



Building Energy Rating (BER)

ADVISORY REPORT

Energy use in our homes is responsible for more than a quarter of Ireland's total CO₂ emissions. Reducing energy use will save you money and is good for the environment. This report provides advice on improving your Building Energy Rating, reducing your energy usage and costs, while improving the comfort and condition of your home.

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About this Advisory Report

Energy use in our homes is responsible for almost a quarter of Ireland's total CO₂ emissions. Reducing energy use will save you money and is good for the environment. This report provides advice on improving your BER, reducing your energy usage and costs, while improving the comfort of your home. The improvement measures recommended in this report are not mandatory and can be completed at your own discretion. Some improvements may require the use of suitably qualified installers or professional advice. All works should be completed to the relevant health and safety standards. Where applicable, works should be completed to the relevant Building Regulations.

In this report an associated cost and impact are provided for the recommendations specific to your home. Costs and impacts are divided into categories and these are defined as follows:

Low Cost are improvements that are expected to cost less than 100 euro to complete.

Medium Cost are improvements that are expected to cost 100 euro to 1,000 euro to complete.

High Cost are improvements that are expected to cost more than 1,000 euro to complete.

The above costs are guidelines only and actual costs will vary depending on house size, work specification and market conditions.

Low Impact are measures that will make a small improvement in energy efficiency.

Medium Impact are measures that will make a medium improvement in energy efficiency.

High Impact are measures that will make a large improvement in energy efficiency. Implementing any improvement measure will reduce your energy consumption. When implementing improvements it is sensible to prioritise those with a low cost and a high

impact first. The money saved by reducing energy usage can help to pay for the improvement measures. Moreover apart from increasing the comfort and costs the measures could increase the value of your home and reduce its environmental impact.

Ventilation

General Operational Advice on Ventilation

Care should always be taken to ensure a sufficient level of ventilation to maintain fresh air levels in each room and to remove moisture, water vapour and pollutants. For health and safety reasons it is important to ensure an adequate air supply to combustion appliances e.g. gas, oil or solid fuel. Signs of inadequate ventilation are persistent condensation and mould growth. If such problems exist, they should be addressed first, since reducing ventilation may make the problem worse. In a typical home 20% of all heat loss is through ventilation and draughts. Energy consumption can be improved while maintaining adequate ventilation. If draught sealing is damaged at any time make sure to replace it. When draughtproofing or making houses more airtight, it is important to maintain recommended ventilation standards.

Radon concentrations can increase in existing houses as a result of greater airtightness. Further information on Radon is available from the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland in their publication "Radon in Homes". This guide can be downloaded from www.rpii.ie.

Roofs

General Operational Advice on Roofs

Proper insulation will help retain valuable heat and improve overall comfort levels. If insulation is disturbed or damaged at any time, e.g. in attic space, make sure to restore or replace it.

Cylinder Timer / Thermostat

The hot water cylinder in this dwelling has a timer and thermostat.

This thermostat allows you to set the temperature at which hot water is stored in your cylinder. The best setpoint for the thermostat is 60°C. Setting the temperature lower than this presents a health risk. Setting the temperature higher than this wastes energy.

Lighting

General Operational Advice on Lighting

Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) use 20% of the energy used by typical incandescent bulbs to give the same amount of light. A 22 Watt CFL has the same light output as a 100 Watt incandescent. LED (Light-emitting diode) lights use less than 10% of the energy required for corresponding tungsten lights. Low energy lighting will give highest savings in rooms that are most often used.

Space Heating

General Operational Advice on Space Heating

A reduction of 1°C on your thermostat can reduce annual space heating costs by 10% or more. An automatic timer switch or programmer allows you to schedule the heating duty on the hot water and heating system and to turn the system on and off as

required. Use this facility to limit the running time for the heating system to fit your specific needs and you will save money.

Room thermostats normally turn the boiler and heating circulation pump off when the room temperature has reached the desired level. A room thermostat is normally located in a living area or circulation area (hall or landing). Guide temperature settings are 20°C for a living room and 16 - 18°C for circulation areas. However, the most appropriate setting depends on location of the thermostat and the heating system design. Choose the lowest setting that gives acceptable comfort conditions. Finding the setting to suit you may take some experimentation.

Thermostatic Radiator Valves (TRVs) can be set to suit the heating requirements of the room(s) in question.

For further details please refer to "A Detailed Guide to Home Heating Systems" available on www.seai.ie

Main Heating System

General Operational Advice on Main Heating System

You should have your boiler professionally serviced at least once per year. A clean and serviced appliance will operate more economically and will have a longer service life.

General Advice on Energy Use in Your Home

The way we use energy in our homes can reduce energy consumption. Some simple everyday measures will save money, improve comfort and reduce your impact on the environment. Some of these are outlined below.

Appliances: New kitchen appliances carry an energy rating label which rates energy efficiency on a scale of A to G. When buying new appliances look for A rated products which are more energy efficient and cost less to run. Do not under or overload appliances, such as dishwashers and washing machines. For washing machines, a 40°C rather than a 60°C wash cycle cuts electricity use by approximately a third. (Modern washing powders and detergents can work equally effectively at lower temperatures.) Defrost your freezer regularly to save energy and extend the operating life. Equipment on standby uses up to 20% of the energy it would use when fully on. When an appliance is not in use, turn it off fully.

Lighting: Avail of natural daylight whenever possible and avoid leaving electric lights switched on in unoccupied rooms. All lighting lamps carry an energy label similar to that on appliances (i.e. an A to G label) so always choose the most efficient to suit your particular needs.

Useful Links and Sources of Further Information

Useful energy saving tips are available on www.change.ie (Tel. 1890 242643) and www.powerofone.ie. For specific queries on BER please contact SEAI on 1890734237 or by email info@ber.seai.ie. There are many useful documents available on The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's (SEAI) website www.seai.ie

The most recent Technical Guidance Documents for the Building Regulations and other supporting documents are available from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government website www.environ.ie on the link to Building Standards (Tel. 1890 202021). Some of these documents are listed below.

Technical Guidance Document Part L Conservation of Fuel and Energy - Dwellings;
Technical Guidance Document Part J Heat Producing Appliances;
Technical Guidance Document Part F Ventilation.

When performing building works it is important to take the correct health and safety measures. Useful health and safety information on ventilation, radon and combustion devices can be found on the Carbon Monoxide safety website:

www.carbonmonoxide.ie Tel. 1850797979 and The Radiological Protect Institute of Ireland website www.rpii.ie/radon Tel. 01 269 77 66.

Please consider the environment before printing this document

Further advice on improving the energy efficiency of your home is available from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, www.seai.ie

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