

Appendix 1C

Community Engagement Report

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT



SEPTEMBER 2025



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Report Objective

The purpose of this report is to set out the method in which Ballinlee 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 Ballinlee 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 were taken into consideration as plans for the proposed wind farm developed.

Community Engagement Guidelines

Wind energy developments are subject to both statutory requirements and best practice guidance for community engagement. Wind Energy Ireland have set out best practice guidance for community engagement that advocates for meaningful consultation throughout the pre-planning, planning, construction, and operational phases. This includes the creation of a project website, appointment of a community liaison officer and the implementation of door-to-door visits. This follows on through the operation phase, where it's recommended to update the project website with up-to-date information on the project, as well as the continued engagement with the community.

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 development of the approach to community consultation.

The community engagement strategy also incorporates learnings from the publication on the Wind Energy Ireland website – the 'Good Neighbour IWEA Best Practice Principles in Community Engagement & Community Commitment'. Ballinlee Green Energy has abided by the direction set out in the handbook where it states *'IWEA members will continue to commit to full, open and transparent dialogue with local communities around proposed wind farm projects, including promoting at an early stage the company policy on local benefits and opportunities for public participation, so that local residents and the wider community are informed regarding the development of the proposals and have an opportunity to comment on their development.'*

The Community Team

The Community Team comprises;

- Project Manager; Harry Harbison
- Community Liaison Officer (CLO): Nadine Walsh
- Project Co-Ordinator; Patrick McCoubrey, and
- Project Administrator; Claire Keane.

Nadine Walsh responded to all queries via face-to-face interactions, as well as phone and email communications with the community residents.

The CLO and Project Manager were available at the Community Clinics and for individual appointments.

Project Background

The proposed project is a wind farm with seventeen wind turbines, located on a site spanning the townlands of Ballincurra, Ballinlee South, Ballingayrou, Ballinlea, Knockuregare, Ballinlee North, Carrigeen and Camas South approximately 18km south of Limerick City and 3km southwest of Bruff, Co. Limerick. 16 of the 17 wind turbines are composed of a tower with a maximum height of 92 meters and a maximum rotor diameter of 136 meters, resulting in an overall maximum tip height (blade in the vertical position) of 160 meters. 1 turbine has a tower with a maximum height of 82 meters and a maximum rotor diameter of 136 meters, resulting in an overall maximum tip height of 150 meters.

Once operational, the proposed project will be capable of providing an expected Maximum Export Capacity (MEC) of approximately 76 Megawatts (MW) of renewable electricity to the National Grid.

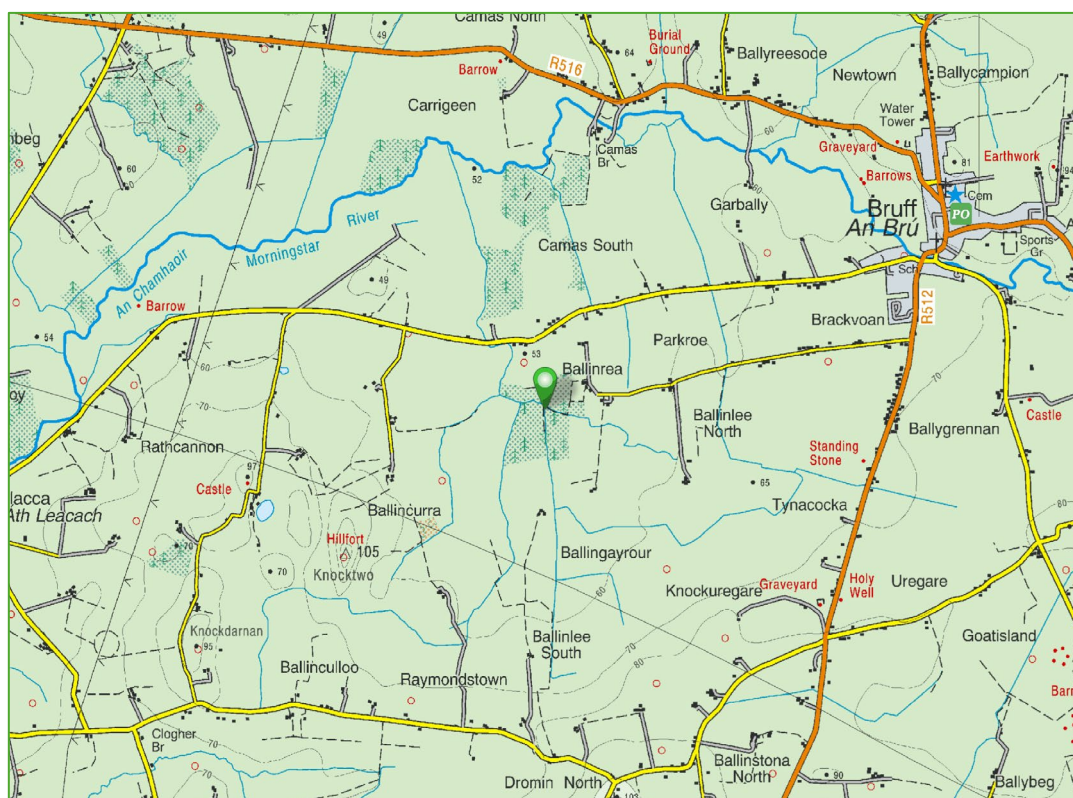


Figure 1 Proposed Project Area Map

Site Designation

The proposed wind farm is located on a site which has been designated as a *preferred area for wind energy development* by Limerick City and County Council as part of the Limerick Development Plan 2022– 2028 in line with current national policy and favourable conditions for wind energy generation.

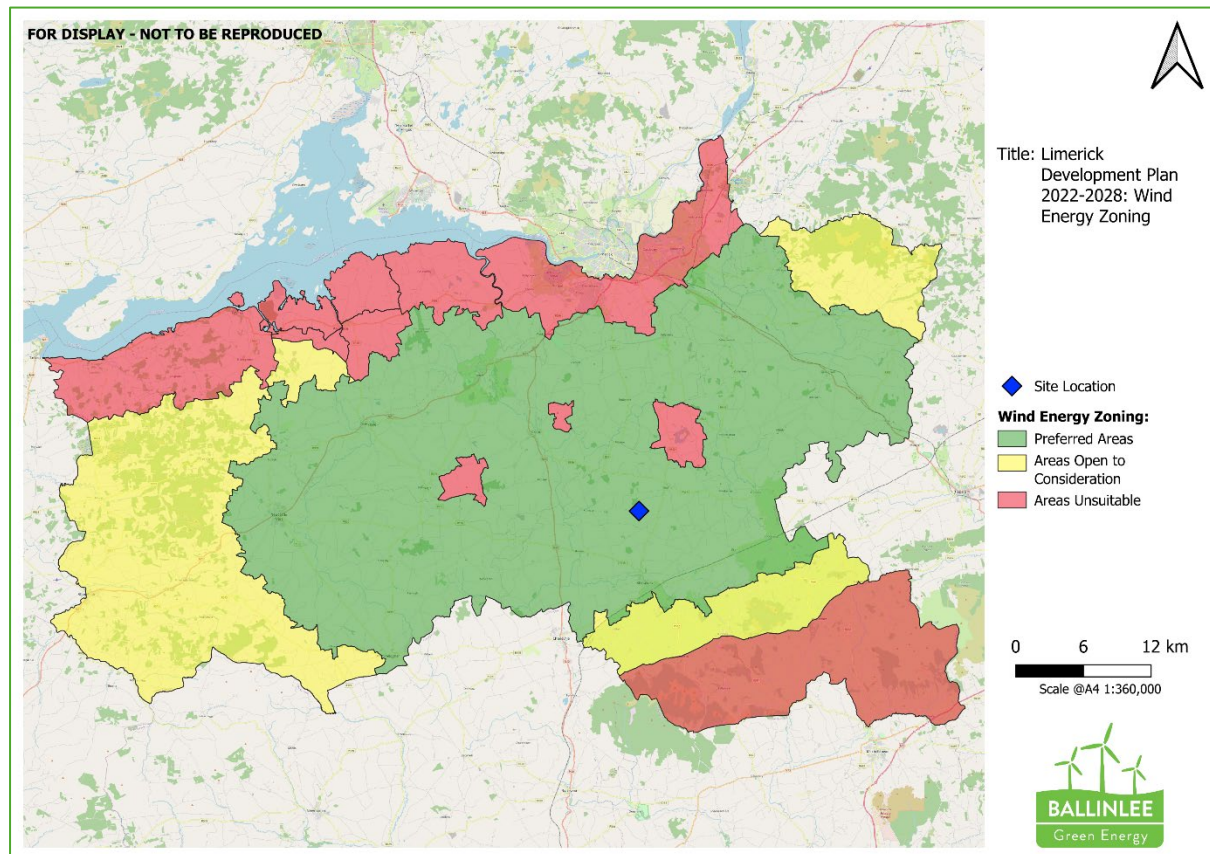


Figure 2 Limerick Development Plan Wind Energy Zoning

Supporting the Limerick Climate Action Plan 2024–2029

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

Ballinlee Green Energy's proposal for seventeen wind turbines near Ballinlee and the surrounding areas contributes directly to that vision by:

- **Expanding renewable electricity generation:** The project will provide a significant source of clean, locally generated electricity, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and directly supporting the Plan's objective of decarbonising the energy sector.
- **Lowering greenhouse gas emissions:** By displacing carbon-intensive electricity from non-renewable sources, the project will help Limerick meet its county-wide emissions reduction targets in line with national and EU climate obligations.
- **Enhancing energy security and resilience:** Locally generated renewable energy reduces dependence on imported fuels, creating a more secure and resilient energy supply for the county.
- **Supporting a just transition and green economy:** Construction and ongoing operation of the wind farm will create local employment opportunities and contribute to the development of skills in renewable energy, aligning with the Plan's goals to foster a climate-smart economy.
- **Community and environmental benefits:** Through a dedicated community benefit fund, Ballinlee Green Energy will support local sustainability initiatives, in keeping with the Plan's aim to deliver climate action that is inclusive and community focused.
- **Future-proofing infrastructure:** Large-scale renewable projects such as Ballinlee Green Energy will position Limerick to meet long-term 2050 targets while also delivering measurable progress within the 2024–2029 timeframe.

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:

- **Delivering local clean energy generation:** Seventeen modern wind turbines will supply a significant volume of renewable electricity, helping to decarbonise Limerick's energy system in line with the Plan's targets.
- **Reducing reliance on fossil fuels:** By displacing carbon-intensive energy sources, the project will contribute directly to lowering emissions and supporting the county's transition to a low-carbon future.
- **Aligning with strategic policies on climate action:** The Development Plan calls for investment in renewable energy infrastructure and the promotion of sustainable communities; the proposed project addresses both priorities.
- **Supporting rural development and resilience:** The location of the project will bring investment, employment, and community benefit funding to rural areas, consistent with the Plan's goal of balanced regional development.
- **Enhancing Limerick's role as a leader in green growth:** Large-scale renewable projects such as this position the county at the forefront of Ireland's clean energy transition, reinforcing its reputation as a place for sustainable innovation.
- **Contributing to long-term strategic vision:** By aligning with national and regional climate commitments, the project ensures that Limerick is well placed to meet its 2028 and 2050 decarbonisation objectives.

Community Benefits

Ballinlee Green Energy is committed to creating a positive lasting and meaningful impact on the community surrounding the proposed 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 proposed project are shared and sustained well into the future.

- **Environmental:** Based on the current project scope, the proposed project has the potential to displace approximately 75,000 tonnes of CO₂ per annum and provide the capacity to power approximately 42,000 homes with clean energy.
- **Employment:** The project will support employment in the energy supply and construction/maintenance sectors, creating approximately 80 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, Ballinlee Green Energy will generate a Community Benefit Fund estimated at over €5 million over the first 15 years of operation. This amounts to approximately €350,000 per annum. Ballinlee 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	40 %	€140,000
Local Clubs, societies and near neighbours	50 %	€175,000
Administration	10% (Max)	€35,000

Figure 3 Community Benefit Fund Table

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 1km.
- **Electoral District:** Research was conducted to identify locally elected public representatives, including County Councillors, Government Ministers (TD's).
- **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

Our approach to community and stakeholder engagement aims to reach all community members at multiple touchpoints, from pre-planning through the life span of the proposed project (i.e. construction, operation and decommissioning). Figure 4 provides a summary of the key communication channels used to build and maintain relationships. We review these channels and incorporate community feedback to optimise the engagement process, ensuring it continues to evolve and remain relevant throughout the project's life cycle. This 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 project with the Community Team. Information on the proposed project is shared in various ways, including face-to-face meetings, video calls, phone or email contact, through the dedicated website, post or at the Community Clinics.

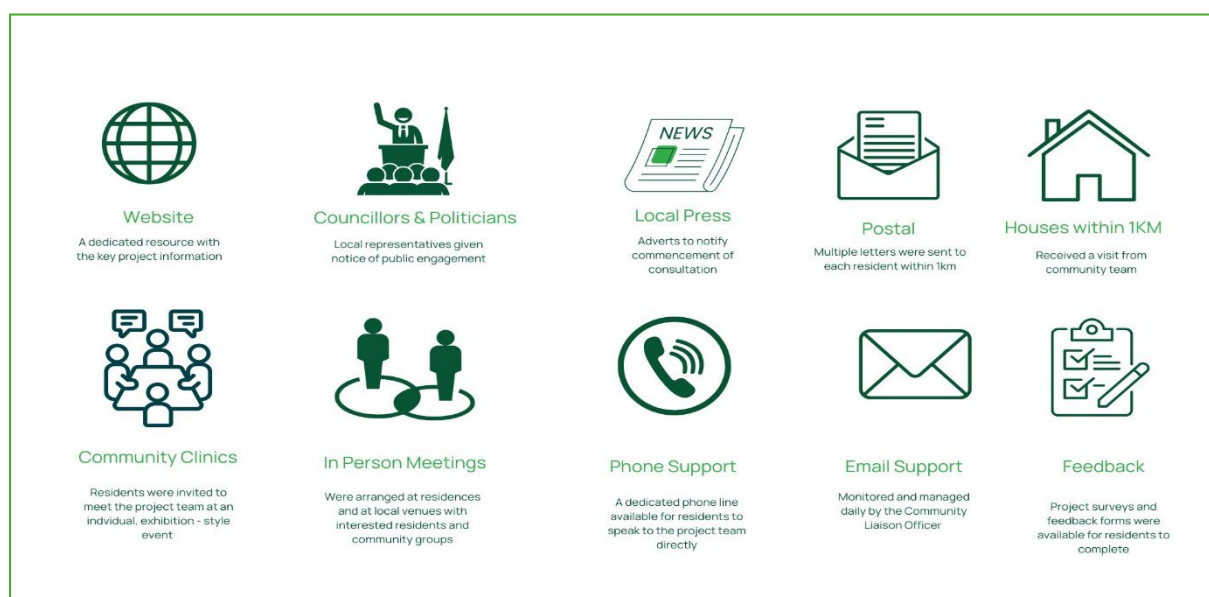


Figure 4 Summary of Community Interaction Points

Phase Three: Review

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

Methodology

Ballinlee Green Energy strives for transparent and interactive engagement with the communities surrounding the proposed project. The aim is to address the four pillars of sustainability: human, social, environmental, and economic.

The proposed Ballinlee Green Energy project could support these pillars by

- Providing clean energy that reduces pollution **(Environmental)**
- Creating jobs and economic opportunities **(Economic)**
- Fostering community development and energy access **(Social)**
- Contributing to a healthier, more secure future for communities and the natural world **(Human)**.

Ballinlee 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
Online	Website Launch	Website updates section added with e-resources & 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 Clinics	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 (Figure 11)	Leaflet 2 (Figure 12)	Community Q & A (Appendix 1)
Community Engagement	Calls and emails to local representatives to introduce the project	Statements to press, community groups, and interaction with representatives	Follow up on community feedback

Figure 5 Community Engagement Methodology

Community Engagement Milestones

Below is a summary of Community Engagement milestones:

Date	Description of Activity
23 May	Project Website Launched www.ballinleegreenenergy.ie with contact details for the Community Team.
28 May	Advertisement published in the Limerick Leader newspaper announcing the commencement of community engagement.
30 May	All local representatives, including TDs and Councillors, were contacted in relation to the project proposals via phone and email.
30 May	Letter and Leaflet posted to households within 1km of the project.
17 th – 19 th June	Door-to-door visits to all residents within 1km of the project.
June & July	Additional in-person consultation at residences by request.
6 th August	Invitation to Community Consultation Clinics posted to all households within 1km of the project.
26 th & 27 th August	Community Consultation Clinics held by appointment in the Deeberth Hotel, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.
18 th September	Second Round of Community Consultation Clinics held by appointment in the Deeberth Hotel.
Ongoing	Engagement with residents, community groups and local representatives in person, and via phone and email

Figure 6 Community Engagement Milestones

Project Website Launch – www.ballinleegreenenergy.ie

The project [website](http://www.ballinleegreenenergy.ie) was launched on the 23rd of May 2025 and to date has received over 1,300 visitors. The website includes maps of the proposed project location, relevant project information, education on wind energy, and a survey for community members to input their feedback about the project. This survey received nine responses throughout the engagement process. As the project progressed, the website was updated with key project milestones.

Project Survey

The [Ballinlee Green Energy Project Survey](#) is a short online questionnaire designed to gather local feedback on the proposed project. It invites participants to share their thoughts on the project, suggest how the Community Benefit Fund should be used, and indicate whether they would be interested in joining the committee that oversees the fund. The survey aims to promote community engagement, ensure local voices are heard in shaping

benefits, and build transparency around how the project contributes to the area.

Several survey submissions cited concerns relating to proximity to homes, property devaluation, noise, shadow flicker, issues for children with special needs and multiple suggestions to put the project offshore or elsewhere. Unfortunately, some survey submissions contained strong language and profanity, reflecting a strong opposition among some of the respondents. The project survey aims to provide a forum for constructive feedback from the community; regrettably, in this instance, it was not used as such. Some of the responses used hostile or offensive language aimed at the project team and in some instances, wind energy itself. The tone of these submissions highlighted a key challenge for meaningful dialogue with a minor cohort of the community.

The survey asked respondents to describe, on a level of one to five, how concerned they were about climate change.

The results are illustrated below.

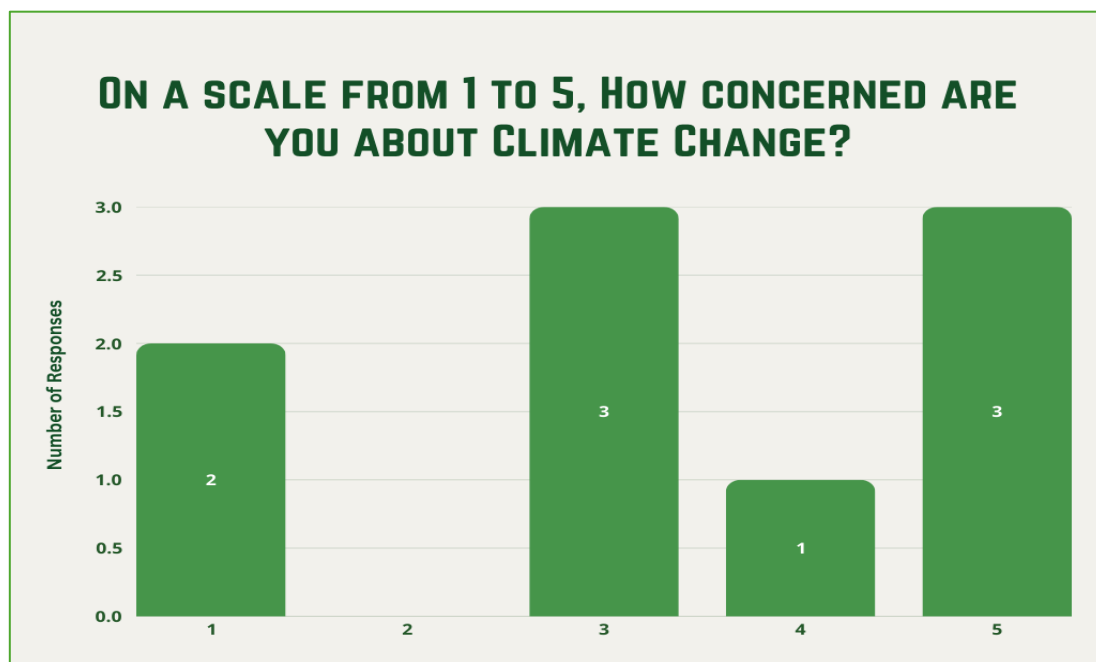


Figure 7 Project Survey Question - Climate Change

The survey asked respondents if they would be interested in a tour of an operational wind farm. The majority said “No”.

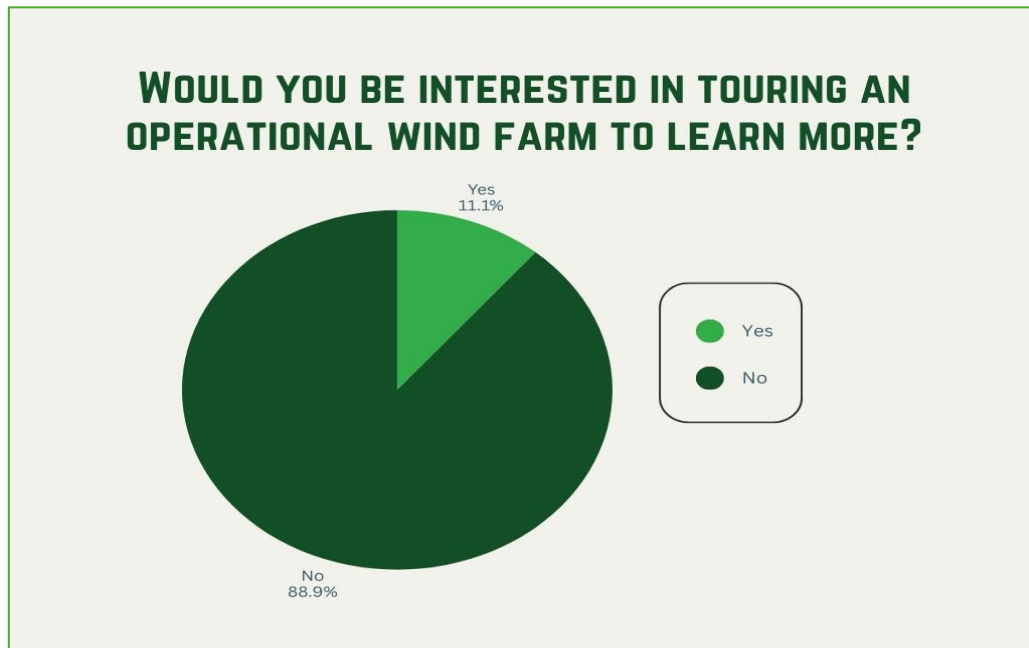


Figure 8 Project Survey Question - Wind Farm Tour

The survey asked respondents if they would like to be notified of project updates.

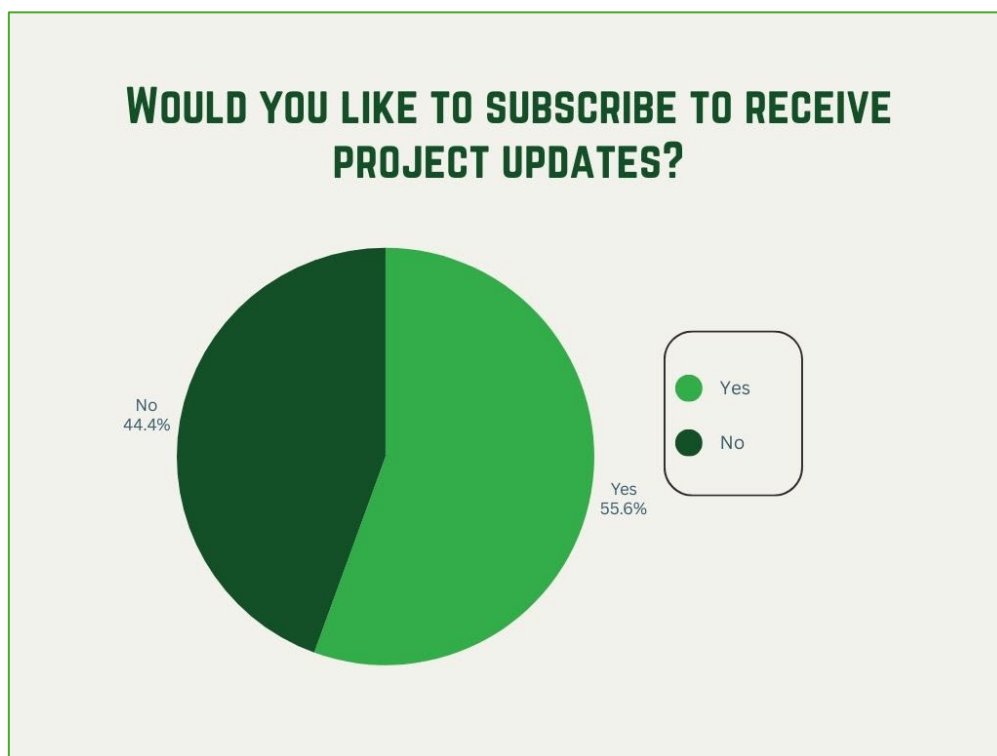


Figure 9 Project Survey Question - Project Updates

Those that responded Yes, were emailed accordingly.

Notification to TDs & Councillors

As noted in Figure 5, in May 2025 the project team reached out to Local Councillors, TDs, and other elected officials via phone calls and emails to provide information about the project, its benefits, and the community consultation process.

Ballinlee Green Energy remains fully committed to maintaining an open, ongoing, and constructive relationship with local representatives as the project progresses.

Project Letter and Leaflet

On the 30th of May 2025, letters and leaflets were posted to all houses within 1 kilometre of the project. Both the letter and the leaflet outlined the key details of the project, specifically the project location, benefits and the community benefit fund, as well as offering further consultation to the community.



Ballinlee Green Energy
Station Road, Adare, Limerick
Telephone: +353 (0)61 975 200
Email: info@ballinleegreenenergy.ie

May, 2025

Dear Resident,

I am writing to introduce myself as the Community Liaison Officer for Ballinlee 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 Ballinlee Green Energy project, which has the potential to deliver clean energy to the equivalent of 42,000 homes. The proposed project features up to 17-turbine wind farm, on a site located in the townlands of Ballincorra, Ballinlee South, Ballingayrour, Ballinrea, Knockuregare, Ballinlee North, Carrigeen and Camas South.

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, Ballinlee Green Energy will generate a Community Benefit Fund estimated at €5.2 million over the first 15 years of operation. This amounts to approximately €350,000 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 in the future.

We have a dedicated team in place to provide a direct line of communication for you and all residents to engage with us throughout the pre-planning process. You can contact us via phone, email, or visit our website: www.ballinleegreenenergy.ie. Over the next few weeks, our team will be going door to door to discuss the project with you in person, should you wish. In the interim, please find a leaflet enclosed with further information in relation to our proposed project.

We look forward to meeting with you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Nadine Walsh

Community Liaison Officer

Ballinlee Green Energy

Please note: Our Community Team is happy to assist with any project-related queries and is committed to providing helpful, respectful, and timely support. We kindly ask that all communications remain courteous and respectful. The Ballinlee Green Energy community team reserve the right to refrain from further correspondence in cases that violates our code of respectful engagement.

Further information is available on: www.ballinleegreenenergy.ie

Figure 10 Community Letter



BUILDING WIND ENERGY POWERING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

ABOUT BALLINLEE GREEN ENERGY

Ballinlee Green Energy is a wind farm project with the potential for up to 17 turbines. The proposed project is located in the townlands of Ballinlee, Ballinacurra, and Camas South, Co. Limerick.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 2024, wind accounted for 32% of Ireland's energy!
source: RTE.ie & windenergyireland.com

WHY WIND ENERGY?

Onshore wind energy projects form a key part of the Government's plan to enhance clean electricity generation, reduce carbon dioxide emissions, meet Ireland's environmental targets and move towards a more secure energy future. We believe that wind energy will play a central role in Ireland's transition to a low-carbon economy by 2050.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental studies, surveys and assessments relating to Ecology, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, Geology and Soils, Landscape and Visual, Traffic and Transport, Noise and Vibration are currently being undertaken. The environmental assessments will be used to inform the project's Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA) which will be submitted as part of the planning application.



A RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT BY  **GreenSource**

GreenSource is an Irish owned and managed renewable energy company. We have specialised in the development of renewable energy projects for over twenty years, and have been working with communities like those around Ballinlee from pre-planning to operation and have created long-lasting local partnerships along the way. We pride ourselves on working with integrity and care for the local environment. See [greensource.ie](https://www.greensource.ie) for further information.

PROJECT BENEFITS

This project has the potential to:



GENERATE UP TO €350,000 IN COMMUNITY FUNDING TO THE LOCAL AREA EACH YEAR



CREATE OVER 80 JOBS, WORKING WITH LOCAL SUPPLIERS WHERE POSSIBLE



PROVIDE CLEAN POWER FOR UP TO 42,000 HOMES

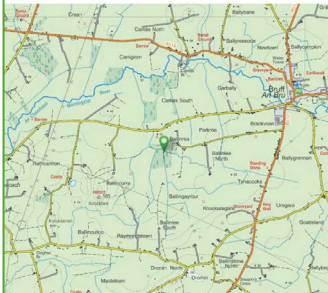


OFFSET CARBON EMISSIONS BY APPROXIMATELY 75,000 TONNES

Description	% of Fund	Annual Amount
Initiatives and projects that support Sustainable Development Goals within the local area	40%	€140,000
Local clubs, societies and near neighbours	50%	€175,000 (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)	€35,000

THE COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

In line with Community Benefit Fund Guidelines, governed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), and based on the current project scope, Ballinlee Green Energy will generate a Community Benefit Fund estimated at over €5 million over the first 15 years of operation. This amounts to approximately €350,000 per annum. The fund will be administered by a locally elected committee. There will be opportunities for you to join a new community committee to assist in the allocation of this Community Benefit Fund.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We are currently at the community engagement phase of the project. Here is where we will engage directly with the local community to gather feedback on the proposed project. You will receive updates on the project via post or you can visit the project's dedicated website. The proposed site location is indicated on the map to the left. To share your feedback, please visit our website and complete the survey.

We are here



LET'S DISCUSS

Our dedicated community team are available to discuss the project with you. Should you wish to arrange a personal consultation, please feel free to contact us:



061 975 200
info@ballinleegreenenergy.ie
www.ballinleegreenenergy.ie

SCAN ME



Figure 11 Community Leaflet 1



CONTACT US



How do I share my thoughts on the project?

Community consultation has been ongoing since March 2025. The dedicated community team is available to discuss the project details. All information on the project is available on the Ballinlee Green Energy website. Information can also be issued by post or email upon request.

CALL
061 975 200

EMAIL
info@ballinleegreenenergy.ie

WEB
www.ballinleegreenenergy.ie

Planning Application

The planning application for the proposed Ballinlee Green Energy wind farm will be submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

Details of the application, including environmental assessments and project specifications, will be available for public viewing via An Coimisiún Pleanála's website and a dedicated project application website:

www.ballinleegreenenergyplanning.ie

We encourage you to review these documents and we welcome any questions or feedback you may have.



KEY FACTS & Frequently Asked Questions



The proposed project is a 17-turbine wind farm, with a maximum hub height of 92m and a blade tip height of 160m. The proposed development is located in the townlands of Ballincurra, Ballinlee South, Ballingayrour, Ballinrea, Knockuregare, Ballinlee North, Carrigeen and Camas South.

Benefits of the proposed project

- Environmental:** In total, it is estimated that over three million tonnes of CO₂ will be displaced over the proposed 35 year lifetime of the wind farm. This equates to over 75,000 tonnes of CO₂ per annum, and the project has the potential to provide power to approximately 42,000 homes.
- Employment:** The development will support employment in the energy supply and construction/ maintenance sectors, creating approximately 80 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 €5 million over the first 15 years of operation. This amounts to approximately €350,000 per annum. Ballinlee 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.

Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

Ballinlee 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.

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 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. This will be implemented following consultation with Limerick County Council and other key stakeholders.

What is the setback distance 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 640 metres (160 metres x 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), Ballinlee Green Energy will eliminate shadow flicker at dwellings as detailed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) 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 and reporting program will be implemented to ensure the proposed project 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.

All of the key facts stated above, and further details of the project will be available to view within the EIAR for the proposed development, available on the Ballinlee Green Energy planning application website and on An Coimisiún Pleanála's website.

www.ballinleegreenenergy.ie

Figure 12 Community Leaflet 2

After distributing letters and leaflets to the local community regarding the project, the team received several emails and phone calls from residents. The Project Manager and Community Liaison Officer responded to all correspondence promptly and ensured that each query was addressed in a timely manner.

Notice of Public Consultation

On the 30th of May 2025, an advertisement with notice of public consultation was placed in the Limerick Leader newspaper.



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION NOTICE

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Ballinlee Green Energy is a wind farm project with the potential for up to 17 turbines. The proposed project is located in the townlands of Ballinlee, Ballinacurra, and Camas South, Co. Limerick.

PROJECT BENEFITS

The proposed project has the potential to

			
GENERATE UP TO €350,000	CREATE OVER 80 JOBS	PROVIDE CLEAN POWER	OFFSET CARBON EMISSIONS
In community funding to the local area each year	working with local suppliers where possible	by approximately 42,000 homes per year	by approximately 75,000 tonnes per year

Contact our community team for further information
info@ballinleegreenenergy.ie
061 975 200
www.ballinleegreenenergy.ie

Figure 13 Community Advertisement in Local Newspaper

Code of Respectful Community Engagement

Ballinlee Green Energy has established a Code of Respectful Engagement for Community Consultation to foster open, constructive, and safe dialogue between the community and the Consultation Team. This code was created to ensure the safety and well-being of both residents and team members, setting clear expectations for respectful behaviour in all forms of interaction, whether by phone, email, or in-person meetings. By promoting courtesy, active listening, and openness to different perspectives, the code helps create the right environment for meaningful engagement throughout every stage of the process, ensuring that all voices can be heard in a fair and respectful manner. This is available to view on the Ballinlee Green Energy website.



Code of Respectful Engagement for Community Consultation

We value and welcome your input on wind farm projects in your community. To ensure positive and productive dialogue, we ask that you follow this guidance when engaging with our team via phone, email, or in person consultation. Our team will also abide by this.

- General Principles**

Be respectful: Treat all members of the engagement team and other participants with courtesy and kindness.

 - Stay informed: Ask questions and seek clarification if needed; we're here to help.
 - Listen actively: Allow others to speak and be open to different perspectives.
 - Be respectful: Offensive language and behaviour will not be tolerated.
- Phone Calls**
 - Begin by stating your name and the reason for your call.
 - Use calm and respectful language throughout the conversation.
 - Avoid shouting, interrupting, or using aggressive language.
 - If a conversation becomes disrespectful or aggressive, the call may be ended.
- Emails**
 - Use a clear subject line and write in a respectful tone.
 - Clearly outline your questions or concerns.
 - Avoid using offensive or threatening language—such messages will not receive a response.
 - Our team will do their best to respond in a timely and helpful manner.
- In-Person Consultations**
 - Be courteous to all attendees, including staff and other community members.
 - Allow space for everyone to speak and be heard.
 - Aggressive, discriminatory, or harassing behaviour will not be tolerated.
 - If necessary, staff may end the session or ask individuals to leave, to maintain a safe environment for respectful engagement.

Any questions can be addressed to info@ballinleegreenenergy.ie

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Figure 14 Code of Respectful Engagement

Door-to-Door Visits

There are 179 dwellings within 1 kilometre of the proposed project, of which 61 met and engaged with us. When residents were unavailable to engage in consultation, they received a 'Sorry we missed you' letter, inviting them to arrange a consultation at a later date. Over 10 call-backs were subsequently arranged in the following weeks at the request of residents.

During some door-to-door visits and scheduled call-backs, members of the Community Team were subjected to threatening and verbally abusive behaviour, with some instances escalating to physically unsafe situations within residents' homes. To safeguard staff, revised protocols were introduced that prohibit team members from entering private residences, even upon request, and require that additional personnel accompany colleagues when conducting door-to-door engagement. In some instances, where behaviour was deemed persistently aggressive or threatening, further consultation with specific residents was suspended. These measures were taken to ensure the physical safety and well-being of the Community Team while maintaining the integrity of the community engagement process.

A key request identified during the door-to-door engagement was for a detailed project layout map. Once the project design had progressed sufficiently, the layout map was shared with residents individually, either by post or email, according to their preferences, and it was also made publicly available on the project website.

This approach ensured that the community had access to up-to-date information in a transparent and accessible manner, reflecting the project team's commitment to addressing resident enquiries and supporting informed participation throughout the planning process.

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' consultation requests.

Community Clinic Invitation Letter

On August 6th, 2025, a letter was issued to all houses within 1 kilometre of the site to invite them to attend the community clinics. An open invitation was also posted on the project website. Residents could book an appointment in the clinic via post, email, phone and through the website's booking platform.

In advance of accepting an appointment at the community clinic, residents were asked to read and review the Ballinlee Green Energy Code of Respectful Engagement and adhere to its principles during the consultation.



Figure 15 Community Clinic Invitation

Community Clinic

Community Clinics were held on the 26th and 27th of August in the Deebert Hotel in Kilmallock, Co. Limerick. The community clinics facilitated detailed, meaningful discussions between residents and our team. These conversations provide an opportunity for residents in groups of three or less 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 conversations at the community clinics were both constructive and informative. During the clinic, community members asked questions, raised queries, 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 other environmental topics.

All people who chose to engage during this clinic were provided with a feedback form, of which no forms were submitted.

Our Community Clinics replace the traditional “town hall” or open exhibition forum. The community team feels this forum presents an opportunity for all voices to be heard and avoids situations where a small cohort of anti-wind voices dominate. Due to demand, a second round of Community Clinics was held on September 18th, 2025.

Following the Community Clinics, a document was prepared detailing answers to all the queries that were raised by the residents who attended. This was subsequently placed on the project website for wider reach. This was at the suggestion of a resident who said they were unsure what questions to ask and requested to know what other residents had queried in relation to the proposed project. This is available in Appendix 1.

Accessibility and Booking Options

Residents could book appointments via multiple channels, including phone, email, post and through our website. This is to ensure that those with limited digital access or other barriers were not excluded. Our community team assisted with appointment scheduling via phone, email and post.

Clinic Location

To make attendance as convenient as possible, Clinics were held locally in the Deebert Hotel, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick, which is within close proximity to the proposed project location.

Clinic Accessibility

We offered to arrange transport to or from the clinic for those with difficulty accessing public transport or cost inhibitions.

For those who were unable to attend in person, due to mobility, health, or other reasons, we continued to offer video and phone consultations, as well as email and letter correspondence.

This variety of formats ensured that engagement remained open to all, regardless of personal circumstances.

Project Communications

Materials that were circulated in the community were also 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 1km radius of the project area.

Phone Consultation

A dedicated telephone number (061 975 200) is open within business hours of Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm for the community to discuss the proposed project 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 Community Team.

Email Consultation

A dedicated email address, info@ballinleegreenenergy.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. Over 10 in-person consultations took place in addition to the Community Clinics.

Planning Notification

In September 2025, a letter and leaflet was sent to all residents within 1km of the proposed project to notify them of the planning application submission. We also shared a leaflet with frequently asked questions on the project.

Key Questions Raised During Consultation

As part of our commitment to transparent and inclusive engagement, all project-related questions raised by residents through email correspondence, phone conversations, and face-to-face interactions were carefully recorded and reviewed. These contributions were then consolidated into a comprehensive document designed to reflect the full range of issues and concerns expressed by the community. By compiling and sharing this resource, residents are able to see not only the responses to their own queries but also the questions posed by others, ensuring that information is accessible, consistent, and beneficial to the wider community.

The document with over 40 questions and answers was shared on the project website and is available in Appendix 1.

Sentiment Analysis:

During the door-to-door engagement, a total of 179 houses were visited, with 61 households participating in the consultation. Of those who responded, 23% expressed a positive view of the project, 22% indicated a negative response, and 55% remained neutral. This feedback highlights that while there is a core group of supportive and concerned residents, the majority are open but undecided, reflecting an opportunity for ongoing dialogue. The analysis demonstrates the value of direct engagement in understanding community perspectives and emphasises the importance of continuing to provide clear information and responsive communication to foster trust and informed participation in the planning process.

To summarise:

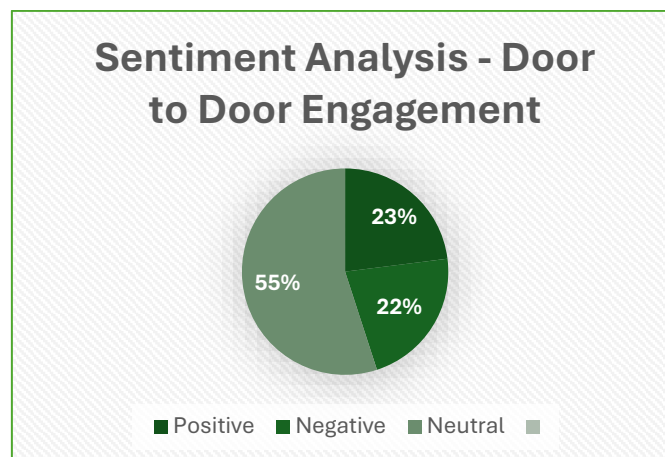


Figure 16 Sentiment Analysis

Local Action Group

Overview of Engagement with the Action Group

The Community Team engaged in a series of professional, responsive, and detailed communications with the Bruff Dromin Athlacca-Ballinlee Community Action Group (now referred to as "the Community Action Group"). These interactions focused on clarifying project details and addressing queries around community engagement methods. The Community Team maintained a respectful, informative dialogue and made every effort to accommodate requests throughout. They proactively addressed queries and made significant efforts to ensure accessibility for all residents. We welcome continued engagement with the Community Action Group.

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 Ballinlee 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 Ballinlee 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.

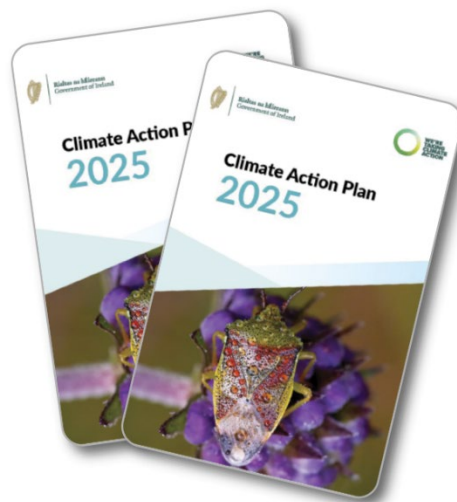


Figure 16 Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2025

Summary

This report outlines Ballinlee Green Energy's approach to community engagement for its proposed project in Ballinlee and surrounding areas in Co. Limerick. The project consists of seventeen wind 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.

Ballinlee 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. In line with WEI's guidance, Ballinlee Green Energy established multiple communication channels, including a dedicated project website, postal updates, door-to-door visits, public advertisements, and community clinics to provide clear information and invite feedback. 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 developments and local communities. This included launching a dedicated website (May 2025), distributing letters and leaflets to households within 1 km of the site, placing newspaper ads, contacting local elected representatives, conducting door-to-door visits to households within 1 km, and hosting community clinics in August and September 2025 at the Deebert Hotel in Killmallock, Co. Limerick.

Ballinlee Green Energy remains committed to meaningful engagement with all members of the community throughout the planning process. We hope that the information provided, and the initiatives undertaken are of value to residents and contribute to further constructive dialogue.

The Ballinlee Green Energy project is expected to displace approximately 75,000 tonnes of CO₂ annually and power approximately 42,000 homes. We believe it is vital to keep the focus on the overarching challenge we collectively face, being the urgent need to address climate change. By fostering collaboration between communities and projects like the proposed Ballinlee Green Energy Project, we can work together to advance a sustainable future. Through shared responsibility and active participation, local communities can play a central role in shaping renewable energy solutions that deliver not only environmental benefits but also enduring social and economic value.

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Appendix 1 – Ballinlee Green Energy Frequently Asked Questions and Answers



Ballinlee Green Energy Community Engagement

Key Questions & Answers – September 2025

The following document was prepared as a resource for the community using questions that were directed to our community team via email, phone, door-to-door interactions and community clinic meetings during the community engagement phases to date for the proposed Ballinlee Green Energy project.

1. THE SITE, COMPONENTS & SITE LOCATION

Why develop a wind farm here, and not elsewhere, like more remote areas or in the sea?

The site is designated a "preferred area" for wind energy by Limerick City and County Council under the 2022–2028 Development Plan. It offers favourable wind conditions and aligns with the national renewable energy policy.

Where is the site entrance and access routes?

Access to the wind farm site will be via the regional road network. The R516 is located to the North of the wind farm site running from Bruff to Kilmallock. The closest National primary road is the N20 located to the west of the proposed development. The main site entrance is via the R516 Regional Road between Croom and Bruff on the north side of the wind farm site.

Do we use a meteorological mast?

No, we do not use a met mast; we use LiDAR to collect data. In wind energy, LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) is a remote sensing technology that uses lasers to measure wind speed and direction by detecting the Doppler shift in light reflected off atmospheric aerosols. It's used to assess wind farm sites, measure power curves, predict wind turbine performance, and optimise wind farm layouts.

Request for further mapping

More detailed mapping, including additional details of precise turbine locations, will be made available upon the submission of a planning application. The project layout map, turbine setback and county development plan map are available to download from the project website.

What will the substation look like?

The proposed 110kV substation will comprise of an outdoor electrical yard and two single storey buildings.

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2. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Community Consultation Approach

Our engagement approach has been designed to ensure open, consistent, and accessible communication for all members of the community. The project team offers one-on-one consultations to all interested parties in person at a time of their choosing, and we are also available to discuss the project via phone, video, or email.

Who in the community was consulted about this project?

We aim to have an in-person consultation with all residents living within approximately 1km of a proposed turbine, and all those residents will have received a letter and leaflet in the post. Our community team went door to door to each home within 1km to share the project information, discuss all related topics and seek feedback from the local community. We also held a series of community clinics, to which all residents within 1km received an invitation. All local TDs and Councillors were also notified about the project, and an advertisement was placed in the Limerick Leader to alert the wider community.

Will Ballinlee Green Energy hold a public meeting?

We believe that smaller, appointment-based clinics provide the best opportunity for constructive engagement, allowing for more detailed discussion and the addressing of individual concerns. Residents were invited to meet with our project team during individual, scheduled community clinics.

3. THE COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

The Community Benefit Fund – how is it governed?

A key feature of the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) is that all renewable electricity generation projects must establish a Community Benefit Fund to be used for the wider economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being of the local community. The contribution is to be set at €2 per Megawatt hour of generation of the RESS Project.

These funds are governed by rules set out by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), and based on the current project scope, a conservative estimate values the overall fund at approximately €350,000 per annum for a 15-year duration.

In relation to the RESS community benefit fund, how does the near neighbour scheme work?

As set out in the RESS Terms and Conditions, Households within 1 km of a turbine in the proposed project will receive a direct "near neighbour" payment of €1,000 per year. Households located further than 1 km from the RESS Project but within a distance of 2 km from such RESS Project shall receive an annual payment of an amount lower than €1,000 but higher than €500. The amount is at the discretion of the locally elected Community Benefit Fund committee. The total amounts allocated to direct payments to households are limited to 50% of the total annual contributions from the Community Benefit Fund.

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4. TURBINES

What is the setback from houses?

In line with the Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines (2019), resulting in a minimum distance of 640metres (160 metres * 4). This is an increased distance in comparison with the 2006 Guidelines (which is a minimum of 500 metres).

How far apart are the turbines?

For proper wind resource utilisation, each turbine needs to be separated by a suitable distance from the neighbouring turbine. This can vary depending on predominant wind direction, local terrain and environmental considerations. For this project it is approximately 400 metres.

Will residents be affected by Shadow Flicker?

Shadow Flicker Control Measures (SFCM) is a standard element of commercial wind turbine control software. This software considers factors such as location and weather conditions, which will then automatically stop each wind turbine at times when shadow flicker would otherwise occur.

Advancing wind turbine technology allows for the automatic shutdown/start-up of the turbines. The turbine's software/programming enables the automatic shutdown of the turbine to prevent shadow flicker occurring. We commit to adopting the latest technologies and best practices to ensure that shadow flicker will be eliminated at any dwelling. This commitment will be detailed as part of the planning application.

What happens to turbines in extreme weather conditions?

Wind turbines are designed to withstand extreme weather conditions with brake mechanisms installed within the turbines so that they only operate under specific wind speeds and will shut down during very high wind speed events. Therefore, there is very low risk to the proposed development from high wind speeds. To protect wind turbines from damage caused by a lightning strike and to provide grounding, each turbine will be equipped with an electrical grounding system.

We would like to see a visual representation of the project?

Photomontages will be available upon the submission of the planning application.

What noise will be experienced?

The evolution of wind farm technology over the past decade has greatly reduced noise from wind turbines, with the main sound being the aerodynamic swoosh of the blades passing the tower. There are strict guidelines in the planning regulations on wind turbines noise emissions to ensure the protection of residential amenity. A comprehensive noise monitoring regime will be undertaken to ensure the proposed development complies with regulations. The project will comply with noise guidelines and all relevant legislation. The World Health Organisation has published its Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region in which recommendations are made for wind turbine noise. The recommended level of noise

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produced should be below 45 dB (A). The current guidelines in Ireland and the UK, which are in line with international best practice, are set at between 35 and 45-dB(A) dependent on the time of day and background noise. For reference, a fridge typically produces a sound level of 32–47 dB(A).

5. TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

How will traffic be managed?

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

How will the turbines be delivered?

The proposed route follows the N69 from Foynes Harbour in Co. Limerick to the N18 (east) bypass around Limerick city, then turns south onto the M20, turns south onto the N20 at Ballybrnogue, and east onto the R516 at Croom to the proposed wind farm site.

How are the turbines delivered?

They are delivered via specialised trucks and trailers.

What is a site link corridor – as referenced on your map?

A Site Link Corridor is a term used to refer to a designated pathway or route that connects one part of the site to the other.

How long will construction take?

Construction for a project like the Ballinlee Green Energy project is estimated at between 12 and 24 months.

What about the crossings needed over the streams and rivers in the site itself?

A clear-span bridge is required as part of the proposed development over the Morningstar River to provide access to northern and southern parts of the site.

Roads used – will they be restored if any damage occurs?

Yes, Ballinlee Green Energy commits to maintaining the quality of the roads used.

What about the works for the Grid Connection Cable and route?

The proposed Grid Connection Route will consist of approximately 27 km of a 110kV underground cable buried in the public road (local and regional roads) and under access tracks within the wind farm site.

The works for the grid connection route are estimated to take approximately 6 months within the overall project works schedule.

Will other planning applications on the grid route be affected by this?

No, there is no connection between the two.

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6. ECOLOGY, HYDROLOGY & HYDROGEOLOGY

What about the specially protected species, particularly the whooper swan, the skylark, owls and bats?

As part of the pre-planning process, we conduct extensive ecology surveys. We work with a team of independent ecologists to evaluate any potential impact on local wildlife such as bats as a result of the proposed project. All survey information and assessments will be submitted within an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The EIAR will accompany the planning application for the project.

What about the forestry that is felled?

Felling of some portions of existing tree plantations is required within and around wind farm infrastructure to accommodate the construction of the turbine foundations and associated hardstands, access tracks, turbine assembly, substation and deposition areas. Ballinlee Green Energy intends to replace or replant any forestry affected.

What about waste during operation? Particularly oil.

Wastes arising during the operation phase of the proposed development include but are not limited to lubricating oils, cooling oils, and packaging from spare parts.

The containment and disposal of such oils will be carried out by an approved contractor. Such operations will be carried out in accordance with the Waste Management (Hazardous Waste) Regulations, 1998 as amended. The remaining wastes will all be removed from site and reused, recycled, or disposed of in an authorised facility in accordance with best practice.

What about waste and run off from construction?

Construction phase waste is anticipated to consist of hardcore, concrete, spare steel reinforcement, shuttering timber and unused oil, diesel and building materials. This waste will be segregated and stored in the construction compound and collected regularly during the construction phases and taken off site to be reused, recycled and disposed of in accordance with best practice procedures at an approved facility.

What about Flood Risk?

The turbines have been strategically located to avoid areas prone to flooding. The Flood Risk Assessment concluded that the site is not at risk from extreme flooding.

What about the surface water?

A site surface water management system will be constructed on the site to attenuate run-off, guard against soil erosion and safeguard downstream water quality. The drainage system will be implemented along all work areas including all internal site access tracks, storage areas, crane hardstand areas and temporary site construction compound.

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7. ARCHAEOLOGY

What about archaeological features in the wind farm site?

Wind farms require thorough archaeological assessments, as their construction and operation can impact historical sites through physical damage, land alteration, and visual disturbance. Protection mechanisms include Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIAs) that identify archaeological constraints, leading to recommendations for avoidance, mitigation, or monitoring of groundworks and grid connections.

8. HEALTH, WELLBEING AND HOME LIFE CONCERNS

What about the health effects?

Both the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Health Service Executive (HSE) have shared their position in relation to wind farms and public health. A report published by the HSE in 2017 entitled "Position Paper on Wind Turbines and Public Health" states: "There is no direct evidence that exposure to wind farm noise affects physical or mental health.". The full scientific paper is available here. <https://www.lenus.ie/server/api/core/bitstreams/e2ee1bf8-1315-4226-90fe-5f4a3a14e3c9/content>

The World Health Organisation states that 'Wind energy will in fact have positive health benefits'. Please see here for further research: <https://windenergyireland.com/images/files/9660bdd9a539e9808a41789a660ba6d3496805.pdf>

Broadband & Mobile coverage – we work at home, will we experience interference?

Wind turbines do not typically interfere with broadband or mobile signals. Any potential interference would be assessed during the planning phase and mitigated if necessary.

My children have special needs – how will this affect them?

Ballinlee Green Energy commit to taking a case-by-case approach with families living locally to ensure the continued enjoyment of their home and do all we can to support individual circumstances as much as possible.

What about property devaluation?

While concerns exist among residents, especially those within 1km of turbines, there is no conclusive, peer-reviewed evidence or research that wind farms cause widespread property devaluation in Ireland.

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9. THE PLANNING APPLICATION

Can Ballinlee Green Energy move the turbines after we submit our planning application or move closer to homes?

Should the proposed project receive planning permission, the project will be constructed in accordance with the design presented to An Coimisiún Pleanála. Furthermore, we will be adhering to the Government of Ireland's guidelines on wind energy development, including the draft 2019 Wind Energy Guidelines in relation to setback distances.

What happens after 35 years?

At the end of the 35-year lifespan of the proposed development, the Developer will make the decision whether to repower or decommission the turbines. Any further proposals for proposed development, including repowering, at the site during or after this time will be subject to a new planning application. If planning permission is not secured at the end of life of the turbines, the site will be decommissioned and reinstated with all 17 No. wind turbines removed.

When is the planning application being submitted?

The Planning application is expected to be submitted in 2025. The community will receive a notification via post and it will also be shared on the project website.

Where can I see the planning application?

The full planning application will be available via An Coimisiún Pleanála's website and the dedicated planning application website – www.ballinleegreenenergyplanning.ie

How do we share our thoughts with An Coimisiún Pleanála?

Once the planning application is submitted, there will be a statutory period of six weeks during which all members of the public will have the opportunity to review the full set of documentation and to submit observations directly to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

Our community team are happy to answer any further project-related questions via phone, email or post.

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