APPENDIX 2-2a

COMMUNITY REPORT PART 1

Lackareagh Wind Farm Community Report

Introduction

EDF Renewables Ireland is committed to working closely with the communities around our project sites, and to being a good neighbour. This document sets out how EDF Renewables Ireland demonstrated this commitment to continuous community engagement with respect to the Lackareagh Wind Farm project in Co. Clare.

It further demonstrates EDF Renewables Ireland's commitment to a programme of genuine positive engagement with the local community and stakeholders, and the value placed on their contribution to and involvement in the development of the project. It specifically outlines the actions undertaken as part of a wider community engagement and communications plan since the project was first announced in February 2022.

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Approach to consultation

EDF Renewables Ireland recognises the importance of ensuring that communities in the vicinity of our projects are kept fully informed on their progress and receive timely updates on key project milestones. It is also critically important that communities are given every opportunity to review and provide feedback on the proposed project.

As well as adhering to industry best practices in relation to community consultation as set out in the draft Wind Energy Guidelines 2019, our approach to engagement throughout has focused on:

- Being open and transparent in all our communications
- Communicating project updates and milestones as early as possible
- Providing opportunities for feedback on the proposed project
- Listening and answering any questions
- Identifying and understanding local issues to be considered in the development of the project

Community engagement team

In order to design and deliver a dedicated community engagement programme, the following key staff were involved from the outset.

- **John Conaghan** – Project Manager and Community Liaison Officer
- **Anita O'Toole** – Community Liaison Officer
- **Declan Collins** – Community Liaison Officer (replaced Anita O'Toole during maternity leave)
- **David Clancy** – External Affairs Manager

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The consultation process

Phase 1

Introducing the project

Once the initial scope of the project was clear, we announced our intention to develop Lackareagh Wind Farm in February 2022. Our aim was to make as many members of the local community aware of the proposed project as possible.

During the week commencing 14 February 2022, an information leaflet (**Appendix A**) was distributed to all homes within 2km of the project site, to introduce the project, provide details of its scope, and encourage positive two-way dialogue from an early stage. Our team also went door-to-door to all homes within 1km of the site, to speak with local residents while providing the information and answer any questions they may have.

Local residents were advised of the intention to develop a wind energy project in the area and were provided with initial design details of the project. They were also advised of the intention to carry out further public consultation and details of where to find out further information. All residents were provided with contact details of the community engagement team who could be contacted with any further queries. In total, 83 households received this information.

The information leaflet contained information detailing:

- An overview of EDF Renewables Ireland
- The potential contribution of onshore wind energy to the Irish Government's Climate Action Plan targets and its impact on electricity bills
- The proposed scope of the project, its location, number of turbines, height of turbines and related infrastructure
- The establishment of a Community Benefit Fund
- Next steps
- Contact details including the project website, email address and phone numbers of two Community Liaison Officers

The project webpage (Lackareagh wind farm - EDF Renewables (edf-re.ie)) went live this same week. It has been updated on a regular basis at various points since its launch, as the project has developed and more information has become available during the design and assessment process.

A dedicated email address (lackareaghwindfarm@edf-re.ie) was also created and included in all information materials. The mailbox is monitored by the project team, and all queries receive a response within 48 hours.

Local elected representatives within the Killaloe Electoral Area were initially contacted by email to provide an overview of the proposed development and to invite initial feedback. The email correspondence (see **Appendix B**) included detailed information on the proposed development, including contact details for further engagement. All Oireachtas members from the Clare constituency were consulted and information brochures were similarly provided.

Phase 2

Updating on the project's progress

Following the launch of the project, we held a number of drop-in information clinics at a local venue, where residents could call in to speak to members of the project team and ask any questions in relation to the project. Clinics were held on 28 June, 26 July, 16 August and 26 September, and were advertised in the Clare Champion newspaper (**Appendix C**). There was strong attendance at these events, with approximately 50 people attending across the four dates.

On 26 August 2022, members of the project team also met with Councillors Alan O'Callaghan, Tony O'Brien, Joe Cooney and Pat Burke at their request, to discuss the project, our plans for public consultation and the proposed timeline of the project.

On 22 September 2022, the project team met with Councillors Alan O'Callaghan and Joe Cooney at their request, to introduce them to the project manager and answer their questions about the project. It was noted by Cllr Cooney that "you [EDF Renewables] are working to keep the community involved."

In June 2023, following the progression of various site and environmental surveys, we shared an update on the project's progress since the initial project launch. A new information leaflet (see **Appendix D**) containing detail of the project's achievements to date and illustrating a preliminary turbine layout was again distributed to all homes within 2km of the site, and our team again went door-to-door to all homes within 1km, to share the information and answer residents' questions.

In addition to these events, the team continued to respond to queries received via the website or project mailbox, and Community Liaison Officers carried out home visits where requested to discuss the project with members of the local community in more detail.

Phase 3

Holding a public exhibition

A public exhibition was held at the Lakeside Hotel and Leisure Centre, Killaloe, on 21 November 2023 from 3-8pm. The purpose of this event was to present detailed project information (**Appendix E**) to the local community, explain the findings of the various studies carried out as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment, and show the newly revised layout of the proposed wind farm with accompanying photomontages to help the community assess visual impact.

The exhibition also featured an updated project timeline, information on the proposed Community Benefit Fund, and on other aspects of wind energy. In addition, a leaflet discussing biodiversity at the site (**Appendix F**) was created and made available to attendees. Members of the project team and from MKO, environmental consultants on the project, were in attendance on the day. There was no requirement to register in advance and all were welcome to attend.

08 Public Exhibition

Attendance at the exhibition was promoted in advance in a number of ways:

- An event invite (**Appendix G**) was distributed to all homes within 2km of the project site, containing information about the project and the date and time of the public exhibition.
- Adverts (**Appendix H and I**) were placed in the Clare Champion newspaper on 10 and 17 November.
- A press release was issued to all local media: EDF Renewables Ireland to host public exhibition for proposed Clare wind farm - EDF Renewables (edf-re.uk)

  The press release received prominent coverage in local media:

  - Clare Echo: derefer (truehawkmedia.ie) and Lackareagh Wind Farm to consist of seven turbines - Clare Echo
  - Clare Champion: (**Appendix J**)

- All TDs, Senators and Cllrs in the relevant area were invited to attend the event

The public exhibition was attended by approximately 20 people. A virtual exhibition, containing all of the same information presented at the in-person event, was also created: Lackareagh VCR - SeekBeak. This went live on the same day as the public exhibition, and remains available to view.

The main issues raised by members of the local community during the course of the community consultation process in relation to the project were:

- The visual impact of the project – residents queried the visual impact the turbines would have on the local landscape. Using the photomontages illustrating how the turbines will look from several local landmarks, the team described how and why the proposed turbine locations were selected.
- Noise – in relation to queries about the level of noise produced by operational wind turbines, the team explained the existing noise limits in Ireland, and how these are among the strictest in Europe.
- Shadow flicker – some residents queried whether the turbines would produce shadow flicker. The team explained that no shadow flicker would be created.
- Ecological sensitivities – residents questioned the impact on local biodiversity and the environmental impact of the project, and were provided with details of the mitigation strategies in place and surveys conducted as part of the EIAR.
- Cumulative impacts – some attendees raised the issue of cumulative impact from multiple wind farms in the local area.

Impact of community consultation on proposed development

The level of feedback received during the course of the community engagement programme (February 2022 to the present day) has been high, in particular at the community drop-in clinics and the public exhibition held in November 2023. At all times the team have aimed to provide the relevant project information and answer any queries or concerns in relation to the project. General disruption to the local area was frequently raised in conversation. In response to this, while the project substation and battery energy storage system were initially sited in the lower Gap Road, these have now been sited higher up the local mountaintop and further away from residential properties.

Community Benefit Fund

Should the project qualify for the Renewable Electricity Supply Scheme (RESS), 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. If this scheme is changed under any future Government policy, the fund would be adjusted accordingly.

The value of this fund would be directly proportional to the electricity generated by the wind farm. Under the current T&Cs of RESS, the fund value would be expected to be in the region of c.€240,000 per year.

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. This group will then work on designing the governance and structure of a community entity that would administer the Community Benefit Fund.

The types of projects and initiatives that could be supported by such a Community Benefit Fund could include youth, sport and community facilities, schools, educational and training initiatives, and wider heritage, and environmental projects. Initial local suggestions for use of the fund included grants for local schools, 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 retrofitting of houses and contributions to electrical bills.

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.

Conclusion

EDF Renewables Ireland has carried out active engagement, consultation and dialogue with the local community from an early stage in the development of the Lackareagh Wind Farm project, and remains committed to keeping all stakeholders informed as the project develops further.

Through this ongoing process, we have enhanced our understanding of the key issues and concerns of the local community regarding the project and wind energy more generally.

However it has also allowed us to communicate the many environmental and economic benefits of wind energy, the importance of projects like Lackareagh Wind Farm to meeting Ireland's renewable energy targets, and the role of the community benefit fund in supporting local initiatives and activities. We are committed to continuing to engage in a positive and proactive manner with the local community around Lackareagh Wind Farm over the lifetime of the project, and remain at the community's disposal to address any queries into the future through the channels established as part of this process.

Appendix A

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Introduction

EDF Renewables Ireland is investigating the potential for a wind farm on land to the east of the village of Kilbane, Co. Clare. The proposed Lackareagh Wind Farm site is located in the townlands of Killeagy and Shannaknock.

We are committed to engaging with the local community throughout the development of the project. This information is being circulated to all homes within a 2km radius of the site boundary to introduce the project and encourage open and transparent two-way dialogue from an early stage.

About Us

EDF Renewables Ireland is part of one of the world's largest electricity companies and our investment and innovation in renewable energy projects is reducing costs for consumers and bringing significant benefits to communities.

EDF Renewables Ireland's team has a wealth of experience in bringing complex development projects to fruition, across onshore and offshore wind, solar PV and battery storage technology, and is supported by more than 300 colleagues in the UK.

In 2020 we acquired 50% of Codling Wind Park, a major offshore wind farm which will be located off the coast of Co. Wicklow, with a dedicated team who have begun developing the project, and 100% of Wexford Solar, which includes eight solar projects across Ireland. In total we have an Irish onshore development pipeline of almost 1GW.

In the UK, EDF Renewables has an operating portfolio of 36 wind farms and two battery storage units (together totalling almost 1GW).

EDF Renewables operates in more than 20 countries around the world.

Delivering low-carbon energy for Ireland

Under the Climate Action Plan 2021, the Irish Government has set a target to increase the share of renewables providing our electricity from 30% in 2018 to 80% by 2030. Onshore wind is now the cheapest form of new, large-scale electricity generation in Ireland. Our aim is for the completed Lackareagh Wind Farm to generate up to c.50MW of clean energy, powering more than 35,000 homes across Ireland.[1]

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Developing the Project

We believe the site has the potential to accommodate up to 7 wind turbines with a maximum tip height of up to 180m. This area has been identified as 'Open for Consideration' under the current Clare County Development Plan Wind Energy Strategy.

The site study area is shown in red on the map below. We are currently in the process of gathering wind data and mapping the environmental constraints on site. We will use this information to create a preliminary wind turbine layout and will consult with you further on this in the coming months. The project will also include access tracks, a substation, a temporary construction compound, a permanent meteorological mast, underground cabling and a grid connection that links the wind farm to the national electricity grid.

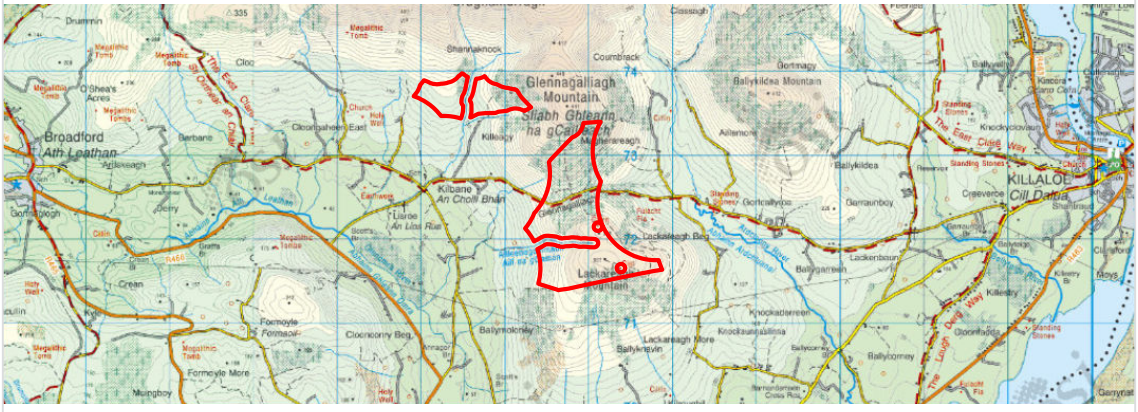
Local Benefits

If the project receives planning permission and is constructed, we will establish a Community Benefit Fund as part of our long-term commitment to the local area. These funds will go towards supporting positive local initiatives and activities. A proportion of the Community Benefit Fund will also be allocated to a 'Near Neighbour Fund' that will directly benefit the project's closest neighbours. Lackareagh Wind Farm will also pay a significant amount in rates to Clare County Council over the lifetime of the project.

Next Steps

- Over the coming months we will be carrying out more detailed environmental studies across the site, including ecology, noise, landscape and visual assessments, and also measuring wind speeds at the site. The results of these studies, along with feedback gathered through consultation with local communities, will be used to determine the final turbine layout.
- We will also be undertaking a transport and access study to assess the best routes for construction vehicles and for bringing turbine components to the site.
- As the project progresses and we have more detailed information to share, we will be holding public consultation events. These will take place in a venue local to the project, or online, depending on Covid-19 guidelines.
- We hope to submit a planning application and an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the project to Clare County Council in late 2022 or early 2023.
- Subject to planning permission, Lackareagh Wind Farm could be constructed and operational by 2026.

Lackareagh site boundary



Contact Us

We have created a dedicated website for the project and this will include all key updates as the project progresses:

www.edf-re.ie/our-sites/lackareagh

We welcome your feedback on our proposals and encourage you to contact us with any questions, concerns or comments through our dedicated Community Liaison Officers for the project:
John Conaghan (087 134 4002) and Anita O'Toole (085 107 6089)

Alternatively, you can email the project team at **lackareaghwindfarm@edf-re.ie.**

1 SEAI Energy in Ireland Report, December 2020, Section.7.3.1, Table.33

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From: David Clancy
Sent: 14 February 2022 09:38
To: josephcooney@outlook.ie
Subject: EDF Renewables plans Lackareagh Wind Farm
Attachments: Lackareagh Wind Farm Community update.pdf

Dear Cllr Cooney,

I hope you're keeping well. I'm writing to let you know that we will shortly be announcing our plans to develop a c.50MW wind farm to the east of Broadford.

The final wind farm layout and turbine numbers have yet to be confirmed, but the project could have up to 7 turbines. A community benefit fund will be established which will support local projects and initiatives.

Our project team is currently gathering wind data and mapping the environmental constraints on site which will be used to create a preliminary wind turbine layout. Detailed environmental studies will also be carried out at the site, including ecology, noise, landscape and visual assessments. The results of these studies, together with feedback gathered in consultation with local communities, will be used to determine the final wind farm layout and number of turbines.

Please see below for the press release announcing the plans, embargoed until Wednesday 16 February. I also attach our community leaflet which we will be issuing to all residents within 2km of the project this week, to introduce the project and encourage open dialogue from an early stage.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the project, and we would be happy to arrange a meeting to discuss further if that would be useful.

Best wishes,
David

David Clancy
External Affairs Manager

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www.edf-re.ie

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RECEIVED: 29/08/2024

Fears for estuary dolphin population

Appeal lodged against Aughinish planning permission expresses concern for impact on ecosystem

Dan Danaher

GRAVE concerns about the possible impact on dolphins from the expansion of a controversial Bauxite Residue Disposal Area (BRDA) for the largest alumina plant in Europe were outlined to An Bord Pleanála recently.

An Bord Pleanála has given Rusal Aughinish Alumina Limited (AAL) the green light to deposit an extra eight million m3 of bauxite residue in total at its plant, despite trenchant opposition from Futureproof Clare, local farmers, Environmental Trust Ireland and environmental groups.

This decision will allow the company to carry out a major expansion of its Bauxite Residue Disposal Area (BRDA), extending the life of the plant for an extra nine years up to 2039.

In a submission to the appeals' board on behalf of Dolphin Watch, Mary Kate Bolger, who has a qualification in zoology and marine biology specialising in bottlenose dolphins, outlined that the whales play a vital role in the eco-system by balancing populations of predatory fish and squid thereby protecting the entire eco-system of the estuary.

The Shannon Estuary is the home of a resident group of about 130 to 150 bottlenose dolphins, which are protected under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive. They have been present in the estuary for a long time.

Ms Bolger claimed long-term exposure to bauxite residue is well known to have toxic impacts on the internal organs of humans and animals.

"The dolphins in the Shannon Estuary are exposed to this residue from the insufficient lining in the BRDA and from fugitive dust blown from the red mud pond.

"The residue could also impact on fish populations in the estuary on which the dolphins predate.

"Skin lesions in dolphins occur in response to environmental stressors. Skin lesions are occurring on the dolphins in the Shannon Estuary. While the exact cause of this is not known, it is apparent that the overall health is declining."

On October 4 2010, she recalled a BRDA dam at the Ajka alumina plant in Hungary failed, releasing approximately 1,000,000 tonnes of bauxite residue resulting in the deaths of 10 people and leading to severe chemical burns among the local population. If such an event took place at Aughinish, she claimed this would severely affect the birth-rate of livestock and could cause the collapse of an entire ecosystem.

Dolphin Watch has been operating from Carrigaholt since 1992 and has appealed against the Aughinish expansion plans.

"Noise pollution from rock blasting could also have an unacceptable impact on dolphins as these creatures rely heavily on echolocation to navigate and communicate. The dolphins are already exposed to noise from shipping and other marine traffic within the estuary and it is noted that noise propagates faster through water.

"The bathymetry of the Shannon Estuary will result in sound being reverberated off the seabed and will be amplified, causing extreme stress and further physiological damage to the dolphins which could be detrimental to their survival.

"Nature tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in the world and dolphin watch Carrigaholt has been operating since 1992 and has attracted many international and Irish tourists.

"Even without the Aughinish Alumina plant there are likely significant health and social problems for dolphins in the Shannon Estuary. Losing the Dolphin population could cause a great environmental and economic toll," she stated.

However, in a response on behalf of the applicant by Tom Phillips and Associates, the planning consultants noted the NIS submitted notes that bottlenose dolphins are largely concentrated near

the mouth of the Shannon Estuary and are infrequently present upstream of Glin, which is 15 kilometres from the subject site.

"Any claims that exposure to bauxite residue may be harmful to dolphins are strongly disputed. It is noted that the observation primarily attributes any impact on dolphin health not directly to the operations of AAL but rather to the general operation of industry in general.

"A recent publication from Rogan et al (2018) has found that the dolphin population of the Shannon Estuary which has been studied intensively for almost 30 years has remained relatively stable with a marginal increase of overall abundance.

"The NIS is accompanied by a conceptual site model prepared by RSK Environmental Limited. It considered the available scientific evidence to evaluate potential pathways that could connect the subject site with the immediate marine and terrestrial environments. Sampling data indicated that there are no pathways being realised that may impact on metal concentrations within the sediment in the immediate marine environment.

"Sediment concentrations are in line with typical background concentrations for the marine environment. Hence, it is concluded that there is no pathway for heavy metals and no evidence that heavy metal concentrations are elevated.

"The data also indicates that there is no pathway between the subject site and designated areas of intertidal estuary for feeding birds," the consultants argued.

In relation to skin lesions on the dorsal fins of the bottlenose dolphins, the response stated

that these have been observed in populations of dolphins from all over the world. A number of theories have been put forward as to why this is happening. However, the consultants stated

there is nothing unique in the Shannon population showing skin lesions.

They also noted that a marine mammal risk assessment on potential impacts of blasting concluded that there was no risk of likely significant effects on the dolphin species arising from noise and vibration impacts.

"Noise and vibration levels from the blast will attenuate quickly and the nearest potential bottlenose dolphin habitat is located over 1.3 kilometres from the borrow pit."

Permission granted for Aughinish expansion

AN Bord Pleanála has given Rusal Aughinish Alumina Limited (AAL) the green light for controversial expansion plans at its Shannon Estuary plant despite trenchant opposition from environmental groups, *writes Dan Danaher.*

This decision will allow the Russian-owned company to carry out a major expansion of its Bauxite Residue Disposal Area (BRDA), extending the life of the plant for an extra nine years up to 2039.

The company was given permission last year to begin rock-blasting for the next 10 years to a depth of 8.5m on its site following a review of its licence by the EPA.

It will enable the company to deposit an extra eight million m3 of bauxite residue in total at its plant.

Futureproof Clare, local farmers and Environmental Trust Ireland were among the groups to object to the granting of planning permission.

Documents submitted to An Bord Pleanála by Town Planning Consultants Tom Phillips and Associates outlined the plant would cease operations in 2030 "based on current production levels" of 1.9 million tonnes of alumina a year, if the proposed development wasn't approved.

The current output represents 30% of the alumina produced in Europe. The plant cost US$1bn to construct and a further US$750m has been spent upgrading it.

The existing alumina refinery at Aughinish, which commenced operations in 1983, is the largest of its kind in Europe.

The rock fill for the proposed BRDA Raise Development is expected to be sourced from the permitted Borrow Pit, the proposed Borrow Pit Extension and an estimated volume of 380,000m3 is required to construct the BRDA to Stage 16.

Once six extra stages are completed, it will increase the height of the BRDA by 12 metres to 44 metres OD. No increase to the existing footprint of the BRDA is proposed.

There are also plans to increase the capacity of the existing Salt Cake Disposal Cell (SCDC) that is set within the Phase 1 BRDA by raising the height of its rock bund wall by 2.25 metres.

According to the company, because the salt cake is classified as hazardous, it is placed in a specially engineered composite lined cell.

The planning approval is subject to just seven conditions including a provision that construction and demolition waste has to be managed in accordance with a construction and demolition waste management plan that has to be submitted and agreed in writing with the planning authority prior to the start of work.

Details of the construction and environmental management plan also has to be agreed with the planning authority before the start of the development.

Blasting at the borrow pit can't take place outside the period between April and September in any year and is limited to a maximum of seven blasting events annually.

The board outlined in conditions that the mitigation and monitoring commitments identified in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and the Natura Impact Statement and other plans submitted with the application have to be implemented in full.

The board decided the main significant direct and indirect effects of the proposed development on the environment will be mitigated with measures undertaken by the company.

It stated there will be positive direct and indirect impact on the local economy and local employment in the area.

It noted the potential for some impact on fauna foraging and commuting, particularly during the active phase of excavation, will be mitigated through standard mitigation, monitoring, management and habitat enhancement.

No oral hearing was held in relation to the application following the board's direction on May 6.

According to the board's inspector's report, the BRDA landfill area comprises two phases – Phase One to the north is about 104 hectares and Phase Two is about 80 hectares combining to a total of 504 acres.

Eoin Conlan, General Manager, Lahinch Leisure Centre; Lisa Vaughan, CEO, Tipperary Energy Agency; and John Hayes, Senior Building Services Engineer, Tipperary Energy Agency, which oversaw the energy retrofit that is now up for an SEAI award.

Two Clare businesses up for sustainable energy awards

TWO Clare-based businesses, The Falls Hotel and Spa and the Lahinch Leisure Centre in partnership with Tipperary Energy Agency, have been shortlisted as finalists in the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Energy Awards 2022.

They are among the cohort of energy-conscious businesses and communities that have been selected for their dedication to an energy-efficient way of working.

The annual awards recognise and reward excellence in sustainable energy in business, communities, research, buildings, renewables and the public sector.

A total of 33 applicants across 10 categories have been shortlisted. Winners will be announced at the national awards ceremony in October, this will return in person for the first time in three years following online ceremonies during Covid.

The Falls Hotel & Spa has been nominated for its six-year campaign to reduce its CO2 emissions.

The hotel's sustainability journey started with smart energy changes, such as switching all of the light fittings to LED, fitting aerators on all water supply systems and using BioLPG fuel.

They then invested in using hydropower. This is powered by the cascades that give the hotel its name. Installing a hydro-electric turbine on the river next to the hotel reduced their carbon emissions by 70%.

In addition, they are selling their excess hydro-electricity back to the grid. This and other sustainability initiatives led to the hotel being declared a carbon-neutral property. They were awarded their GreenMark recognition in March 2021.

Now with a 56-tonne emission reduction by the end of 2021 and 70% reduction in energy bills, they can see a huge change. They proudly have guests stay at a carbon-neutral hotel.

Lahinch Leisure Centre's refurbishment incorporated an energy retrofit that was managed by Tipperary Energy Agency for Lahinch Leisure Centre which was constructed in 1950.

At the beginning of the project, the centre was experiencing high operational costs and declining memberships. This meant the facility was looking at the prospect of closure.

In upgrading the leisure centre, the goal was to create a sustainable solution focusing on energy efficiency and renewable systems and to serve the local region with a lasting impact.

The building fabric has been updated and the centre now benefits from a 100% renewable energy system with the installation of a ground source heat pump, biomass boiler, and solar PV array.

The energy efficiency upgrade works will achieve a 56% reduction in running costs and a 55% reduction in CO2 emissions. The upgrade of the leisure centre to an A rating BER has boosted the local community.

The project has generated local and national interest and shows that it is possible to deep retrofit existing leisure facilities.

Congratulating the entrants and finalists, Fergus Sharkey, Head of Business Supports and Transport with SEAI said, "It is the 19th year of the Energy Awards and each year the SEAI team, and our external VIP Judges, continue to be blown away by the quality of entries, and the grassroots climate action underway in all pockets of our society.

"We received 107 entries from businesses, communities, and organisations across the country who are leading the movement, reshaping our communities and businesses, and encouraging every one of us through their action.

"With the urgent need to accelerate climate action in the context of energy supply constraints and rising costs, their work is more important now than ever and we hope they can provide an example to others."

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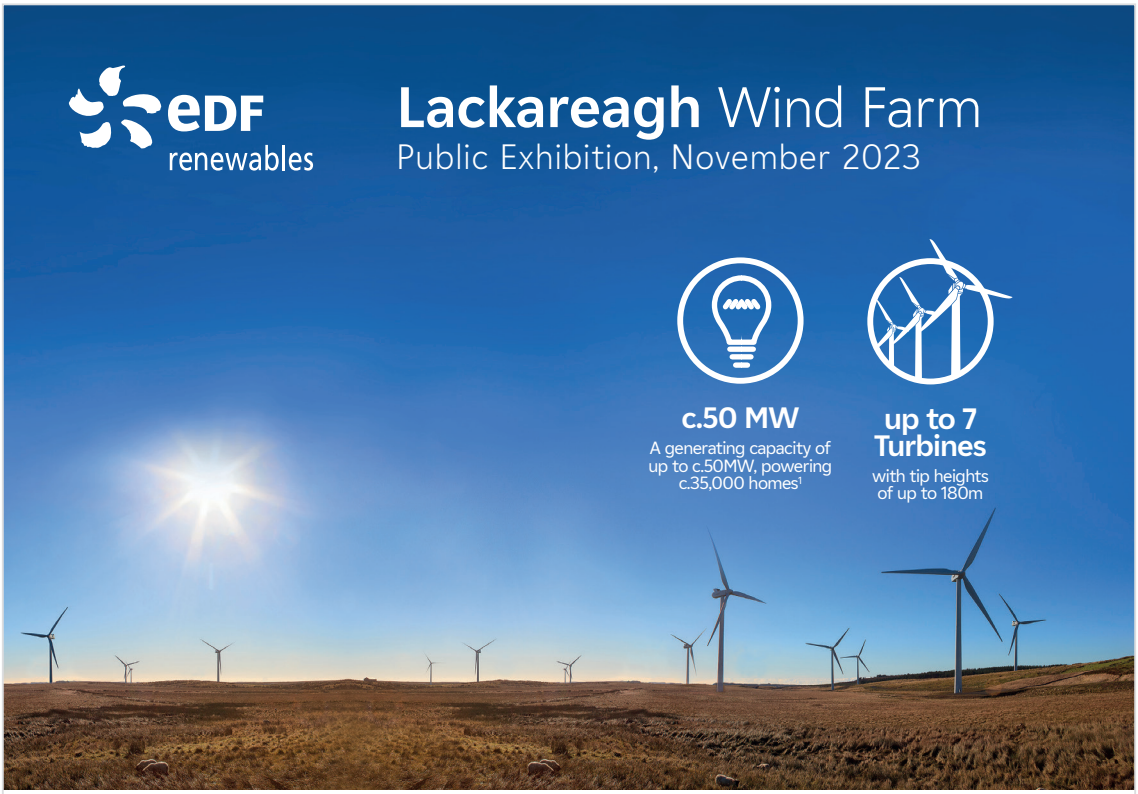

Introduction

Thank you for visiting our exhibition today. We are delighted that you have taken the time to join us for this latest round of public consultation for the proposed Lackareagh Wind Farm.

The project was launched in February 2022, and we would like to take this opportunity to update local residents on how the project is progressing, and get your feedback on the project and our plans.

The proposed wind farm site is located to the east of the village of Kilbane, in the townlands of Kilbane, Killeagy (Goonan), Shannaknock, Killeagy (Ryan), Killeagy (Stritch), Magherareagh, Lackareagh Beg, Lackareagh More, Ballynavin and Ballymoloney.

Based on our site investigations, we believe the project can accommodate up to seven wind turbines, with a tip height of up to 180m.

Community Benefit Fund

If the project receives planning permission and is constructed, we will establish a Community Benefit Fund as part of our long-term commitment to the local area. The Community Benefit Fund will see funds from the project go towards supporting positive local initiatives and activities.

About Us

EDF Renewables Ireland is part of one of the world's largest electricity companies and our investment and innovation in renewable energy projects is reducing costs for consumers and bringing significant benefits to communities.

EDF Renewables Ireland's team has a wealth of experience in bringing complex development projects to fruition, across onshore and offshore wind, solar PV and battery storage technology, and is supported by over 400 colleagues in the UK.

Delivering low-carbon energy for Ireland

Under the Climate Action Plan 2023, the Irish Government has set a target to increase the share of renewables providing our electricity from 30% in 2018 to 80% by 2030. This will require a significant increase in the amount of solar, offshore and onshore wind on our electricity grid. Onshore wind is now one of the cheapest forms of new, large-scale electricity generation in Ireland. Our aim is for the completed Lackareagh Wind Farm to generate c.50MW of clean energy, powering c.35,000 homes[1] across Ireland.

1 SEAI Energy in Ireland Report, December 2020, Section.7.3.1, Table.33

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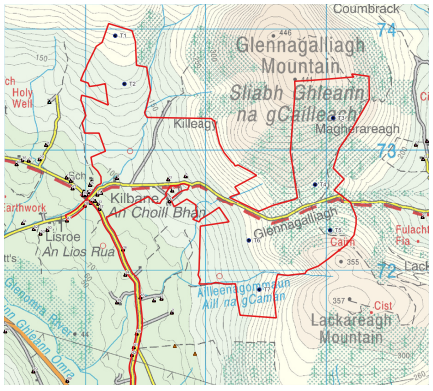
Latest project updates

Site Constraints:

The constraints map for the site has been produced following a desk study of all site constraints. The constraints study encompasses the following constraints and associated buffers specifically in relation to the wind turbines:

- Natura 2000 and Designated sites plus 200 metre buffer
- Dwellings plus typically 720 metre buffer (meeting the requirement for a 4 x tip height separation distance)
- Telecommunication Links plus operator-specific buffer
- Watercourses plus 50-metre buffer
- National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) and National Monument plus 50 metre buffer

Proposed Development Layout



Development Design

A turbine layout was then developed to take account of all the constraints mentioned above and their associated buffer zones and the separation distance required between the turbines. The overall objective is to design a scheme that has the least impact on people living locally and the environment, while optimising the renewable energy generation of the site.

In addition to the above, the locations of the proposed wind turbines, and all other proposed infrastructure locations have been informed by rigorous site investigations and assessments carried out over a two-year period including:

- Ecological Surveys
- Ornithological Surveys
- Hydrological and Geological Site Investigations
- Archaeological Surveys
- Shadow Flicker Modelling
- Noise Modelling
- Landscape and Visual Assessment

The project will also include access tracks, an onsite 38kV substation and battery storage compound, a temporary construction compound, a permanent meteorological mast, a temporary storage area, a borrow pit, underground cabling and a 38kV grid connection which links the wind farm to the national electricity grid.

EDF Renewables is currently in discussions with Coillte about the inclusion of sections of Coillte property in the proposal in addition to other third party lands. If you have any Coillte-related queries about the proposal, please contact lsinfo@coillte.ie

Next Steps

Detailed environmental studies are continuing across the site including ecology, hydrology and landscape and visual assessments. These studies will be compiled into an EIAR which will accompany the planning application.

The results of these studies, along with feedback gathered through consultation with local communities and stakeholders, will be used to determine a final turbine and infrastructure layout.

We will be consulting with Clare County Council in pre-planning meetings.

We are aiming to submit a planning application for the project and the EIAR to Clare County Council in Q1 2024.

Subject to planning permission, the wind farm is expected to be constructed and operational in 2027.

Contact Us

Please visit our project website which we will keep updated as the project progresses:

www.edf-re.ie/our-sites/lackareagh

We welcome your feedback on our proposals and encourage you to contact us with any questions, concerns or comments through our dedicated Community Liaison Officers for the project: John Conaghan (087 134 4002) or Declan Collins (087 254 1416).

Alternatively, you can email the project team at **lackareaghwindfarm@edf-re.ie**