



Social Enterprise Policy Consultation  
Department of Rural & Community Development  
Trinity Point  
10-11 Leinster Street South  
Dublin 2

### ENERGY ACTION CLG

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14 May 2019

**Re: Social Enterprise Policy Consultation**

Dear sir or madam,

I am responding to the Social Enterprise Policy Consultation on behalf of Energy Action CLG of above address.

Energy Action CLG is a Dublin - based registered Charity, established in 1988, which delivers a free home insulation service to vulnerable homeowners under the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme. The service is delivered by formerly unemployed people through the Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection's Community Employment Scheme. Energy Action is also insulating homes for Dublin City Council.

Our comments are attached.

Yours sincerely,

Brian McSharry  
CEO  
Energy Action CLG



THE IRELAND FUNDS

Also funded by: Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment; Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government; Dublin City Council; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; Fingal County Council; South Dublin County Council.

Directors: David McCarthy (chairperson), Frank McDonald, Carol Pemberton, Tom Rowley, Barry Walsh, Kevin O'Rourke, Marion Jammot.  
Registered as a charity number: chy 9639. Company registration number: 147640

**Energy Action CLG**  
**Unit 2C, City Link Business Park**  
**Old Naas Road**  
**Dublin 12**  
**Tel: 014545464**

## **Draft National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland**

### **Energy Action's comments**

Energy Action CLG is a Dublin based Charity, established in 1988, which delivers a free home insulation service to vulnerable homeowners under the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Better Energy Warmer Homes Scheme. The service is delivered by formerly unemployed people through the Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection's Community Employment Scheme. Energy Action is also insulating homes for Dublin City Council.

Overall, Energy Action welcomes the draft National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland for public consultation. Energy Action also welcomes the statement that a key objective of the Department of Rural and Community Development is *"to offer a policy framework for the development of the not-for-profit sector and to provide a full range of appropriate supports to organisations in that sector to improve their capability to deliver services to individuals and communities, tackle social issues, and contribute to a fairer and more inclusive society"*.

Social enterprises need improved access to supports in order to survive and grow and it is hoped that this Policy will help address that gap.

#### **Policy Objective 1 – Creating Awareness of Social Enterprise**

The suggested policy measures should help achieve the objective of raising greater awareness of social enterprise. The policy measures are at a very general level at present and Energy Action looks forward to reviewing the more detailed actions and initiatives that will follow.

#### **Policy Objective 2 – Growing and Strengthening Social Enterprise**

Energy Action welcomes the intention to improve the range and quality of supports available to social enterprises around the country.

Governance-related compliance has increased significantly in the charity sector, including more onerous obligations under the Charities Act and managing an organisation is more complex as a result.

Appropriate supports for voluntary Board directors and management are therefore required.

Financial supports are also essential. Supports and programmes currently in place are often insufficient for community organisations which are often competing in an open-market environment.

**Policy Objective 3 – Achieving Better Policy Alignment**

Energy Action has no comments to make on this policy objective. The suggested policy measures are, at this early stage, general and vague and therefore difficult to address.

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