

## Has Meath County Council Applied for Sustainable Energy Grant For Public Charge Points?

There's been a call on Meath County Council to confirm whether or not it has applied for funding for the installation of public electric charge points under a Government Scheme announced last year.

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) is running the scheme on the State's behalf, and has stated that just two Local Authorities, had applied for the Grant.

Up to 1,000 public charge points had been promised in a nationwide move to facilitate drivers who had invested in Electric vehicles, but to date none have been installed.

Aontú' Cllr. Emer Tóibín has today said that she is 'very disappointed' and called on Meath County Council to state if it has applied for the funding and if not, why not.

"It's really shocking that despite the funding being available for the charging points, there has been no uptake on this. It sends out a very poor message to the public and I find it particularly concerning that Meath is potentially lagging behind on this really critical Environmental issue".

"The Scheme is well over a year in operation now. In theory it is a really good scheme that sees local authorities receive up to €5,000 per charging point for public areas, but in practise it is simply not having the response it deserves and I really want answers from Meath County Council".

"Many people simply don't have the luxury of their own personal parking spot and charging points, and the continuing lack of public facilities sends out a very negative message".

"It's a big deal ,changing from a petrol or diesel vehicle to a fully electric vehicle or even a hybrid, it's quite a big financial outlay, and drivers need to know that if they do make the switch, they will have the necessary public facilities to charge them".

"Just this week we saw the unveiling of the Government's Climate Action Strategy and its aim of having almost a million Electric Vehicles on our roads by 2030 is *optimistic* to say the least if this particular scheme is anything to go by".