



LIMERICK CLARE  
energy agency

# Up-Skilling for Renewable Energy

*Dick Whelan*

## Renewable Energy Skills



Accel is an initiative of the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment and is managed by Skillnets Networks Ltd.



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# Outline

- Renewable Energy Skills
- Personal Profile
- Networks and Accel
- Activity levels
- FETAC certification
- Current activities and plans



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# Objective of the network

- Promotion of renewable energy as an environmentally preferable means of heating buildings
- Training in renewable energy heating systems
- National standards development
- Expert and impartial source of information and support.



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# Advantages to members

- Industry led training initiative
- Training developed and delivered by national & international leaders in the sector
- Guidance & support on how to develop business in renewables
- Opportunity to join committees and work groups to address key issues
- Offer substantially funded training programmes



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Helping develop employment by  
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spirit and equal opportunities and  
investing in human resources



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Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

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# Renewable Energy Network

- Jan 04 - definition / research phase
  - Shamrock Solar Energies Ltd as promoter
- Full proposal Submitted 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 04
  - April 04 to March 05
- Extension proposal submitted Feb 05
  - April to Dec 2005
- Full proposal submitted to Accel Nov 05
  - Jan 06 to Dec 07



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# Dick Whelan

- Background originally electronics
- Founded *Almir Business* in 1999
  - Business Improvement Consultancy, Coaching & Training
- Networking activities
  - Supply Network Shannon
  - Tsunami Networks
  - First Polymer Training Skillnet
  - TsunaMat Skillnet
  - SMEexcel
  - Codesnet
  - LeanXeur
  - SNS Eco Network
  - Value Model Accel Project (IPOS).



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# Why Networks

Networks are ...”the coming together of a **group of enterprises of whatever size**, to use their **combined talents and resources** to achieve results that would **not be possible** if the enterprises operated **individually**”  
(AMC 1990)



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# What is Accel

- Accel initiative is funded through the National Training Fund and the European Social Fund
- Objectives
  - To support **enterprise groups** to work collaboratively to provide training opportunities to workers at all levels
  - To support partnerships between enterprise and educational and training institutions for the development of skills frameworks
- Particularly useful to small businesses, which lack the expertise, time / money to deliver effective training.

# What is a training network

- A group of enterprises that decide
  - To cooperate in order to undertake a project
  - To address a shared issue of importance to the development of skills & long-term competitiveness.
  - To jointly address their training needs, collaborate with other enterprises
  - To engage experts, trainers, and others to work with them to achieve their goals.

**The group can achieve what individual members would be unable to undertake on their own.**

# Why networks?

- Mutual support / reassurance
- Reduced costs
- Buying power
- Sector specific training
- Customised programmes
- Locally available training
- Learning from other companies
- New information & options
- Pool of information & expertise
- Greater flexibility
- Sharing of responsibilities
- Types of learning opportunities.

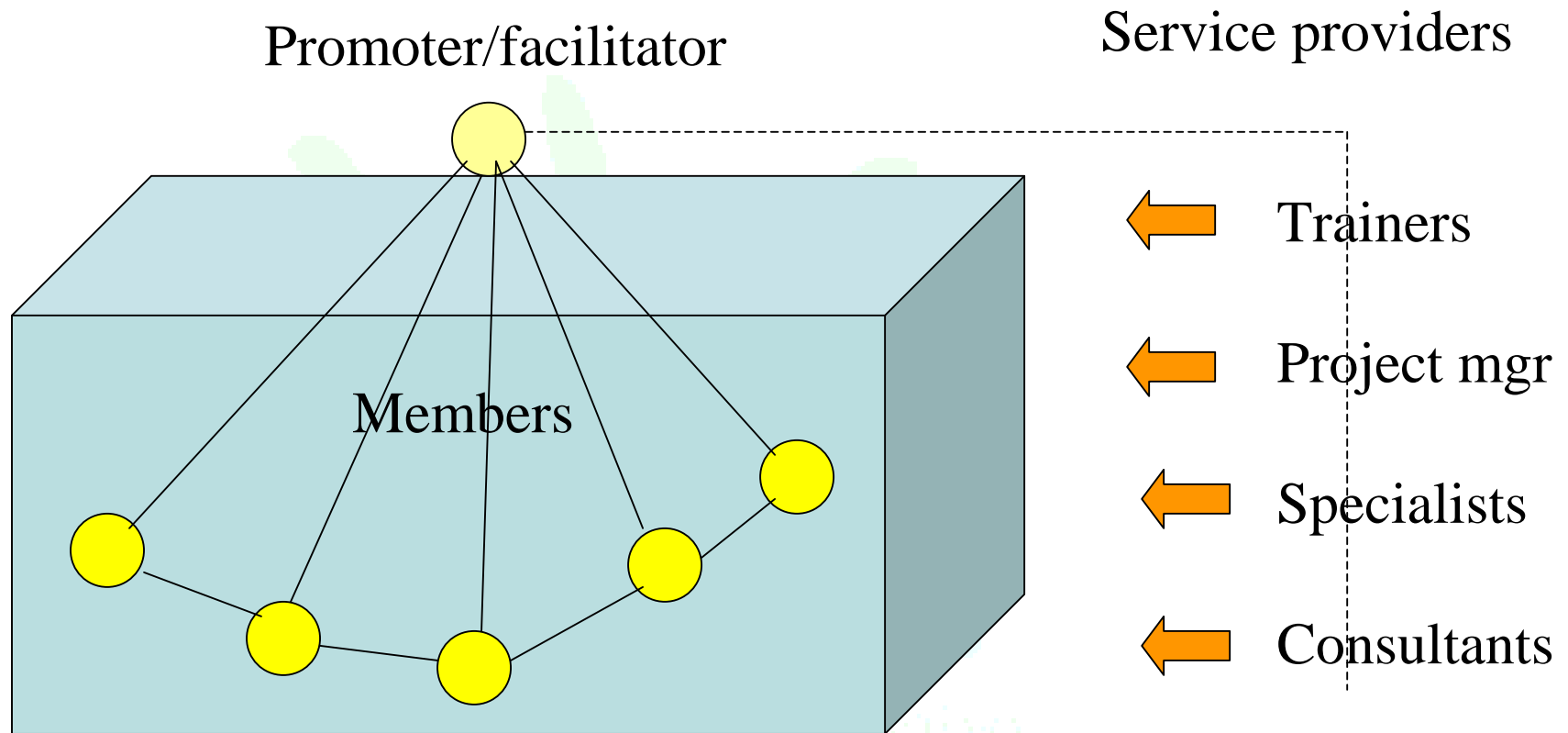


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# An Accel Project



# Characteristics of a network

- Exchange – a willingness to exchange information
- Trust – working closely together
- Learning – knowledge grows when it shares
- Partnership – a capacity to build relationships at all levels
- Self management – ownership / control in groups hands.

# Criteria for members

- Be prepared to join the networking
- Be interested in training
- Be orientated toward growth and the long haul
- Be willing to participate in the network
- Be able to add value to network.

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# 2004 – 2005 activity

Training days	30
Events	24
On site visits	3
Trainee days	152
Course developed	14

# 2006 activity to date

Training days	12
Events	8
On site visits	1
Trainee days	108
Working towards achieving FETAC Certification	



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- **FETAC certification**
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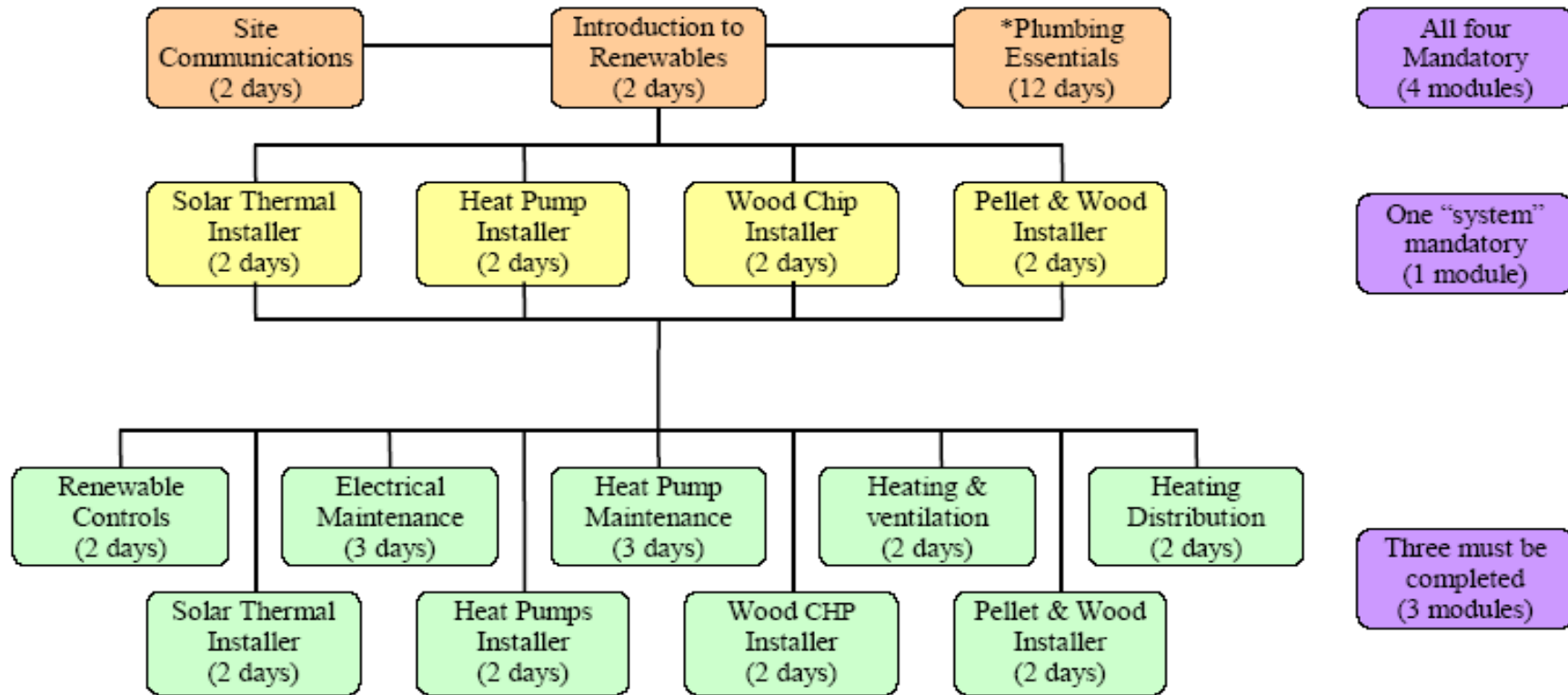


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## National Certificate in Renewable Energy Installation and Maintenance



energy heating systems

## National Certificate in Renewable Energy Installation and Maintenance

Module	Duration	Current occupation of trainee					
		Plumber	Electrician	Solar installer	Engineer	Industrial fitter	Pellet stove installer
Introduction to Renewables	2	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Plumbing Essentials	12	Exemption	Mandatory	Work exp	Mandatory	Work exp	Work exp
On Site Communications	2	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Solar Installer (system)	2	Elective	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory		
Heat pump Installer (system)	2	Mandatory					
Wood / pellet Installer (system)	2	Elective		Elective			Mandatory
Wood Chip Installer (system)	2				Elective	Mandatory	Elective
Renewable Controls	2		Elective	Elective		Elective	Elective
Electrical Maintenance	3		Exemption				
Heat Pump Maintenance	3	Elective	Elective				
Heating & ventilation	2				Elective	Elective	
Heating Distribution	2			Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective
Nr of training days		14	22	14	24	14	14

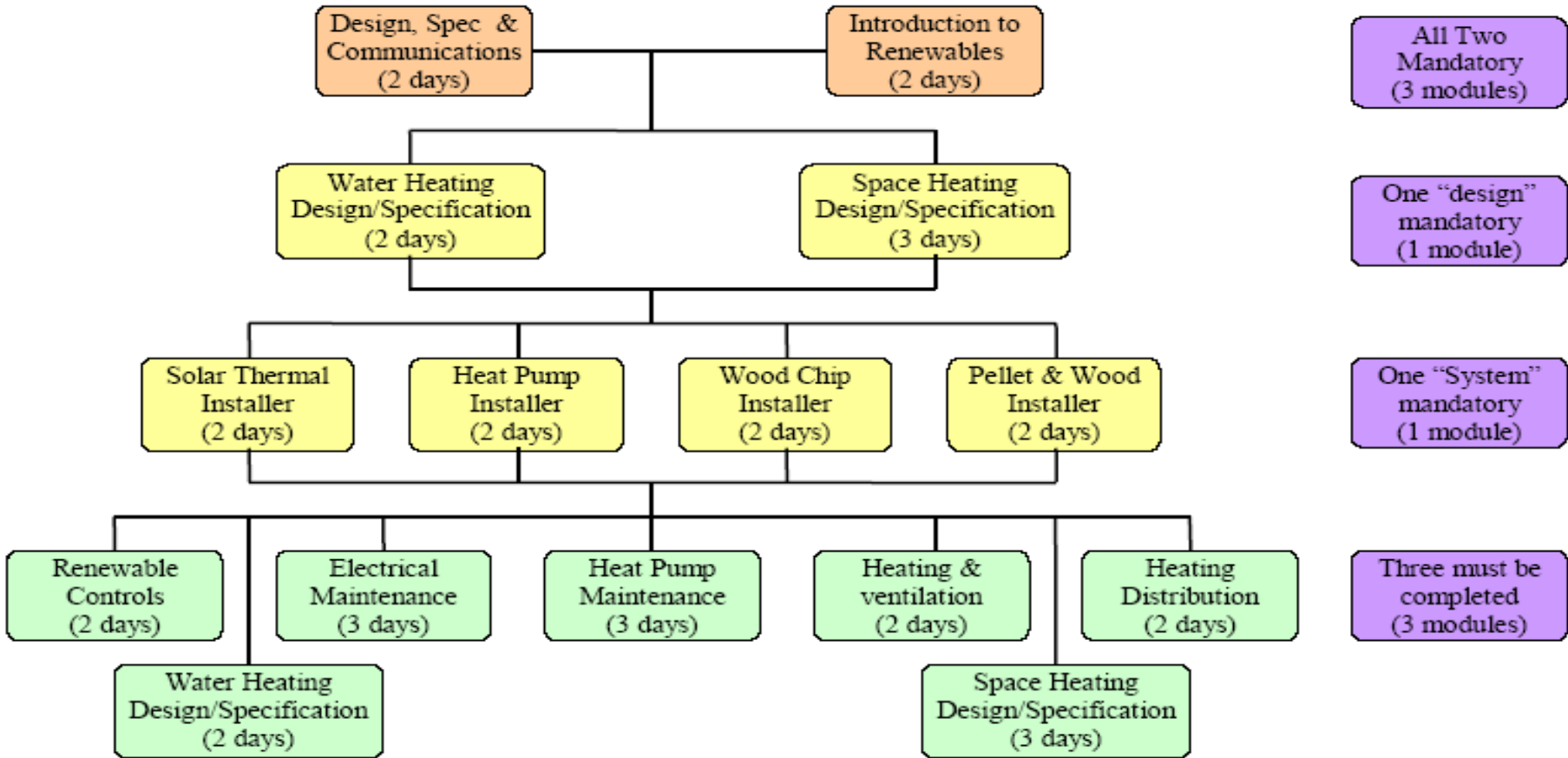


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**National Certificate in Renewable Energy Specification & Design**



energy heating systems



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## National Certificate in Renewable Energy Specification & Design

Module	Duration	Current occupation of trainee					
		Plumber	Electrician	Solar installer	Engineer	Industrial fitter	Pellet stove installer
Introduction to Renewables	2	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Building Regulation L	12	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Design, specification & communications	2	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory
Solar Specification (system)	2	Elective	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory		
Heat pump Specification (system)	2	Mandatory					
Wood / pellet Spec (system)	2	Elective		Elective			Mandatory
Wood Chip Specification (system)	2				Elective	Mandatory	Elective
Renewable Controls	2		Elective	Elective		Elective	Elective
Electrical Maintenance	3		Exemption				
Heat Pump Maintenance	3	Elective	Elective				
Heating & ventilation	2				Elective	Elective	
Heating Distribution	2			Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective
<b>Nr of training days</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>

## energy heating systems



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# Training

- 6001 Understanding RE Heating Systems
- 6002 Building regulations and controls
- 6004 Heat pumps
- 6005 Solar Thermal
- 6006 Combustion systems
- 6007 Heat distribution
- 6008 Climate control
- 6010 Exhaust Air and Heat Recovery
- 6011 Building Energy Performance



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# Support facilities

- Website [www.renewableenergy.ie](http://www.renewableenergy.ie)
- Industry led newsletter
- National and local chapter for learning and dissemination
- Shared learning within the network.



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# Savings

	Industry Standard	Skillnet
Input or influence on training	Training provider driven	Industry Led
Network support	No	Shared Learning
Value for money	€300 per day	€100 per day

**Seven courses → Total saving of over €1,100**



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# Plans for the network

- Grow membership
- Expand locations for the training
- Provide more training courses
- Gain national certification
- National Conference 26<sup>th</sup> October 2006

**Gain the trust of the public.**



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Thank you.



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