

News & Events



Sale of halogen light bulbs ends

As part of the European Union's Ecodesign Work Programme, halogen light bulbs will no longer be sold within the EU, after 1st September 2018. The bulbs will be replaced with cheaper, safer and more efficient LED bulbs. The ban will not affect bulbs already on shelves, only on the introduction of halogen bulbs to the market. More information is available from the [European Commission's](#) website.

Project Ireland 2040 development funds

Four development funds, totalling €4bn, will be made available from June 2018 as part of the Project Ireland 2040 National Development Framework.

- Urban Regeneration and Development Fund - €2bn
- Rural Development Fund - €1bn
- Climate Action Fund - €0.5bn
- Disruptive Technologies Fund - €0.5bn

More information is available on the [DPER](#) and [NPF](#) websites.

Decrease in the PSO Levy

The Public Service Obligation (PSO) Levy is a government subsidy charged to all electricity consumers as part of their bill. It is used to fund a number of renewable energy projects within the state.

The Levy is set to decrease for 2018/19, falling from €7.69 per month to €3.48 for households. Consumers may not experience a reduced electricity bill, as the levy decreases due to a rise in the cost of a unit of electricity. More information is available on the [CRU's](#) website.



New solar PV grant announced

Minister Naughten recently announced a new scheme to support the installation of solar PV panels. Solar PV systems utilise sunlight to produce electricity for a household to use.

Up to €3,800 is available to domestic households that install solar PV and battery energy storage systems. These systems will typically save €200-€300 on an annual electricity bill. More information on the grant is available on the [SEAI's](#) website.

SSRH - Draft Terms & Conditions published

The draft Terms and Conditions for the Support Scheme for Renewable Heat (SSRH) have recently been announced by the Minister Denis Naughten. This scheme will provide financial support to non-domestic heat users, who wish to replace fossil fuel based systems, for renewable energy heating systems.

These Terms and Conditions will help to ensure that the scheme meets its targets of producing sustainable, efficient heat for users, at a cost that represents value for the state. More information is available from the [DCCA's](#) website.

Renewable Electricity Scheme receives cabinet support

The Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) has recently received the support of the cabinet for its implementation. The scheme will primarily help to create incentives for renewable electricity production, while also ensuring the government meets a number of policy objectives. More information is available on the [DCCA's](#) website.

Domestic wind turbines



Wind turbines for domestic use have become more prevalent in recent years, as both technology and cost have improved. This edition of the LCEA newsletter will focus on wind turbines as an energy source for your home. There are two main types of turbine, Horizontal Axis Wind Turbines (HAWTs) and Vertical Axis Wind Turbines (VAWTs).

HAWTs are more common in domestic settings and typically require a wind speed of 3-5m/s to produce useable energy. The average wind speed in Ireland ranges between 3m/s to 8m/s, depending on your location. With an average annual wind speed of 4.5m/s, a 3kW HAWT turbine is capable of producing up to 4,000kWh of electricity, slightly less than the average Irish home's electricity use of 4,200kWh. However, this figure varies depending on wind speed and conditions. [C&F Green Energy](#) and [Kingspan](#) are two Irish manufacturers, with more information available on their websites.

VAWTs are typically used for commercial purposes, and are relatively uncommon in domestic settings Ireland. However, they have the potential to be modified for domestic use in the future. VAWTs have a number of advantages over HAWT turbine models, including having less moving parts, increasing reliability and VAWTs operate better in gusty conditions. More information on HAWTs and their development potential is available on the [WindPower Engineering](#) website.

Time Save

Energy

Contribute by



Taking Shorter Showers

In addition to saving a considerable amount of water, you also save the energy required to heat that water. Try to reduce your showers to 4 minutes a day and save gallons more than 3650 gallons of water.

Turning off lights and Switching

Turning off lights is the easiest way of saving energy. Electric lights left on unnecessarily waste energy. Opening your blinds/curtains and using sunlight whenever is possible, can save energy, bulbs and money. You can also save energy by switching to CFL's, Compact Fluorescent Lights use 75% less energy and last up to 10 times longer.



Taking the Stairs

Taking stairs instead of the elevator not only can save you a great amount of time during peak hours and considerably reduce energy consumption but also can help your health.

Turning your Laundry Green

Using hot water for washing your clothes could use three and a half times more energy than washing in warm water and rinsing in cold. Doing one big load of clothes instead of smaller ones can also help, but do not overload the machine. Make sure to check the dryer vent is clean and try air drying them whenever possible.

