

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT



AUGUST 2025



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Report Objective

The purpose of this report is to set out the method by which Garrane Green Energy initiated and carried out meaningful community consultation and engagement in the geographical area surrounding the site of the proposed wind farm. This consultation process represents Garrane Green Energy's continued commitment to actively engage with the community, to place value on their contribution and involvement, and to ensure their views and queries are taken into consideration as plans for the proposed wind farm develop.

Community Engagement Guidelines

In relation to national guidance on community engagement and consultation for wind energy developments, the Wind Energy Development Guidelines (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2006) state that: "While it is not a mandatory requirement, it is strongly recommended that developers of a wind energy project should engage in active consultation and dialogue with the local community at an early stage in the planning process, ideally prior to submitting a planning application". The Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, 2019) build on this recommendation, and state that, "It is essential that local communities are properly involved in the planning process, as early inclusion improves confidence in the openness and fairness of the planning process". They further suggest that to promote best practice, "planning authorities should require applicants to prepare and submit a Community Report with their planning application" and that "a condition on any subsequent planning permission should require developers to carry out the development in accordance with the approved Community Report". Both the 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines and the 2019 Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines have been taken into consideration in the approach to community consultation.

Community Benefits

Garrane Green Energy is committed to creating a lasting and meaningful impact on the surrounding community for the lifetime of the project. Should planning permission be granted, we aim to contribute positively for over 35 years by working in partnership with local people, supporting community resources, and investing in long-term community assets. Our goal is to ensure that the benefits of this renewable energy project are shared and sustained well into the future.

- **Environmental:** Based on the current project scope, the proposed project has the potential to displace 46,500 tonnes of CO₂ per annum and provide the capacity to power approximately 30,000 homes with clean energy.
- **Employment:** The project will support employment in the energy supply and construction/maintenance sectors, creating approximately 60 direct and indirect jobs. The team is committed to working with local suppliers where possible to source engineering works, materials, equipment hire and catering.
- **Financial:** In line with the Community Benefit Fund Guidelines, governed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), and based on the current project scope, the proposed project will generate a Community Benefit Fund estimated at over €3.7 million over the first 15 years of operation. This amounts to approximately €250,000 per annum. Garrane Green Energy will work in partnership with residents in the local area to form a committee to oversee the administration of the Community Benefit Fund. The committee will be established once the project successfully completes the planning permission process and the necessary grid connection process. The value of the annual fund will be dependent upon energy production; a worked example of the community benefit fund is shown in Figure 3 below:

Description	% of Fund	Annual Amount
Initiatives and projects that support Sustainable Development Goals within the local area	40%	€100,000
Local clubs, societies and near neighbours	50%	€125,000 (shared between those closest to the project and the balance will be allocated to local clubs, societies and near neighbours within 2km of a turbine)
Administration	10% (Max)	€25,000

Figure 1 Worked example of the Community Benefit Fund allocation

Project Background

The proposed project consists of 9 turbines located in the townlands of Ballynagoul, Creggane and Garrane, Co. Limerick. The turbines have a maximum hub height of 95m and a maximum blade tip height of 170m. The Site is located 22.9 km south of Limerick City, 46.9 km north of Cork City and 2.5 km north of Charleville, Co. Cork.

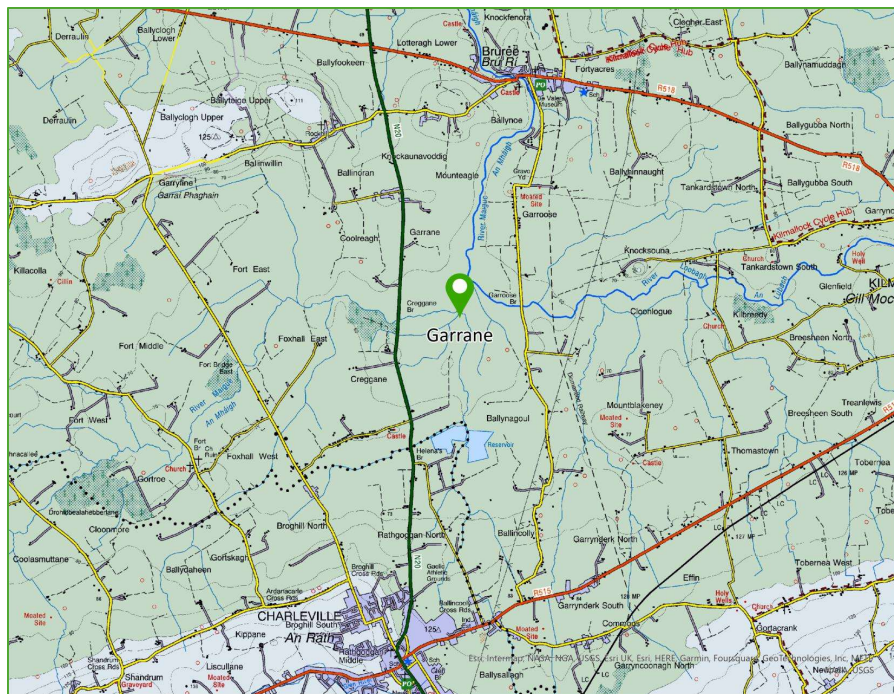


Figure 2 Proposed Project Area Map

Project Location

The project is located in an area deemed as preferred in the wind energy zoning in the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028.

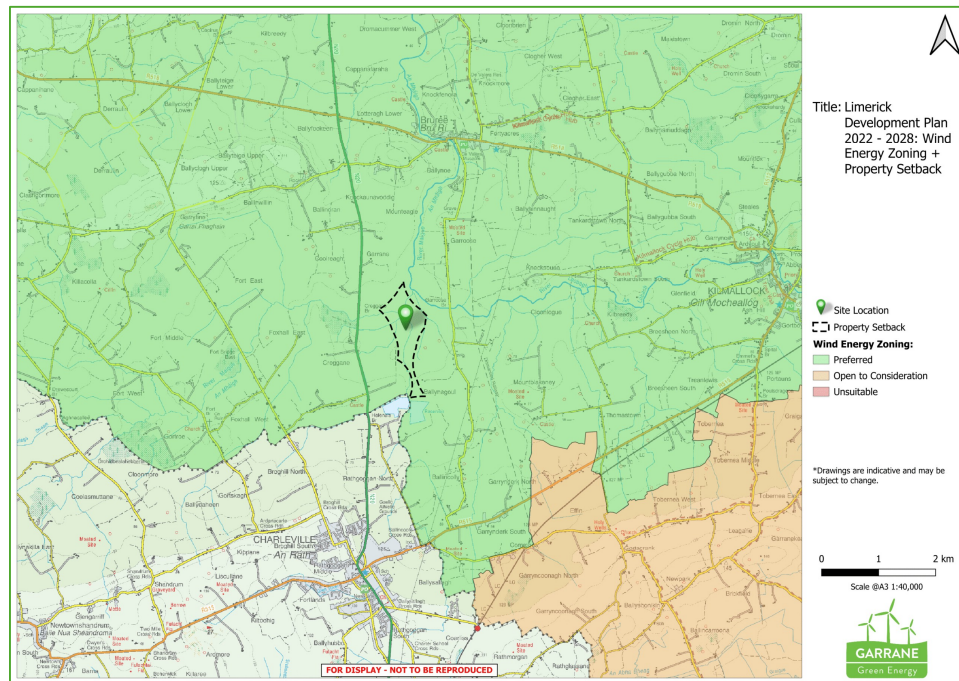


Figure 3 Limerick County Development & Proposed Site Location

Supporting the Limerick Climate Action Plan 2024–2029

The Limerick Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 sets out key actions that will support County Limerick in its transition to becoming a climate-resilient, biodiversity-rich, environmentally sustainable and climate-neutral economy by 2050.

Garrane Green Energy's proposal for nine turbines at Garrane, Charleville, and adjacent areas contributes directly to that vision by increasing renewable electricity generation and supporting county-wide emissions reduction targets.

Supporting the Limerick Development Plan 2022–2028

The Limerick Development Plan emphasises the transformation to a carbon-neutral, environmentally sustainable economy, positioning the city and county as a leader in green growth. The proposed project reinforces these objectives by offering local clean energy generation, reducing dependence on fossil fuels, and contributing to a lower-carbon future in the region.

Community Engagement Phases

Community Engagement was undertaken in three key phases as follows:

Phase One: Research

- **Housing Registrar:** Mapping of the area to identify houses within 2km of the project. Planning searches to include any new planning grants.
- **Electoral District:** Research was conducted to identify elected public representatives, including County Councillors, Government Ministers (TD's) that represent the local area.
- **Community Overview:** Using social media and online research, key community groups were identified, including schools, religious organisations, sports clubs, local charities, and businesses.

Phase Two: Engagement



Figure 4 Community Communication Phases

Our approach to community and stakeholder engagement aims to reach all community members at multiple touchpoints, from initial design stages through the pre-planning process and life span of the proposed development (i.e., construction, operation and decommissioning). Figure 3 provides a summary of the eight key communication channels used to build and maintain

relationships with the local community. We will review these channels and incorporate stakeholder feedback to optimise the engagement process, ensuring it continues to evolve and remains relevant throughout the proposed project's life cycle.


This eight-point interaction process aims to provide residents and other key stakeholders with multiple means of communication and numerous opportunities to share their feedback or discuss the proposed development with our community engagement team. Information on the proposed project is shared in various ways, including face-to-face meetings, video calls (upon request), phone or email contact, through the dedicated website, post/mail, or at the community clinics.

Phase Three: Review

At each stage of the engagement process, our team reviewed the feedback (suggestions, requests, etc.) from residents and community stakeholders to help inform/optimize the next step. This included publishing further details on topics on the frequently asked questions (FAQ) page on the Garrane Green Energy website, conducting additional one-to-one meetings or responding to telephone calls/queries. We also review all feedback received by residents via surveys.

FEEDBACK FORM

GARRANE GREEN ENERGY COMMUNITY CLINIC



Thank you for taking the time to review our proposal for the Garrane Green Energy project.

We would be grateful if you could contribute to our proposals by completing this questionnaire and letting us know your thoughts. Your feedback is important and will help us to finalise our proposals.

Please note: comments made to the prospective applicant via this feedback form are not representations to the planning authority. There will be an opportunity to make representations once a planning application has been submitted.

By filling in this form, you are agreeing that we can hold and process your personal data in relation to the Garrane community engagement process.

We will only use your personal data for planning evaluation purposes. Your identifiable, personal data will not be used for any other purposes without your consent.

1. Name (optional, leave blank if you prefer your input to remain anonymous)

2. Address/Eircode (optional, leave blank if you prefer your input to remain anonymous)

3. Please tick the option that best describes your interest in the proposal:

☐ I live close to the project

☐ I have business interests/work near the proposed wind farm

☐ Other (please describe below)

4. Do you support onshore wind as a form of renewable energy?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Neutral ☐ Don't know ☐

5. How did you hear about our community clinic?

☐ Website

☐ Letter received

☐ Word of mouth

☐ Other (please describe below)

6. Please share your thoughts on whether or not you support this project and why:

Please leave your completed form in the box provided, thank you.

www.garranegreenenergy.ie

Methodology

Garrane Green Energy strives for transparent and interactive engagement with the communities surrounding the proposed project. The aim is to develop a wind farm that will address the four pillars of sustainability: human, social, environmental, and economic.

Garrane Green Energy endeavours to develop these benefits in cooperation with local communities throughout the stages outlined in the table below.

TYPE	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	Planning Application Submission & Validation
Online	Website Launch	Website updates section added with e-resources and survey	Website update with notification of planning application	
Offline	Letter & Leaflet 1	Invitation to Community Clinic	Letter relating to planning application	
In-Person	Door to Door	Community Clinic	1-1 Meetings	
Press/ Advertising	Advert 1 in the Limerick Leader Newspaper	Advert 2: Notice of submission of planning application	Continued engagement with local press	
Print Materials	Leaflet 1	Leaflet 2	Copies of materials issued via post on request	
Community Engagement	Landowner meetings & calls to local representatives to introduce the project	Email and posted invitation to Community Clinic	Follow up on community feedback	

The Community Team

The Community Team is comprised of:

- Project Manager; Larry O'Halloran
- Community Liaison Officer (CLO): Nadine Walsh
- Project Co-Ordinator; Patrick McCoubrey
- Project Administrator; Claire Keane

Consultation Milestones

Below is a summary of Community Engagement milestones in 2025:

Date	Activity
22 April	Project Website Launched
22 April	Letter & Leaflet posted to each household within 2 km of the proposed project
22 April	Calls & emails to all local TD & Councillors
22 April	Advert posted in the Limerick Leader about public consultation
14-15 May	Visits to all households within 1 km of the proposed project
16 July	Community Clinics held in Charleville Park Hotel
August	Letter & Leaflet to residents within 1km advising of the submission of the planning application
Ongoing	Community consultation via phone, email & 1-1 meetings

Project Website Launch – www.garranegreenenergy.ie

The Project [website](http://www.garranegreenenergy.ie) was launched on the 22nd of April 2025. The purpose of the website is to provide the public and all stakeholders with an up-to-date platform on project information. The website includes maps of the proposed project location, relevant project information, education on wind energy, as well as a survey for community members to input their feedback about the project.

The website is updated regularly to ensure the community is kept informed as the project progresses. At the time of writing this report, the dedicated project website has received over 120 visitors.

Notification to TDs & Councillors

The project team reached out to local councillors, TDs, and other elected officials via phone calls, emails, and formal letters to provide comprehensive information about the project, its benefits, and the community consultation process. Consultation formally commenced on the 22nd of April, when we endeavoured to contact all local councillors and TDs via both email and phone. Garrane Green Energy remains fully committed to maintaining an open, ongoing, and constructive relationship with local representatives as the project progresses.

Phone Consultation

A dedicated telephone number (061 975 200) was opened during business hours of Monday to Friday from 9am – 5 pm for the community to discuss the proposed development with the Community Liaison Officer (CLO).

This telephone number is published on the website and it is included on all printed materials; this service remains open and is attended by the Garrane Green Energy Community Team.

Email Consultation

A dedicated email address, info@garranegreenenergy.ie, is managed and monitored daily by the project's community team. All emails received were responded to in a timely manner.

Individual Meetings

In-person consultations were offered to those seeking additional support or information.

Project Communications

Letters and leaflets were posted to all houses within 2 km of the project on the 22nd of April. Both the letter and leaflet outlined the project, specifically the project location, benefits, the community benefit fund, and how to engage with the Garrane Green Energy project team should they have any questions or concerns. Materials were circulated in the community and were made publicly available on the project website. Resources were also distributed directly during various phases of the public consultation process, including door-to-door engagement and at the community clinics. Printed copies of all materials were also available upon request, and the project's key information leaflet was sent by post to residents within a 2 km radius of the project area.



Garrane Green Energy
Station Road, Adare, Co. Limerick
Telephone: +353 (0)61 975200
Email: info@garranegreenenergy.ie

April 2025

Dear Resident,

I am writing to introduce myself as the Community Liaison Officer for Garrane Green Energy, a proposed wind energy project in your area. This proposed project is owned and managed by Greensource, an indigenous Irish firm with over two decades of experience in the development and management of renewable energy projects

Ireland faces a significant challenge as it transitions from a fossil fuel-based energy system to one powered by renewables. The Government's *Climate Action Plan 2025* identifies onshore wind as a key element in achieving this goal by enhancing clean electricity generation, meeting environmental targets, and ensuring energy security. We believe wind energy has a central role to play in Ireland's journey toward a low-carbon future.

We are pleased to begin consultation with you about our proposals for the Garrane Green Energy Project, which has the potential to deliver clean energy to the equivalent of 30,000 homes. The proposed project is a 9-turbine wind farm, on a site located in the townland of Garrane, Co. Limerick.

We recognise that communities neighbouring wind developments play a vital role in supporting the generation of green energy. As part of our community engagement process, we are committed to holding open and meaningful discussions with residents and interested parties. The feedback we receive will help shape and refine the project.

In line with Community Benefit Fund Guidelines, governed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), and based on the current project scope, Garrane Green Energy will generate a Community Benefit Fund estimated at €3.7 million over the first 15 years of operation. This amounts to approximately €250,000 per annum, which will be used to benefit key local projects and support wider investment in the community. There will be opportunities for you to join a new community committee to assist in the allocation of this Community Benefit Fund.

We have a dedicated team in place to ensure an open line of communication throughout the pre-planning process. You are welcome to contact us via phone, email, or by visiting our website: www.garranegreenenergy.ie. Over the coming weeks, our team will be visiting households to discuss the project in person. In the meantime, please find a leaflet enclosed with further information about our proposal.

We look forward to meeting with you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Nadine Walsh

Community Liaison Officer

Garrane Green Energy

www.garranegreenenergy.ie

Figure 5 Community Engagement Letter

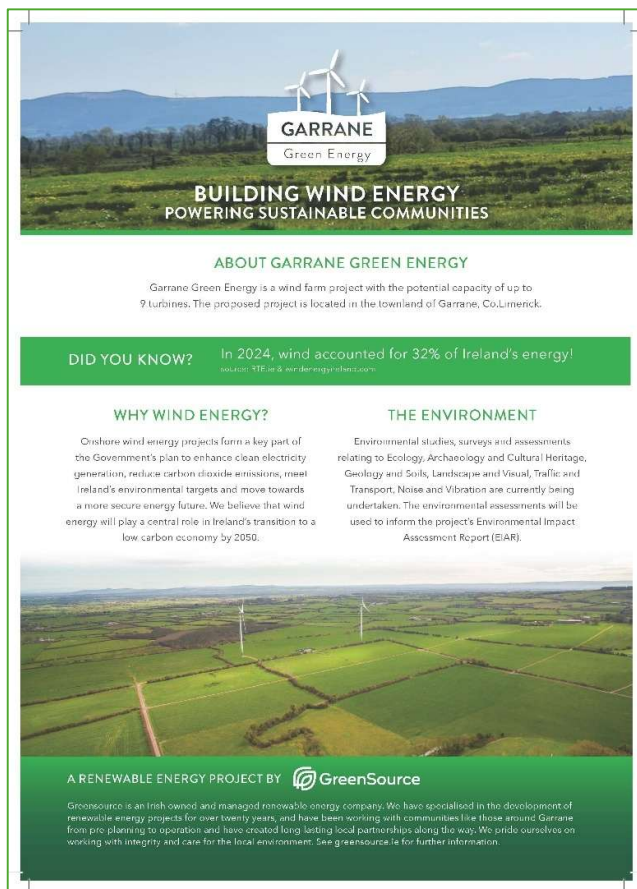


Figure 6 Community Leaflet – Front / Figure 7 Community Leaflet - Reverse

Notice of Public Consultation

On the 22nd of April 2025, an advertisement with notice of public consultation was placed in the Limerick Leader newspaper.

Figure 8 Community Advertisement in Local Newspaper >



Door-to-Door Visits

There are 31 dwellings within 1 kilometre of the Project, and the CLO and Project Co-Ordinator visited all of these dwellings. 13 of these residents met and engaged with us. When residents were unavailable to engage in consultation, they received a 'Sorry we missed you' letter, allowing them to arrange a consultation at a later date.

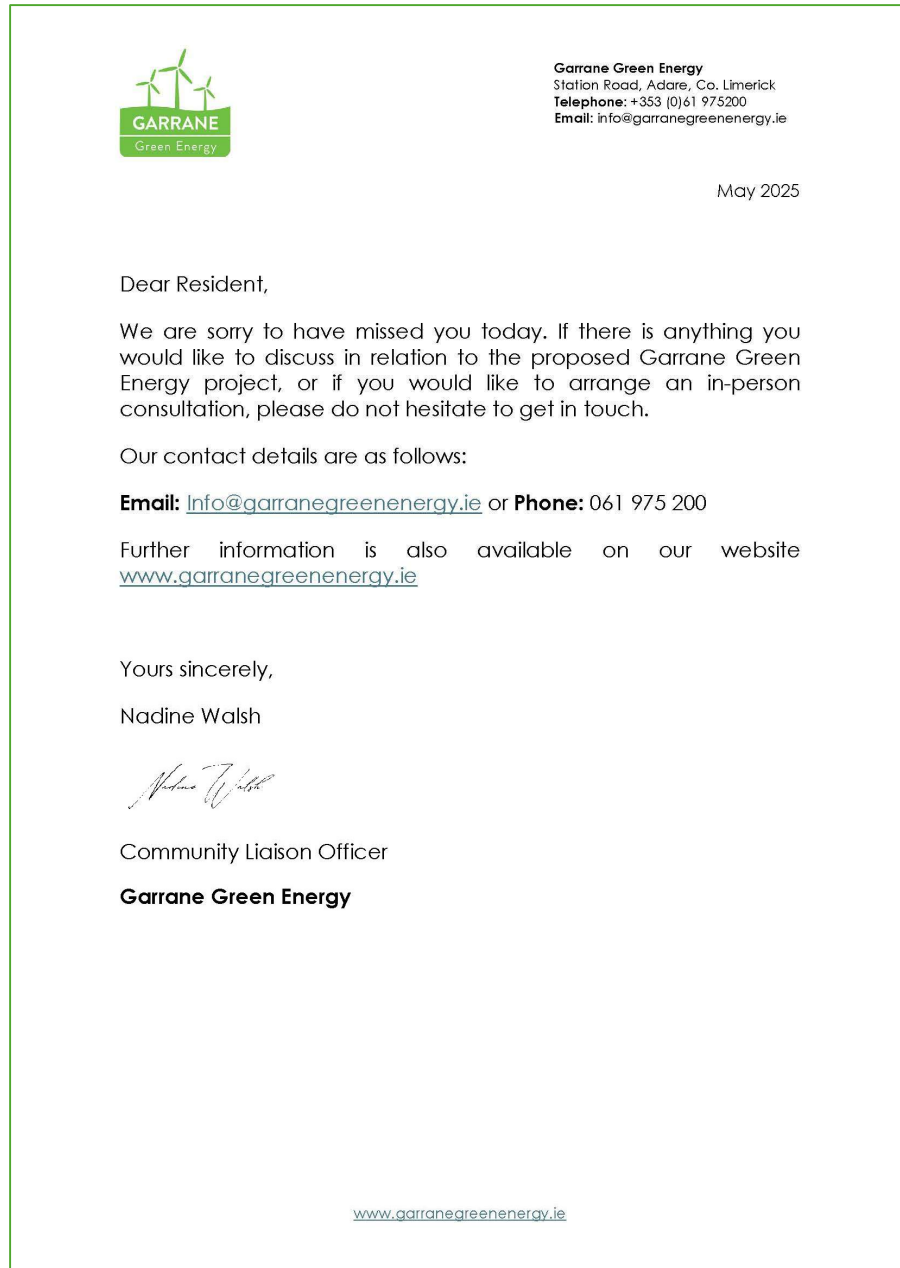


Figure 9 Community Letter - Call Back

Community Clinic Invitation Letter

A letter was issued to all houses within 1 kilometre of the site in July 2025 to invite residents to attend the community clinics. An update was also posted to the project website. Residents could book a slot in the clinic via post, email, phone and through the website's booking platform.



Figure 10 Community Clinic Invitation

Community Clinic

The community clinics were designed to allow for detailed, meaningful discussions between residents and our team. These one-to-one conversations provide an opportunity for residents to ask questions specific to their circumstances and receive personal responses, as well as learn the key project facts that are outlined on our website and leaflets.

The community clinic took place on the 16th of July in the Charleville Park Hotel. These clinics were facilitated by the Community Team comprising of the CLO, Project Manager, Project Co-Ordinator and Project Assistant. During these meetings, community members asked questions, raised concerns, and offered feedback on how the project could benefit the surrounding community. Information was available for community members to view, including mapping, along with details on noise, shadow flicker, and environmental topics.

All residents who chose to engage during this clinic were provided with a feedback form to review the project and share their opinions.



Figure 11 Community Clinic Set Up

Our community clinics replace the traditional “town hall” meeting. The community team feels this forum presents an opportunity for all voices to be heard, allows for questions, more meaningful engagement and helps to avoid situations where a small cohort of anti-wind voices dominate.



CONTACT US



How do I share my thoughts on the project?

Community consultation has been ongoing since April 2025. The dedicated community team is available to discuss the project details. Further information is available on the Garrane Green Energy project website and can be issued by post or email by request.

 CALL
061 975 200
 EMAIL
info@garranegreenenergy.ie
 WEB
www.garranegreenenergy.ie





KEY FACTS & Frequently Asked Questions



The proposed project is a 9-turbine wind farm, with a maximum hub height of 95m and a blade tip height of 170m. The proposed project is located in the townlands of Garrane, Creggane and Ballynagoul, Co. Limerick.

Benefits of the proposed project

- Environmental:** Based on the current project scope, the proposed development has the potential to displace over 53,000 tonnes of CO₂ each year and provide the capacity to power in the region of 30,000 homes.
- Employment:** The development will support employment in the energy supply and construction/ maintenance sectors, creating approximately 60 direct and indirect jobs. The team is committed to working with local suppliers where possible to source engineering works, materials, equipment hire and catering.
- Community:** In line with the Community Benefit Fund Guidelines, governed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), and based on the current project scope, the development will generate a Community Benefit Fund estimated at €3.7 million over the first 15 years of operation. This amounts to approximately €250,000 per annum. Garrane Green Energy will work in partnership with residents in the local area to form a committee to oversee the administration of the Community Benefit Fund.

Why choose this location?

The site was selected following extensive local examination, taking into account the proximity to residential properties, natural heritage, landscape and visual impacts, archaeology, hydrology, and many other considerations. The site is zoned as a 'preferred' area in the Limerick County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 for wind energy development.

Will this cause traffic issues in my area?

A traffic analysis has been undertaken and minimising traffic and transport interruption has been paramount in the design of the project. A construction traffic management plan will be submitted with the planning application.

What about noise?

The proposed project will fully comply with national regulations on noise, and once operational, a comprehensive noise monitoring regime will be undertaken to ensure the proposed development complies with regulations.

Health & Wellbeing

There is no evidence that wind farms cause negative health impacts (World-Health Organisation, 2018; Department of Health). In fact, wind energy helps us to replace fossil fuels, reducing harmful emissions, and ensuring cleaner air!

What is the setback from houses?

The distance between a dwelling and a turbine will be greater than four times the overall turbine tip height in line with the Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines (2019), resulting in a minimum distance of 680 metres (170 metres* 4). This is an increased distance in comparison with the 2006 Guidelines (which is a minimum of 500 metres).

What about shadow flicker?

In line with recommendations of the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019), Garrane Green Energy has committed to eliminate shadow flicker at dwellings or local amenities which will be detailed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) chapter in the submitted planning application.

Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

Garrane Green Energy is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) as part of the planning application. This report will address potential environmental impacts and includes a habitat management plan with enhancement measures which will result in a net gain for biodiversity.

All of the key facts stated above and further details of the project will be available to view within the EIAR for the project on An Coimisiún Pleanála's website.

www.garranegreenenergy.ie

Figure 12 Leaflet 2 - Frequently Asked Questions

Virtual Consultations

When in-person meetings were not feasible, virtual consultations were offered to community members via Microsoft Teams. This approach enabled the community team to accommodate individuals seeking engagement by providing appointments at convenient times and dates for them, where possible. Virtual consultations remained a consistent feature throughout the engagement process and will continue to be available to ensure inclusivity and responsiveness to all community members.

Key Issues Raised During Consultation

Feedback on Shadow Flicker

In line with recommendations of the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019), Garrane Green Energy has committed to eliminate adverse shadow flicker at dwellings or local amenities which will be detailed in the relevant Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) chapter in the submitted planning application.

Feedback on Proximity and Setback Distances

The team explained that the distance between a dwelling and a turbine will be greater than four times the overall turbine tip height in line with the Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines (2019), resulting in a minimum distance of 680 metres ($170 \text{ metres} \times 4$). This is an increased distance in comparison with the 2006 Guidelines (which is a minimum of 500 metres).

Feedback on Visuals

During the community clinics, residents were offered personalised distance checks from the nearest turbine to their homes to help them clearly understand the exact location and proximity of the proposed project. Additionally, a detailed turbine layout map was presented, featuring key measurement indicators such as setback distances and site boundaries. This information was provided to ensure transparency and to help the community visualise the project's scale and impact more effectively.

Feedback on Location

Some residents questioned why the proposed project is planned onshore rather than offshore. In response, we explained that the project site is located within an area designated as preferred for wind energy development in the Limerick Development Plan, reflecting careful land-use planning and environmental considerations. We also emphasised that Ireland's climate action goals require a balanced mix of both onshore and offshore wind energy projects. While offshore wind offers significant potential, onshore wind farms remain a vital part of the renewable energy portfolio needed to meet the country's ambitious 2030 carbon emissions reduction targets.

Sentiment Analysis

As part of our community engagement efforts, we conducted a sentiment analysis based on feedback received during our recent door-to-door consultations regarding the proposed renewable energy project. Residents' responses were categorised as positive, negative, or neutral. Of those we spoke with, 38% (5 residents) expressed a positive outlook on the project, 47% (6 residents) were opposed, and 15% (2 residents) held a neutral stance. This analysis helps us better understand local perspectives and informs our ongoing efforts to address concerns and provide clear, transparent information about the development.

The findings of the sentiment analysis are contained in the table below:

Positive	Negative	Neutral
38%	47%	15%
5 residents	6 residents	2 Residents

Local Action Group

In late July 2025, a Facebook page under the name of 'Bruree Charleville Effin Wind Farm Action Group' was created. At the time of writing this report, the page has 107 followers. The group has not yet reached out to the Garrane Green Energy community team to discuss their concerns directly. We would welcome the opportunity to engage in open and constructive dialogue, address any questions, and provide further information about the proposed project. Our goal is to ensure that the community is fully informed and that local voices are heard as part of the ongoing development process.

The group recently took out an advertisement in local newspapers, urging members of the public to engage on the Garrane Wind Farm project. While we respect the group's right to express their views, we believe that open conversation is essential and remain available to engage directly with the community to discuss any concerns or questions they may have. We have not seen an increase in engagement following the publication of advertisement.



Figure 14 Facebook Post on the Opposition Group's Facebook Page



Figure 13 - Opposition Group Advertisement in the Vale Star Newspaper

Climate Change & The Need for Renewable Energy

Ireland has set ambitious renewable energy targets as part of its national and international commitments to address climate change and transition to a low-carbon future. Under the Climate Action Plan, National Energy and Climate Plan, and obligations under the EU Green Deal, Ireland aims to generate at least 80% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030, with a legally binding commitment to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. These targets are not only climate-driven but are also essential for energy security, economic resilience, and environmental protection. The need for such a transition is increasingly urgent, as Ireland is already experiencing the effects of climate change through more frequent extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and biodiversity loss.

To achieve these national goals, the development of new renewable energy infrastructure is vital. Projects like the proposed Garrane Green Energy project play a central role in enabling this shift by providing locally generated, zero-carbon electricity, reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels, and helping to stabilise long-term energy costs for consumers. Wind energy is one of Ireland's most abundant natural resources, and fully utilising it supports a just transition that benefits both the environment and local communities. In addition to cutting emissions, the proposed Garrane Green Energy project also offers potential for community investment, local job creation, and a significant community benefit fund, reinforcing the idea that renewable energy developments can bring shared value and long-term sustainability.



Figure 15 Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2025

Summary

This report outlines Garrane Green Energy's approach to community engagement for its proposed project in Garrane and surrounding areas in Co. Limerick. The project consists of nine turbines and aligns with both the Limerick Development Plan 2022–2028 and the Limerick Climate Action Plan 2024–2029, supporting our country's goals of reducing emissions, promoting renewable energy, and transitioning to a low-carbon economy.

Garrane Green Energy follows best practice principles set out by Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) to ensure its approach to community consultation is open, transparent, and respectful. These principles emphasise early and meaningful engagement, where residents are informed and included from the outset of project development. The project team also worked to listen actively to concerns, offer technical details in accessible formats, and highlight both environmental and community benefits. This approach reflects WEI's standard of promoting trust, collaboration, and shared value between renewable energy developers and local communities. This included launching a dedicated website (April 2025), distributing letters and leaflets to households within 2 km of the site, placing newspaper ads, contacting local elected representatives, conducting door-to-door visits to households within 1 km, and hosting a community clinic in July 2025 at the Charleville Park Hotel.

Despite extensive outreach, community participation was limited. 13 of 31 nearby households participated in door-to-door consultations, and the website survey and feedback forms received no responses.

Garrane Green Energy remains open to meaningful engagement with all community members as the planning process continues.

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