency upgrades, discuss the outcome of the survey with you and answer any questions you have.

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8. Delivery of Warmer Homes Upgrade Works & Waiting Times

If the surveyor approves your home for the scheme, it is important to be aware that it may take more than 2 years before the works are completed. Applications are dealt with on a first-come, first-served basis*:

*Older homes are prioritised for works, i.e. constructed before 1993 with a BER of E, F or G.

The following are the current <u>approximate wait times</u> for each stage of the application process.

- Pre-works BER (Building Energy Rating) Takes up to 12 months from your successful application.
- Survey Approximately 14 months from successful application.
- Upgrade Works Completed Approximately 24 months from successful application.
- Post works BER/Inspection Approx. 2-3 months after works completed.

9. Not eligible?? What alternative options are available?

Fuel Allowance

If you do not qualify for the Warmer Homes Scheme it may be worth looking at the Fuel Allowance Scheme which is paid at \in 33 per week for 28 weeks, a total of \notin 924 over the winter. If you or your partner are 66 or over you do not need to be in receipt of a social welfare payment to qualify however, it is means tested.

A couple over 66 can have an income of €1,048 per week with €50,000 or more in savings and still qualify. - If you are successful in applying for Fuel Allowance it may be worth revisiting the application for the Warmer Homes Scheme.

Link to Fuel Allowance details: <u>https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-social-protection/services/fuel-allowance/#qualifying-payments</u>

Home Energy Grants

If you do not qualify for the Warmer Homes Scheme there are a number of grant-assisted options available: <u>https://www.seai.ie/grants/home-energy-grants</u>

Low Interest Home Energy Upgrade Loans

You can borrow from \in 5,000 to \in 75,000 for a term of up to 10 years. Loans are available through participating finance providers, including banks and some credit unions. The interest rates will be significantly lower than those generally available in the market but will vary among finance providers:

- https://www.seai.ie/grants/home-energy-grants/home-energy-upgrade-loan
- <u>Dunboyne Credit Union</u>