

SEAI RENEWS PARTNERSHIP ON SUSTAINABLE TARGETS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES

This partnership will enable local authorities to access expert advice on energy efficiency and energy-related decarbonisation including the bespoke supports for partners. The SEAI has a long-standing relationship with local authorities focusing on their energy efficiency and now this decarbonisation journey.

Within the Public Sector 'Partnership' Support Programme, the SEAI will provide all partners with a Partnership Support Manager (PSM), to assess their status against four criteria identified by the SEAI as 'critical' to achieving their targets. These are Energy Management, Project Pipeline, Strategy and Overall Performance.

Upon assessment, the SEAI then recommend actions and areas which can be improved upon. The programme also liaises the SEAI Pathfinder programme which brings capital to bear for building deep retrofit projects.

William Walsh, CEO of the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), said that partnership with local authorities will be critical to enabling the delivery of Ireland's climate obligations. "Local authorities are key to supporting the role that citizens, communities, businesses and the public sector will play in the sustainable energy transition.

"Living within our carbon budgets is essential, and local authorities are pivotal to influencing systemic change in the way we do things nationwide. The impact of our partnership will support a continued commitment to achieving 2030 targets."

CLIMATE ACTION AMBITIONS

According to Frank Curran, Chair of the County and City Management Association (CCMA), the councils are key to delivering Ireland's national climate action ambitions. "The local government sector leads communities, integrating energy

The County and City Management Association (CCMA) recently collaborated with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) under the SEAI's Public Sector 'Partnership' Support Programme to enable local authorities to reach their decarbonising targets by 2030.

efficiency and emission reduction across our operations."

He added that with the continued support of the SEAI, local authorities will remain committed to meeting the challenge of sustaining, if not increasing, business operations and services for Ireland's growing population, while aiming to deliver net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

"As we design and implement local climate action plans, we look forward to continuing to build on the achievements we have made to date in substantially reducing energy use, with the valuable support and advice of the SEAI."

Local authorities currently account for 10 % of public sector final energy consumption and 11% of emissions. To achieve these targets for 2030, local authorities will need deep retrofit of their leisure centres and large offices and to decarbonise their fleets.

While the CCMA Chair acknowledged that the public sector faces challenging targets and that the journey to achieving this will not be easy, he said that the partnership with the SEAI will be helpful.

