

# LOCAL ENERGY AGENCIES FOR PERIPHERAL REGIONS (LEAP)

Ireland



## OVERVIEW

The LEAP (Local Energy Agencies for Peripheral Regions) project which started in November 2022 and will run until April 2026, comprises three non-profit organisations in North and West Ireland, specifically in Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, and West County Galway. LEAP addresses energy efficiency challenges in these regions, characterised by dispersed older homes and heavy reliance on oil and solid fuels. The project supports homeowners by coordinating retrofits, developing local projects, and guiding them through the entire renovation process, from assessments to securing grants. LEAP operates in collaboration with the Atlantic Technological University (ATU) and County Councils, and it is funded by an EU LIFE CET grant, homeowner fees, and the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme (EEOS).

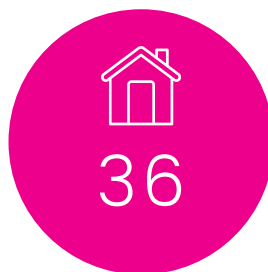


Regional

TERRITORIAL  
COVERAGE



YEAR OF  
ACTIVITY



HOMEOWNERS  
SUPPORTED



Single- and  
multifamily  
buildings

TYPES OF  
BUILDINGS  
TARGETED

## SERVICES

- **Comprehensive home energy assessments:** LEAP conducts detailed evaluations of a home's energy efficiency, identifying areas where improvements can be made. Recommendations for energy upgrades: based on the home assessment, LEAP provides tailored suggestions for energy-saving measures.
- **Assistance with accessing grants and financing:** e.g. LEAP organises homeowners from the same area into groups to apply for grants together, which increases the likelihood of securing funding and allows for more efficient project management.
- **Coordination with contractors and suppliers:** LEAP acts as a liaison between homeowners and the contractors or suppliers who will carry out the retrofit work.
- **Ensuring regulatory compliance and quality assurance:** LEAP oversees the renovation process to ensure that all work meets national and EU regulations, providing quality control to guarantee that the retrofits are effective and safe.
- **Managing cash flow throughout the renovation process:** LEAP assists homeowners in managing the financial aspects of their projects, including arranging bridging loans if necessary, so that homeowners only pay the net costs after grants are applied.

## IMPACT OF LEAP



2,486\* kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/yr energy saved

\*this number refers to the initial 36 homes

## FINANCING THE IHRS

LEAP's financial model primarily relies on a combination of homeowner contributions and government-mandated energy efficiency schemes. Homeowners pay project management fees, while large energy suppliers purchase energy credits generated from the retrofitting projects under the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme (EEOS). This scheme requires large energy distributors to achieve specific annual energy efficiency targets, creating a significant revenue stream for LEAP. Additionally, LEAP has secured substantial funding through EU LIFE CET.

## CUSTOMER JOURNEY

1. **Initial Contact:** Homeowners express interest in retrofitting and are guided to apply for grants.
2. **Home Assessment:** LEAP conducts a comprehensive energy assessment of the home.
3. **Grant Application:** Homeowners are grouped for joint grant applications, coordinated by LEAP.
4. **Contractor Assignment:** Once the grant is approved, a contractor is assigned to the project.
5. **Renovation:** The renovation process begins, managed by LEAP, ensuring quality and compliance.
6. **Completion:** Post-renovation, LEAP ensures all work meets the required standards and closes out the project.

## THE SUCCESS OF LEAP

The success of the LEAP project lies in its ability to create strong partnerships, both locally and regionally, while maintaining a focus on the specific needs of peripheral regions in Ireland. By leveraging the expertise and support of the Atlantic Technological University and County Councils, LEAP has built a robust model for energy retrofitting that is both scalable and replicable. The project's emphasis on collaboration, trust-building with homeowners, and streamlined processes has enabled it to overcome challenges associated with dispersed housing and a fragmented supply chain. As a result, LEAP has successfully retrofitted numerous homes and continues to expand its impact, helping Ireland meet its climate action targets.

