

Knockshanvo Wind Farm

Newsletter 3
Summer 2023



FuturEnergy Ireland is exploring the potential for a renewable energy project in the area known as Knockshanvo, approximately 3km south of Broadford and 4km northeast of Sixmilebridge in Co. Clare.

Our third newsletter on the proposed Knockshanvo Wind Farm provides more details on how this project could benefit you, as a community and individuals, and what you can expect from us in the coming months.

If you have any questions or want to discuss the project in more detail, please get in touch with your local Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) Christy O’Dea and Kevin Donnellan, whose contact details are on the back of this newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Community Benefits

Knockshanvo Wind Farm has the potential to bring positive benefits to local communities. These include a significant Community Benefit Fund, local authority rates contributions and an opportunity to potentially enhance existing recreation in the area.

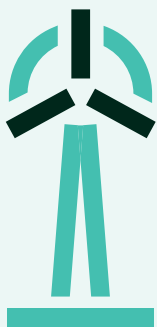
A Community Benefit Fund

The Department of Environment, Climate and Communication (DECC) established the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) in 2021. Under this scheme all participating developers must set up a mandatory Community Benefit Fund for successful projects.

An important cornerstone of the RESS fund is that the local community participates in all decisions regarding how the funding should be used. This places the community at the heart of the decision-making process and will be key to the success of the fund. SEAI has a support, oversight and compliance role across all RESS funds.

How much is the fund?

The size of the Community Benefit Fund is determined by the amount of electricity generated by the wind farm. This ensures the community will see tangible benefits from hosting a wind farm in their locality.



9

turbines



135,000

megawatt hour (MWh)
green electricity per annum



€270k*

estimated Community
Benefit Fund per annum

**This estimate is based on the preliminary 9 turbine layout, which is subject to change, and gives annual figures for the first 15 years of operation.*

Knockshanvo Wind Farm

In practice, the fund value is calculated whereby for each megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity produced, the project owner contributes €2 into a community fund for the RESS contract period i.e., the first 15 years of operation. In addition, FuturEnergy Ireland commits to a further €1/MWh for the remaining lifetime of the wind farm. If the project does not qualify for RESS, FuturEnergy Ireland pledges to match these contributions.

If Knockshanvo Wind Farm is consented and constructed based on the current draft design, the project has the potential to generate approximately 135,000 MWh of green electricity per year. This means that the project could contribute a minimum €270,000 annually to the Community Benefit Fund for the first 15 years of operation. For the remaining lifetime of the wind farm, FuturEnergy Ireland commits to contributing around €135,000 per year. Therefore, over the expected 30-year lifetime of the wind farm, the Community Benefit Fund will be in the order of €6 million.

What can the fund be used for?

Government guidelines stipulate that some of the fund should go towards those who live in close proximity to the project, which is why a proportion is designated for “near neighbour” payments. More details on how the fund will be split in adherence with government guidelines will be shared in the upcoming webinar and at the community clinics in autumn.

It is also important that broader community benefits apply as well, as set out in the RESS guidelines. These will include projects in the wider area that meet the UN Sustainable Goals such as education, climate action, energy efficiency, biodiversity, recreation, culture and heritage. There are also provisions made for sports clubs and societies.

For the residents around Knockshanvo and the adjacent hinterland, these funds will offer huge opportunities for strategic projects such as building local community facilities, deep retrofit schemes for homes or tourism upgrades and attractions. The scope for a community vision backed by reliable funding can help make rural regeneration a reality.



A Community Benefit Fund supports local clubs



Home retrofit schemes fall under the remit



The Fund could help to build a playground

For more details on RESS funds, please refer to the Government's 'Good Practice Principles Handbook for Community Benefit Funds', which can be downloaded from www.knockshanvowindfarm.ie/community.

Annual rates contributions

It is anticipated that the proposed Knockshanvo Wind Farm will contribute

approximately €550,000 per annum to the local authority body. If the project is consented, the exact figure will be calculated by Clare County Council. This would have a positive impact on the development of local infrastructure and amenities such as roads, public lighting, street cleaning, libraries, fire services, public amenities and employment.

What does your community need?

Should the project receive a positive planning grant, the project team will carry out public consultation to establish a Community Benefit Fund Committee. This committee will be made up of local people with the assistance of an administrator, workshops and information sessions to ensure you get the most out of your fund.



Project Update

The design team have been refining the draft turbine layout, informed by ongoing site survey work.

These studies have resulted in minor modifications in some turbine positionings for the second draft design layout, shown in Figure 1 overleaf. More work has yet to be carried out before the layout is finalised.

Studies Update

- Noise monitoring is nearly complete and acoustics experts are assessing the data.
- Landscape and visual assessments are underway which will inform a series of photomontages.
- Site investigations; focus on environmental surveys and studies.

Contact Us

We welcome your comments and feedback. You can also email, call or text CLOs Kevin and Christy and ask to be kept up to date. For all information issued about the proposed Knockshanvo Wind Farm, including a list of FAQs and all previous newsletters, please visit www.knockshanvowindfarm.ie.

Community Liaison Officers

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