

3. How to get employed in the field of energy advising?

Job examples for energy advisors

Within advisory services, energy advisors can: perform energy audits; implement simple energy efficiency measures (door and window seals, LED light bulbs, faucet aerators, reflective foil insulation, etc.); participate in the implementation of complex energy efficiency measures (segments of energy-recovery of buildings, e.g. thermo-insulation); produce reports and suggest policy recommendations; install and / or maintain equipment such as solar panels, etc.; directly and indirectly influence change in citizens' behaviour through education of household members about the possibilities to reduce energy consumption; advise households on certain funding options – e.g. energy advisors can refer a household to apply to a certain call or direct it to other social services providers.

An example of a successful system in trainings for energy advisors from Dublin

Energy Action from Dublin has built a business model for energy advising based on the UK's „City & Guilds training modules“, within which they have continuously trained CBOs (Community Based Organisations) each year.

Energy Action was asked by FETAC to adapt module to allow it to become a national module for other training providers to deliver. They delivered energy advice to every home they visited.

Energy Action conducts two types of trainings for energy advisors:

1. Certified training
2. Non-certified training

Certified training includes 1 day of lectures and 2 days of practical part, and additional days for individual solving of assigned tasks, lasting 80 hours.

This training course aims to: give students an understanding of the importance of effective energy efficiency; enable students to give advice on the appropriate and efficient use of energy.

The course has four units: Introducing Energy Awareness & Fuel Poverty; Energy Consumption, Bills, Tariffs & Fuel Debt; Building Fabric & Legislation; Heating Systems and Hot Water Systems. Following the mentioned units, these energy efficiency measures are taught at course: health impacts, identifying fuel poor, who qualifies for grant, free service, ventilation, mould, climate action and organisations helpful to fuel poor, being able to read and understand energy bills.

A practical learning experience is also provided through the course – when visiting households, participants are informing and providing household members with advices on energy efficiency measures, and would also deliver simple devices to help reduce energy consumption.

Once teaching part of the course is finalized, the participants are required to pass the exam which consists of assignments (40%), skill demonstration (40%) and written exam (20%).

Non-certified training would be a 1- or 1/2-day training.

After completing the course, many participants become qualified energy advisors or surveyors (another training course) leading to energy auditors.