

New Funding Initiative for Community Groups to Reduce Energy Costs

In this era of sustainable development, Roscommon Integrated Development Company is pleased to announce a new funding initiative aimed at Community Groups in Co. Roscommon to improve their energy efficiency and reduce the cost of their energy bills. Funded through the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme, it is intended that the initiative will provide financial support for Energy Assessments, Renewable Energy Projects and Cost Saving proposals for Community Buildings.

Funding of up to 90% will be available for eligible Community Groups to have initial Energy Assessments carried out on their buildings, provided by experienced professionals. This will provide Groups with an assessment of their buildings as well identifying the list of improvements that could be made, indicative costs for these improvements, potential grant aid available and payback in terms of energy cost-savings. Due to the levels of grant aid proposed, a relatively short payback period is envisaged, which should be particularly attractive for community groups.

In order to present this initiative to Community Groups and to provide an opportunity for them to participate, awareness seminars are being organised to provide information on the opportunities available to achieve greater energy efficiency in community buildings which will result in significant cost reductions in energy bills. Co-ordinated by WESTBIC, the events will take place in North and South Roscommon; including St John's Community Centre, Lecarrow on Monday 18th October at 8pm and Strokestown Community Centre on Tuesday 19th October at 8pm.

The Seminars will provide an overview of LEADER support available for energy-based proposals, including funding for Energy Assessments as well as proposed follow-up funding for Energy Efficiency Capital projects for Community Buildings. An overview will also be provided of various renewable/alternative energy options and cost saving opportunities for Community Buildings, e.g. improved insulation, draught proofing, double glazing, Lighting (including external lighting), heating and lighting controls (timers, zoned heating etc), solar panels, wind energy, wood heating (eg, wood pellets, wood chips), efficient oil/gas condensing boilers and other related items. Case Studies will be presented for selected community buildings in the county, detailing their current energy usage, opportunities identified for improvement, estimated capital costs, typical cost savings that may be generated and resultant payback for the community group.

Participants will also have an opportunity to register for an individual Energy Assessment for their building(s) aimed at identifying opportunities for improving the energy efficiency buildings and reducing their energy costs. This will be followed by assistance with making a suitable application to RIDC for financial support where appropriate.

This is an important event aimed at providing cost savings for community groups, so the participation of interested community representatives is recommended. Please confirm your attendance by contacting Breda Ryan, WESTBIC, Racecourse Road, Roscommon, Tel: 090 6625196, or email bryan@westbic.ie: