

Green Devolved Capital Grant to Improve Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation across VET Estate

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 IRELAND

Timeline

2024 Implementation

2025 Completed

ID number 48597

Background

Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2021 (CAP21) envisages the public sector leading by example on climate action to reach the target of reducing Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030 and becoming climate neutral no later than 2050.

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 gives legal underpinning to climate action by the public sector. It requires all public bodies to perform their functions in a manner consistent with national climate ambitions.

Objectives

As a public sector, VET comes under the mandate of the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate.

Public Sector Climate Action Mandate

To support public sector bodies in leading by example, a Public Sector Climate Action Mandate applies to public bodies covered by the Climate Action Plan (CAP) decarbonisation targets.

Each public sector body to which the Mandate applies will develop a Climate Action Roadmap setting out how it will deliver on its energy efficiency and emissions reduction targets.

Description

The Green Devolved Capital Grant is to be distributed to the 16 Education and Training Boards (ETBs) who deliver VET to assist them to hit their targets for 2030 as set out in the Public Sector Climate Action Mandate.

The ETBs can use the funding of EUR 8 047 500 in 2024 to improve operational sustainability in their owned buildings as they move towards low energy usage, high energy efficiency, and a low carbon impact building stock.

2024 Implementation

In October 2024, the Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and the Minister of State for Skills and Further Education have announced funding of more than EUR 8 million to improve energy efficiency and deliver on climate targets in the further education and training sector (FET).

The national agency for FET, SOLAS, will distribute the Green Devolved Capital Grant of just over EUR 8 million to the individual ETBs for 2024.

2025 Completed

The Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science announced the continuing allocation of over EUR 8 million in 2025 to Education and Training Boards for the green capital grants. This measure is to drive energy efficiency across the FET sector's estate and work towards achieving Ireland's Public Sector Climate Action Mandate targets for 2030.

Bodies responsible

- Further Education and Training Authority (SOLAS)
- Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS)
- City of Dublin Education and Training Board (CDETБ)
- Cork Education and Training Board (CETB)
- Cavan Monaghan Education and Training Board (CMETB)
- Donegal Education and Training Board (DETБ)
- Dublin Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB)
- Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRETБ)
- Kilkenny Carlow Education and Training Board (KCETB)
- Kildare Wicklow Education and Training Board (KWETB)
- Louth Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB)
- Limerick Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB)
- Mayo Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board (MSLETB)
- Kerry Education and Training Board (KETB)
- Tipperary Education and Training Board (TETB)
- Waterford Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB)
- Longford Westmeath Education and Training Board (LWETB)
- Laois Offaly Education and Training Board (LOETB)

Target group

Education professionals

School leaders

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Modernising VET infrastructure

Modernising infrastructure for vocational training

Making VET institutions sustainable and green

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Supporting Centres of vocational excellence (CoVEs)

Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

Systematic approaches to and opportunities for initial and continuous professional development of school leaders, teachers and trainers

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Ministers announce funding of over EUR8 million to improve energy efficiency and decarbonisation across FET](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Completed

First National Further Education & Training (FET) Strategy for the Green Transition: Green Skills 2030

The strategy was developed by SOLAS, in partnership with consultants KPMG and in consultation with Ireland's sixteen (16) Education and Training Boards (ETBs), public bodies, government departments and key industry stakeholders.

 IRELAND

Type of development

Strategy/Action plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

Further Education and Training Colleges of the Future (CotF): Capital Call

The National FET Strategy defined that CotFs should have the following characteristics:

 IRELAND

Type of development

Strategy/Action plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2023 Completed

Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Strategy 2021-23

DFHERIS funds and creates policy for the higher and further education and research sectors. It also oversees the work of the State agencies and public institutions operating in these areas.

 IRELAND

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2021 **Approved/Agreed**

Transforming Learning 2020-24: Ireland's National Further Education and Training Strategy

The FET strategy 2020–24 was developed in consultation with the FET sector and other key stakeholders. Consultation was wide-ranging and included bilateral meetings, regional workshops and a public call for submissions.

 IRELAND

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ … ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Green Devolved Capital Grant to Improve Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation across VET Estate: Ireland. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/48597>