



BEHAVIOUR ECONOMIC CASE STUDY

HOME ENERGY SAVINGS SCHEME - PILOT LOOK BACK

Introduction

The Home Energy Saving Scheme (HESS) was piloted in County Clare and County Limerick during 2008, based on a proposal from the Limerick Clare Energy Agency to the Department of Communications Energy & Natural Resources.

The HESS offered home owners grants to improve their homes' energy efficiency performance.

Various measures were covered including roof insulation, wall insulation (cavity, internal, & external), double-glazing, and heating & hot water control upgrades.

The Limerick Clare Energy Agency (LCEA) completed a look back survey of 210 HESS participants in Clare to get some feedback on their experience of the scheme.



Attic insulation being installed.

INITIAL FINDINGS

- **Property Age:** 65% of respondents live in a pre-1980 house, 25% of houses were built in 1981-1995, 3%: 1996-2000, and 3%: post-2001.
- **Home heating and hot water Fuel.** Oil (83%) is the most common heating fuel, with wood (54%) in second and coal (41%) third.
- **Most Popular Measures:** cavity wall insulation (57%); roof insulation (52%) in close second.
- **Noticeable Energy Cost Decrease:** (67%) have noticed a **decrease in their home energy costs**. 30% noted a decrease of €101- €200 in their bills, Another 30% observed a reduction of €201-€300.
- **Noticeable Levels of Comfort:** 78% find that their **homes are significantly warmer**.

ATTITUDE & BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

- **Motivated to do more:** Taking part in the HESS prompted (45%) to undertake further energy efficiency home improvements. 49.3% indicated that they are considering additional home energy efficiency work in the future.
- **Renewable Energy Technologies.** 10% had installed solar thermal panels. 13% are presently installing solar thermal panels. 7.3% would consider renewable thermal energy for their home in the future.
- **Renewable Energy Approval (Domestic & Commercial).** Respondents most approve of solar (78%), wind (55%), and geothermal (54%) energy.
- **Home Electrical Energy Use,** 44% stated that the biggest increase in their electrical usage had occurred in computing and communications.
- **Transport Energy.** To reduce their carbon footprint respondents claimed, 70% would like to buy a more fuel efficient car. 64% indicated that they would like to walk, or cycle (43%) more.
- **Low Carbon Societies;** 78% of respondents claim that they have a fair to high awareness of a low carbon society. 75% asserted that becoming a low carbon society is very important.