

# PUBLIC SECTOR SUCCESS AT SEAI ENERGY AWARDS

*Dublin City Council, NUI Galway and SSE Airtricity Energy Services were among the winners of the 2020 SEAI Energy Awards, announced by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) during an online awards ceremony.*



**Conor Healy, Energy Management Lead with Dublin City Council, described the SEAI award as “a reflection” on the quality of the work done throughout the entire organisation.**

The Public Sector Energy Leadership Award went to Dublin City Council for achieving incredible results using innovative contracts to deliver significant energy projects and achieve 34% energy savings. In addition to environmental benefits, these projects are delivering improved air quality and better living standards in the city.

Commenting on DCC’s award win, Cormac Healy, Energy Management Lead with Dublin City Council, said it was a reflection on the quality of the work done throughout the entire organisation.

“Our senior management team

has gone to extraordinary lengths to facilitate the work that we have done. There are all the leaders in the different action areas across energy and buildings, transport, flood resources and waste management. Collectively we have been able to deliver this to the people of Dublin City and it makes us immensely proud.”

#### RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

SSE Airtricity Energy Services received the Energy in Buildings Award for their Moyola Court project in South Dublin, which consists of two rows of terraced houses owned by Dun Laoghaire

Rathdown County Council.

Built in the 1970s these houses were in poor condition when SSE was approached to do the deep-retrofit refurbishment works. The project showcases the benefits of deep retrofit – helping to bring old inefficient properties back to life, making them highly energy efficient and resulting in huge benefits in terms of comfort and wellbeing for the residents.

The VorTech research team, based in NUI Galway, took home the Excellence in Energy Research and Innovation Award and a €10,000 bursary. The team’s VorTech technology aims to revolutionise the energy intensive aeration process within wastewater treatment plants.

The team demonstrated the technology in practice, leading to 30% energy recovery. A spin-out company has been formed, VorTech Water Solutions, and aims to deliver energy savings at wastewater treatment plants both in Ireland and at international level.

Eoghan Clifford, Senior Lecturer at NUI Galway: “Research plays a fundamental role at NUI Galway from a teaching point of view and by helping us to solve some of society’s challenges through the development of the next



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generation of technologies.

“The VorTech team’s technology and research looks at ways to treat wastewater using far less energy and improving environmental performance. The technology was launched in 2020 and we already have plans diversify. This is exciting both in terms of the research and the formation of our company as we are able to target new markets into the future.”

#### COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Ten awards were presented to individuals, businesses, communities and public sector organisations in recognition of their commitment and dedication to sustainable energy and climate action.



**Will O'Shaughnessy, Head of Business Development at SSE Airtricity Energy Services, who won the Energy in Buildings Award for their Moyola Court project in South Dublin.**

The online awards ceremony was hosted by broadcast journalist, Andrea Gilligan, who was joined by Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, for a special interview. Commenting on the leadership shown by all the finalists and winners, Minister Ryan said: “The SEAI Energy Awards celebrate success, leadership and ambition in sustainable energy. Ireland’s energy transition is going to be good for us as a country and our people are going to be good at it.

“We have real skills and capabilities and it starts with everyone in their own way making change, demanding change and delivering it. I congratulate those participating in the SEAI Energy Awards who are committed to the change that’s needed and are already helping to create a cleaner energy future.”

#### ENERGY-SAVING PROJECTS

A total of 124 entries were submitted for the 2020 SEAI Energy Awards with projects delivering combined energy savings of €42m. William Walsh, CEO of SEAI, said: “Despite the significant challenges this year, the volume and quality of entries reflects an unwavering commitment of individuals, and organisations to sustainable energy and climate action.

“The next decade will demand accelerated and significant change in every part of our society to reduce our carbon emissions. SEAI will support those who want to take such action. The commitment shown by each of our finalists is hugely inspiring and now we want others to see how they too can benefit from sustainable energy.”

Other award winners included Seamus Hoyne (Outstanding Contribution to Sustainable Energy); Jessica Kelly (Emerging Sustainable Energy Champion); Astellas Ireland Kerry Plant (Energy Team of the Year); Danone Wexford (Large Business – Exemplary Energy Management); Terra Spirits & Liqueurs, Cavan (SME – Exemplary Energy Management); Dunleer Sustainable Energy Community (Inspirational Energy Community); and Green Generation, Kildare (Innovative Deployment of Renewable Energy).

### 2020 SEAI Energy Award Winners

- Public Sector Energy Leadership: Dublin City Council
- Excellence in Energy Research and Innovation: NUI Galway
- Energy in Buildings: SSE Airtricity Energy Services
- Outstanding Contribution to Sustainable Energy: Seamus Hoyne
- Emerging Sustainable Energy Champion: Jessica Kelly.
- Energy Team of the Year: Astellas Ireland, Kerry Plant.
- Large Business: Exemplary Energy Management – Danone Wexford
- Small and Medium Business: Exemplary Energy Management – Terra Spirits & Liqueurs, Cavan.
- Inspiration Energy Community Winner: Dunleer Sustainable Energy Community
- Innovative Deployment of Renewable Energy Winner: Green Generation, Kildare.



For full details on all winning projects visit [www.seai.ie](http://www.seai.ie)