



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES



Introducing the SEC Network

The SEC Network is made up of over **390** communities around Ireland who are interested in community energy.

Some communities have been influencing local energy use for years, while others are thinking about it for the first time.

Together they want to:

Be as energy efficient as possible

Use renewable energy where workable

Use smart energy technology

Island SECs

- Arran Energy Co-op
- Bere Island Energy Group
- Cape Clear Island Co-op
- Inisturk Community Club
- Clare Island
- Arranmore Co-op
- Tory Co-op

Islands connected to Mainland

- Valentia Island Development Co.
- Cobh Zero Waste
- Achill Island



A diverse network of skills and interests

The network is very diverse, with a variety of interests and skills in each community.

Here is a sample of the types of communities you will find in our network:

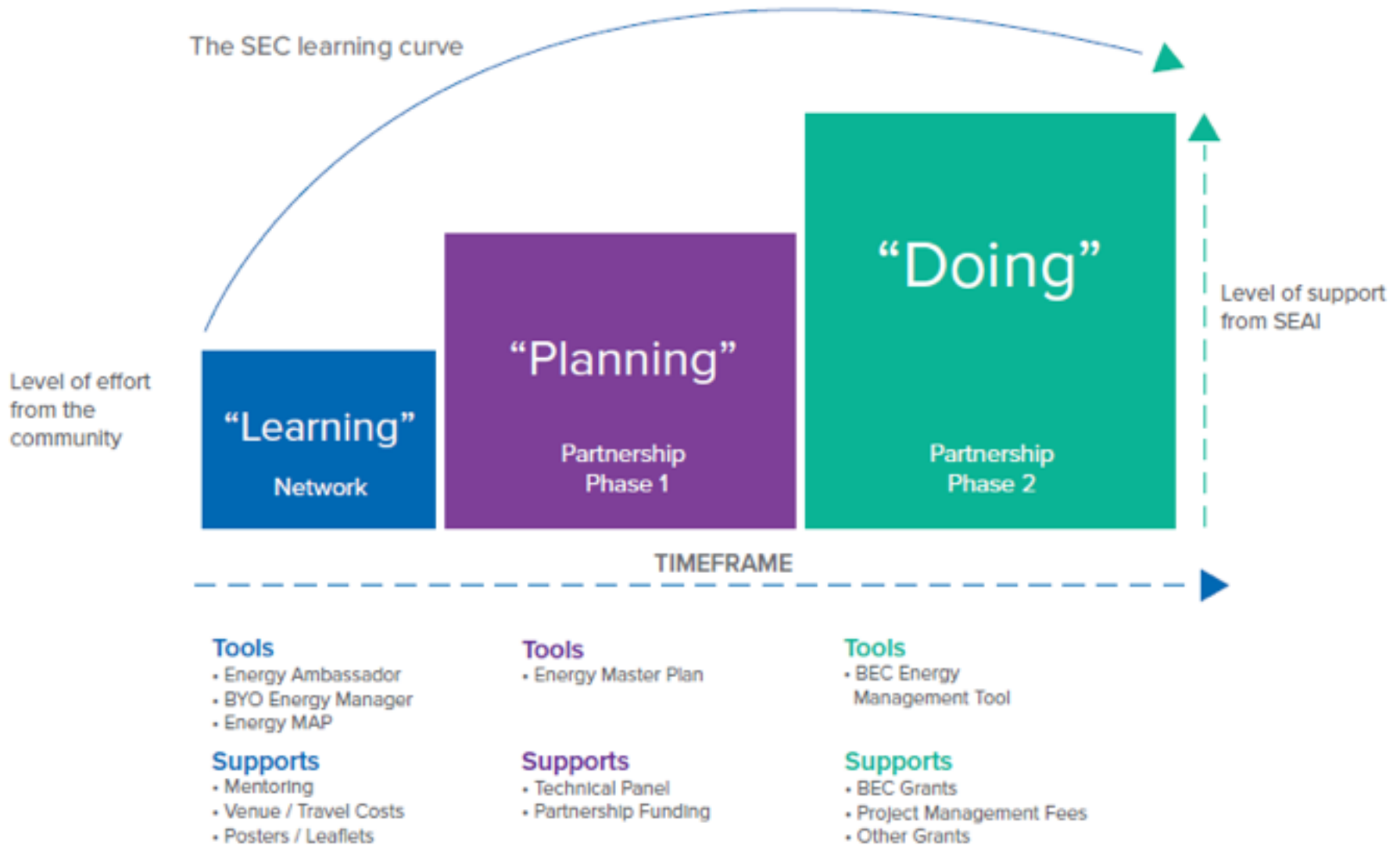
- Small rural towns
- Large urban centres
- Neighbourhoods
- Third level institutions
- Residents' Associations
- Tidy Towns Committees
- Housing Associations
- Suburban community organisations
- Local environmental groups
- County councils
- Business groups

The SEC (Sustainable Energy Community) process

- SEC is a process with defined steps ('an activation tool')
- It is an animation mechanism for individuals and groups in a community to get actively involved in a practical way
- It funds 100% a detailed baseline study (Energy Master Plan) managed by the local community group/SEC
- The Energy Master Plan informs which are the best projects to start with
- SEAI then supports a project delivery process (the BEC grant scheme) managed by specialist independent energy companies who supply the project management (which is funded by SEAI) to avail of the best national grant support, normally in the range 30-40%



The SEC Journey



SEAI Supports

Energy Master Plan €10,000 to €25,000

Participation in SEAI Grant funded projects - e.g. Better Energy Community, Warmer Homes Scheme, National Retrofit Scheme??

Community Mentor - Support to apply for and complete Energy Plan

Technical Support from National Mentors

Ongoing SEAI Online Training:

Energy Efficiency, Smart Energy, Renewable Energy, Renewable Heat, Sustainable Transport, Integrated Planning, Community Engagement, Strategic Financing, Home Energy Saving Tips, Media Training

Partnership Approach

SEC

Local
Knowledge

Time

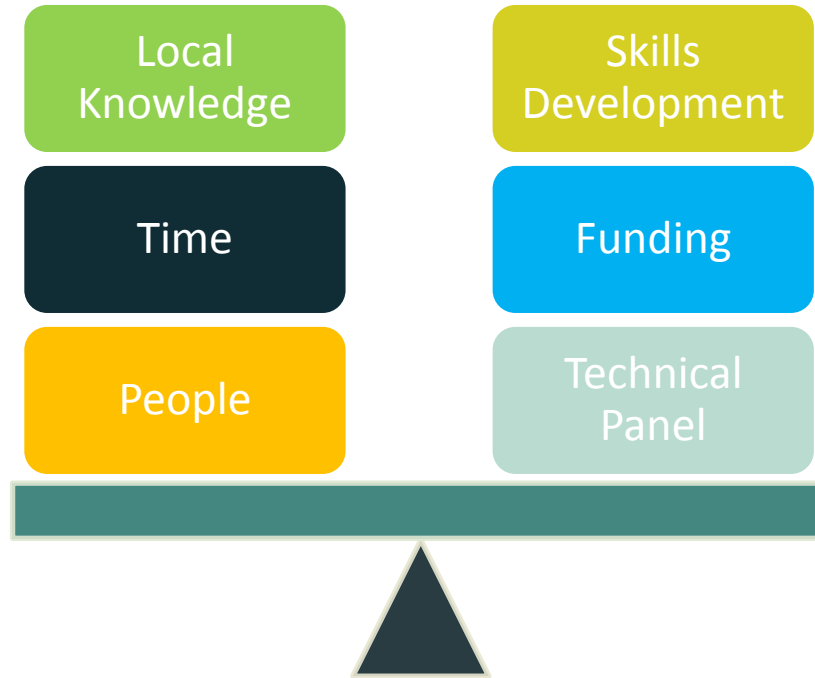
People

SEAI

Skills
Development

Funding

Technical
Panel



SEC Network



- Network gatherings every 2-3 months (Covid permitting)
- 6 webinars per year
- Encourage partnerships and exchange of experience
- Learning opportunities (study tours, thematic workshops, etc.)



RESS (Renewable Electricity Support Scheme)

Designed to promote investment in renewable energy generation in Ireland

RESS will help deliver

- Community ownership and partnership and
- Increased renewable technology diversity

1. Community-Led Projects

Community-led projects can apply for RESS if they meet the following criteria:

Part of a Sustainable Energy Community (SEC)

Project size is maximum 5MW

Majority ownership (51%) - primary purpose is community benefit (environmental, economic or social) rather than financial profit. (The other 49% can be motivated by profit.); The Declaration of Community-Led Project must identify the SEC and the relationship between the Applicant and the SEC

Open Access

Participation based on local domicile

2. Community Benefit Fund

A mandatory Community Benefit Fund must be provided by all projects successful in a RESS auction. The contribution is to be set at €2/MWh. The Fund will be aligned to incentivise investment in local renewable energy, energy efficiency measures and climate action initiatives. The community benefit fund under RESS-1 will deliver approximately €4.5million a year to sustainable community initiatives targeted at those communities living in close proximity to the RESS-1 Projects.

RESS1 Auction Sept 2020

12 hectare site, Great Island, Cobh 5-6 MW

1 year 6000 MWh: 1500 hrs@4,200 kWh/yr

gives €12,000/yr to Community Fund 2021-2037

7.4 cent/kWh

22,000 panels

