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**Deliverable Report**  
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**CONCERTO INITIATIVE**  
**SERVE**  
**Sustainable Energy for the Rural Village**  
**Environment**

Integrated Project

PRIORITY 6: Sustainable development, global change and ecosystems. Sub-priority: Sustainable energy systems.

**Policy Recommendations Eco Building Retrofitting**

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## 1 Introduction

Throughout the implementation of Phase 1 of the EcoBuilding Retrofitting programme as part of the SERVE project the WP team had to engage with Government Departments and the National Energy Agency (Sustainable Energy Ireland) on a range of issues.

The WP 1 team determined that it would be appropriate to record these issues in an additional deliverable report to the SERVE project to ensure that the information is captured and recorded. The following report outlines the key issues that have been raised a National and Local/Regional level in relation to energy efficiency and retrofitting.

## 2 National policy recommendations:

These are the policy recommendations to date that have been discussed with Sustainable Energy Ireland for the design of the 2009 Home Energy Savings Scheme. There is further analysis work being completed by the Tipperary Energy Agency and others concurrently and this document will be updated again to reflect the ongoing policy influence of SERVE to national policy for the next annual report.

### 2.1 Energy Assessment Methodology

The SERVE grant scheme outlined that it would complete an assessment of each dwelling using a slimmed down version of the national building energy rating (BER) methodology that was in place for new dwellings. The following items were integrated into the National methodology for surveying existing dwellings.

#### 2.1.1 Default Values

The SERVE scheme had designed a list of defaults for many of the values that would be required, where they were not possible to get any increased accuracy figures. These default figures were based on the building regulations in place at the time. While the values used for the HESS were different, the design of the defaults was similar.

#### 2.1.2 Survey methodology

The survey methodology used was as designed in the SERVE scheme. There was a significant push from the SERVE partners that the assessment should include a detailed run through with each homeowner to ensure that the home owner knew exactly what was required in the assessment.

#### 2.1.3 Advisory Report

The report as designed for SERVE was to include the savings for the homeowner and indicate actual savings. While this was not possible on a national scale the principle of using figures based on the actual dwelling were used in the report. These figures were ascertained by improving the BER in the software for each measure and reporting the difference to the homeowner. While the report was broadly successful, it needs to be refined for the next year.

## 2.2 Supported Measures/Actions

The support measures for SERVE energy efficiency retrofitting programme were all included in the scheme almost identically to the SERVE plan. The exception was on the air infiltration reduction measures, which have had little uptake. The target levels for insulation have almost all been matched by the national scheme.

- Attic Insulation up to 0.16 U value
- Wall insulation up to 0.27 or as near as economically possible.
- Heating controls up to full 3 zone time and temperature controls.

## 2.3 Energy Assessment Quality Control

As the assessments were being carried out, the Tipperary Energy Agency assessed the quality of the assessments from a SERVE quality control point of view.

### 2.3.1 Heating systems

The TEA picked up significant faults in the understanding of dwellings, their heating systems, and the methodology of inputting that into the BER software. As a result of this the software which was in final stages of development was modified to interlink values and prevent the assessors entering the incorrect details. Going forward this will eliminate a huge amount of incorrect BER certifications

As a separate and parallel project to SERVE the TEA completed a training and auditing project for Sustainable Energy Ireland to improve the quality of assessments, understand all the key difficulties faced with implementing the EPBD from an assessment point of view. It also led to a methodical and careful collation of what the evidence available to support a BER for the EPBD implementation for existing dwellings. This piece of analysis due for completion in month 14 will be included as part of the next report, once the report is approved by SEI. The key target audience of this analysis:

- EPBD implementation Team
- All national training providers
- BER assessors

## 2.4 Reporting on the conclusions of the Home Energy Savings Scheme

Sustainable Energy Ireland has requested that analysis of data from HESS National pilot scheme be completed by one of the SERVE partners (Tipperary Energy Agency). This will be completed by Month 14 in the SERVE contract and will be included as part of the next report, once the report is approved by SEI.

It will seek to address the following for each measure that was grant aided:

- Review of current status of buildings
- Possible upgrade options
- Average costs for each measure.
- Recommended measure level/ targets and impact on average house.
- Recommended grant methodology (% or Fixed) & amount (owner/ by component/ area etc)
- Likely take up levels
- General public knowledge and impact on take up of measures.
- Assessment of grant application options

## 3 Local & regional Policy

The county development plan for North Tipperary is under review currently and a consultation document will be launched in early 2009. The SERVE partners will make a submission for this consultation.

## 4 Conclusion

The SERVE project started at exactly the right time to ensure that there was real on the ground information made available to the national scheme to aid the decision makers. In addition to this, the SERVE partners have forged close links with Sustainable Energy Ireland, which will aid the two way flow of information. It will lead to increased cooperation and a direct line into national policy development. In addition to this, there are two key reports being completed by the Tipperary Energy Agency that will be a key influence to the implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and the National Home Energy Savings Scheme.