

**SCHEDULE OF PRESCRIBED BODIES NOTIFIED OF
GATHABAWN WINDFARM COUNTY KILKENNY
SID PLANNING APPLICATION**

Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Dept of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Dept of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Dept of Environment, Climate and Communications

Dept of Rural and Community Development

Laois County Council

Southern Regional Assembly

EirGrid

Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Inland Fisheries Ireland

Irish Water

Irish Aviation Authority

Commission for Regulation of Utilities

An Taisce

An Chomhairle Ealaíon

Fáilte Ireland

The Heritage Council

Office of Public Works

Note: Kilkenny County Council were also Notified – Notification Letter included in the Planning Application Pack

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Custom House,
Dublin 1
D01 W6X0

28th September 2026

**Our ref. Direct Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála in respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development for Proposed Gathabawn Windfarm, County Kilkenny.
An Coimisiún Pleanála Pre-Application Ref. No. 313780-22**

**Your ref. DAU Consultation pre-application Refs. G Pre00231/2022; KK-CON-A240126-0001;
and G Pre00033/2024**

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Ecopower Developments Limited (EDL) are submitting a Planning Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála for a windfarm comprising 12-wind turbines to be called Gathabawn Windfarm, in North County Kilkenny.

The Planning Application is being made directly to An Coimisiún Pleanála following the Commission's decision that the Gathabawn Windfarm development would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of section 37A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

As a Prescribed Body for the purposes of S.37E(3)(c) of the Act governing the consultation on this Planning Application, EDL herein notifies you of the Planning Application for Gathabawn Windfarm to An Coimisiún Pleanála. The Planning Application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Appropriate Assessment Report (Screening and Natura Impact Statement).

Submissions or observations may, during the period of **seven weeks commencing on 7th October 2026** be made in writing or online at www.pleanala.ie, relating to;

- The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development;
- The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development;
- The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

I enclose a copy of the Planning Application on USB.

The Planning Application is also available on www.gathabawnwindfarmplanning.ie

1. Renewable Energy Designation Policy Statement

The Proposed Development is a RED III development comprising 'renewable energy plant' for the purposes of the Renewable Energy Directive (Directive EU 2023/2413). S.I. No. 274/2025 - European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025, which was subsequently followed by an amending regulation S.I. No. 426 of 2025.

As a RED III development, this Planning Application is subject to a Completeness Check under section 37JA of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

1.1 Purpose of the Proposal

The purpose of Gathabawn Windfarm is to generate electricity without greenhouse gas emissions, and therefore it is a positive in the context of climate action. The windfarm will generate circa 150 million kilowatts every year of clean electricity from the power in the wind, enough to supply 33,237 houses. Along with the advantage of being renewable and sustainable, producing electricity in this way using a local source of fuel i.e. the wind, improves security of electricity supply in the country.

2. The Gathabawn Windfarm Proposal

Gathabawn Windfarm is being proposed by Ecopower Developments Limited, part of the Ecopower Group, an Irish windfarm and electricity supply company group, established in 1996 and managed from offices in Kilkenny. www.ecopower.ie

2.1 Locational Context

Gathabawn Windfarm is proposed for an agricultural area on the northern portion of the Slieveardagh Hills in North County Kilkenny. Cullahill Mountain is further to the north and northwest in County Laois. The windfarm is being proposed for the townlands of Coolnacrutta, Glashare, Ballylehaun, Gortennamuck, Rathlogan, Ballyring Upper, Ballyring Lower and Tentore. The windfarm site is agricultural land.

The nearest settlements are Gathabawn village, located 1km southeast, Lisdowney located 3km northeast and Cullahill, Co. Laois 3km northwest, of the nearest turbines. Ballyragget is 6km northeast, Freshford is 4km to the south and Johnstown is 6km to the southwest, of the nearest turbine.

2.2 Summary Description

The proposed Gathabawn Windfarm development will comprise the following elements;

- Twelve (12) wind turbines with a rotor diameter of 136m. Two hub heights are proposed – 82m for Turbine T6, T7 & T9, and 102m for all other turbines, thus giving an uppermost tip height of 150m for T6, T7 & T9, and 170m for all other turbines. Construction of 12 No. turbine foundations and adjacent hardstandings;
- Site roads of 8km in total length, comprising 6.7km in length of new roads and the upgrading and widening of 1.3km of existing private farm tracks;
- Two (2) electrical Control Buildings - one in the Ballylehaun area and one in the Ballyring area. The buildings measure 20m x 10m, with a height of 7m and contain electrical and communications equipment, along with a storage room, canteen and welfare facilities;
- Underground electrical cabling linking the wind turbines together into a turbine 'string' and ultimately connect these strings to the two Control Buildings;

- One (1) 30m lattice tower mast and one (1) LiDAR unit for measuring on-site meteorological conditions;
- Seven (7) site entrances from the public road, comprising both existing and newly created entrances;
- Temporary works to facilitate the transport of the large components to the turbine locations. These works comprise temporary access roads; some minor public road widening; temporary hardstanding areas; and temporary widening of existing field entrances off the public road;
- Installation of an integrated drainage system to manage surface water run-off during all phases of the proposed development;
- All associated infrastructure, services and ancillary site works including excavation, earthworks, temporary and permanent overburden storage berms; temporary and permanent fencing; and hedgerow and tree removal, reinstatement and enhancement;
- Two (2) temporary construction compounds and two (2) on-site temporary borrow pits;
- Creation of Biodiversity Areas for the protection, enhancement and creation of habitats to serve as a functioning high level biodiversity resource for local flora and fauna communities.

The Applicant is seeking a period of 10-years during which Gathabawn Windfarm can be constructed and an operational duration of 35-years from the date of commissioning of the windfarm.

2.3 Grid Connection Point

The grid connection point for the proposed Gathabawn Windfarm, has not yet being confirmed by Eirgrid but is likely to be the Eirgrid Ballyragget Substation, at Moatpark townland circa 6km to the east of the proposed windfarm site. The grid connection works are not included as part of this planning application but are assessed in the environmental documents submitted, so that the whole development impact and be understood.

2.4 Haul Route for Construction Traffic

The turbines will be delivered from the port of entry using the motorway network as far as Portlaoise. From the Portlaoise M7/N77 interchange, the turbines will be transported down the N77, straight through Abbeyleix and Durrow towns, onto the R639 and straight through Cullahill village before turning left off the R639, onto the L58141 at Coolnacrutta townland. No works or activities are required in Abbeyleix, Durrow or Cullahill to facilitate the movement of the turbine components.

2.5 Gathabawn Windfarm Community Benefit Fund, Community Website, CLO appointment

The Gathabawn Windfarm Community Benefit Fund which will be established once the windfarm is operational, is estimated to be circa €300,000 to be distributed annually, over the lifetime of the windfarm. The Fund will be managed locally and distributed to near neighbours and to local community organisations. The Fund will be distributed in line the Government's Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) 'Community Benefit Fund Good Practice Principles Handbook'.

A community website was set up prior to submission of this planning application - www.ecopowergathabawn.ie

A Community Liaison Officer (CLO) has been appointed for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the windfarm. Email contact details for the CLO are on the community website contact@ecopowergathabawn.ie

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Regards

Philomena Kenealy, Ecopower Developments Limited
Gathabawn Windfarm Planning Manager

Department of Tourism, Culture
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
23 Kildare Street
Dublin 2
D02 TD30

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Department of Agriculture,
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Agriculture House
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D02 WK12

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Regards

Philomena Kenealy, Ecopower Developments Limited
Gathabawn Windfarm Planning Manager

Dept. of Rural and Community Development
Trinity Point,
10-11 South Leinster Street,
Dublin 2
D02 EF85

28th September 2026

**Our ref. Direct Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála in respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development for Proposed Gathabawn Windfarm, County Kilkenny.
An Coimisiún Pleanála Pre-Application Ref. No. 313780-22**

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Ecopower Developments Limited (EDL) are submitting a Planning Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála for a windfarm comprising 12-wind turbines to be called Gathabawn Windfarm, in North County Kilkenny.

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As a Prescribed Body for the purposes of S.37E(3)(c) of the Act governing the consultation on this Planning Application, EDL herein notifies you of the Planning Application for Gathabawn Windfarm to An Coimisiún Pleanála. The Planning Application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Appropriate Assessment Report (Screening and Natura Impact Statement).

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The proposed Gathabawn Windfarm development will comprise the following elements;

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The Applicant is seeking a period of 10-years during which Gathabawn Windfarm can be constructed and an operational duration of 35-years from the date of commissioning of the windfarm.

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The grid connection point for the proposed Gathabawn Windfarm, has not yet being confirmed by Eirgrid but is likely to be the Eirgrid Ballyragget Substation, at Moatpark townland circa 6km to the east of the proposed windfarm site. The grid connection works are not included as part of this planning application but are assessed in the environmental documents submitted, so that the whole development impact and be understood.

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Laois County Council
Áras an Chontae, JFL Ave.,
Portlaoise,
Co. Laois
R32 EHP9

28th September 2026

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Southern Regional Assembly
Assembly House,
O'Connell Street,
Waterford City
X91 F8PC

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EirGrid
Block 2, The Oval
160 Shelbourne Rd
Dublin 4
D04 FW28

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Regards

Philomena Kenealy, Ecopower Developments Limited
Gathabawn Windfarm Planning Manager

Transport Infrastructure Ireland
Parkgate Business Centre
Parkgate Street
Dublin 8
D08 DK10

28th September 2026

**Our ref. Direct Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála in respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development for Proposed Gathabawn Windfarm, County Kilkenny.
An Coimisiún Pleanála Pre-Application Ref. No. 313780-22**

Your ref. TII Consultation pre-application Ref. TII26-137495

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The proposed Gathabawn Windfarm development will comprise the following elements;

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The Applicant is seeking a period of 10-years during which Gathabawn Windfarm can be constructed and an operational duration of 35-years from the date of commissioning of the windfarm.

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Inland Fisheries Ireland
South-Eastern River Basin District
Anglesea Street, Clonmel
Co. Tipperary
E91 RD25

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Uisce Eireann
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Dublin 1
D01 WA07

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Irish Aviation Authority
The Times Building
11-12 D'Olier Street
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D02 T449

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Regards

Philomena Kenealy, Ecopower Developments Limited
Gathabawn Windfarm Planning Manager

Commission for Regulation of Utilities
The Exchange,
Belgard Square North,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24
D24 PXW0

28th September 2026

**Our ref. Direct Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála in respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development for Proposed Gathabawn Windfarm, County Kilkenny.
An Coimisiún Pleanála Pre-Application Ref. No. 313780-22**

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The proposed Gathabawn Windfarm development will comprise the following elements;

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The Applicant is seeking a period of 10-years during which Gathabawn Windfarm can be constructed and an operational duration of 35-years from the date of commissioning of the windfarm.

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The grid connection point for the proposed Gathabawn Windfarm, has not yet being confirmed by Eirgrid but is likely to be the Eirgrid Ballyragget Substation, at Moatpark townland circa 6km to the east of the proposed windfarm site. The grid connection works are not included as part of this planning application but are assessed in the environmental documents submitted, so that the whole development impact and be understood.

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An Taisce,
5 Foster Place
Temple Bar
Dublin 2
D02 V0P9

28th September 2026

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An Chomhairle Ealaíon
70 Merrion Square South,
Dublin 2
D02 NY52

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Fáilte Ireland,
88 - 95 Amiens Street,
Dublin 1
D01 WR86

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Regards

Philomena Kenealy, Ecopower Developments Limited
Gathabawn Windfarm Planning Manager

The Heritage Council
Church Lane
Kilkenny
RX95 X264

28th September 2026

**Our ref. Direct Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála in respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development for Proposed Gathabawn Windfarm, County Kilkenny.
An Coimisiún Pleanála Pre-Application Ref. No. 313780-22**

A chara

Ecopower Developments Limited (EDL) are submitting a Planning Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála for a windfarm comprising 12-wind turbines to be called Gathabawn Windfarm, in North County Kilkenny.

The Planning Application is being made directly to An Coimisiún Pleanála following the Commission's decision that the Gathabawn Windfarm development would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of section 37A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

As a Prescribed Body for the purposes of S.37E(3)(c) of the Act governing the consultation on this Planning Application, EDL herein notifies you of the Planning Application for Gathabawn Windfarm to An Coimisiún Pleanála. The Planning Application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Appropriate Assessment Report (Screening and Natura Impact Statement).

Submissions or observations may, during the period of **seven weeks commencing on 7th October 2026** be made in writing or online at www.pleanala.ie, relating to;

- The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development;
- The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development;
- The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

I enclose a copy of the Planning Application on USB.

The Planning Application is also available on www.gathabawnwindfarmplanning.ie

1. Renewable Energy Designation Policy Statement

The Proposed Development is a RED III development comprising 'renewable energy plant' for the purposes of the Renewable Energy Directive (Directive EU 2023/2413). S.I. No. 274/2025 - European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025, which was subsequently followed by an amending regulation S.I No. 426 of 2025.

As a RED III development, this Planning Application is subject to a Completeness Check under section 37JA of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

1.1 Purpose of the Proposal

The purpose of Gathabawn Windfarm is to generate electricity without greenhouse gas emissions, and therefore it is a positive in the context of climate action. The windfarm will generate circa 150 million kilowatts every year of clean electricity from the power in the wind, enough to supply 33,237 houses. Along with the advantage of being renewable and sustainable, producing electricity in this way using a local source of fuel i.e. the wind, improves security of electricity supply in the country.

2. The Gathabawn Windfarm Proposal

Gathabawn Windfarm is being proposed by Ecopower Developments Limited, part of the Ecopower Group, an Irish windfarm and electricity supply company group, established in 1996 and managed from offices in Kilkenny. www.ecopower.ie

2.1 Locational Context

Gathabawn Windfarm is proposed for an agricultural area on the northern portion of the Slieveardagh Hills in North County Kilkenny. Cullahill Mountain is further to the north and northwest in County Laois. The windfarm is being proposed for the townlands of Coolnacrutta, Glashare, Ballylehaun, Gortennamuck, Rathlogan, Ballyring Upper, Ballyring Lower and Tentore. The windfarm site is agricultural land.

The nearest settlements are Gathabawn village, located 1km southeast, Lisdowney located 3km northeast and Cullahill, Co. Laois 3km northwest, of the nearest turbines. Ballyragget is 6km northeast, Freshford is 4km to the south and Johnstown is 6km to the southwest, of the nearest turbine.

2.2 Summary Description

The proposed Gathabawn Windfarm development will comprise the following elements;

- Twelve (12) wind turbines with a rotor diameter of 136m. Two hub heights are proposed – 82m for Turbine T6, T7 & T9, and 102m for all other turbines, thus giving an uppermost tip height of 150m for T6, T7 & T9, and 170m for all other turbines. Construction of 12 No. turbine foundations and adjacent hardstandings;
- Site roads of 8km in total length, comprising 6.7km in length of new roads and the upgrading and widening of 1.3km of existing private farm tracks;
- Two (2) electrical Control Buildings - one in the Ballylehaun area and one in the Ballyring area. The buildings measure 20m x 10m, with a height of 7m and contain electrical and communications equipment, along with a storage room, canteen and welfare facilities;
- Underground electrical cabling linking the wind turbines together into a turbine 'string' and ultimately connect these strings to the two Control Buildings;

- One (1) 30m lattice tower mast and one (1) LiDAR unit for measuring on-site meteorological conditions;
- Seven (7) site entrances from the public road, comprising both existing and newly created entrances;
- Temporary works to facilitate the transport of the large components to the turbine locations. These works comprise temporary access roads; some minor public road widening; temporary hardstanding areas; and temporary widening of existing field entrances off the public road;
- Installation of an integrated drainage system to manage surface water run-off during all phases of the proposed development;
- All associated infrastructure, services and ancillary site works including excavation, earthworks, temporary and permanent overburden storage berms; temporary and permanent fencing; and hedgerow and tree removal, reinstatement and enhancement;
- Two (2) temporary construction compounds and two (2) on-site temporary borrow pits;
- Creation of Biodiversity Areas for the protection, enhancement and creation of habitats to serve as a functioning high level biodiversity resource for local flora and fauna communities.

The Applicant is seeking a period of 10-years during which Gathabawn Windfarm can be constructed and an operational duration of 35-years from the date of commissioning of the windfarm.

2.3 Grid Connection Point

The grid connection point for the proposed Gathabawn Windfarm, has not yet being confirmed by Eirgrid but is likely to be the Eirgrid Ballyragget Substation, at Moatpark townland circa 6km to the east of the proposed windfarm site. The grid connection works are not included as part of this planning application but are assessed in the environmental documents submitted, so that the whole development impact and be understood.

2.4 Haul Route for Construction Traffic

The turbines will be delivered from the port of entry using the motorway network as far as Portlaoise. From the Portlaoise M7/N77 interchange, the turbines will be transported down the N77, straight through Abbeyleix and Durrow towns, onto the R639 and straight through Cullahill village before turning left off the R639, onto the L58141 at Coolnacrutta townland. No works or activities are required in Abbeyleix, Durrow or Cullahill to facilitate the movement of the turbine components.

2.5 Gathabawn Windfarm Community Benefit Fund, Community Website, CLO appointment

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Office of Public Works
Head Office, Jonathon Swift Street,
Trim, Co Meath
C15 NX36

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