

# **International Energy Agency(IEA) Fuel Poverty Workshop**

**Dublin Castle**

**Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> & Friday, 28th  
January, 2011.**



# **The Warm Project**

Energy efficient homes for the community

# Whole Community Approach



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## **Background:**

- There is a network of 28 community based organisations currently involved in the delivery of elements of the National Retrofit Programme which provides for capital investment in upgrading the energy efficiency of low income households. The programme is known on the ground as the Warmer Homes Scheme and it is administered by SEAI. The Government has maintained two schemes; Warmer Homes Scheme for those who can't pay and the Home Energy for those who can pay.
- There is a good geographical spread of these organisations around the country. It is intended that the Warmer Homes Scheme will be available Nationally and that it will be an entitlement for householders who are in receipt of state fuel subsidies and own their own homes.
- Eligible homes are identified locally by CBO's via a network drawn from statutory, community and voluntary sectors.
- This programme has been growing incrementally since 2003. The programme has shown a steady growth in number of house completions by CBO's from approx. 5,000 in 2005 to 14,500 in 2010. My own project is called the "Warm Project" was established in 2005 and is based in Co. Wexford located on the South East Coast.

# What are the Local Community Development Organisations?



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- ‘Local’: Refers to the area based nature of the groups and to the focus on delivery of the scheme in a defined geographic area.
- ‘Community’: Reflects their reach into neighbourhoods, their intention to work with particular social groupings and their work with communities and local groups.
- ‘Development’: Signals gains in knowledge, skills and broader abilities on the part of individuals and the groups and progressive change on a social and economic level in our local communities to address inequalities.

# Who are the Community Based Organisations?



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- The Network of Community Based Organisations is made of locally based groups with various different legal structures. They are all independent legal entities. The majority are NGO's working in the community and voluntary sector who would be experienced in managing exchequer funding and others would be registered charities and voluntary organisations with defined legal status.
- The common denominator is that all groups are **not for profit organisations** and nearly all would have a wider brief in relation to the delivery of community development and other social services to marginalised and disadvantaged groups with their main aim to eliminate inequalities.



<b>Community Based Organisations</b>	<b>CBO Area Of WHS Coverage</b>
Action Inishowen	Non Gaeltacht area of North Donegal
Athlone Community Services Council	Co. Westmeath and North Co. Offaly
Bray Community Enterprise	Co. Wicklow
CAMCAS Cavan	Co. Cavan
CAMCAS Monaghan	Co. Monaghan
Clondalkin Home Improvement Project	Co. Dublin, Kildare, Meath and Louth
Clar ICH	Co. Mayo, except North East
Clare Local Development	West Co. Clare
Cunamh Energy Action	Co. Kerry
Energy Action	Dublin and East Co. Kildare
First Class Insulation	Galway City and surrounds
Forum Connemara	Non Gaeltacht Connemara

IRD Duhallow	North West Co. Cork
Leitrim Integrated Dev. Co Ltd.	Co. Leitrim
Letterkenny Community Centre	Non Gaeltacht area of South Donegal
Longford Warmer Homes	Co. Longford
Mayo North East Leader partneship	North East Co. Mayo
MFG Dun na nGall	Donegal Gaeltacht
MFG Gaillimh	Gaeltacht Connemara
STEP Insulation	South Co. Tipperary
Mureas	North Co. Roscommon
Roscommon Integrated Dev Co.	South Co. Roscommon and East Co. Galway
Sligo Leader Partnerhsip	Co. Sligo
Southill Community Services	Co. Limerick and East Co. Clare
Waterford Area Partnership	Co. Waterford
West Cork Development Co.	South West Cork
Wexford Local Development	Co. Wexford.



# Principles of Community Based Organisations

- Prioritising marginalised people and social groupings within the most disadvantaged communities in our society.
- Promoting active and constructive engagement between the State and disadvantaged communities.
- Fostering partnerships at local level ensuring integrated and co-ordinated work in disadvantaged communities to reduce levels of disadvantage.

# Objectives of Community Based Organisations



- Improving the living conditions of low income households.
- Improving the housing stock in our disadvantaged communities.
- Increasing the health and Well being of low income householders.
- Reducing the environmental impact for our communities of having high concentrations of poor quality housing.
- Providing training and development opportunities for the long term unemployed in our communities.
- Providing targeted employment opportunities locally.
- Improving the economic and social infrastructure of our communities.
- Promoting an enterprise culture among communities by developing social enterprises which respond to identified local needs and where gaps in service provision exist.



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# Benefits of Community involvement

- Groups are embedded in their local communities. Have a long history of delivering local community and social services.
- Well established networks within their communities which makes identifying those households most in need more achievable.
- Strong interagency relationships developed at local level to ensure that all available resource are secured to tackle causes and consequences of fuel poverty.
- Structure of community organisations lends itself to the delivery of services to the community. Ensure that householders are referred to and receive a range of additional supports and services that they require.
- Value for money: Not for profit organisations so there is no profit motivation, focus on quality of delivery of service, highly trained and skilled staff, added value of providing a range of community services.
- Provides local employment opportunities.
- Provides targeted employment opportunities for the long term unemployed through accessing the various labour market schemes to deliver the measures.
- Dedicated training and work experience locally for people in a high growth area within the economy increasing the work readiness of the local labour market.
- Promotion of an enterprise culture at local community level, enhanced capacity and management skills developed within community based organisations.



# Target Groups

## Beneficiaries under the WHS Scheme

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- Individuals who are unemployed
- The underemployed (seasonal workers/ low income farm families etc.)
- Low income families
- Disadvantaged women
- Disadvantaged men
- Lone parents
- Older People- persons in receipt of the state retirement pension.
- People with disabilities

- Early school leavers
- Disadvantaged young people
- Drug/alcohol misusers
- Offenders/ex-offenders
- Carers

# Benefits to Participants households



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- Reduction in energy bills.
- Improves the thermal comfort of their home.
- Improves the standard and the value of their homes.
- Improvements in their quality of life and the standard of living of the household.
- Improvements in the health and well being of the household including mental health (reduced stress over debt, bills, doctors bills etc.)
- Prevents space shrinkage due to inability to heat rooms- supports retention in education for children, adequate space to do homework etc.

# Benefits to other stakeholders in the community



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- Fostering partnerships at local level between community, statutory bodies and relevant state agencies to ensure effective targeting and use of exchequer funding. Developing consensus and agreement at local level as to how to tackle the issues associated with fuel poverty.
- Environmental improvements
- Improved housing stock
- Improved social capital
- Improved human capital- highly trained and skilled workforce in an identified growth area.
- Reduction in pressures on the health services due to improved health status of participants.

# Services provided by CBO's under the Warmer Homes Scheme



- Attic Insulation
- Cavity Wall Insulation
- Draught Proofing of doors and windows
- Fitting tank jackets
- Lagging of pipes
- CFL light bulbs
- Energy Advice
- BER rating on completed homes. (1<sup>st</sup> March, 2011)

# Beneficiary of the Programme







# Attic Insulation



# Attic Insulation



# Whole House Approach

Community Based Organisations are well placed to further develop their range of services and provide an enhanced range of services to householders. Many groups have the required skills in house to deliver the following;

- Installation of central heating systems
- Solar panels
- Renewable energy heating systems
- Rain Water Harvesting Systems
- External wall insulation
- Internal wall insulation.



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# Conclusions

In Summary the co-benefits to participants from an overall community perspective can be concluded as follows;

1. Physical capital improvements
2. Human Capital- development and improvements
3. Social Capital- improvements