



## GDSEC'S SOLAR MEITHEAL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

9/9/2022

### TERMS:

1. kW = kilowatt. A kilowatt simply refers to 1,000 watts. It's used as a measure of electric **power**.
2. kWh = kilowatt hour. A kilowatt-hour measures the usage of 1,000 watts of energy in the space of one hour. It's a measure of **power consumption**. For example, a 100-watt appliance switched on for 10 hours uses 1,000 watt hours or 1 kWh of electricity.
3. kWp = kilowatt peak. This is the unit of measurement for the output of a solar photovoltaic (PV) system. In other words, it describes the maximum output in kilowatts that your solar PV system can produce in ideal conditions.

### 1. About this programme

Greystones & Delgany Sustainable Energy Community (GDSEC) is a subgroup of Greystones Tidy Towns and is a registered SEC with the SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland). Staffed by volunteers under the mentorship of an officially registered SEC technical advisor, Simon Whelan ([page 37](#)), our mission is to explore options for reducing our community's carbon emissions and increase the energy efficiency and sustainability of our buildings, transport and other aspects of our lives.

With this in mind, we launched the "Solar Meitheal 2022" initiative. Through our advisory and administrative support role, we aim to help homeowners and businesses who are interested in installing Solar PV to (a) understand the technology, (b) arrive at a solar PV system configuration that suits their needs, and (c) get a competitive quote from a top solar installer.

### 2. Will the SEC contact me for payments?

*At no stage will GDSEC engage in a contract or exchange monies with participants, we are only here in a voluntary support role.*

### 3. Is there any obligation if I complete this form?

*Please note that participants can leave the programme at any time without penalty, prior to entering into a contract directly with the installer. Since your interest does factor into bidding and costing for the Solar Meitheal group cohort we ask that you contact us immediately if you are no longer interested.*



#### **4. Will there be a contract for the install and who will I pay?**

The SEC will seek a Request for Offer from 3 installers seeking the best balance of price, service, and schedule. The SEC will contact you directly once a selection is made to properly transition you to the installer's account manager. You will be dealing with the SEC until this handoff occurs. Your complete PV installation contract and payments will be made directly with the installer.

#### **5. What if I meet the requirements but don't get invited to the 2022 cohort?**

The SEC will contact you as soon as possible to inform you if you meet requirements and if you are invited to the 2022 cohort of 10 homes and businesses. If we have more than 10 qualifying and interested homeowners/businesses, those that do not fit into the 10-property 2022 cohort will be invited to a 2023 cohort where we will continue to install with a goal to complete before the end of March 2023. In this case it may be that you are offered a contract in 2022 which will help us lock in cost and supplies.

#### **6. Will the installer be qualified and insured?**

Yes, we will only seek bids from installers carrying full public liability insurance and are approved and vetted installers with the SEAI.

#### **7. What are the qualifying requirements?**

- Your home or business lies within the Greystones & Delgany catchment area
- You have a minimum of 10m<sup>2</sup> of usable roof space for solar panel install
- Your roof is south, east or west-facing (or a combination of these) and not shaded by nearby trees or buildings for the majority of the day
- You are in a position to finance your desired solar PV system configuration
- You will accept an install date (yet to be determined by the installer) prior to Christmas 2022

#### **8. What are the benefits of working with the SEC?**

- Provides free and independent advice as well as step-by-step guidance in helping you decide on your ideal solar PV configuration
- Through our combined Solar PV Request for Offer, the programme will provide a competitive quotation from a top qualified installer
- Through the pooling of purchasing power, the programme hopes to provide the added benefit of a potential economies of scale price discount
- Working together to help reduce our community carbon footprint



Greystones &  
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**9. To fill out part of the Solar Meitheal Qualification Form, how do I determine my home's annual kWh electricity consumption?**

To figure out how much electricity your home or businesses uses annually, simply add up your kWh usage on all your electricity utility bills that cover one full year (usually 6 bimonthly bills).

On each bill, the amount of energy you've used in the billing period will be labelled as "consumption" or "usage" and listed in "units" or "kWh", (note: 1 unit = 1kWh). Write down the number of kWh (or units) used per bill and then add up all kilowatt hours across all the electricity bills within the year to get your annual kWh electricity consumption total.