

SHARE

Social Housing Action to
Reduce Energy Consumption



Case Study 8



New Insulated hot water cylinder with controls

North Tipperary County Council identified 40 houses which were built pre 1980's in either small schemes or one off houses which had not been refurbished since their construction. As part of the refurbishment the aim of the work was to reduce the energy load for space heating and hot water and improve the comfort levels of the housing.

Tipperary Energy Agency (TEA) carried out a feasibility study on these homes to calculate their current energy demand. From the analysis the TEA identified measures that could be taken to reduce the energy load by 50%.

TEA identified funding that was available through Sustainable Energy Ireland's House of Tomorrow Programme for reducing energy requirements in new and existing homes. Funding was obtained through this programme to cover 50% of the costs of improving the energy performance of each house.

Upgrading of Social Housing in North Tipperary to reduce energy demand

The key steps to improving the energy performance in the houses were as follows

:

- Installation of cavity wall and attic insulation
- Installation of factory insulated hot water cylinders with thermostat and timer controls
- Upgrading single glazed windows to double glazing
- Improve Ventilation of houses through the installation of extract fans and trickle vents

Thermal imaging was used on a sample house before and after it was upgraded to highlight visually the improvements made to the house in its thermal performance.

SHARE is an Intelligent Energy Europe Project working in Eight European areas to develop energy efficiency and low carbon technologies in social housing. For more information about the SHARE project and for other case studies see the project website:

www.socialhousingaction.com

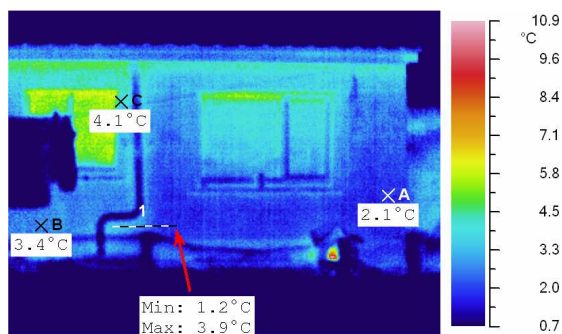
The work began in August 2006 and was completed in June 2007. TEA and North Tipperary County Council project managed the work, with regular inspections to verify that it met the requirements set out in the contract. SEI inspected a sample of houses in August 2007, and were satisfied with the work carried out and very positive feedback was received from the occupants.

This project has been promoted through the SHARE forum as an example of what can be achieved to reduce the energy requirements of homes and make them more comfortable to live in.



Attic Insulation

It is envisaged that the project will be used to drive improvements across the existing local authority housing sector.



Thermal image of existing house before upgrade



House of Tomorrow Programme

The House of Tomorrow Research, Development & Demonstration Programme is administered by SEI. Its focus is to stimulate the widespread uptake of superior sustainable energy planning, design, specification and construction practices in both the new home building and home improvement markets.

The primary objective of funding demonstration projects is to create a nationwide network of accessible, replicable model examples of more sustainable energy practices.

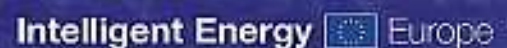
The programme targets are that new housing should achieve energy ratings that are at least 40% better than current building standards and for existing houses to achieve at least 40% lower energy consumption.

The programme has been running for 5 years and to date 90 projects have been approved covering 4,000 homes.

The SHARE forum helps to identify opportunities to improve new and existing housing, and utilises the House of Tomorrow programme where appropriate to assist with the implementation of these projects.

Contact Details

Name: Brendan Power
Organisation: Tipperary Energy Agency
Telephone: 052 43090
E-mail: bpower@tea.ie



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