



Galway City Net Zero Pilot

GALWAY, IRELAND

Emissions domains addressed by the Pilot Activity



Consumption of non-electricity energy for thermal uses in buildings & facilities



Consumption of electricity generated for buildings, facilities & infrastructure

Key Focus Areas

Retrofit accelerator | Energy poverty | One-stop-shop | Quadruple Helix | Decarbonisation zone | Workforce training

Levers of Change

Democracy and participation | Governance and policy | Learning and capabilities | Social innovation

Description of the Pilot Activity

Galway's pilot targeted decarbonisation of its building stock, focusing on accelerating retrofits to improve energy efficiency in homes. By combining citizen outreach, homeowner support, workforce training, and policy reform through a Quadruple Helix Steering Group, the city aimed to overcome systemic barriers that have stalled Ireland's national retrofitting scheme and demonstrate how local authorities can drive large-scale building renovation.

Impact & Results

The Warm Home Hub in Galway's Westside marked a major shift in how residents access retrofit services. By the end of the pilot, 477 households were engaged, with 134 Home Energy Assessments and 100 Building Energy Performance Ratings completed, and at least 25 households already undertaking retrofit measures. The Hub was shortlisted for the 2025 LAMA Awards.

Retrofit training was delivered via a mobile NZEB Retrofit Rig, with 48 trainees attending workshops. A national catalogue was launched to centralise course offerings, validating the bottom-up push for green construction skills.

The Quadruple Helix Steering Group created a structured forum for policy engagement and stakeholder alignment, with eight meetings in Year 2 and contributions to Galway's legacy recommendations.

Innovation Highlights

The Warm Home Hub demonstrated that retrofit must be seen as a journey rather than a one-off service—supported by a systematic approach that builds confidence step by step. Local staff acting as trusted intermediaries proved critical in bridging the gap in an otherwise confusing system.

The mobile NZEB Retrofit Rig brought training directly to communities, particularly highlighting Galway's training gaps and validating the need for expanded green construction skills pipelines.

