

# Improving the energy efficiency of your home



## Tom's story

### What works did you get done and why?

I had my boiler replaced and cavity wall insulation done a few years ago through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). The original boiler in my house was very difficult to access and use. Because I have a disability, it became increasingly difficult to pull the lever on the boiler to switch between heating the house and heating the water. I wanted to modernise the system. I wanted a thermostat and a timer. This was to reduce my consumption and energy and do my bit for the environment. I wanted efficiencies to make life easier and save money. My boiler was also very noisy in the house so I wanted a quieter boiler.

### What was your experience?

My plumber kindly offered to help me with the application. It may have been more difficult without his help. A surveyor from SEAI came to my house to do the assessment and a building energy rating (BER) and the insulation was done and the boiler was replaced.

### What advice would you have for others?

You really need a good builder who is registered with SEAI and familiar with the grant application process. Check which home energy upgrade service you are eligible for as you may qualify for a free energy upgrade. Ask lots of questions about what work you are getting done. My boiler was not as quiet as I had hoped!

Decide what you want done and apply for the grant before you start works. You can only apply for the grant once, so try to get as much work done as possible. Make sure you approach a registered contractor before you put in the grant application.

## ▶ What is the Free Energy Upgrade service from SEAI?

The Free Energy Upgrade service provides energy efficiency upgrades for eligible homes. The aim of the service is to make homes warmer, healthier, and cheaper to run.

## ▶ What work can I get done on my home?

A variety of energy efficiency upgrades are available. The type of upgrades that can be carried out include:

- Wall and roof insulation
  - Heating systems
  - Replacing windows\*
  - Ventilation improvements
- \* Subject to a home survey

A registered surveyor will visit your home to see which upgrades can be installed and paid for through SEAI.

## ▶ How do I know if I am eligible?

You can qualify if you receive of any of the following from social welfare:

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

There are some other requirements too. You must own and live in your own home and your home must:

- Be the main place you live (residence)
- Be located in the Republic of Ireland
- Have been built and moved into before 1 January 2006

## ▶ How do I apply?

Check out the full application details here:

<https://www.seai.ie/grants/home-energy-grants/free-upgrades-for-eligible-homes>

You can also contact the **SEAI** on **01808 2004** or by email **info@seai.ie**