



## Privacy Notice

# SEAI National Energy Research Development and Demonstration Funding Programme

May 2023 Edition

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## Privacy Notice

### 1. General statement - We respect your privacy

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (“SEAI”) fully respects your right to privacy. This Privacy Notice (“Notice”) is intended to help you understand what Personal Data SEAI collects about you, why we collect it, what we do with it, who we may share it with and how we protect it. When we talk about “Personal Data” in this Notice, we mean any information relating to you, either directly or indirectly.

This Notice also details the rights available to you in relation to how we hold and use your Personal Data, how to exercise those rights, and what to do if you require more information or wish to make a complaint.

### 2. Who is responsible for your information

SEAI is responsible for your information.

This Notice applies to SEAI, a public authority established under the Sustainable Energy Act 2002, located at 3 Park Place, Hatch Street Upper, Dublin, D02 FX65

The use of “we”, “us”, “our” and “ours” in this Notice refer to SEAI. For more information about us, please see our About webpage <https://www.seai.ie/about/>.

If you want to get in touch and seek to exercise your rights as described below, please contact us at [dataprotection@seai.ie](mailto:dataprotection@seai.ie).

### 3. Who This Notice Applies To

In operating the SEAI National Energy Research, Development and Demonstration (RD&D) Funding Programme and other SEAI RD&D Programme related Calls, e.g. Call for selection of Technical Evaluators or SEAI fellowship call (“SEAI RD&D Call”), we collect and process information which relates to a variety of categories of individuals. These include individuals who may not have a direct relationship with SEAI. We have described below the main types of individuals whose information we collect, use and otherwise process in connection with a SEAI RD&D Call.

- Applicants (Lead or Partner), i.e. persons submitting an application to the SEAI RD&D Call or to any other SEAI RD&D Programme-related Call.
- Project Collaborators, i.e. other organisations involved in an application submitted to a SEAI RD&D Call.
- Potential Applicants, i.e. persons emailing [energyresearch@seai.ie](mailto:energyresearch@seai.ie) or an SEAI Staff Member with questions about a SEAI RD&D Call.

### 4. Who We Receive Information From

We receive your information directly from you e.g., when you submit your application form, your project reports and payment claims, when you contact us via email with questions about a SEAI RD&D Call or your project. We may also receive your information from SEAI Info Desk if your query relates to energy research.

## **5. Information We Collect and how We Use It**

In the course of administering SEAI RD&D Calls and other SEAI RD&D Programme-related Calls, we collect or receive information in different ways and relating to various groups of individuals (described in section 3 above). We use this information for a number of purposes, including those described further below.

The types of Personal Data that we collect and process include, but are not limited to:

- your name, gender, contact details, including your telephone number, address, Eircode, and email address;
- information about your interactions with us, such as email records, grants or payment claims and supporting documents;
- any other Personal Data relating to you that you provide to us or that we generate about you in connection to our relationship with you.
- Information that is processed by the use of our online services / website, such as IP address. For more information on what data is processed, please see [SEAI's Website Privacy and Cookie Policy](#)

We use this Personal Data to:

- review applications submitted to the SEAI RD&D Call or to any other SEAI RD&D Programme-related Call (e.g. Call for selection of Technical Evaluators, SEAI fellowship call) - in particular, assessing the applications, from technical and financial perspectives, and administering the award of a Grant, including processing payment claims and developing case studies or sharing details of project outputs via the SEAI website;
- provide customer service to you and contact you if required to respond to any communications you might send to us;
- to enable the preparation and analysis of statistics for reporting and research purposes to plan and improve our services;
- comply with our legal obligations;
- protect or enforce our rights or the rights of any third party;
- establish, exercise or defend legal claims;
- respond to requests and providing information.

## **6. Information You Give Us About Other People**

If you provide information to us about any person other than yourself, you should ensure that you have a legal basis for doing so and that you have complied with your transparency obligations under data protection law.

## **7. Our Legal Bases**

In order to collect, use, share, and otherwise process your information for the purposes described in this Notice, we rely on a number of legal bases, some of which are mentioned above, including where:

- necessary for the performance of tasks that we carry out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in us by law (including the Sustainable Energy Act 2002);
- necessary for the performance of a contract with you, if your application is successful, such as the agreement signed with SEAI to formalise your participation in the SEAI RD&D Call or in any other SEAI RD&D Programme-related Call.

## 8. Sharing Your Information

In the course of administering a SEAI RD&D Call, we share information with various third parties, as set out below. We do this based upon the legal bases and exceptions mentioned in section 7 of this Notice

- **Co-Funding Partners** Where your proposal is submitted under a Co-funded Topic or may be of interest to other potential Co-funders, your Personal Data will be shared with the potential Co-funding Partner, subject to appropriate Agreements.
- **Service Providers:** We may share your Personal Data to help us administer a SEAI RD&D Call and communicate with you. Categories of service providers include companies who provide inspection services, outsourced business process providers, IT software and hosting providers and records-storage companies. Where such third parties are processors, these third parties are contractually required to use it only to provide their service to us and are contractually barred from using it for their own purposes.
- **Technical Evaluators, experts, advisors, lawyers and others connected to the administration of a SEAI RD&D Call or to any other SEAI RD&D Programme-related Call:** We share your information with a variety of third parties so we can administer the abovementioned Calls. This may include sharing your information with expert Technical Evaluators, advisers, auditors, solicitors and law firms, and other experts.
- **Legal and safety reasons:** We may retain, preserve, or share your information if we have a good-faith belief that it is reasonably necessary to (a) respond, based on applicable law, to a legal request (e.g., a subpoena, search warrant, court order, or other request from government or law enforcement agency); (b) detect, investigate, prevent, and address fraud and other illegal activity, security, or technical issues; (c) protect our rights, property, or safety; (d) enforce the Agreement or any other contracts we have with you or a third party which relates to you; (e) prevent physical injury or other harm to any person or entity, including you and members of the public.
- **Research:** We may include your Personal Data in research studies to assess the impact and benefits of a SEAI RD&D Call or any other SEAI RD&D Programme-related Call. The outcome of these studies may be published, or we may publish individual case studies. However, we will ensure that you will not be identifiable in any such studies, without your consent, which will be separately obtained.
- **Promotion:** We will display the name of successful applicants and their organisation on the SEAI website along with summary project details within the SEAI National Energy Research Database to highlight projects that have been awarded following each SEAI RD&D Call.

## 9. Retention

We retain your information for as long as necessary in light of the purposes set out in this Notice, including for the purposes of satisfying any legal, accounting, or reporting requirements and, where required for SEAI to assert or defend against legal claims, until the end of the relevant retention period or until the claims in question have been settled.

To determine the appropriate retention period for personal data, we consider the amount, nature, and sensitivity of the personal data, the potential risk of harm from unauthorised use or disclosure of your Personal Data, the purposes for which we process your Personal Data and whether we can achieve those purposes through other means, and the applicable legal requirements. We also consider regulatory guidance, as appropriate.

## 10. Your Rights

You have a number of rights in relation to your information that we process. To exercise these rights, please contact us at [dataprotection@seai.ie](mailto:dataprotection@seai.ie).

- While some of these rights apply generally, certain rights apply only in specific circumstances. We describe these rights below
- **Access:** You have the right to request access to your information that we control.
- **Data Portability:** You have the right to request that some of your personal information that you initially provided to us is returned to you or another controller in a commonly used machine readable format.
- **Rectify, Restrict and Delete:** You have the right to ask us to restrict the processing of your information or to rectify or delete your information. Please note that despite a deletion request, we may continue to process your information if we have a legal basis to do so.
- **Object:** If we process your information in the public interest, you can object in certain circumstances. In such cases, where legally required to do so, we will cease processing your information unless we have compelling legitimate grounds to continue processing or where it is needed for legal reasons.
- **Complain:** You have the right to submit a complaint about our use of your information with your local supervisory authority or SEAI's supervisory authority, the [Irish Data Protection Commission](#).

These rights are subject to a number of exceptions under law.

## 11. Amending The Notice

From time to time, we may amend this Notice. This might happen, for example, where we make changes to a SEAI RD&D Call or any other SEAI RD&D Programme-related Call. If we make material changes to the Notice, we will take steps to notify you, such as by posting a notice on our website. The Notice was last updated at the date indicated further below.

## 12. Contact Us

If you want to exercise your rights (described above), or if you have any questions about this Notice, please contact us as follows:

Data Protection Officer  
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland  
3 Park Place  
Hatch Street Upper  
Dublin 2  
D02 FX65

Tel: +353-1-8082100  
Email: [dataprotection@seai.ie](mailto:dataprotection@seai.ie)

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