Wexford Town Library partners with SEEA on new Community Energy Hub

Free drop-in energy clinics part of collaboration with library

The South East Energy Agency (SEEA) has partnered with **Wexford County Council Library Service** to launch the **Community Energy Hub**, a free resource that helps people across Wexford and the southeast improve their energy efficiency and save money.

The **Community Energy Hub** is a reliable, independent, and trusted resource that helps households, community groups, and businesses better understand their energy use, and access grants and energy-saving information. Users will gain *"practical tips and come away with the knowledge and resources needed to make a positive impact on the environment and your bank account!"* according to the Project Coordinator, Michael Deen, Communications Officer, South East Energy Agency.

Wexford Town Library is among four libraries in the southeast chosen to pilot the free resource, along with library services in Carlow, Kilkenny, and Waterford. Following the initial pilot phase, the partners hope to expand the service through all libraries in the southeast and beyond.

The initiative includes free monthly **Energy Drop-in Clinics** at the branch libraries in County Wexford (details to follow on social media).
Everyone is invited to drop in for expert advice and to embark on an energy upgrade journey.

Mr Deen, commented,

"The partnership with the libraries is incredibly important. Libraries are a central part of our communities and play a pivotal role in raising awareness of environmental issues. The Community Energy Hub is an additional resource our Libraries now have, providing meaningful ways we can make our homes cheaper to run, more comfortable and better for the environment."

The low-carbon website includes user-friendly tools such as the **Home Energy Grant Finder**, to help people identify specific grants applicable to their homes. Other features include an energy jargon buster, energy saving tips and a guide to understanding energy bills with realistic examples from Ireland's energy providers. The **Energy Upgrade Journey guide** helps

break down energy usage and provides the steps anyone can take to make big savings on their energy bills.

"The Community Energy Hub will provide independent and trustworthy information to make well-informed decisions on how to reduce energy bills and reduce environmental impact. It's not always about Home Retrofits which can be expensive, the resources and tools on the Community Energy Hub will guide users through a step-by-step process from the small to the big changes we can make to make a real positive impact." Mr Deen concluded.

The library offers a range of support services, including CODEMA Home Energy Kits to monitor energy usage at home, available on loan with a library card. The SEEA will provide additional kits as part of the initiative. Library staff are on hand to help people, especially those who are less tech-savvy, navigate the new **Community Energy Hub**.

Hazel Percival, Senior Executive Librarian, Wexford County Council Library Service, explains,

*"At **Wexford County Council Library Service**, we are dedicated to providing valuable resources, from workshops and events to books and digital content, helping our community make informed decisions. The Community Energy Hub is an exciting addition and a valuable new resource to meet the community's growing interest in sustainability and environmental issues.*

Our partnership with the South East Energy Agency underscores the essential role of libraries as trusted sources of information and enhances our mission, offering impartial reliable information on energy efficiency and sustainable living."

The launch of the **Community Energy Hub** took place on Thursday 12th, September in Wexford Town Library with the first of its monthly Drop-in Clinics. Anyone wishing to embark on a sustainable journey can avail of a free one-to-one consultation with an Energy Engineer at the local library or call in to use the new money saving resource.

The Community Energy Hub is now live and available to all online at https://communityenergyhub.ie/ or via the local library service.