



ENERGY SAVERS TIPS



Here are a few tips to help you save some energy and money!!

- **Rain 'n' Save:** Get yourself a **Water Butt** to **conserve water** this summer for washing the car and gardening. Water butts are inexpensive and will **reduce your water costs** as well as the energy required for treating and pumping water to you.
- **Stock up!** A full fridge/freezer uses less electricity than an empty or partially full one. Set the freezer temperature a little below **- 18 degree C**.
- **Easy Switch Off:** To switch off devices in hard to reach places, consider buying some remote control adaptors.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN IRELAND



Energy efficiency is vital to Ireland achieving its energy efficiency and renewable energy targets by 2020. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) recently published a report 'Ireland's Energy Targets - Progress, Ambition and Impacts' (April 2016). The report's key findings were as followed:

- **Buildings' Energy Efficiency:** The number of homes and businesses being upgraded for improved energy efficiency **needs to treble**.
- The report highlights that while 40,000 homes and 550 businesses are already using some form of renewable heat technologies, this level **needs to increase sevenfold**.
- **The Transport Challenge:** The use of Biofuels added to traditional transport fuels **needs to treble**. And new Electric Vehicle registrations **need to grow from less than 1% of new car sales to 20% within the next five years**.

Energy savings worth over **€700 million** have been achieved through improved energy efficiency but **€2.4 billion** is possible



GREEN FLEADH

IN TUNE WITH NATURE!



14 – 22 August 2016

Going green to protect the environment is a very important part of running *Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann*. *The Green Fleadh* will make it easy to:

- ❖ reduce and segregate waste
- ❖ minimise water and energy use
- ❖ reduce carbon emissions and source goods and materials sustainably.



The Green Fleadh will help 400,000 visitors to Ennis take the necessary steps to protect and improve our environment.

Volunteer for the Green Fleadh

Green Fleadh Volunteers will be clearly visible and will act as a gentle reminder to people to keep County Clare and Ennis town litter free. Volunteers can help through...



- Team leader roles
- Picking and bringing litter to recycling stations for segregation
- Environmental education and awareness roles - advising visitors on how to segregate waste
- Assisting with *Green Fleadh* workshops and other greening initiatives

If you are interested in becoming a *Green Fleadh* Volunteer, please visit the website (<http://fleadhcheoil.ie/volunteer>) for more information and to sign-up. Training and support will be provided.

The Green Fleadh Team

This is a partnership with the Environment Section of Clare County Council working in conjunction with Ennis Tidy Towns, the local business community and the following agencies:

- Southern Region Waste Management Office
- EPA Local Authority Prevention Network Programme
- Green Business
- Limerick Clare Energy Agency





Top Tips for Energy Efficient Homes & Gardens



Inspired by SMART Homes & Gardens workshops, here are some easy and practical top tips in becoming more energy efficient around the home.



❖ Buy **energy efficient light bulbs** - they last approx 8 times longer than conventional incandescent globes, don't waste energy and can now be recycled effectively.



- ❖ Keep your house warm in winter and cool in summer without excessive use of heating/cooling systems.
- ❖ Insulate your roof and walls to stop heat escaping in the winter and to keep heat out in the summer. Grants are available through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)- www.seai.ie/Grants/Better_energy_homes. Also, insulate your water pipes with lagging- saves energy and every saving helps.



Attic Insulation



- ❖ Check that **thermostat!** It should not be set above **60°C** or **50°C** for instantaneous systems.
- ❖ **Renewable Energy:** Solar energy infrastructure grants are available- take advantage of them now and heat your water and generate electricity for cents! Domestic wind turbines are also cheaper and easier to install now more than ever. An extensive range of **Solar Lights** are also widely available to brighten up your garden.
- ❖ **Refrigeration-** takes 16% of average energy bills. Don't position near a heat source i.e. oven, window, and don't overload the fridge making it work harder and use more energy. Check the seals; insert a piece of a paper and close the door- can you pull it out? If so, maybe it's time to replace the seal. What about the spare fridge in the garage/shed? Does it need to be on 365 days of the year?



- ❖ **Mulch**, mulch, mulch - but don't get confused by mulches and soil conditioners. Best mulches are wood chip and gravel that allow water to infiltrate and also retains moisture.
- ❖ **Green waste** is not rubbish - stop sending it to landfill! You're throwing away good nutrients so either compost or mulch and then apply straight round your plants for the best fertiliser possible.
- ❖ **Wind** drying out the garden is a major problem. Install windbreaks but remember solid structures do not make good windbreaks i.e. walls, fences. Trees make perfect windbreaks as they diffuse the incoming wind well.
- ❖ *Take advantage of the different **microclimates** around your house for growing different plants -check plant labels to know what conditions plants prefer. A plant that states 'Full Sun' would not appreciate a shaded area!*
- ❖ *Line hanging baskets with **bubblewrap** to stop them drying out, plus use **water retaining gel crystals** and **water globes** in baskets and pots to help lock in moisture.*

- ❖ **Lawn Mowing Tip: Do not cut your grass too short-** never take more than 25% of the initial height of the grass in one cut. Many problems can occur due to the grass being left too long between cuts and then being cut too short! **Scalping the lawn damages the roots of grass and will increase moss and weed growth.**

Mow your lawn weekly in the summer- except in hot, dry weather when growth eases off. Mow fortnightly in September and October.



Water Globe

Take it handy- please don't scalp me!



Remember simple changes will save your wallet and the environment