

## The Home Energy Saving (HES) Scheme

The new Home Energy Saving (HES) scheme provides a once in a lifetime opportunity for homeowners to get financial assistance towards improving the energy efficiency of their home. HES is a national scheme and thus opens to all owners of existing houses. Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) manages the Scheme.

SEI may provide assistance through the payment of fixed grants towards the costs of implementing eligible improvement works. The types of works eligible under this scheme are detailed in the chart below. There is also a grant for households who choose to get a Building Energy Rating (BER) assessment Before and After the works are completed.

MEASURE	CATEGORY	GRANT*
Roof	Roof Insulation	€250
Wall	Cavity Wall Insulation	€400
	Internal Wall Dry-Lining	€2,500
	External Wall Insulation	€4,000
Heating Controls	High Efficiency Gas or Oil fired Boiler with Heating Controls Upgrade	€700
	Heating Controls Upgrade	€500
	BER Assessment	A <i>Before</i> works and an <i>After</i> works assessment

\* Please note that while you are entitled to apply for each Measure there is a minimum requirement that the grant amount in the first application must be €500 or greater. The BER grant cannot form part of this €500 amount.

The scheme is scheduled to open to applications from all homeowners in March of 2009.

SEI is compiling a Directory of qualified building contractors that have been vetted and approved to carry out these works for the purposes of the Scheme. This Directory will be made available to householders when they apply for assistance under the Scheme.

José Ospina can assist you with all your BER and energy-efficiency related requirements including:

- Registration with SEI.
- BER assessments (Before and After)
- Advisory Report which specifies improvements required and which conform with the terms and conditions of the HES Scheme.
- Specifying and tendering for improvement works and supervising contracts.

BER related services can be part funded from the HES grant.

José has broad experience of other national and European funding programmes, so can provide development and project management support to all types of projects related to energy efficiency and renewable energy development.

**For full details and a quote contact:**



José Ospina MA (Arch)  
Sustainable Development Consultant  
BER Assessor No. 103301

Tel: +353 (0)28 21890 Mob: +353 (0)86 822 4429  
www.joseospina.com jose@joseospina.com



## Building Energy Rating (BER) and Home Energy Efficiency

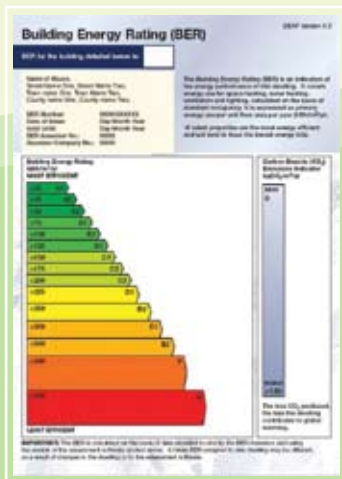
**Save the Planet,  
One Home at a Time!**

## BER (Building Energy Rating)

Is a standard calculation of the energy performance of a building, produced by a qualified assessor registered with SEI. Building Energy Rating (BER) is a requirement introduced by the EU Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings (2002/91/EC of 16 December 2002), and transposed in Ireland by the European Communities (Energy Performance of Buildings) Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 666 of 2006).

The European Commission Action Plan for Energy Efficiency ("Realising the potential", Oct. 2006) identifies energy efficiency in the building sector as top priority for achieving a secure energy supply, and a key role for BER assessment in realising the savings potential in the building sector, which is estimated at 28%, and which in turn can reduce the total European energy use by around 11%.

Knowing, and taking steps to improve the BER of your home can reduce your fuel and electricity bills, while increasing your quality of life and reducing your impact on the environment. Everyone wins with BER, your finances, your home's value, the environment and the planet.



BER certificate



Retrofit of existing houses with natural materials can significantly improve energy ratings.

## Who needs a BER?

Every building could benefit from a BER and from the improvements resulting. But for some buildings, law requires a BER:

- **New Dwellings** or which planning permission was applied for on or after 1st January 2007. Transitional BER exemptions will apply to new dwellings for which planning permission was applied on or before 31st December 2006, where the new dwellings involved were substantially completed on or before 30th June 2008.
- **New Non-Domestic Buildings** for which planning permission was applied for on or after 1st July 2008. Transitional BER exemptions will apply to new non-domestic buildings for which planning permission was applied on or before 30th June 2008 provided the new non-domestic buildings involved are substantially completed by 30th June 2010.
- **Existing Buildings** (dwellings and other buildings) when offered for sale or letting on or after 1st January 2009.

Failure to secure a BER certificate in these cases renders the owner liable to stiff financial penalties, and could hinder or delay the legal completion of a letting or sale contract for the property.

## BER – and related services

José Ospina can provide efficient, experienced BER related services for both new and existing properties. José has trained under the National Framework of Qualifications and is registered with SEI for this purpose. In addition, he is qualified in housing development and project management, with over 30 years experience of managing new-build and refurbishment projects. He has written several bids for European and national funding for projects related to energy efficiency and microgeneration, and managed several of these projects. He has also worked for the European Commission on the Energy Programme. This combination of qualifications and experience give him a unique advantage in providing comprehensive BER and energy-efficiency related services.

## BER – the process.

Basic BER for new and existing houses can be provided from plans, or on the basis of a personal survey. The BER will take around one day, or less according to the availability of plans and specifications. If a survey is required, every effort will be made to complete this quickly and efficiently. A BER Certificate will be issued and registered with SEI, and an Advisory Report provided. The BER Certificate is valid for 10 years, and a provisional Certificate can be issued from plans, for homes that are not been built, and these are valid for 2 years. The house must be surveyed again once it is completed and any changes taken into account. Rates for BER are available on demand, and guaranteed competitive with current commercial pricing.