Community Funding Information Webinar - SE Systems Community Fund

Webinar summary

Hosted by Carlow PPN

Thursday July 10th 2025 5pm via Zoom

Acronyms:

SEAI Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland

SEC Sustainable Energy Community

EMP Energy Masterplan

PPN Public Participation Network

CCDP County Carlow Development Partnership

🔷 Overview

The webinar, hosted by **Carlow PPN**, focused on funding opportunities for community groups to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. Presentations by **SE Systems** and the Carlow SEAI **SEC Mentor** covered available grants, eligibility, application processes, energy audits, and master plans.

🔷 Key Points

✅ Welcome & Introductions

- Hosted by Carlow PPN – Patricia Duffe
- Speakers: Emma Walker and Catriona Courtney (SE Systems) and Marina De Costa (SEC Mentor CCDP)
- Attendees included PPN Staff, PPN member groups, PPN representatives and members of the community from the South East Region PPN Network

✅ Funding Opportunities

- **SE Systems Community Fund**:

- €500,000 total funding, €3,000 - €30,000 per project
- Competitive selection process; must demonstrate co-funding sources
- Projects must fit 1 of 5 pillars: environmental responsibility, social inclusion, lifelong learning, active communities, community well-being
- Only existing buildings in Ireland, owned or managed by applicant, and not already underway

Application deadline: **July 18, 2025, midnight**

- **SEAI Community Energy Grant**:
    - Up to 50% funding for non-revenue organizations; up to 30% for not-for-profits with revenue
    - Requires about 12 weeks to process

✅ **Energy Audits & Master Plans**

- **Energy Audits**:
- Review energy bills and building to recommend upgrades
- €2,000 voucher available for buildings spending >€10,000/year on energy
- Can include recommendations like insulation, solar PV, energy monitoring

- **Energy Master Plan**:
    - Free document prepared by consultants, outlining community energy use & improvement opportunities and supported by SEC mentors

✅ **Clarifications**

- Match funding requirements are flexible; scoring is based on impact, scope, feasibility
- Retrospective payments are standard but exceptions can be made
- Community groups can apply even if they lease (with permission and long-term lease in place)
- Funding rounds will continue, with future open calls announced through PPN

🔷 Next Steps & Actions

- In conjunction with Carlow PPN, Marina De Costa to host a separate webinar on SEC mentors and Energy Master Plans
- Carlow PPN to circulate notes, links and presentation slides
- Community groups to submit **SE Systems Community Fund** applications by July 18th 2025
- Groups encouraged to also consider **SEAI Community Energy Grant**
- Contact local SEC mentor for guidance on audits and master plans
- Ensure ownership or long-term lease documentation is ready
- SE Systems to consider fixed funding percentages for future rounds
- Watch for future funding announcements via PPN
- Member groups to ensure their PPN membership is up to date with their local PPN

🔷 Useful Links

- SE Systems
- Community Fund Info
- SEAI
- South East Energy Agency

South-East Region PPN Network websites

- Carlow PPN Carlow Public Participation Network - Carlow PPN
- Waterford PPN Home - Waterford PPN
- Kilkenny PPN https://kilkennyppn.ie/
- Tipperary PPN http://www.ppntipperary.org/
- Wicklow PPN http://www.countywicklowppn.ie/
- Cork City PPN https://www.corkcityppn.ie/
- Cork County PPN http://www.corkcountyppn.com/
- Wexford PPN http://wexfordppn.ie/