

# EnergyCloud Ireland



Denis Naughten TD

Chairman

Joint Committee on Social Protection, Community and Rural Development and the Islands

Houses of the Oireachtas

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Subject: Response from EnergyCloud Ireland to Committee's report on energy poverty

Dear Chairman,

On behalf of EnergyCloud Ireland, thank you most sincerely for your warm welcome to your Committee on Wednesday 21st February 2024. As I said that day, we salute you and your colleagues for proactively addressing the very important issue of energy poverty. EnergyCloud Ireland was established as a not-for-profit social enterprise to specifically help to tackle energy poverty, by using surplus renewable energy.

As referenced by me at your Committee hearing, it is really important that EnergyCloud get the support of members of the Oireachtas and that we do not face any regulatory impediments into the future that could stymie the implementation of this at scale.

While our primary focus is working with families in fuel poverty, we have taken on board the suggestions from members of your Committee in relation to DEIS Schools and Community and Sporting facilities who are severely impacted by the cost of energy.

Over the course of the Committee hearing, you specifically asked that EnergyCloud Ireland revert to you and your colleagues with specific proposals.

1. From a broad policy point of view, we would recommend that the Government and state agencies look upon the large volumes of surplus renewable energy as an unused asset to help tackle fuel poverty in Ireland.
2. We believe that the Government should mandate the introduction of measures such as EnergyCloud to use surplus renewable energy to help tackle energy poverty, which will also help support the delivery of the Climate Action Plan.

3. Chairman, you specifically asked about what the SEAI could do to support the work of EnergyCloud in Ireland. We believe that any support EnergyCloud can get from SEAI or any national agency to help us to come up with a scalable solution as quickly as possible is going to accelerate the scale up to the first 75,000, and hopefully up to 100,000 and then 550,000 homes. To do this, SEAI could designate an EnergyCloud-type scheme for local authorities and approved housing bodies, that would transform overnight the scalability and the roll-out of what EnergyCloud are doing. Chairman, you also made the specific point in relation to the overall National Retrofit Programme, that it would make sense for the SEAI, at a very minimum, to support spending one hour installing EnergyCloud type technology to ensure a greater benefit to all those who are not having a major retrofit carried out. This type of single measure could be implemented through the local authorities and approved housing bodies. In terms of what can be done immediately, there should definitely be a requirement for SEAI to have a specific EnergyCloud programme for approved housing bodies and local authorities.
4. The EnergyCloud team is keen to work collaboratively with all the other State and semi-State actors to ensure that EnergyCloud is at the top of their agenda as they work to tackle energy poverty.

EnergyCloud can play a key role in helping achieve targets set out in the Climate Action Plan, specifically in relation to the plan to deliver 80% of Ireland's electricity from renewable sources by 2030. We believe EnergyCloud provides the opportunity to make Ireland a leader in creating solutions for surplus energy rather than simply switching off wind turbines and solar panels.

Yours sincerely



**John Mullins**  
**Chairperson**  
**EnergyCloud Ireland**

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Website: [www.energycloud.org](http://www.energycloud.org)  
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