



## **APPENDIX 2-2**

### **COMMUNITY REPORT**

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### Community Engagement Report





## APPENDIX 2-2 Community Report

Client: **Client Name**

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1.

# INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared to record the consultation carried out with the local community in respect of the proposed Umma More Renewable Energy Development. Umma More Ltd. has carried out consultation in relation to the Proposed Development with local residents and interested parties in the wider community. The objective of the consultations was to ensure that the views and concerns of all were considered as part of the Proposed Development design and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

The Proposed Development has the potential to have significant benefits for the local economy, by means of job creation, landowner payments and commercial rate payments. An important part of any renewable energy development, which Umma More Ltd. has been at the forefront of developing, is its Community Benefit Package. The concept of directing benefits from wind farms to the local community is promoted by the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) and the Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) among others. While it may be simpler and easier to put a total fund aside for a wider community area, Umma More Ltd. is endeavouring to develop new ways to direct increased gain towards the local community with particular focus on those living closest to the Proposed Development.

The Wind Energy Development Guidelines<sup>1</sup> (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”.*

This was further addressed in the Preferred Draft Approach to Wind Energy Development in Ireland<sup>2</sup> (June 2017) which stated the following with respect to planning applications for wind farms:

*“Planning applications must contain a Community Report prepared by the applicant which will specify how the final proposal reflects community consultation. The Community Report must also outline steps taken to ensure that the proposed development will be of enduring economic benefit to the communities concerned”.*

The Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines<sup>3</sup> (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, 2019) has retained this position stating the following:

*“In order to promote the observance of best practice, planning authorities should require applicants to prepare and submit a Community Report with their planning application and a condition on any subsequent planning permission should require developers to carry out the development in accordance with the approved Community Report”.*

This report outlines the consultation and community engagement initiatives undertaken by Umma More Ltd. prior to the submission of the planning application. It also outlines the main issues identified during this process, how the final proposal reflects community consultation and the steps taken to ensure that the Proposed Development will be of enduring economic benefit to the communities concerned.

<sup>1</sup> The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Wind Energy Planning Guidelines 2006, p.19

<sup>2</sup> The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, Information Note Review of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006 “Preferred Draft Approach”, 2017, p.8

<sup>3</sup> The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019, p.42

## 2. CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

### 2.1 Notification of the Local Community

To inform local residents about the Proposed Development, a project Community Liaison Officer (CLO) was appointed, Aidan Stakelum, who wrote to all householders within a c.2km radius of the Wind Farm Site in April 2021. As Covid-19 restrictions were in place at the time, it was not feasible to call to discuss proposals in person as would ordinarily be the case. The information distributed to each household consisted of:

- A company brochure, which provided an overview on Enerco Energy and some general information about wind energy;
- A map highlighting the potential developable area which was under review at that time;
- Dedicated contact details (name, phone and email) for the community liaison officer (CLO) in relation to the project, along with a web address for the dedicated project website.

The community consultation effort was led by Enerco Energy Ltd on behalf of Umma More Ltd which is a project specific company. It should be noted that initially the project was presented as Ballynacorra which is an adjoining townland in the area, however, as the project progressed there was no development proposed in that townland. Having listened to feedback received from the local community, a decision was made to re-name the project as Umma More, which is derived from a townland name that is central to the Proposed Development.

#### 2.1.1 Community Interactions

Following the initial notification of the proposal to the local community, the CLO liaised with interested parties in helping them to understand the proposal and respond to any queries or concerns raised. As the Covid situation eased and more project information became available, further consultations were organised, with the CLO intending to visit all households within c.2km of the Wind Farm Site.

The following paragraphs provide an outline of the consultation effort, with further detail provided in the following sections below:

In July 2021, with Covid-19 restrictions eased, the CLO called to houses around the Wind Farm Site. Where nobody was home, a letter was left including a biodiversity brochure. At this stage the CLO was able to offer face-to-face meetings to discuss the proposal, should residents wish.

Shortly after the correspondence in July 2021, a new project CLO was appointed, James Crowley. In April 2022 the new CLO did a round of door-door visits and provided an information pack on the project. This included a letter and a draft 9 no. wind turbine layout. The details of the new CLO were provided, including email and telephone for residents wishing to get in touch.

In May 2022, further door-door visits were carried out with householders around the Wind Farm Site and along the Grid Connection underground cabling route. The householders around the Wind Farm Site were provided a full draft layout, including an overview of the Grid Connection underground cabling route. The householders along the Grid Connection underground cabling route were provided with an introduction to the Proposed Development, with a company brochure and details of the Grid Connection underground cabling route included in the correspondence.

In June 2022 correspondence was posted to householders around the Wind Farm Site and along the Grid Connection underground cabling route, which included a letter highlighting the dates and times of the first two public information sessions to be held (July 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>), along with a copy of the advert published in the paper.

In August 2022 correspondence was posted to householders around the Wind Farm Site and along the Grid Connection underground cabling route, which included a letter highlighting the dates and times of the second two public information sessions to be held (August 31<sup>st</sup> & September 1<sup>st</sup>), along with a copy of the advert published in the paper.

Throughout the lengthy consultation period the CLO has continued to liaise with any interested parties and answer any questions as promptly as possible. A further round of correspondence will be issued to the usual mailing list informing them about the imminent planning application and reminding them that the CLO continues to be available to address any concerns throughout the application process. This correspondence will be issued in the week prior to lodging the planning application.

### 2.1.1.1 July 2021

The first round of door-to-door consultation was carried out by the appointed CLO to houses identified within c.2km of the Wind Farm Site. Introductions were made and an information pack was given to the householders which contained a biodiversity brochure and a letter. The biodiversity brochure provided the householders with some findings from the ecological surveys which had been carried out along with some of the species of interest identified on the site.

This was also an opportunity to further check on the validity of the sensitive receptors that had previously been identified, with a few new ones added and others marked as derelict properties.

In the event that nobody was home throughout this period, the information pack was left in the post box with the CLO's contact details inside. A number of calls were received by the CLO from householders that were not home during the visits and many queries were answered over the phone. Meetings were arranged for dates and times that suited those residents who were unavailable at the time of calling, or who wished for other family members to be present for the discussion.

### 2.1.1.2 April 2022

A second round of door-to-door visits was attempted. This was carried out by the new CLO, James Crowley. This was an opportunity for the new CLO to introduce himself to the local community. An information pack was handed out during these visits. The pack included a map of a draft 9 no. turbine layout with the houses within c.2km marked, and a letter noting the change in name of the project, from Ballynacorra to Umma More, along with the contact details of the new CLO and new web address. This was a good opportunity to answer any questions that had arisen following the previous round of visits, as residents would have had a chance to discuss the proposal with family members and neighbours.

Where residents were not home during this period, an information pack was left in their post box and they were marked as not home. Several of these householders made contact with the CLO via email and phone calls once they had time to process the information received. The CLO could then answer any queries relating to the project and organise a face-face should they wish to meet.

Overall, the general reception was good. People were happy with the continued consultation and with the general flow of information. General queries related to turbine heights, noise levels, over-head lines and the potential impacts of construction traffic and were all satisfactorily addressed there and then. As turbine dimensions had yet to be finalised, residents were informed that this detail would come at a later stage.

### 2.1.1.3 May 2022

The final round of door-door consultation carried out by the CLO was organised to provide the householders within c.2km of the Wind Farm Site with a full draft site layout (turbines, roads, substation etc.) and an overview map of the Grid Connection underground cabling route, they also received a letter updating them on the project and stating that a public information session would be held in the coming weeks.

All householders identified within c.100m (and down cul-de-sac roads) of the Grid Connection underground cabling route were also included in this round of consultation, to introduce them to the proposal. The Grid Connection households received an introductory letter which included an overview of the route, a focused map which highlighted their house in relation to the underground electrical cabling route and a company brochure which gave an overview of Enerco Energy and some general information about wind energy. The correspondence also informed them about the public information session and provided contact details for the CLO.

The general feedback from those who were spoken to along the Grid Connection route was positive. Again, people around the Wind Farm Site were generally happy with the continued consultation and that communication lines remained open for any queries they might have.

### 2.1.2 Public Exhibition

Four public information sessions were held in July and August 2022, in the following locations:

- Rosemount GAA Hall (06/07/2022) (approx. 40 attendees)
- Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore (07/07/2022) (approx. 10 attendees)
- Ballymore Community Centre (31/08/2022) (approx. 40 attendees)
- Moyvoughly Community Hall (01/09/2022) (approx. 30 attendees)

The public information sessions were attended primarily by people who live in the locality of the Wind Farm Site. People living in the locality of the Grid Connection were also in attendance. The events comprised several graphic and information boards positioned for the public to read. Members of the project team including the prospective Applicant were on hand to answer any queries and discuss the project detail. The information set out included:

- Detail on the wind farm and grid connection sites
- Consultation undertaken
- Application process
- Site constraints
- Development design
- The chapters to be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report
- Environmental benefits
- Community benefits
- Next steps and how to get in touch
- Selection of photomontages

Members of the public were invited to submit comment, concerns and opinions regarding the proposed development through a feedback form at the event. The project website address, [www.ummamoreinfo.com](http://www.ummamoreinfo.com), and the contact details of CLO were on display for the attendees.

All information that was displayed at the public information sessions was made publicly available for interested parties to view in their own time, and the website includes a contact page which facilitates any feedback or queries from the community.

The main queries raised during this stage of the consultation, as recorded by Enerco Energy Ltd. staff and MKO staff at the sessions, were:

1. Proximity of houses;
2. Community Gain Scheme;
3. Number of turbines;
4. Near Neighbour Scheme;
5. Noise;
6. Height of turbines;
7. Visual Impact;
8. Wind Farm Amenities; and
9. Impact on Biodiversity.

Following the public information sessions, the CLO followed up with any queries raised at the events. Feedback received at and since the public information evenings has been noted by the prospective applicant and the design team. The feedback has continued to inform all refinements to the project design and all concerns have been fully addressed in the ELAR and NIS that accompany this planning application.

## 2.2 Dedicated Contact Details

Since the project was first announced in April 2021, dedicated contact details for the Proposed Development have been provided to the community, including a dedicated phone number and email address. To date, these channels have facilitated several enquiries about the Proposed Development.

## 2.3 Project Website

In April 2021, a dedicated project website was launched, [www.ballynacorrainfo.com](http://www.ballynacorrainfo.com). The website is an additional communication channel to keep members of the public informed about the Proposed Development. All information that was made available to the community has been uploaded to the website. This web address was updated in April 2022 to [www.ummamoreinfo.com](http://www.ummamoreinfo.com) alongside a change in the project name from Ballynacorra to Umma More. The name change was outlined in a letter circulated to the houses surrounding the Wind Farm Site and the original [www.ballynacorrainfo.com](http://www.ballynacorrainfo.com) domain was kept live with a message stating the project name had changed and a link to the new website, to ensure this name change did not prevent anyone from accessing the information online.

Following subsequent site layout amendments, the information hosted on the website was updated in line with the various rounds of consultation. This allowed members of the public to access the latest information. It is intended to continue to update the website as any new information becomes available.

## 2.4 Community Liaison Officer

In February 2021, a dedicated Community Liaison Officer (CLO), Aidan Stakelum, was appointed for the Proposed Development to facilitate on the ground engagement with the local community. As part of his consultation, Aidan visited homes in the locality of the Wind Farm Site in July 2021. In September 2021 a new CLO was appointed, James Crowley. James visited homes in the locality of the Wind Farm Site on two occasions in April and May 2022 and homes along the Grid Connection route in May 2022, along with various home visits throughout, to individuals proximate to the Proposed Development on request of the householder. James also attended all 4 public information sessions and met many attendees following requests from the comment forms. James will continue to be available to address any queries or concerns that may be raised by the community in relation to the Proposed Development.

### 3. **ENDURING ECONOMIC BENEFIT**

#### 3.1 **Economic Benefits – Community Benefit Fund**

Throughout the public consultation process, residents were informed about the availability of a community benefit fund, in the event of a grant of planning for the project. Details of how other communities had utilised this fund on similar projects were given, to help provide a loose framework of what it could be used for. It was highlighted that this fund could be used, for example, as funding for a range of youth, sport and community facilities, schools, educational and training initiatives, and wider amenity, heritage, and environmental projects.

Initial local suggestions for use of the fund included grants for Eon Naofa National School, the construction of footpaths and footpath improvement works, water-mains connections for residents who relied on river water, local enterprise schemes, riparian planting of native species, energy retro-fitting of houses and contributions to electrical bills.

#### 3.2 **Short Term Economic Benefits**

During the construction phase, it is estimated that at peak construction approximately 80-100 jobs will be created. This in turn will have a knock-on effect of the local economy through the supply of services to the workforce. While at a regional level additional employment will be created in the region through the supply of services and materials (such as stone and concrete) to the Proposed Development.

Additionally, the payment of a development contribution to Westmeath County Council in respect of public infrastructure and facilities will potentially provide benefits to the local community through schemes such as the refurbishment, upgrading or replacement of roads, car parks and car parking places; sewers and waste water facilities, drains or water mains; provision of open spaces/parks, community facilities, amenities and landscaping works etc.

#### 3.3 **Long Term Economic Benefits**

The project will provide many long-term economic benefits to the communities surrounding the Proposed Development as outlined in the following sections.

##### 3.3.1 **Employment**

It is estimated that the Proposed Development will create approximately 80-100 jobs during the construction, operational and maintenance phases of the Proposed Development.

##### 3.3.2 **Rates**

Annual rates paid by the Proposed Development to Westmeath County Council will potentially support the provision of local services.

##### 3.3.3 **Community Benefit Fund**

Based on the current Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) guidelines it is expected that for each megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity produced by the wind farm, the project will contribute €2 into a community fund for the first 15 years of operation of the Proposed Development. If this commitment is changed in upcoming Government Policy, the fund would be adjusted accordingly.

Should the Proposed Development be developed under RESS, it would attract a community contribution in the region of approx. €340,000/year for the local community. The value of this fund would be directly proportional to the electricity generated by the wind farm. Under current T&C's of RESS, the following would be required for Umma More Wind Farm:

- **Direct payments** – to those living closest to the Wind Farm Site. A minimum €1,000 payment per annum for houses within 1km of the Proposed Development;
- **Energy Efficiency** – Up to €136,000/year would be available for the development of energy initiatives to benefit people living in the local area. This is to be provided to not for profit community enterprises.
- **Support for local groups** – Up to €136,000/year would be available for local groups, clubs and not for profit organisations that provide services in the local area. This would include services for the elderly, local community buildings, and the development of sporting facilities such as all weather playing pitches etc.
- **Administration costs** – a maximum of 10% of this fund to be made available for the administration and governance costs of the fund.

The Community Benefit Fund belongs to the local community. The premise of the fund is that it should be used to bring about, significant, positive change in the local area. To make this happen, the first task will be to form a benefit fund development working group that clearly represents both the close neighbours to the project as well as nearby communities. The group will then work on designing the governance and structure of a community entity that would administer the Community Benefit Fund.

Should the Proposed Development not be developed under RESS, a community benefit scheme is proposed to provide a fund of €100,000 per annum over the lifespan of the Proposed Development based on the current estimated generating capacity. This will equate to potential funding of €3 million to the local community which is a substantial contribution.

The number and size of grant allocations will be decided by a Community Fund liaison committee with various groups and project benefiting to varying degrees depending on their funding requirement.

4.

## CONCLUSION

Active engagement and consultation with the local community has taken place from an early stage during the pre-application phase of the Proposed Development. The consultation process has been an extremely valuable exercise and has provided a detailed, and enhanced understanding of the key issues and concerns of the local community, which have ultimately shaped the final project proposal. There is currently on-going consultation with the local community and it is the intention of the applicant to continue with the consultation for the entire lifespan of the Proposed Development.

The development of the proposed Umma More Renewable Energy Development will provide an enduring economic benefit to the communities surrounding the Proposed Development as outlined in Chapter 2 of the EIAR, through the community benefit package for residents and community groups, employment during the construction and operation of the Proposed Development and through the annual rates payable to the local authority.





## APPENDIX 1 – RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND WIND INFORMATION



## Decommissioning

The wind turbines which are part of each development are expected to have a lifespan of approximately 25 to 30 years. Following the end of their useful life, the wind turbines may be replaced subject to planning permission being obtained, or the site may be decommissioned fully, except for the electricity substation.

Upon decommissioning of the proposed wind farm, the wind turbines would be disassembled in reverse order to how they were erected. All above ground turbine components would be separated and removed off-site for recycling.

Turbine foundations would remain in place underground and would be covered with earth and reseeded as appropriate. Leaving the turbine foundation in-situ is considered a more environmentally prudent option. Site roads facilitate other uses during the lifetime of the windfarm and therefore would be left in situ after decommissioning.



## Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. 1. Why are the turbines so big?**
- A. Larger turbines maximise the amount of electricity produced from the clean renewable source. Wind energy is key to the Government's Climate Action Plan. The proposed height of the turbines is standard for modern wind turbines, and similar turbines have already been granted planning permission throughout the Country. The landscape and visual impact will be assessed for the project which will involve generating photomontages of the proposed development.
- Q. 2. Are wind turbines noisy?**
- A. Wind turbines do emit noise. However, as the distance from the turbine increases, the noise reduces. The planning application will be accompanied by an EIAR, which will assess the potential impact associated with noise emanating from the proposed development, to ensure that the development can operate in accordance with the appropriate guidelines.
- Q. 3. What is shadow flicker?**
- A. Shadow flicker occurs where the turbine blades cast a shadow over a window in a nearby house and the rotating blades causes the light within the room to flick on and off. This effect lasts only for a short period of time until the sun passes beyond the turbines. Detailed shadow flicker calculations will be carried out for all houses around the site to ensure the guidelines are not exceeded.
- Q. 4. Does the community benefit from the wind farm?**
- A. During construction phase there will be employment opportunities for local contractors and machinery operators and indirect benefits for local shops, B&Bs, and hotels. A community benefit scheme will be set up to provide yearly funding for community and volunteer groups in the locality of the wind farm.
- Q. 5. Can the land around the wind farm be used for farming?**
- A. The wind farm infrastructure takes up relatively little ground. The surrounding land can continue to be used for farming as normal.
- Q. 6. What carbon dioxide savings from wind farms?**
- A. Using the wind resource to produce Irelands electricity reduces our need to burn fossil fuels such as coal or gas. In 2019, Irish wind energy led to avoiding 3.9 million tonnes of carbon emissions. Producing our own electricity helps to reduce the countries dependence on imported fuels. €248 million was saved on fossil fuel imports in 2019 due to wind energy\*\*
- Q. 7. Who can I contact?**
- A. Enerco Offices: +353 (0) 217336034  
James Crowley Mob: +353 (0) 86 3979248 [james.crowley@turnkeydev.com](mailto:james.crowley@turnkeydev.com)  
We would like to hear any comments or queries you may have

**\*\* Energy-Related CO2 Emissions in Ireland Report 2005-2018 (SEAI, 2020)**

07-09-2021

# Renewable Energy Project Wind Information Leaflet



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Background **P.1**

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## Who We Are Enerco Energy

Enerco Energy, based near Macroom, Co. Cork is a 100% Irish owned leading renewable energy company, with the capability to develop, construct and operate projects that contribute towards our goal of creating a sustainable future.

The company's core activity includes the development and operation of medium to large scale wind farms. Enerco also works in other renewable sectors such as solar and battery storage.



To date Enerco has installed a generating capacity of approx. 624 MW, with 195 MW under construction and a further 400 MW in the planning process or already permitted.

## Climate Action Plan 2021

### Introduction

In November 2021 the Irish government published the Climate Action Plan to build net zero carbon energy systems and create a sustainable country.

### Current situation

- Ireland missed the target set for 2013-2020 of reducing emissions by 20% (relative to 2005 Levels) by one eighth and more worrying it is expected that recent growth in emissions will put the country on a trajectory to be 25% off target for the 2021-2030 period if we don't implement a new strategy.

### Targets for 2030 and beyond

- Increase percentage of electricity generated from renewables to 80% by 2030.
- 51% greenhouse gas reduction by 2030 and establish a trajectory which leads to Ireland being net zero carbon by 2050.

### Road map to achieve Targets

To meet the required level of emissions reduction by 2030 the Climate Action Plans includes:

- Adding 5 gigawatts of offshore wind.
- 1 million EV's in private transport fleet by 2030.
- Ending coal burning in ESB's Moneypoint by 2025 and Bord na Mona transitioning away from peat by 2028.

Source: Climate Action Plan 2021 (05/11/2021)

### Wind in Ireland

During 2019 Ireland's installed wind capacity was raised by 461 MW to 4,137 MW. Wind energy accounted for 85% of normalised renewable electricity in 2018 and was one of the largest sources of electricity, second only to natural gas.

Source: SEAI – Renewable Energy in Ireland 2020 Report (04/2020)

On 18th December 2019, wind energy generated in Ireland produced enough electricity to potentially power over 1.9 million houses, and it accounted for approximately 72% of the electricity demand that day. As more wind farms are being built this record will continue to be broken and wind energy will fulfil more and more of our energy demand.

Source: [www.eirgridgroup.com](http://www.eirgridgroup.com)

In 2019 alone wind energy cut our carbon dioxide emissions by 3.9 million tonnes and saved the Irish economy more than €248 million in fossil fuel imports. Wind energy helps reduce both our reliance on imported fossil fuels and our carbon emissions whilst contributing towards a downward pressure on the price of electricity.

Source: SEAI - Energy in Ireland 2020 Report (12/2020)

### Solar in Ireland

Solar energy currently has low penetration in Ireland, this contrasts with other Northern European countries such as Germany and the UK, which have successfully deployed solar power at a rapid pace over the last decade. Solar has become a much more viable energy source, thanks to both the consistently falling costs and the increasing generational capacities of solar modules.



What is an EIAR?

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is a document that describes the proposed development and all issues relating to the potential impact of the proposed wind farm on the environment.

Each wind farm project undergoes a rigorous environmental impact assessment by the planning authority and/or An Bord Pleanála, prior to being granted planning permission. An EIAR is prepared and forms part of the planning permission application to be submitted to the Local Authority or An Bord Pleanála as appropriate.

The EIAR usually includes detailed information on impacts relating to the following topics:

- 1. Introduction to the Project
- 2. Background to the Proposed Development
- 3. Site Selection and Alternatives
- 4. Description of the Proposed Development
- 5. Human Beings, Population & Human Health including Shadow Flicker
- 6. Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
- 7. Land, Soils, Geology and Peat Stability
- 8. Water – Surface Water & Groundwater
- 9. Air and Climate
- 10. Noise and Vibration
- 11. Landscape and Visual
- 12. Cultural Heritage
- 13. Material Assists, including Traffic and Telecommunications
- 14. Interaction of Impacts



Wind Resource in Ireland

Wind Energy is one of Ireland's greatest natural resources. Modern wind farms use this natural resource to produce energy to power homes and industries throughout Ireland. Ireland has one of the best wind resources in Europe.

How Wind Turbines Work

When the wind speed rises above 4 metres per second (a gentle breeze) the turbine turns into the wind and the rotor begins to rotate. This causes a shaft inside the rotor to rotate. This shaft is often attached via a gearbox to a generator or may be gearless. The rotation of the generator generates electricity in much the same way as a bicycle dynamo works. The electricity is carried via cables down the turbine tower, and out into the local electricity grid to power homes and industry throughout Ireland.

Environmental Benefits

A wind farm generates clean, renewable, carbon neutral electricity. Every megawatt it generates is the equivalent of powering approximately 650 homes for a year.

Knocknagoum Wind Farm

Knocknagoum Wind Farm generates enough power to supply approximately 28,000 homes every year. Every watt of electricity generated at the wind farm will replace the same amount that would have been generated by burning coal or gas. A wind farm will emit no toxic substances or air pollutants, unlike coal or gas power stations. The carbon emissions created during the construction of the wind farm and the manufacturing of the turbines etc. will typically be offset in the electricity generated by the wind farm in the first 1-2 years of operation, therefore the wind farm generates carbon neutral power for the remaining 23-28 years of the project (Modern turbines typically have a lifespan of 25-30 years).

Economic Benefits

Wind farm developments have several long-term and short-term benefits for the local economy. The developments can represent an investment of several million euro in the locality of the development, with a large percentage of the total cost relating to on-site works, which would be relying heavily on local contractors and suppliers. The project will create many local jobs during the construction stage,

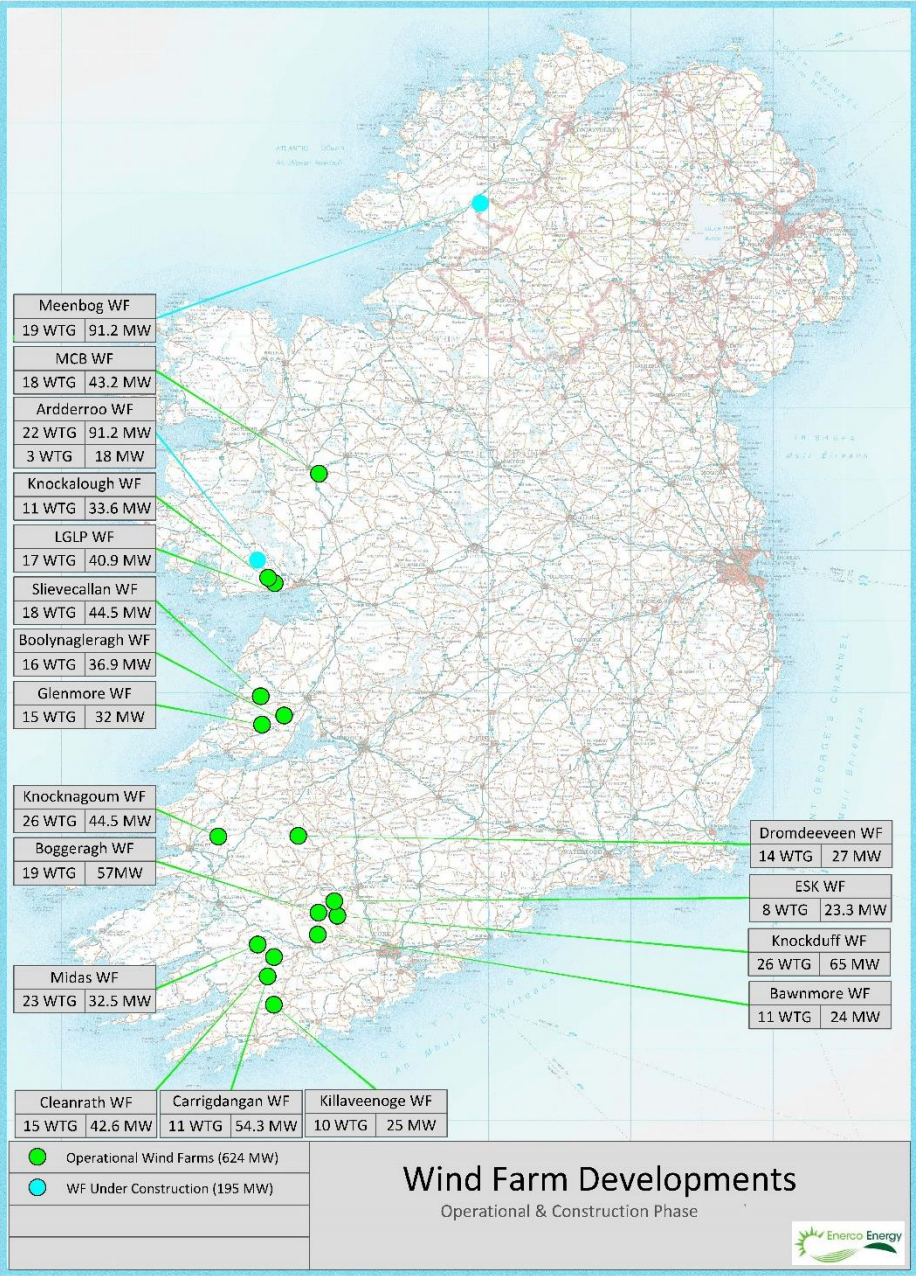
which generally lasts in the region of 18 months. The construction phase will see employment opportunities for:

- Local contractors
- Construction plant suppliers
- Machinery operators
- Skilled labourers
- Construction materials suppliers
- Transport companies.

Increased activity in the locality benefits the local hospitality and service sector. Contractors and wind farm employees use shops, restaurants, hotels and B&Bs in the wind farm proximity throughout a project lifecycle.

Security of Energy Supply

Ireland imported 67% of its energy requirement in 2018, one of the highest ratios in Europe. The more of its own energy Ireland can produce, the less vulnerable it would be to foreign policy and conflict interrupting gas, oil, and electricity supply lines. There is an opportunity to continue developing a strong indigenous wind industry, that will take advantage of Ireland's excellent wind resource, reducing our import dependency.



Benefits of Wind Turbines



- Carbon Neutral Electricity
- Low Ecology Impacts
- Income directly into the locality
- Employment Generation
- Boost Local Economy
- Improve local road and power infrastructure
- Low-Cost Electricity

Community Involvement

- As a long-term owner, developer and operator of energy assets Enerco Energy Ltd. seeks to be an active partner in the communities in which we develop and operate projects.
- As part of planning a project we like to hear from the community about their vision for its future and how the project might help.
- A community benefit scheme will be made available every year for the operational lifespan of the wind farm.
- “Open up opportunity for community participation in renewable generation and community gain arrangements” is a stated aim of the Climate Action Plan 2019.
- The community benefit scheme will be available to communities and voluntary groups. The benefit will be set out to aid the local community, by supporting projects and the area around the development.
- The community closest to the proposed development will decide how the community benefit scheme is administered and whether the focus is on local groups and clubs, or those living closest to the wind farm.





## APPENDIX 2 – BIODIVERSITY WITHIN THE STUDY AREA



## Points of Local Interest

Map 1 illustrates the biodiversity study area and the following locations, as indicated on the map, may be of interest to the local community:

- **A - Watercourses** – The site at Umma More is associated with a number of watercourses. These watercourses are known to support a variety of fish species including salmon, brown trout and stone loach amongst others, as well as a wide range of aquatic insects. Aquatic invertebrates such as mayfly play an important role in the food chain for a wide array of faunal species, including fish.
- **B – Agricultural Grassland:** The grassland habitats on site comprise mainly of improved agricultural grassland. Although these habitats are often of relatively low biodiversity value, they do provide some supporting habitat for foraging faunal species locally including mammals such as badger. Field boundary hedgerows and treeline provide important foraging resources and habitat connectivity for a variety of wildlife including bats.
- **C - Conifer forestry:** This habitat is often relatively low in biodiversity value due to the density of trees planted and the monoculture nature of the species composition. Nonetheless a variety of species can be found utilising the cover provided by this habitat here, including the pine marten and a variety of bird species, including goldcrest and song thrush.



## Useful sources of information

BirdWatch Ireland <http://www.birdwatchireland.ie>  
Bat Conservation Ireland [www.batconservationireland.org/](http://www.batconservationireland.org/)  
Irish Wildlife Trust [www.iwt.ie](http://www.iwt.ie)



**MAP 1 – UMMA MORE STUDY AREA AND ASSOCIATED POINTS OF INTEREST**

If you would like further information, please contact  
MKO: [info@mkofireland.ie](mailto:info@mkofireland.ie)

# Umma More Biodiversity

Information Leaflet  
July 2022



This leaflet was presented by James Crowley  
Enerco Energy Ltd. Phone: 021 7336 034  
Email: [james.crowley@turnkeydev.com](mailto:james.crowley@turnkeydev.com)



(Pine marten (credit: WILDLIFE GmbH / Alamy Stock Photo)

## Local Biodiversity

### What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is a term given to the variety of life on earth, including all species and ecosystems.

A wide variety of specialist ecological surveys are being undertaken at Umma More and the surrounding area by MKO, with the project designed to avoid sensitive ecological receptors. These surveys have targeted a wide variety of species and habitats with the aim of determining their distribution in the area. Species recorded in the study area to date include pine marten and a number of bat species.

This leaflet provides a brief overview of a variety of habitats and species of interest with potential to occur within the site as well as some interesting facts for the reader.



(Soprano pipistrelle (Credit: Christian Giese)

## Habitats and Species

### Mammals

A number of mammals including badger and the elusive pine marten have been recorded in the area. Although this species is rarely seen, preferring to be most active at dawn and dusk, tracks and signs of the species can frequently be found in the field, and confirmation of the species can be achieved using remote cameras or through DNA analysis of droppings.

There are nine bat species in Ireland, and a number of these species have been recorded foraging within and around the Umma More study area, including common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Nathusius' pipistrelle, *Myotis* species, Leisler's bat, and brown long-eared bat. Ireland's smallest bat is the soprano pipistrelle, which weighs as much as a €1 piece. Each bat can eat over 3000 midges in one night! Ireland's largest bat, Leisler's bat, has also been recorded.

### Bird species

A wide variety of common and widespread bird species typical of farmland habitats have been recorded in the study area. Of particular local interest include sparrowhawk, buzzard and kestrel.

### Hedgerow and trees

The agricultural fields that comprise the majority of the study area are bounded by a network of hedgerows that provide an important refuge for wildlife. Hawthorn that forms the primary hedgerow species here provides dense cover and abundant flowers in spring that are important for pollinating insects as well as berries in autumn that many birds depend on. Many mature ash trees are present within the hedgerows.



## Site Biodiversity



Umma More is situated within an agricultural grassland landscape with a small area occupied by commercial forestry. This leaflet provides an overview of the main habitats and species of local interest recorded during ecological surveys of the area. These include:

### Habitats

- Agricultural Grassland
- Hedgerow and treelines
- Conifer plantation
- Watercourses

### Species of interest

- Bats
- Pine marten
- Kestrel
- Badger

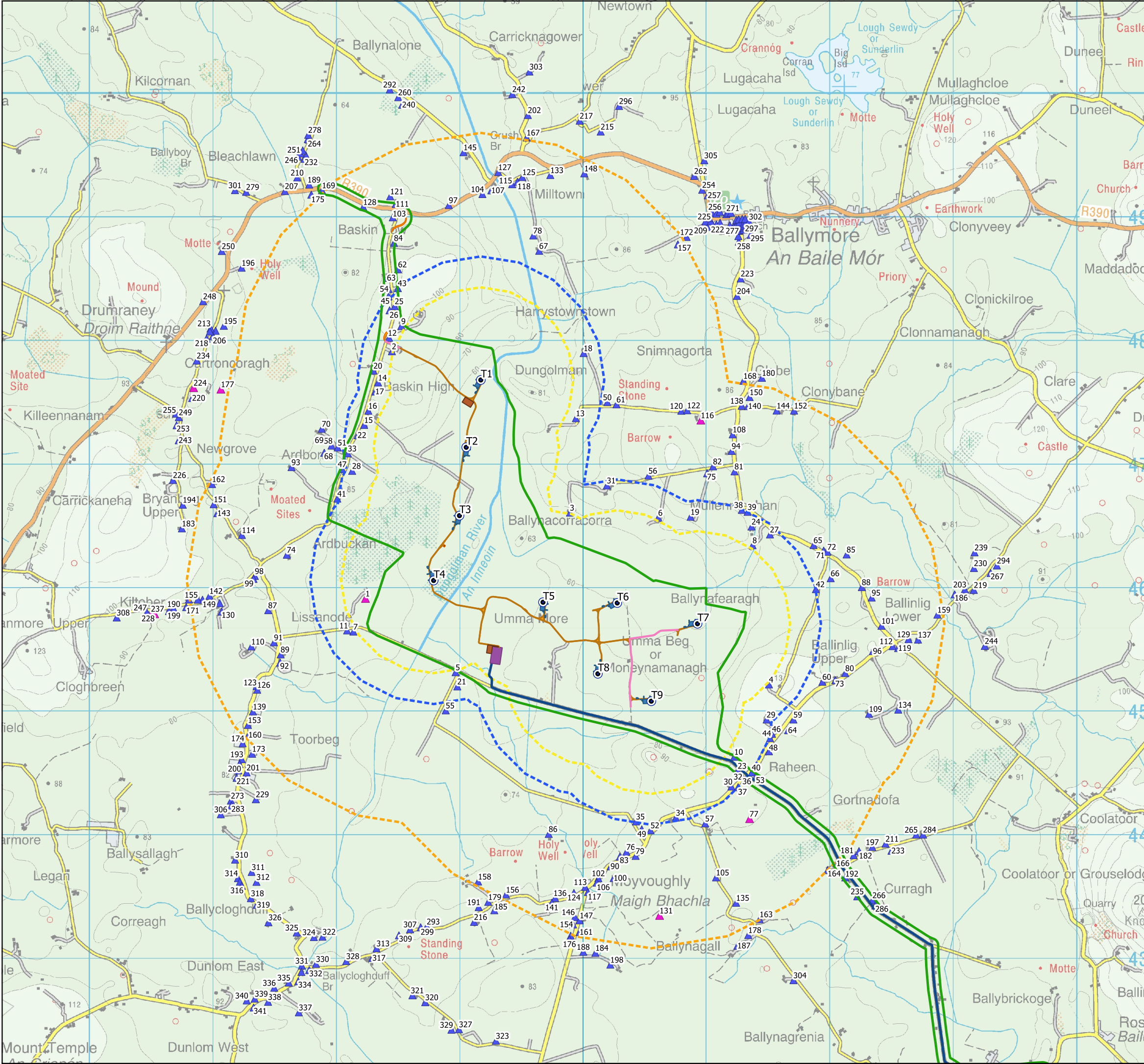


(Kestrel (credit: WILDLIFE GmbH / Alamy Stock Photo)



## APPENDIX 3 – HOUSE LOCATION MAP





### Map Legend

- EIAR Site Boundary
- Proposed Turbine Layout
- Proposed Hardstands
- Proposed Met Mast
- Proposed New Roads
- Proposed Upgrades to Existing Roads
- Proposed Temporary Construction Compounds
- Proposed Onsite Substation
- Proposed Grid Connection

Properties

- Derelict
- Dwelling
- 750m Turbine Buffer
- 1km Turbine Buffer
- 2km Turbine Buffer

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Drawing Title

Proposed Development Layout

Project Title

Umma More Renewable Energy Development

Drawn By	NMcH	Checked By	EC
Project No.	201050	Drawing No.	Figure 1
Scale	1:30000	Date	2023-03-06

**MKO**  
Planning and  
Environmental  
Consultants  
Tuam Road, Galway  
Ireland, H91 VW84  
+353 (0) 91 735611  
email:info@mkoireland.ie  
Website: www.mkoireland.ie





## APPENDIX 4 – NEWSPAPER NOTICES



Umma More Ltd. are holding information sessions regarding a proposed renewable energy development, comprising up to 9 no. wind turbines and associated infrastructure, in the townlands of Baskin High, Lissanode, Umma More, Umma Beg or Moneynamanagh and Ballynafearagh, Co. Westmeath, with underground grid connection cabling following the public road network bypassing Kilbeggan and connecting to Thornsberry 110kV Substation near Tullamore, Co. Offaly. These information sessions will be held at Rosemount GAA Hall and the Bridge House Hotel, as follows.

---

**Rosemount GAA Hall,  
Rosemount,  
Co. Westmeath.  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July  
3pm – 8pm**

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**Bridge House Hotel,  
Tullamore,  
Co. Offaly.  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July  
4pm – 8.30pm**

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Each information session is open to all interested parties and will have all information available to date in relation to the proposal on display and project representatives will be in attendance to answer any questions. We appreciate that attendance may be a concern due to COVID-19 and therefore all information will also be available to view on the project website, [www.ummamoreinfo.com](http://www.ummamoreinfo.com). If anyone cannot access the website, please contact the project Community Liaison Officer (CLO), James Crowley, to arrange an alternative means of sharing the information.

E-mail: [ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com](mailto:ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com) or Phone: 086-3979248



Umma More Ltd. are holding information sessions regarding a proposed renewable energy development, comprising up to 9 no. wind turbines and associated infrastructure, in the townlands of Baskin High, Lissanode, Umma More, Umma Beg or Moneynamanagh and Ballynafearagh, Co. Westmeath, with underground grid connection cabling following the public road network bypassing Kilbeggan and connecting to Thornsberry 110kV Substation near Tullamore, Co. Offaly. These information sessions will be held at Ballymore Community Centre and Moyvoughly Community Hall, as follows.

**Ballymore Community Centre**  
**Ballymore,**  
**Co. Westmeath.**  
**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August**  
**5pm – 8pm**

**Moyvoughly Community Hall**  
**Moyvoughly,**  
**Co. Westmeath.**  
**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September**  
**5pm – 8pm**

Each information session is open to all interested parties and will have all information available to date in relation to the proposal on display and project representatives will be in attendance to answer any questions. We appreciate that attendance may be a concern due to COVID-19 and therefore all information will also be available to view on the project website, [www.ummamoreinfo.com](http://www.ummamoreinfo.com). If anyone cannot access the website, please contact the project Community Liaison Officer (CLO), James Crowley, to arrange an alternative means of sharing the information.

E-mail: [ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com](mailto:ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com) or Phone: 086-3979248



## APPENDIX 5 – LETTERS TO RESIDENTS



30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**RE: Proposed Ballynacorra Renewable Energy Development**

Dear Householder,

I hope this letter finds you well in these difficult times.

I am writing as a representative of Enerco Energy, an Irish-owned renewable energy developer, based in Lissarda, near Macroom Co. Cork. We are exploring the potential of a renewable energy development in the area of Ballynacorra and adjacent townlands, which we have identified as being a potentially suitable location for a development of up to 10 no. wind turbines.

We are writing to all dwellings identified within approximately 2km of the proposed site, to inform you about the proposed project and introduce you to the company. Ordinarily this initial introduction would be completed by way of calling to you in person, however it is not possible to do so at this time. It is intended to continue to update you with further letters over the coming months, with our approach evolving in line with public health guidelines, so as to ensure we engage with people in a safe and compliant manner.

Along with this letter, you will also find a map and leaflet enclosed. The map highlights the area we have identified as being potentially developable, while the leaflet provides an overview on Enerco Energy, with some general information about wind energy. Furthermore, we have set up a dedicated project website ([www.ballynacorrainfo.com](http://www.ballynacorrainfo.com)), which provides this correspondence and some additional information available to the wider community. This website will be updated with further information as the project progresses.

I look forward to a return to normality, when I can call to meet you in person, but in the meantime I am available if you wish to contact me with any queries that you may have, either through the form on the website, or by the phone or email details listed below.

Yours sincerely,

Aidan Stakelum

Enerco Energy Ltd  
[aidan.stakelum@turnkeydev.com](mailto:aidan.stakelum@turnkeydev.com)

086 1427399

Enerco Energy Limited, Lissarda Business Park, Lissarda, Co Cork, Ireland  
Tel: +353 (0) 21-7336034 Email: [info@enercoenergy.ie](mailto:info@enercoenergy.ie) Reg. No. 357045

**RE: Proposed Ballynacorra Renewable Energy Development**

Dear Householder,

I called around today to meet with you in regards to the proposed Ballynacorra Renewable Energy Development, unfortunately you were away at the time and i was unable to meet you. Please find attached a biodiversity brochure which you might find of interest, presenting some early information in regards to the biodiversity present on the site from our findings.

If you have any queries, or wish to arrange a face-to-face meeting to discuss the proposal, please feel free to contact me at the below details, or via the contact page on the dedicated project website ([www.ballynacorrainfo.com](http://www.ballynacorrainfo.com)). The website also provides some additional project information and will be updated with further information as the project progresses.

Yours sincerely,

Aidan Stakelum

Enerco Energy Ltd  
[aidan.stakelum@turnkeydev.com](mailto:aidan.stakelum@turnkeydev.com)  
086 1427399

27<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**RE: Proposed Umma More Renewable Energy Development**

Dear Householder,

I hope this letter finds you well.

Having listened to the views of the local community a decision was taken to re-name the proposed project from Ballynacorra to Umma More, this and all future correspondence will refer to the Proposed Umma More Renewable Energy Development. We are grateful for the feedback received from the community to date and look forward to assisting with any further queries that arise as the proposed project progresses.

Since our last correspondence in July 2021, the project environmental consultants have been working hard to ensure that all possible environmental impacts are examined and considered in the design of the proposed development. Surveying has been ongoing for the last number of months, and you may have noticed some activity in the area. Sufficient information has now been collected to provide you with the enclosed draft turbine layout.

The current proposal comprises up to 9 no. wind turbines as illustrated on the enclosed map. The map provides setback distance lines at 750m, 1km and 2km from each turbine, and your property is identified as H\_\_\_ on the map. We are writing to all properties located within approximately 2km of any proposed turbine. This information will also be made available on the project website to inform the wider community.

In line with the re-naming of the proposed development, the project website has also been updated to [www.ummamoreinfo.com](http://www.ummamoreinfo.com), the old website will re-direct viewers to the new site up until the end of this year for convenience.

Finally, many locals will already know that I took up the role of Community Liaison Officer on this project in August of 2021. I look forward to continuing to liaise with those that I have already met and to meeting more of the local community as the project progresses. If you have any queries in relation to this proposal, please feel free to contact me by email at [ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com](mailto:ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com), by phone at 086-3979248 or through the 'contact' portal on the project website.

Yours sincerely,

James Crowley

Enerco Energy Ltd | [ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com](mailto:ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com) | 086-3979248



18th May 2022

**RE: Proposed Umma More Renewable Energy Development**

Dear XXX,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I am writing today to update you on the proposed Umma More renewable energy development. The project Environmental Consultants continue to evolve the design of the proposed development and as more information becomes available, I will continue to update you.

Since I last wrote to you, the grid connection route has been chosen and the internal road layout connecting the proposed turbines has been drafted. There are two maps enclosed, the first map is an update on the proposed development site layout, including the proposed internal road network and an indicative substation location, the second map illustrates the proposed grid connection underground cabling route. As noted previously your property is identified as HXXX. It is proposed to connect the Umma More Turbine Site via 110kV underground cabling to Thornsberry 110kV substation near Tullamore Co. Offaly, the cabling will be primarily located along the public road network.

This round of public consultation has been extended to residents along the underground cabling route now that it has been established. I have provided them with a brief introduction to the project and a map illustrating the proposed cabling route in relation to their property. I have also directed them to the project website, [www.ummamoreinfo.com](http://www.ummamoreinfo.com), so that they can view all available information in relation to the project.

In the coming weeks we intend to hold a public information evening at a location yet to be decided, where information about the project will be on display for all interested parties to view, and project representatives will be there to answer any project specific questions. If you have any ideas on a suitable venue, please let me know.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information and as always should you have any queries regarding this information of any aspect of the proposed development, please feel free to contact me by phone at 086-3979248, email at [ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com](mailto:ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com) or through the 'contact' portal on the project website.

Yours sincerely,

James Crowley

Enerco Energy Ltd.

[ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com](mailto:ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com)

086-3979248

Enerco Energy Limited, Lissarda Business Park, Lissarda, Co Cork, Ireland  
Tel: +353 (0) 21-7336034 Email: [info@enercoenergy.ie](mailto:info@enercoenergy.ie) Reg. No. 357045





16th May 2022

**RE: Proposed Umma More Renewable Energy Development Grid Connection Route**

Dear XXX,

I hope this letter finds you well. Based on available information we understand that you are the registered owner of the property marked HXXX on the enclosed maps.

I am writing to you as a representative of Umma More Ltd., an associate company of Enerco Energy, which is an Irish-owned renewable energy developer, based in Lissarda, near Macroom Co. Cork. Please find enclosed leaflet which provides some more information about the company and some facts about wind energy in general.

I wish to introduce you to a proposed renewable energy development in the townland of Umma More and adjacent townlands Co. Westmeath, approximately 7km North of Moate town. The development will comprise up to 9 no. wind turbines and associated infrastructure and will provide a significant contribution to Ireland's renewable energy targets.

It is proposed to connect the renewable energy development to Thornsberry 110kV substation near Tullamore Co. Offaly via 110kV underground cabling. The proposed underground cabling will be designed and installed to EirGrid specifications, primarily located along the public road network.

Please find enclosed, two maps for your information. The first map illustrates the overall grid connection cabling route from the Umma More Turbine Site to Thornsberry substation, and the second map (overleaf on the overview map) is a focused map showing the section of the cabling route along which your property is located.

Note that on-going consultation has been focused on those closest to the Umma More Turbine Site to-date, and now that the grid connection underground cabling route has been established, we have extended the scope of the consultation to include your property. You can view all available information in relation to the project on the project website, [www.ummamoreinfo.com](http://www.ummamoreinfo.com), please let me know if this is not accessible to you and I will arrange for a hard copy of the information to be sent to you.

In the coming weeks we intend to hold a public information evening at a location yet to be decided, where information about the project will be on display for all interested parties to view, and project representatives will be there to answer any project specific questions. If you have any ideas on a suitable venue, please let me know.



Finally, if you have any concerns or queries in relation to the proposed project, please feel free to contact me by email at [ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com](mailto:ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com), by phone on 086-3979248 or through the 'contact' portal on the website.

Yours sincerely,

James Crowley

Enerco Energy Ltd.

[ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com](mailto:ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com)

086-3979248



21<sup>st</sup> June 2022

**RE: Proposed Umma More Renewable Energy Development**

Dear Householder,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I am writing today to update you on the proposed Umma More renewable energy development. The project Environmental Consultants continue their preparation for a planning permission application for the proposed development and as more information becomes available, I will continue to update you.

The purpose of this correspondence is to notify you of the upcoming public information sessions in Rosemount GAA Hall and the Bridge House Hotel Tullamore. These sessions are intended to provide anyone interested with all information available to date. There will be members of the project team along with myself present to answer any queries. See enclosed a copy of the advertisement which will appear in this week's edition of the Westmeath Independent and the Offaly Independent to inform the wider community of these sessions.

Everyone is welcome to attend, however, there is no obligation. All information made available on each day will be the same and will also be uploaded to the project website, [www.ummamoreinfo.com](http://www.ummamoreinfo.com). I can prepare an information pack for anyone that may not have access to the website and are not able to attend either of the information sessions.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and as always if you have any queries regarding the proposed development, please feel free to contact me by email at [ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com](mailto:ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com), by phone 086-3979248, or through the 'contact' portal on the project website.

Yours sincerely,

James Crowley

Enerco Energy Ltd.  
[ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com](mailto:ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com)  
086-3979248



17<sup>th</sup> August 2022

**RE: Proposed Umma More Renewable Energy Development**

Dear Householder,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I am writing today to notify you of the upcoming public information sessions in Ballymore Community Centre and Moyvoughly Community Hall. Much like the information sessions held in July, the intention is to provide anyone interested with information relating to the project. There will be members of the project team along with myself present to answer any queries. See overleaf a copy of the advertisement which will appear in this week's edition of the Westmeath Independent and the Offaly Independent to inform the wider community of these sessions.

Everyone is welcome to attend, however, there is no obligation. All information made available on each day will be the same and will also be uploaded to the project website, [www.ummamoreinfo.com](http://www.ummamoreinfo.com). I can prepare an information pack for anyone that may not have access to the website and are not able to attend either of the information sessions.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and as always if you have any queries regarding the proposed development, please feel free to contact me by email at [ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com](mailto:ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com), by phone 086-3979248, or through the 'contact' portal on the project website.

Yours sincerely,

James Crowley

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[ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com](mailto:ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com)  
086-3979248



## APPENDIX 6 – PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENTS







