



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES





Online briefing Amicitia SEC Athenry 2nd November 2021



What is a Sustainable Energy Community?

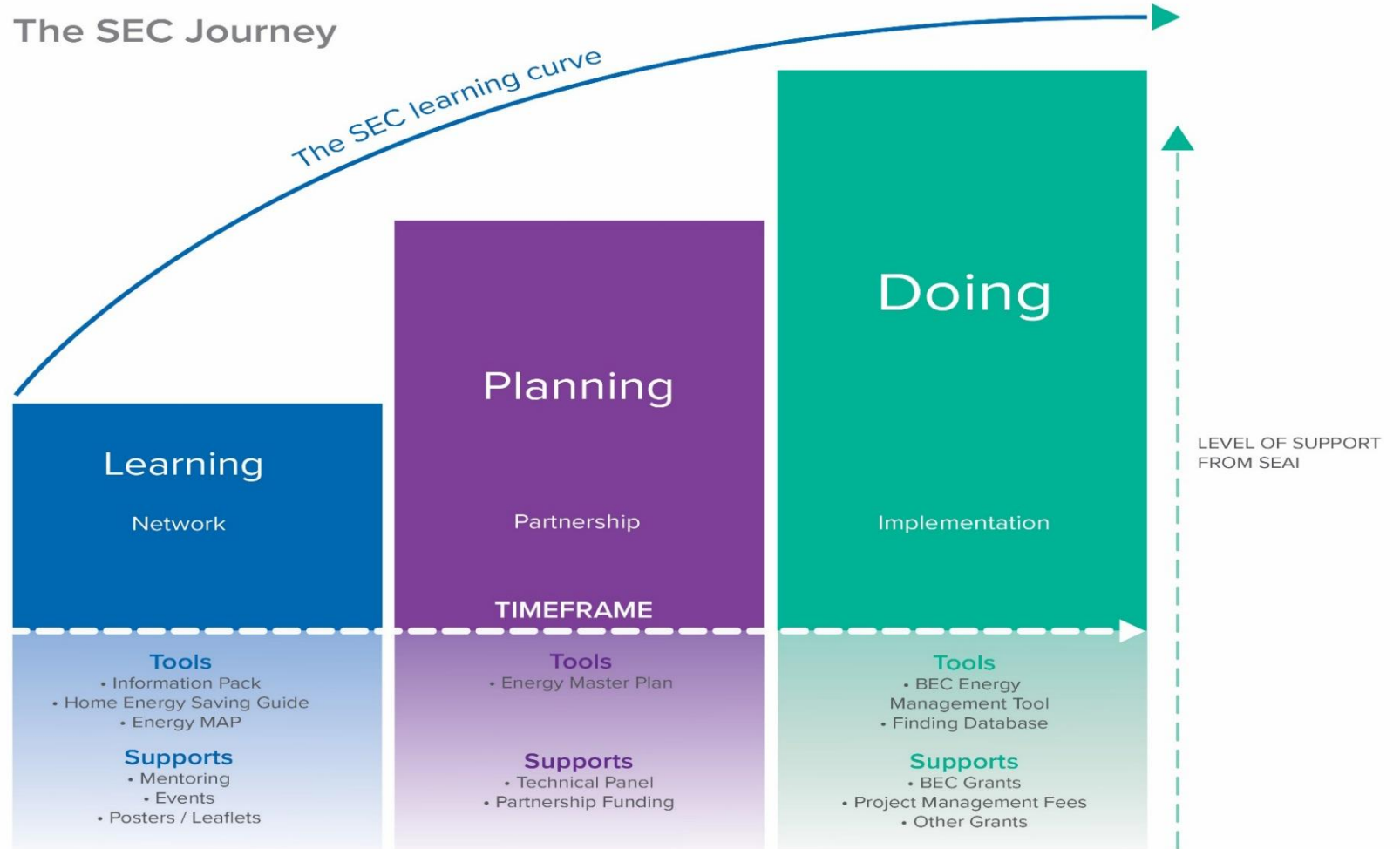
A Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) is a group of people in which everyone works together to develop a sustainable energy system for the benefit of the community.

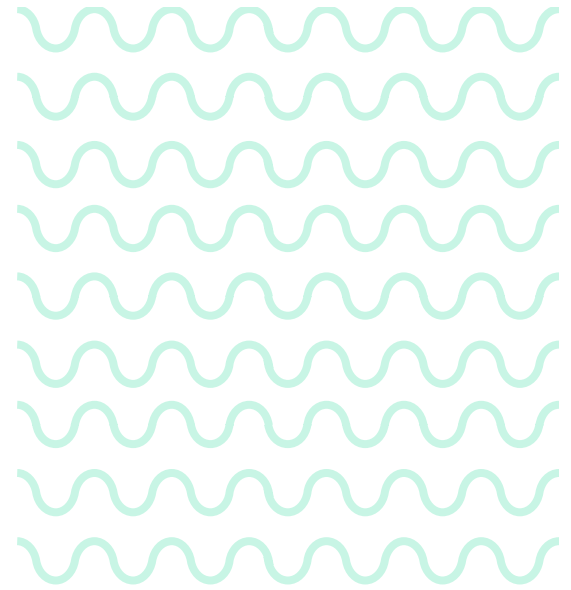
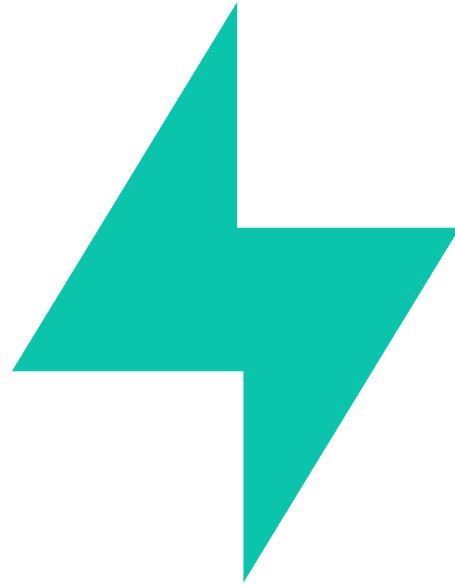
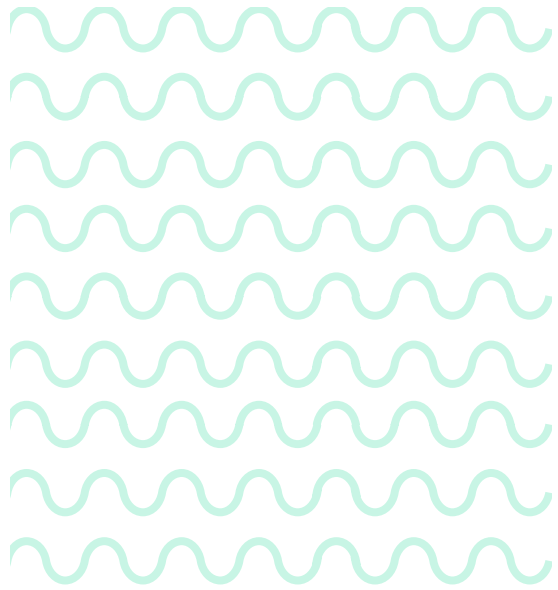
This is achieved by:

- Aiming, as far as possible, to be energy efficient (**Use less**)
- Using renewable energy where feasible (**Use clean**)
- Adopting smart energy solutions (**Innovate**)

Learn – Plan - Do

The SEC Journey





Learn The SEC Network

The Sustainable Energy Communities Network

SEC Network Map

<https://www.seai.ie/sustainable-solutions/community-projects/sustainable-energy-communities/>

- Look for SECs with similar aims and objectives
- Networking is encouraged
- Ask your Mentor for an introduction





A diverse network of skills and interests



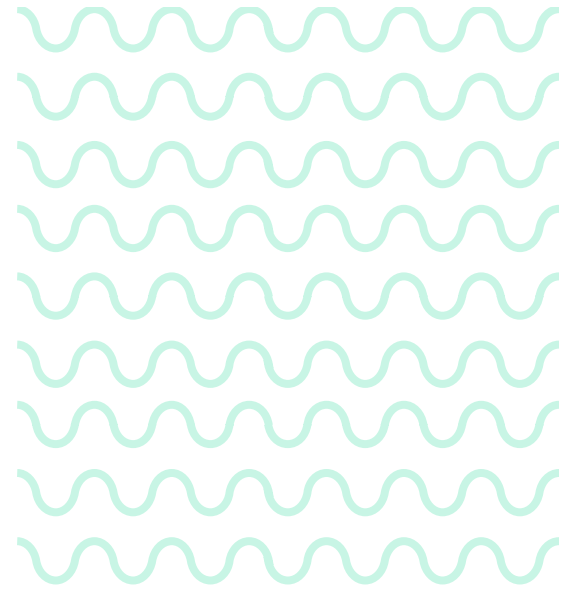
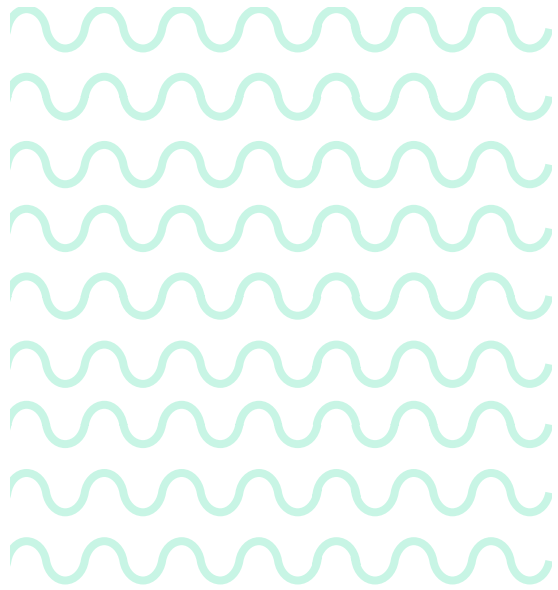
To date, there are 640+ communities in the network. Who are they?

- Small rural towns
 - Large urban centres
 - Neighbourhoods
 - Third level institutions
 - Residents' Associations
 - Tidy Towns Committees
 - Suburban community organisations
 - Local environmental groups
 - County councils
 - Business groups
 - Housing Associations
- 



What are the benefits of joining the network?

- Mentoring
- Learning supports
- Get in touch with other communities who have common interests
- Learn from communities who have conducted local energy projects
- Start thinking about energy use in your own community in an informed way
- Learn from energy experts
- Attend regional and national events

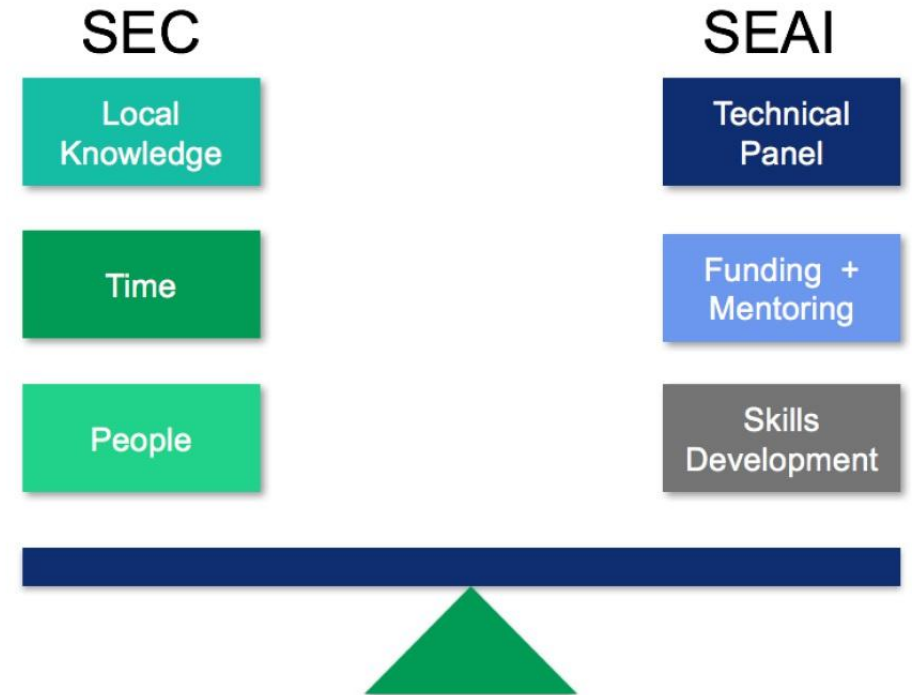


Plan

The SEAI Partnership & Energy Master Plan

The Partnership Approach

The SEC partnership approach aims to enable bottom-up community energy solutions. Such a task cannot be achieved in isolation, so we want to partner with willing communities in planning for their energy future. SECs who are already in the SEC Network are encouraged to enter into a partnership with us.



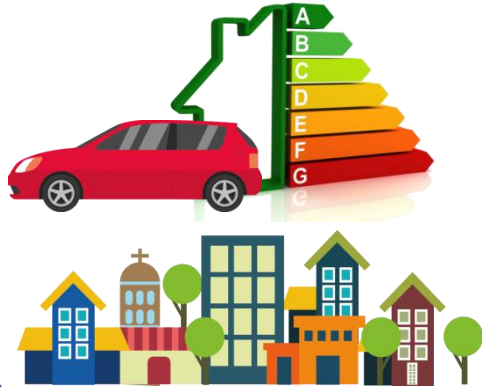
The Partnership Approach – the next steps

1. Community Charter – a vision for your community, what are your goals and priorities?
2. Energy Master Plan Funding application

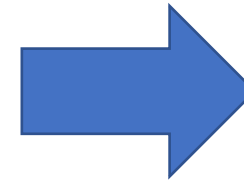
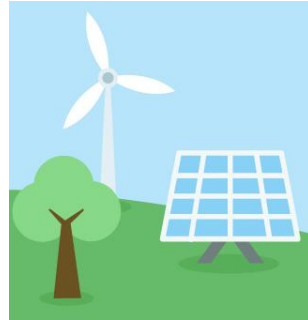
SEC LEVEL	SCALE	SPEND	FUNDING
Level 1	Street/ Village	Up to €2,000,000	€10,000
Level 2	Town / Island	Up to €20,000,000	€15,000
Level 3	County / Regional	Up to €50,000,000	€20,000
Level 4	National / Other	Over €50,000,000	€25,000

The Energy Master Plan

Baseline of current energy use



Assessment or RE resources

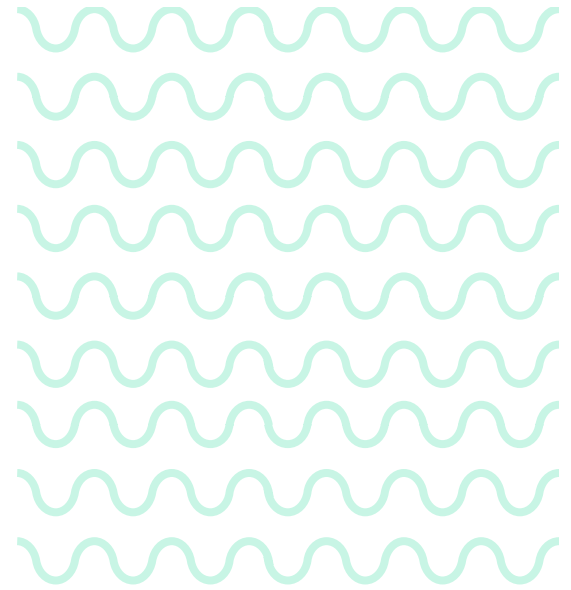
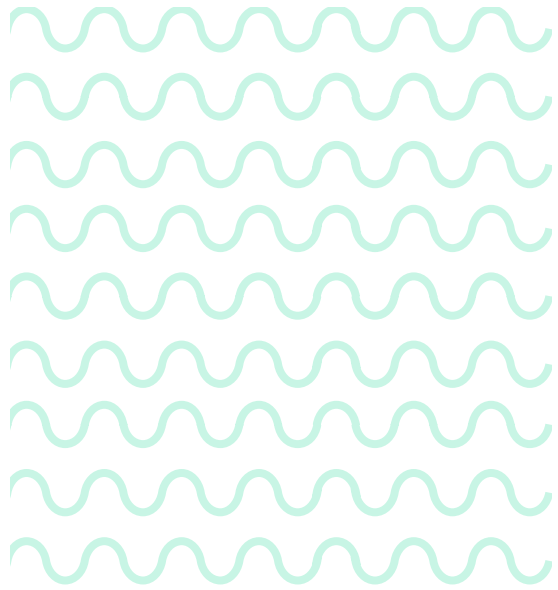


Register of Opportunities



Database of buildings/facilities/fleets/RE
Quantify associated energy: €, kWh, BER, CO₂

Project list
Categories / targets / ranking



Do
Projects & Community Grants

SEAI Grant schemes

Which one is right for me?

- Lots of confusion and bad publici
- Different timeframes & structures
- Changes from one year to the next



SEAI Grant schemes

Homeowners - 3 main options

Warmer Homes Scheme	Better Energy Homes	Community Energy Grant
Free Upgrades for eligible homeowners	Fixed grants for a menu of measures	% of costs for wide range of measures

SEAI Grant schemes

Warmer Homes Scheme

Who is it for:

'Energy Poor' Homeowners – homes built before 2006 - in receipt of one of the following:

- Fuel Allowance as part of the National Fuel Scheme.
- Job Seekers Allowance for over six months and have a child under seven years of age
- Working Family Payment
- One-Parent Family Payment
- Domiciliary Care Allowance
- Carers Allowance and live with the person you are caring for

Delivered Free of Charge

Must own and live in the home treated, which must have been built and occupied before 2006

What is offered:

- Attic insulation
- Wall insulation
- Lagging jackets & Energy advice
- Draught proofing
- Low energy light bulbs
- Windows*
- Heating upgrade*

**Subject to survey*

How to apply:

Website <https://www.seai.ie/grants/home-energy-grants/free-upgrades-for-eligible-homes/>

or Freephone [1800 250 204](tel:1800250204)

SEAI Grant schemes

Better Energy Homes

Who is it for:

Homeowners and landlords – homes built before 2006

Do more, receive more:

3 upgrades = bonus €300

4 upgrades = bonus €400

How to apply:

Apply online

<https://www.seai.ie/grants/home-grants/better-energy-homes/>

Measures	Energy Efficient Measures	Grant
Insulation	Attic insulation	€ 400
	Cavity wall insulation	€ 400
	Internal Insulation (Dry Lining)	
	Apartment (any) OR Mid-terrace House	€ 1,600
	Semi-detached OR End of Terrace	€ 2,200
	Detached House	€ 2,400
External Wall Insulation ('The Wrap')		
	Apartment (any) OR Mid-terrace House	€ 2,750
	Semi-detached OR End of Terrace	€ 4,500
	Detached House	€ 6,000
Heating System	Heating Controls Upgrade	€ 700
Heat Pump	Air/Ground to Water system	€ 3,500
	Air to Air system	€ 600
Solar Thermal	Solar Thermal	€ 1,200
BER		€ 50

SEAI Grant schemes

Community Energy Grant – formerly Better Energy Communities (BEC)

Who is it for:

All community sectors – homeowners, landlords, public sector, business, community organisations

Homeowner grant rates:

- Non-energy poor: Up to 35% of eligible costs
- Energy poor: Up to 80% of eligible costs

Measures for homes that are grant supported:

- Wide range of upgrades including: insulation; heating controls; heat pumps; wood fuel stoves; doors & windows; biomass boilers; solar thermal (hot water)

Measures for homes that are NOT grant supported:

- Gas/oil boilers
- Back boilers

Community Energy Grant – formerly Better Energy Communities (BEC)

What to be aware of:

- Partial solutions are not eligible, i.e. if you are insulating a wall, you must insulated all the walls
- Single measures are not supported – you must be prepared to include more than one upgrade
- BER B2 must be achieved (or C1 with prior agreement) – this will mean a significant investment

SEAI Grant schemes

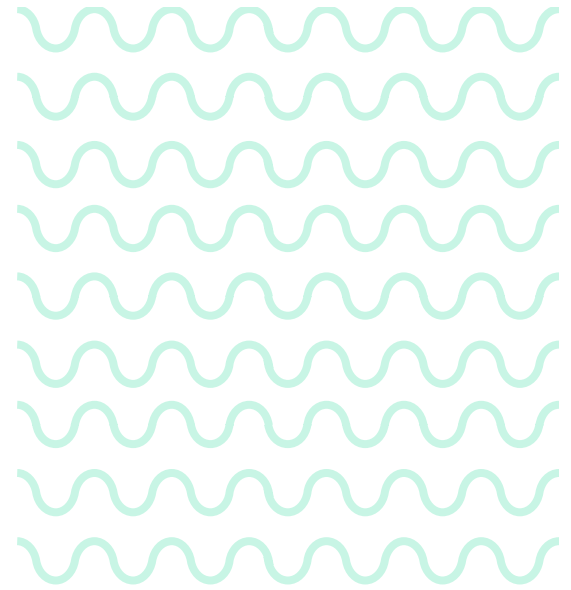
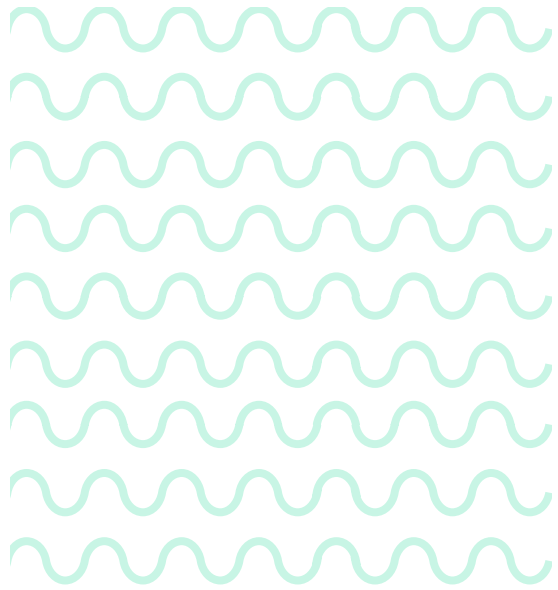
Community Energy Grant – formerly Better Energy Communities (BEC)

How to join a Community Energy Grant application:

- Individual homeowners can't apply directly
- **You need to find a Project Coordinator that is organising an application**

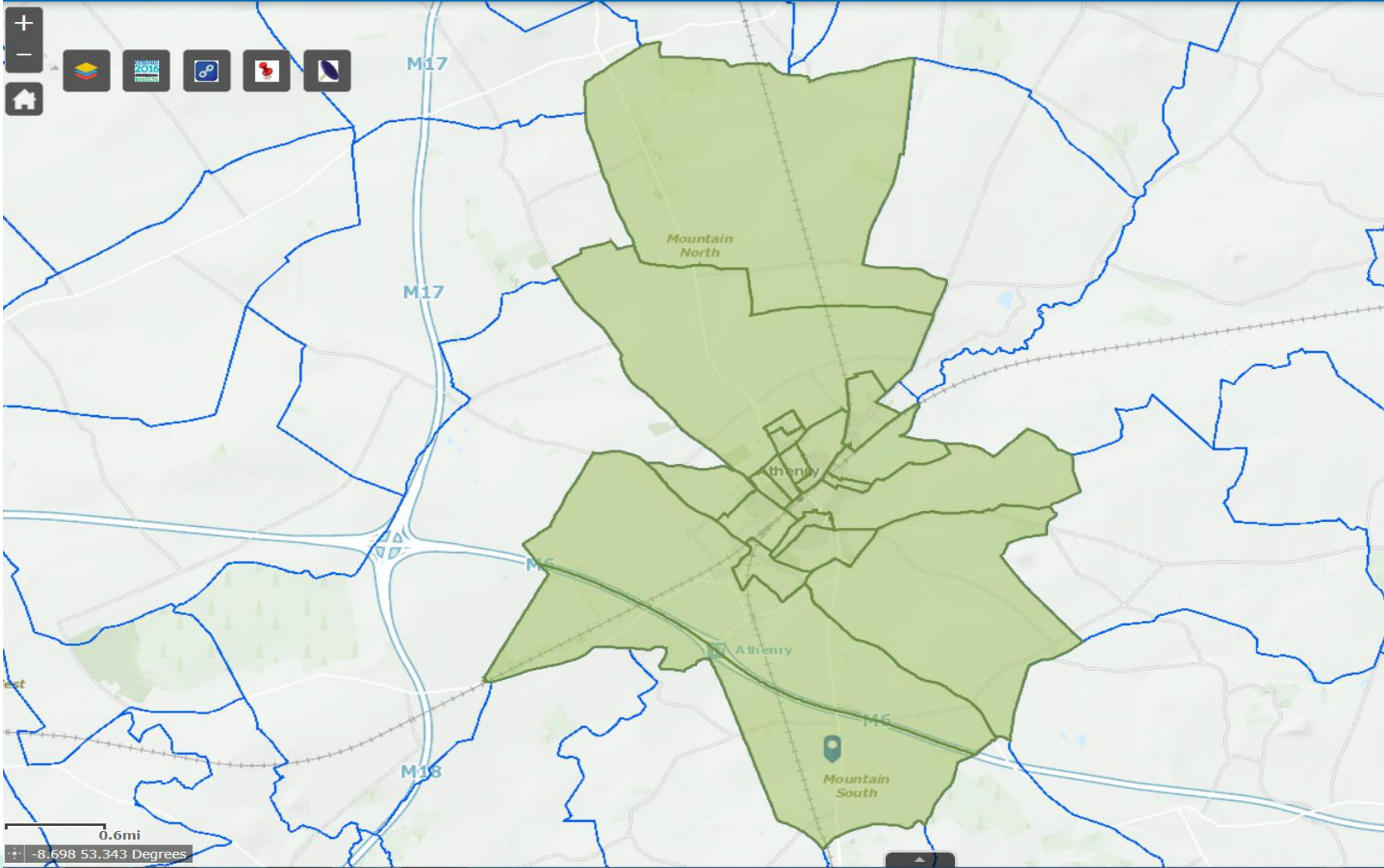
Advantages of the Community Energy Grant:

- % of costs versus fixed grant per measure – generally better value
- Economies of scale for larger projects
- **Project Coordinator looks after procurement, deals with the contractor and with SEAI**



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A quick look at energy use in your community

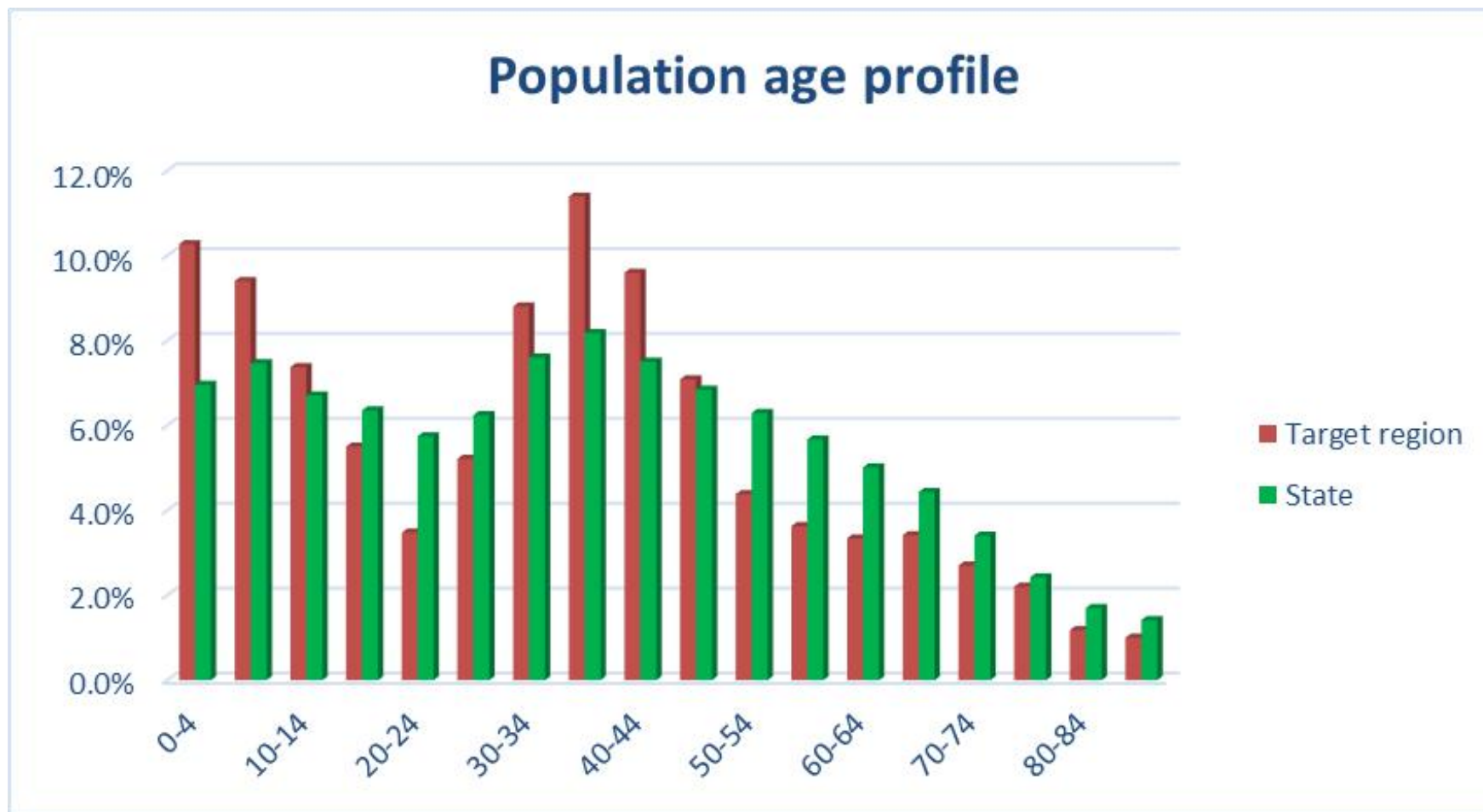


Parameter	Value
Population	5,178
Homes (total)	2,099
Homes (non vacant)	1,933
Cars	2,506

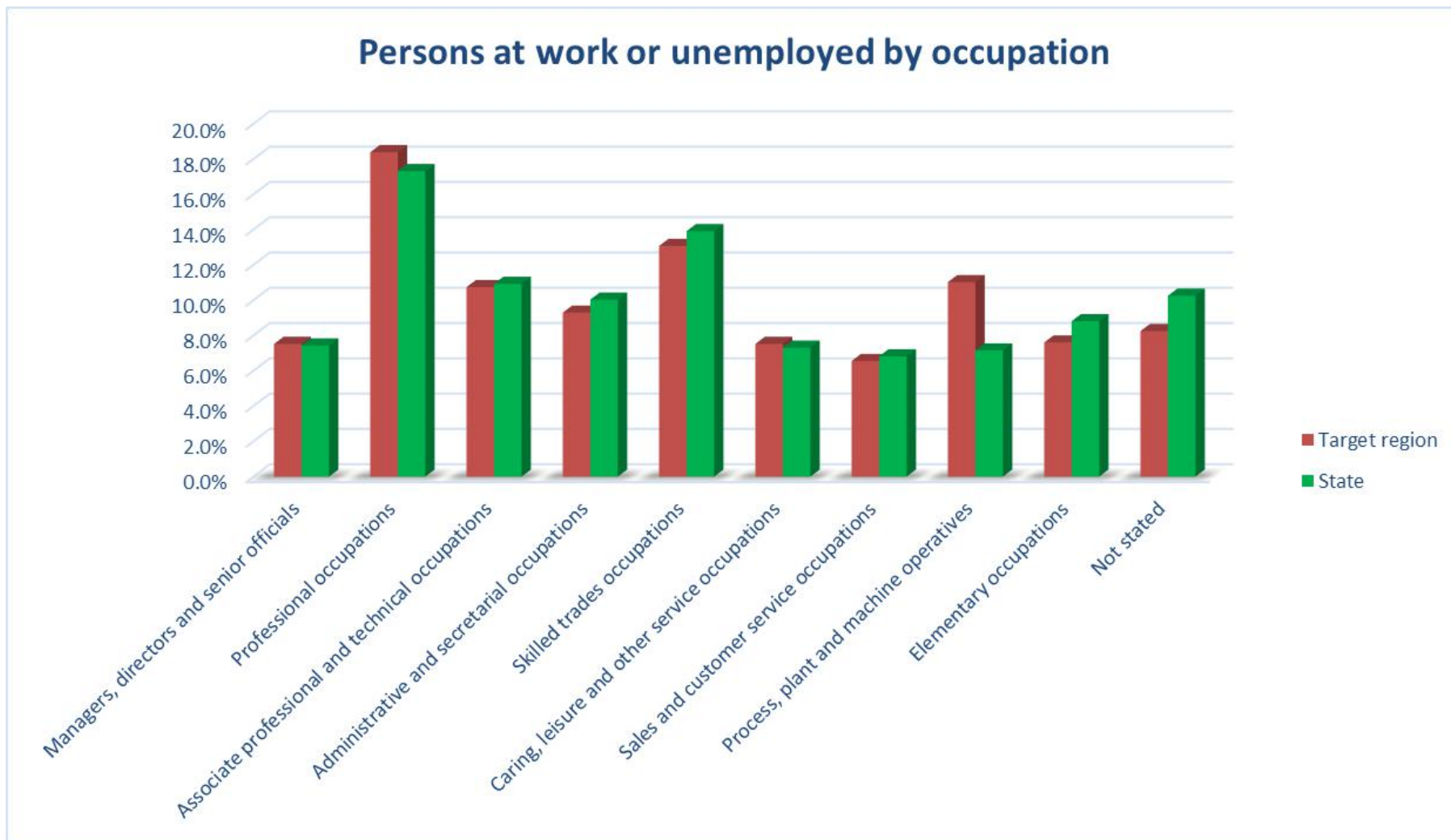
Parameter	Value
Average spend for home energy	€1,900
Average spend for transport fuel	€1,500
Annual spend for homes (non vacant)	€3,672,700
Annual spend for cars	€3,759,000
Total annual energy spend	€7,431,700
SEC Level	Level 2
EMP funding	€15,000

People:

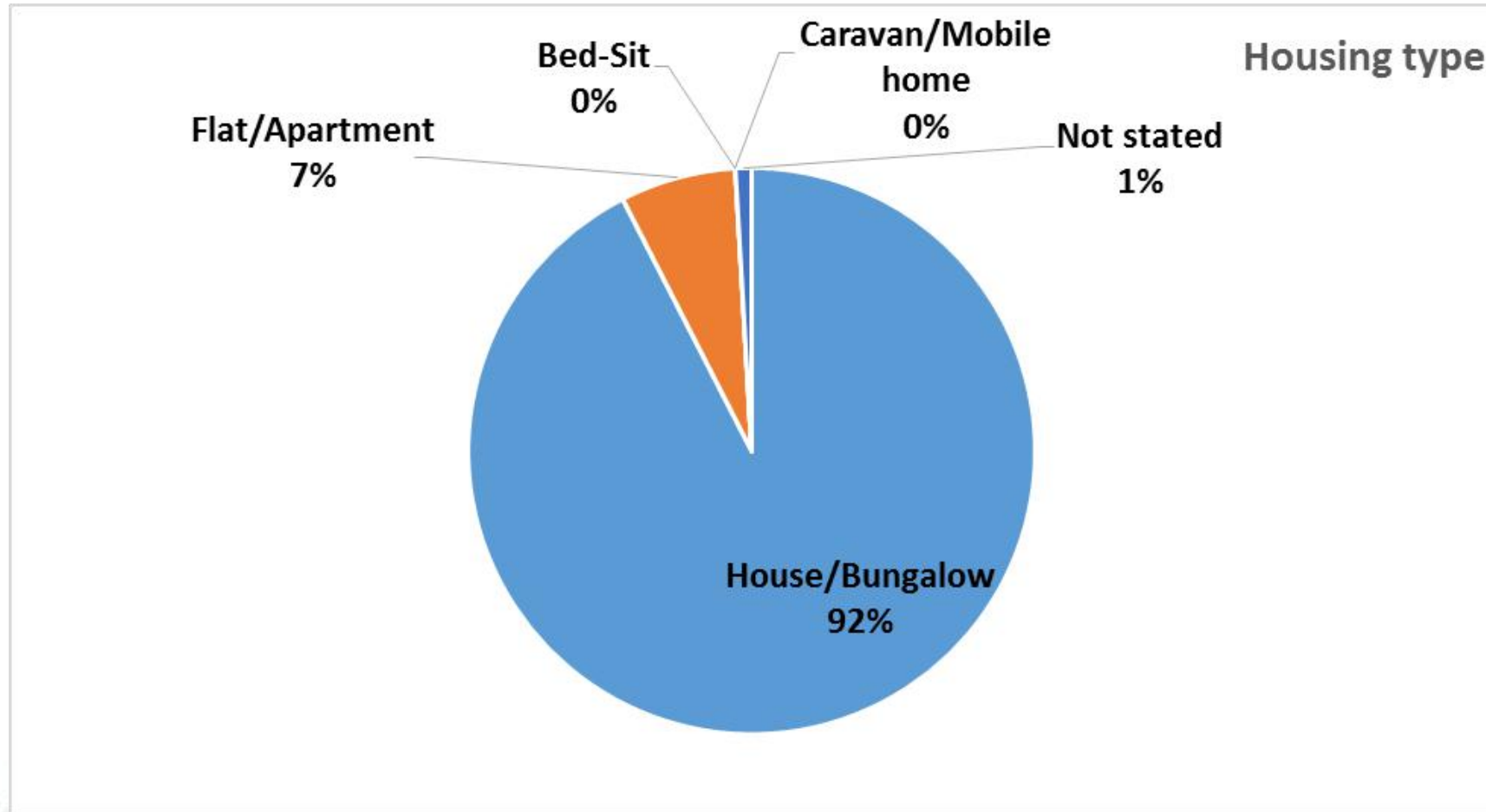
Population 5,178



People: At work



Residential Sector: 1,848 Homes



Residential Sector: 1,848 Homes

Housing age:

Pre 1960: 10%

1961 to 1980: 12%

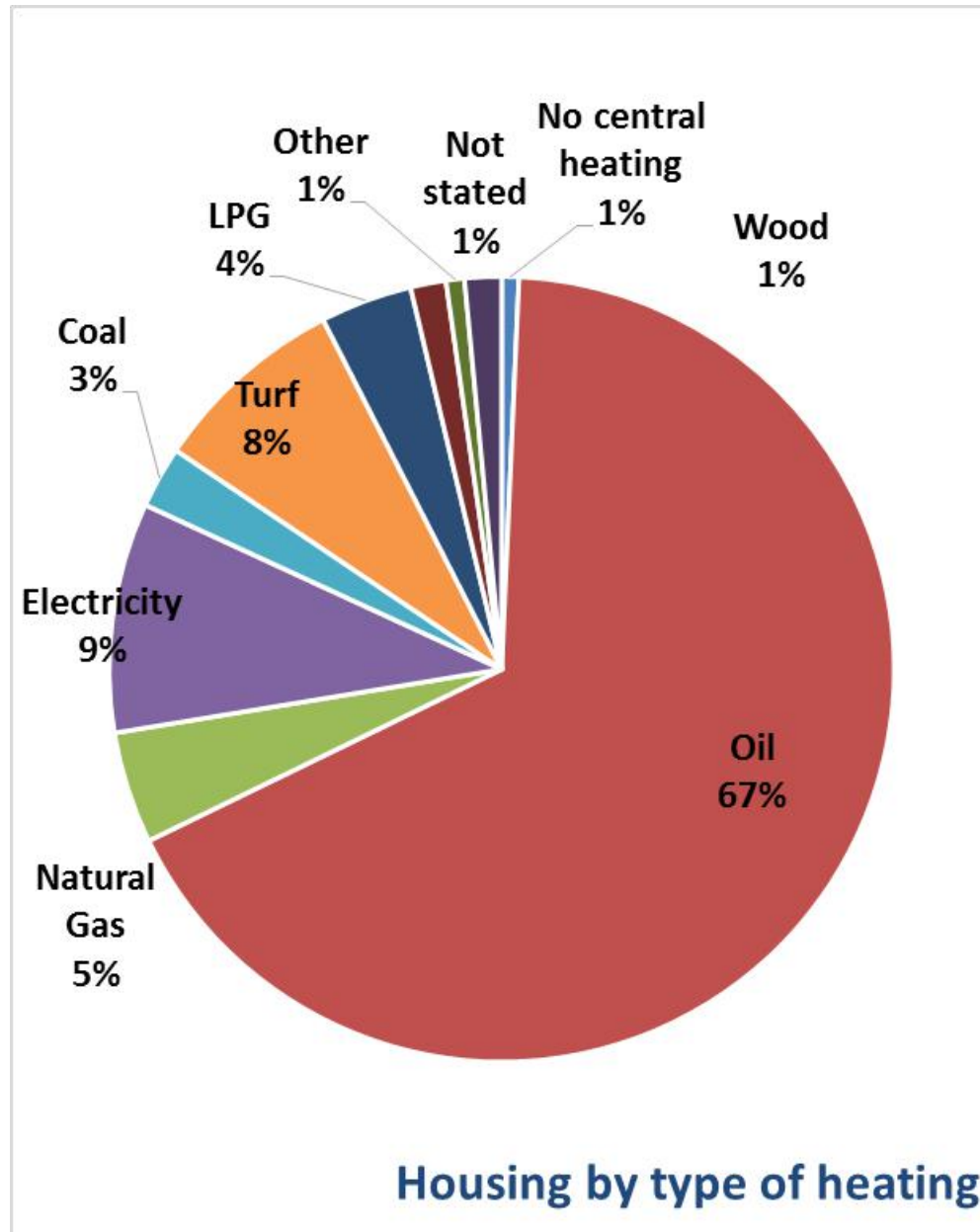
1981 to 2000: 24%

Post 2000: 50%

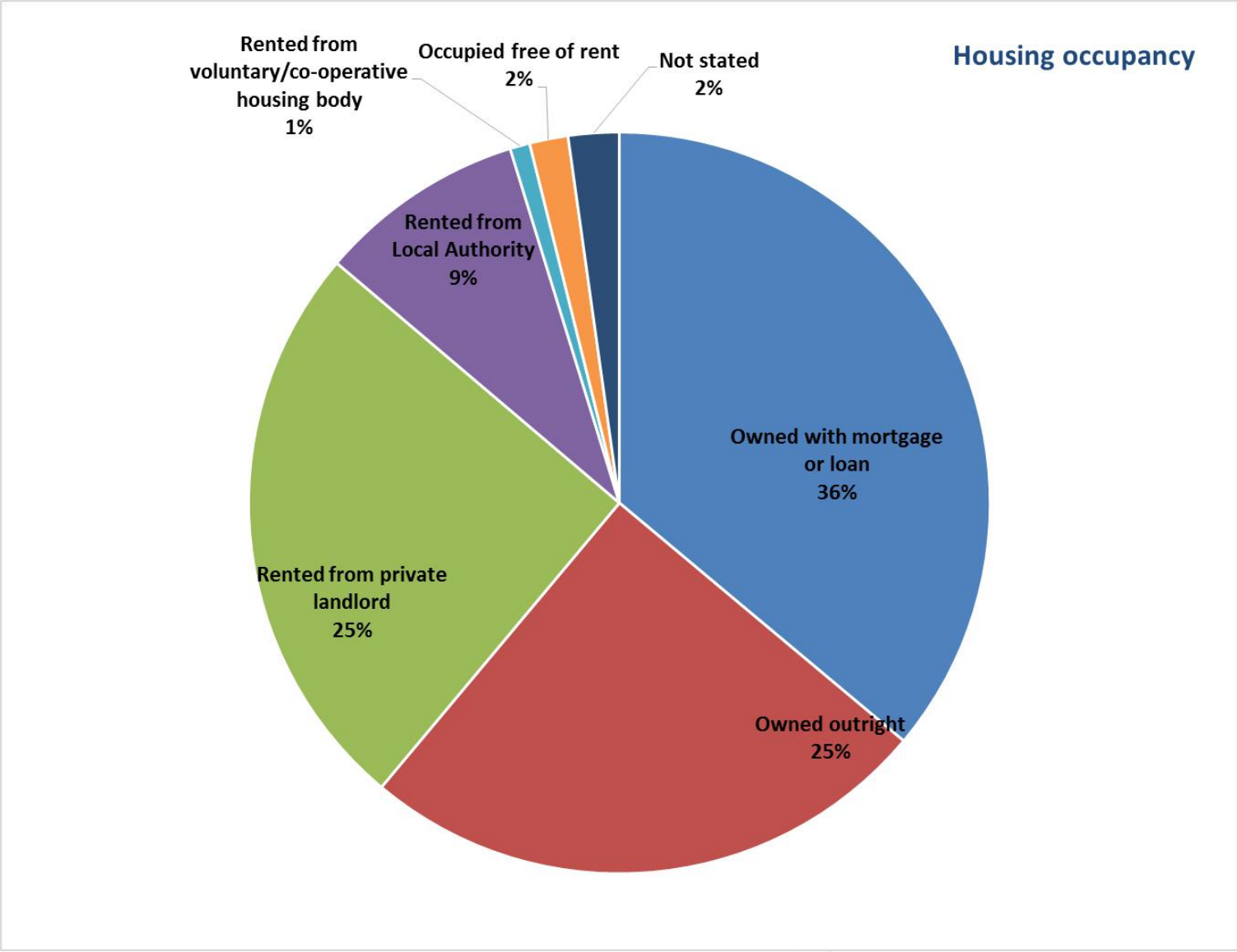
The energy performance of homes is strongly linked to housing age.



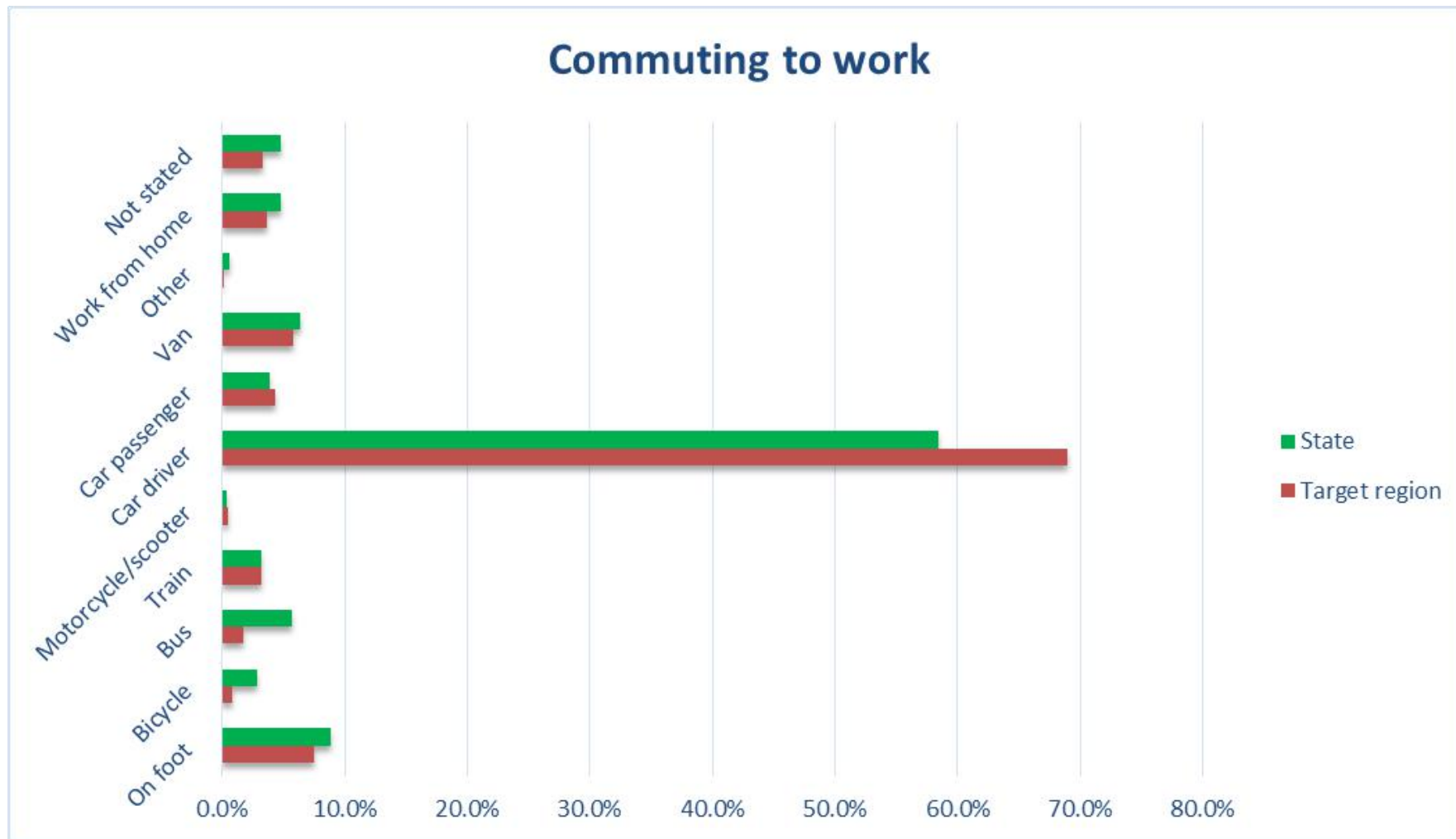
Home heating: Reliance on Oil



Home ownership:



Commuting to work:



Changing for the better

Transitions for knowledge - Getting 'Smart' about energy

- Understand your costs and what you're paying for
- Record your energy use to check for improvements

Transitions for homes

- How to run an energy efficient home – what to look out for and change
- Appropriate efficiency upgrades – 1st measures, 2nd and 3rd measures
- Available supports – financial and technical

Transitions for transport

- Public transport options
- Increase cycling and walking
- Electric/hybrid vehicle options

Transitions for community

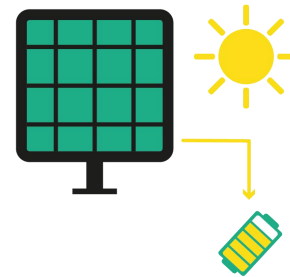
- Work with your Sustainable Energy Community team
- Establish a Roadmap to start your community transition



Changing for the better

Opportunities:

- Homes: 'Fabric first'
- Heating systems & controls
- Renewable Energy options:
 - Solar thermal
 - Solar PV (electricity)
 - Heat pumps
- Transport:
 - Reduce car journeys: ride share, cycle
 - Electric vehicles
 - Work from home





Questions

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