

We engaged the Irish Centre for Cycling to provide a **five-lesson course for adult cyclists** - made possible through funding from Fingal County Council. The course was held during December 2023 and January 2024. This showed that even on winter evenings you can be out and about on your bike! We were delighted that several international protection applicants were able to successfully participate in the course.



We are currently working to arrange a cycling summer camp for children, as well as an event for the 2024 Skerries Eco Festival this coming September.

**Active Travel Plans Update:** The County Council hopes to appoint an active travel integrated design team later this year. They will be embarking on further data collection to inform the process of establishing a number of projects that can be progressed over the coming years for Skerries, subject to funding and statutory approvals.

- Michael McKenna, Secretary
- SCI Chair: Conor Kegan
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## SSECI

Skerries Sustainable Energy Community Initiative



SSECI, **Skerries Sustainable Energy Community Initiative**, was set up in 2020 as a committee of the Skerries Community Association. Its primary aim is to build better energy awareness and resilience within the town.

In 2022, SSECI commissioned an SEAI-funded Skerries Energy Master Plan (EMP). This included a Register of Opportunities, and we are currently addressing some of them.

For example, in 2023, we explored the scope for funding for a **feasibility study** into the production of 5% of our **energy supply in Skerries from renewables**.

The committee also worked on various fronts to raise public awareness of the need for **better insulated homes and businesses**, and the opportunities offered by energy-saving techniques and new, more efficient technologies. To this end, SSECI participated in the **Skerries Eco Festival**, organising speakers on Electric Vehicles (EVs) and home insulation grants and hosting an information stand.



We also published articles in **Skerries News** on monitoring efficient domestic energy use and the latest energy upgrades at the Community Centre, among others. In videos on YouTube and on our Facebook page, we showed how to access data on household electricity usage with a smart electricity metre, as well as advice on purchasing an EV and switching to night-time electricity tariffs.

In 2024, we are looking at the scope for increased use of **PV roof arrays** on domestic and community buildings in Skerries and hope to organise grant and technical **information events** in the town to support locals considering solar PV energy.

SSECI is a very small group so prospective **new members** with a particular interest and/or expertise in sustainable energy are **very welcome**.

- Chair Michael Mullan Jensen
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## SKERRIES TIDY TOWNS



**Skerries Tidy Towns** had another successful year, gaining 13 extra marks in the national competition, making County second and winning another Gold Medal. We were Highly Commended in the Circular Economy Award as well as in the All Ireland Pollinator Award, with thanks to Charlie and Marion Heasman. **Once again, we would like to thank all our volunteers, our Adopt-a-Patchers and the residents of the Red Bank for their help in keeping our town litter free and looking so well.**

The **Skerries Tidy Towns work parties are back out every Monday**, meeting at the old fire station Quay St. at 1.50 pm. **If you're available, and over 16, come along and join us!**

We have done the annual clean up at the railway station, and continue to maintain the perimeter as a wildlife friendly area. We also cleaned the bike shelters and removed graffiti, and have maintained the old tank area at the rear of Supervalu car park with pollinator friendly plants. All street furniture, bollards and public railings are maintained and painted. We would like to again thank the **Men's Shed** for their help with this work.

Over the last number of years STT, with Sustainable Skerries, has developed a **Biodiversity Corridor**, linking all areas of the town in order to assist the safe passage of insect / wildlife from one area to another and to expand habitats (see picture below). The Rope Walk, behind the tennis courts, is being allowed to rewild. It is a three year project and will be kept litter free but otherwise left to nature. Photos are taken every three months to document how it evolves.

