

Appendix 1-5 – Community Engagement Report





Scart Mountain

Wind Farm

Community Report

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Introduction

Futureenergy Scart Mountain DAC (the Developer) is seeking planning permission from An Bord Pleanála to construct and operate a 15-turbine wind farm project on lands at Scart Mountain in Co. Waterford and for the associated grid connection (forthwith referred to as ‘the project’ as defined in EIAR Chapter 4).

FuturEnergy Ireland’s active engagement with the local community began in October 2022 during the early stages of project design. The objective was to ensure the views and concerns of all members of the local community were considered to the extent possible, as part of the project design and the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

In the realm of renewable energy, wind farms stand as iconic symbols of sustainable progress, harnessing the power of nature to generate clean electricity. However, the journey from conception to operation of a wind farm is far from straightforward. One crucial aspect that significantly influences its evolution is stakeholder engagement. FuturEnergy Ireland believes in involving local communities early in the design process, with a view to creating more inclusive, environmentally friendly and socially acceptable wind farms.

While it is not mandatory in Ireland to actively engage with communities prior to submitting a wind farm planning application, it is highly recommended under the Wind Energy Development Guidelines (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2006 and 2016).

The Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, 2019) have retained this position.

At FuturEnergy Ireland, we work hard to be good, long-standing neighbours and develop wind farm projects in a responsible and respectful manner so that local communities, as well as Ireland as a whole, can benefit. As a team, we value and respect honest, straightforward engagements.

This report outlines the community engagement programme undertaken by the Scart Mountain Wind Farm project team prior to submitting this planning application. It also highlights the main issues raised during this process and how community feedback informed the final proposal, alongside the steps taken to ensure the proposed project will be of long-term economic benefit to the local community.



Background

In December 2021, Coillte and ESB established a joint venture company owned on a 50:50 basis called FuturEnergy Ireland. The company's ambition is to develop more than 1GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and make a significant contribution to Ireland's commitment to produce 80% of electricity from renewable sources by the end of the decade.

Both Coillte Renewable Energy and ESB (now FuturEnergy Ireland) have a long history of working with local communities across the country. This experience has generated an inherent understanding of the communities in which we operate. We aspire to work collaboratively with the communities surrounding our renewable energy sites to build projects that are good for us as a commercial company, good for our neighbours, and that contribute to meeting national and global climate change objectives.

The experienced FuturEnergy Ireland team has developed a number of wind farms in Ireland and therefore has a long history of working with communities around the country.



View across Sliabh Bawn Wind Farm, Co. Roscommon

The key elements of our community engagement model are:

- Detailed and systematic engagement with all 'near neighbours' to the project (within 2km) from a very early stage of project design.
- Wider community outreach through online platforms, local print media advertisements, distribution of introductory newsletter and detailed brochure out to 4km and via public community clinics.
- A commitment to open, transparent dialogue and communications.
- Creating opportunities for discussion on key issues via Community Liaison Officer door-door visits.
- Involvement of the local community at all stages of the project design process.
- Ensuring that the local community has access to all relevant information, as soon as it is available, in a user-friendly format.

We recognise that enabling meaningful engagement between the project team and residents is imperative if we are to build a high-quality project that benefits everyone. This engagement must go beyond information provision. Thus, our team placed the emphasis on honest two-way dialogue and the involvement of people in decisions that affect them.

FuturEnergy Ireland Resources

In order to implement our community engagement programme, FuturEnergy Ireland resourced the project with a dedicated engagement team from the outset. The following key personnel are actively involved in community engagement on the Scart Mountain project:

Emer Campbell

Project Manager

Emer has over 20 years' experience delivering environmental programmes and projects in Australia and Ireland. She has a background in environmental science and is passionate about delivering projects that benefit local communities and help to meet Ireland's climate targets.

John O' Halloran

Community Liaison Officer

John has worked in the forest industry for over 40 years with the Forest & Wildlife Service and Coillte. His experience ranges from wildfowl preservation to land acquisition for afforestation. His role as Forest Manager for West Waterford and South Tipperary included public consultation on amenity development, forest management and operations.

Liam Cleary

Community Liaison Officer

Liam has in excess of 40 years' experience in the forest industry with both the Forest Service and Coillte. During his time as District Manager for Waterford and South Tipperary, he was heavily involved in public consultation and community engagement on forest management plans and operations.

Anne Walsh

Stakeholder Manager

Anne has worked on both large and small-scale electricity generation projects throughout Ireland for over 25 years and has been involved in the establishment of a successful community benefit fund and community recreation project in Sliabh Bawn, an operating wind farm in Co. Roscommon.

Janine Thomas

Communications and Media Manager

Janine looks after communications and media relations at FuturEnergy Ireland. She worked as a journalist for various national newspapers for over 15 years before joining the team. Janine brings her extensive media and communications experience to this project.

TOBIN Planning and Environmental consultancy

TOBIN has prepared the planning application and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) on behalf of FuturEnergy Ireland. TOBIN is the project lead for a large multidisciplinary project team. The consultancy is also responsible for the design process and is heavily involved in the statutory and community consultation aspects of the project, including participation in the webinar, community clinics and stakeholder Q&A.

Summary of Community Engagement

The Scart Mountain team focused on a consistent and open engagement approach with a uniquely personal touch. In accordance with the Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development Guidelines, we recognised the importance of appointing a Community Liaison Officer (CLO). To ensure good coverage of the area, FuturEnergy Ireland chose to appoint two experienced CLOs to this project. John O’ Halloran and Liam Cleary were appointed prior to the official project launch in September 2022. Both had knowledge of the area and were experienced in community engagement from their previous employment in Coillte CGA. Most importantly, both have a respectful disposition and were available to respond to calls within 24 hours.

The role of CLO is to communicate key project information, timelines, updates, activities and benefits as the project moves through the design process. This was achieved through systematic door-to-door visits within the 2km zone, coinciding with each project update as it was published (See Table 2). Our CLOs made every effort to engage in regular face-to-face interactions and conversations with local stakeholders. Ultimately, the CLOs were on hand to discuss any queries raised by residents and relay those concerns to the project team. Every query submitted whether by phone, text or email was answered. Where a response required technical input, the CLOs acknowledged receipt of the query and ensured it was addressed by the project manager or the relevant expert.

The CLOs were also readily available to take calls and meet with those living outside the 2km priority zone, including community groups and local political representatives. This was communicated at every opportunity, especially during the delivery of Newsletter 1 (Appendix 1), which extended out to 4km at the project launch and remained a standing offer on all published project material and on the website.

The first newsletter set out the project timelines, clearly stating what the community could expect from us and invited people to register for future updates. In the event people chose not to register for future information, Newsletter 1 confirmed that all project material published would be made available on the project website under the Project Update section. This was supplemented by frequent press releases to local media, a public webinar, a Virtual Tour and two community clinic events. These will be discussed in more detail in the next section of this report.

The team undertook a detailed mapping exercise at the early stages of the project to identify all relevant stakeholders including local residents, landowners, community groups, local political representatives and relevant local authority bodies.

As alluded to above, those living within 2km of the site were prioritised on the basis that these stakeholders are most likely to be impacted by the project development. Within this area 88 dwellings were mapped, which included properties lived in, vacant and with the potential to be occupied (Table 1). Each property was given a unique identifier for the purpose of tracking our engagement and held within a secure stakeholder management software tool (Zoho).

This defined 2km area was used as the basis for continuous engagement with the closest stakeholders and defined as the project’s “near neighbours”. The 2km prioritisation therefore ensured that stakeholders within this area were notified first of any updates and these were communicated in person, where possible. Note, 95.8% of all properties visited by the CLOs within the 2km zone were occupied liveable dwellings. The remainder consisted of unoccupied and/or derelict dwellings. The CLOs called to all occupied houses on four separate occasions as a minimum and met 55% of homeowners within 2km of the site. This reflected the fact that many properties had closed electric gates and owners were not home, most likely commuting daily to work elsewhere in the county.

Table 1 - Occupied & livable dwellings within 4km of the proposed final layout of 15 turbines

Distance from turbines	No. of dwellings
750m – 1km	19
1 – 2km	69
2 - 3km	99
3 – 4km	75
Total	262

Community Engagement Timeline

Infographic summary of community engagement carried out for the proposed Scart Mountain Wind Farm (2022 - 2024).

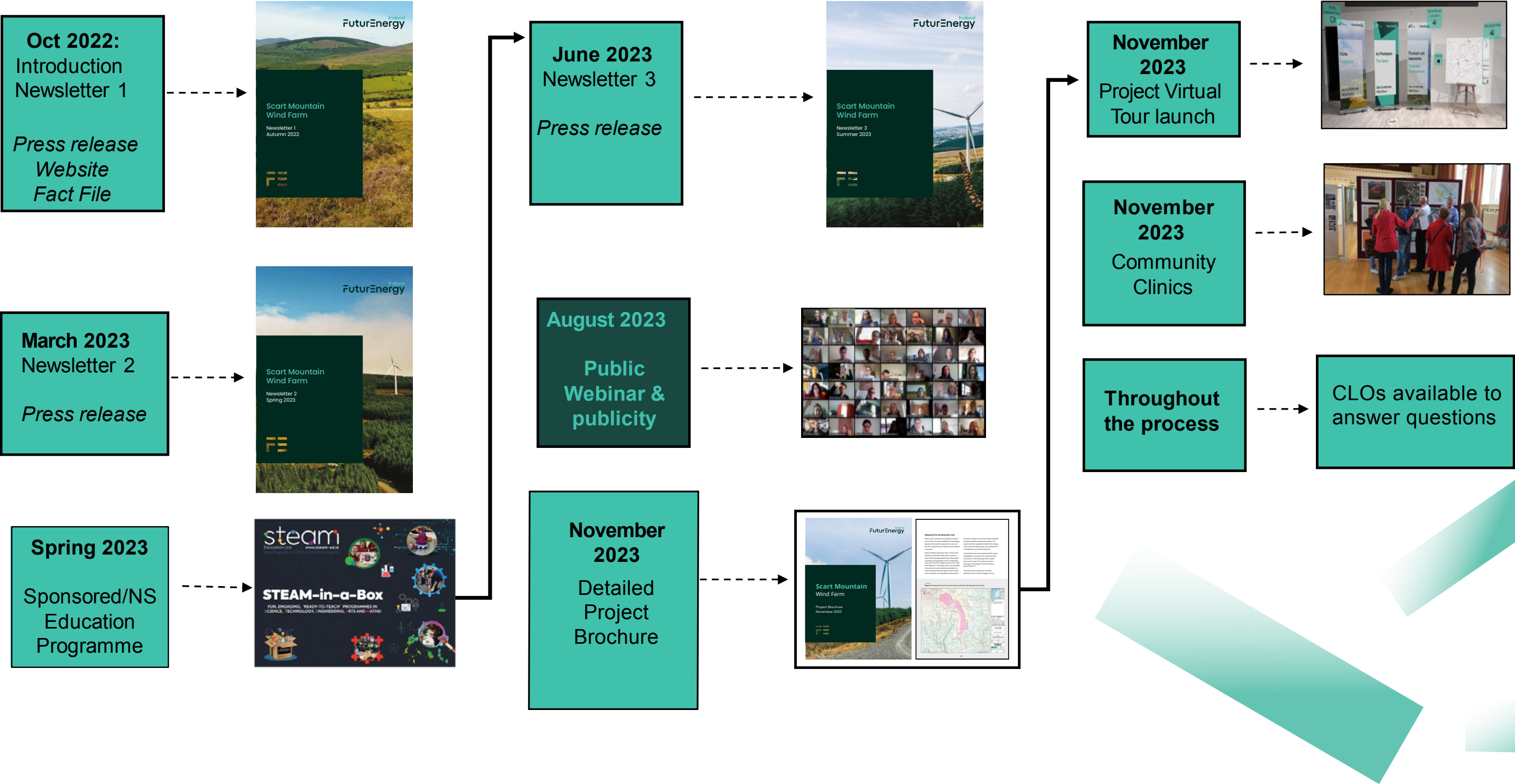


Table 2 - Detailed breakdown of community engagement with the project’s near neighbours and the wider community for the proposed Scart Mountain Wind Farm (2022 - 2024)

TIME PERIOD	ACTIVITY
September 2022	<u>Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) appointed to the project</u>
October 2022	<p>Introductory Newsletter (Newsletter 1) was distributed to all houses out to 4km from the site boundary by the project CLOs. Deliveries involved door knocks seeking to engage residents in conversation. Where no one was home, a note was left with the newsletter sharing the CLOs’ contact details and inviting homeowners to get in touch. Newsletter 1 explained who FuturEnergy Ireland is (the company was created in late 2021 therefore the name would be new to many people), the need for onshore wind, the reasons for selecting this site, a timeline outlining key milestones ahead, and what people can expect from us and when. It also introduced the key team members with photos and short biographies and gave contact details. Those who wished to be kept informed were encouraged to contact the CLOs and/or download newsletters from the project website. See Appendix 1 for copy of Newsletter 1.</p> <p>When deliveries to the priority area had been completed, newsletters were posted and emailed to all local political representatives for South Tipperary and Waterford counties within three days. An open invitation to contact and meet with us was extended. The community groups identified in Table 3 were also provided with copies.</p> <p>Newsletter 1 was accompanied by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Project website launch www.scartmountainwindfarm.ie- Press release to local media (Appendix 1 and Table 5)- A detailed Frequently Asked Questions list (Fact File) on the project website <p>The project team replied to all queries and questions that arose from near neighbours and the wider community following completion of deliveries. The initial FAQ list was updated with new questions that arose during this initial engagement.</p>
November 2022	<p>Advertorial</p> <p>Advertorial ran in local newspapers (Waterford News & Star, Dungarvan Leader, Dungarvan Observer, The Avondhu and The Nationalist) highlighting the role Scart Mountain Wind Farm could play in supporting climate action and giving a project update.</p> <p>See Appendix 1 for copy</p>

TIME PERIOD	ACTIVITY
February – March 2023	<p>The CLOs began contacting selected property owners adjacent to the project seeking permission for noise monitors to be installed either on or adjacent to their properties. Four locations were secured.</p> <p>The timeline for placing noise monitors at four house locations was as follows:</p> <p>December 2022: Commenced the engagement process with householders.</p> <p>February 2023: Noise monitors installed.</p> <p>Late March 2023: Noise monitors removed from houses.</p> <p>Note that throughout this period from February – March 2023, the CLOs visited the property owners to address concerns, answer questions and to coordinate the logistics for the monitors to be installed. This included accompanying the specialist monitor installer, ensuring everything was to the satisfaction of the homeowner. A gift hamper was delivered to property owners as a thank you and acknowledgement of their cooperation in March 2023</p> <p>A sponsored education programme was provided to two local national schools in the vicinity of the Scart Mountain project site.</p> <p>STEAM-Ed is a not-for-profit social enterprise that supplies materials to schools entitled “Climate-in-a-Box”. Each box contains material on climate change and action, including the science of causes and effects, engineering and tech solutions for sustainable energy, humans and nature. The CLOs contacted the schools initially to promote the offering. Once the schools confirmed their interest, STEAM-Ed took over and ran a training webinar for the teachers and distributed the material. This educational outreach received very positive feedback and was well received by teachers and pupils.</p>
March 2023	<p>Newsletter 2 was published and delivered to near neighbours within 2km of the site. This contained an initial turbine layout plan, progress updates on surveys and studies and an update on the estimated timelines. Once again, the delivery sequence followed the same order – local residents within the 2km priority zone first, followed by local political representatives and community groups. On each occasion, an invitation to submit queries or meet in person was offered. Newsletter 2 was accompanied by a press release and circulated to the local media.</p> <p>See Appendix 1 for copy.</p> <p>The project team replied to all queries and questions that arose from near neighbours and the wider community following completion of these deliveries.</p>

TIME PERIOD	ACTIVITY
June 2023	<p>Newsletter 3 was published and delivered by CLOs to near neighbours within 2km of the site. This newsletter provided information on the potential community benefit fund, a second revised draft of the proposed turbine layout and a further update on studies and the estimated timeline. Once again, the delivery sequence followed the same order – local residents within 2km first, followed by local political representatives and community groups. On each occasion, an invitation was extended to either submit queries or meet in person. Newsletter 3 was accompanied by a press release circulated to local media (Table 3). See Appendix 1 for a copy of Newsletter 3.</p> <p>The project team replied to all queries and questions that arose from near neighbours and the wider community following delivery completion.</p> <p>Advertorial The local newspapers (Waterford News & Star, Dungarvan Leader, Dungarvan Observer and The Avondhu) printed an article by Dr Paul MacArtain from Dundalk Institute of Technology. Dr MacArtain wrote the article on behalf of FuturEnergy Ireland and explained in simple terms why there's a need to embrace wind technology. FuturEnergy Ireland sponsored this advertorial. See Appendix 1 for copy.</p>
August 2023	<p>A live project webinar was held on 24th August. The team (the project manager, stakeholder manager, CLOs, communications manager and expert consultants) presented the latest progress update and took questions from attendees. Participants could submit their questions in advance or through the online chatbox. Any outstanding questions that we couldn't get to on the night were subsequently answered via email to individual attendees.</p> <p>The webinar ran for one hour and a total of 39 participants attended, of which 27 were from the local community. The webinar was widely advertised in local shop windows, online and via the local media (see Table 6 and Appendix 1). In addition, an email invitation was sent to local political representatives two weeks in advance.</p> <p>FuturEnergy Ireland Project Development Brochure uploaded to project website.</p> <p>RESS Good Practice Principles Handbook for Community Benefit Funds uploaded to project website.</p>

TIME PERIOD	ACTIVITY
November 2023	<p>A Detailed Project Brochure was published and delivered by two teams of CLOs in early November 2023. The distribution extended out to 4km to reflect the same coverage as Newsletter 1. The purpose was to make those in the wider community aware of progress and to publicise and give advance notice of the planned two-day clinics.</p> <p>This 35-page brochure shared information about the project, including details of the wind farm design process and extracts from the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. There is also a final turbine layout map and photomontages included. See Appendix 1 for copy the brochure.</p> <p>The brochure was accompanied by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An email invitation to local political representatives to attend the community clinics in November. - Community clinic details posted on the project website under Project Updates. - A press release to local media <p>The project team continued to reply to all queries and questions that arose from near neighbours and the wider community during and after the brochure distribution.</p>
November 2023	<p>The Virtual Exhibition was launched through the project website. It provides a project overview, timeframes, team biographies, site maps and details of archaeology & cultural heritage, ecology, noise, landscape & visuals, a full set of photomontages, community benefit fund information and an e-copy of the 35-page detailed project brochure.</p> <p>The Scart Mountain Wind Farm Virtual Tour can be accessed via the project website homepage. See also Table 5, which summarises the visitor numbers being a total of 255 visitors to the virtual tour. Overall, 1400 users came to the project website from between the period of project launch to planning permission with 11,000 clicks on pages or links.</p>
W/c 13th Nov 2023	<p>Publicity posters were placed in local shop windows advertising dates, times and locations for the Scart Mountain community clinics. Print media adverts were placed in the Waterford News & Star, Dungarvan Leader, Dungarvan Observer and The Avondhu for two weeks preceding the two-day clinics (see Appendix 1 for copies).</p>
November 2023	<p>An information hub was held on Friday 24th November in the Cappoquin Community Centre. The purpose of the information hub was to facilitate bookings for the clinics and to provide general information. The times and dates were advertised in local papers along with the clinic days. Both also received local media coverage.</p>

TIME PERIOD	ACTIVITY
November 2023	<p>A two-day community engagement clinic was held on 28th & 29th November in the Park Hotel, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, which is located within 22km of the proposed project site. This venue location was chosen based on its size, facilities, additional on-site services, security and regular bus transport route (serviced hourly). While local alternatives were sought, none could offer a two-day event back-to-back without disrupting local sporting and community training events.</p> <p>The clinics were organised based on an appointment or pre-booking system. This was chosen to ensure every stakeholder who wished to speak with the project team was given ample time for an extensive conversation. All those who sought an appointment received one. In anticipation of some people not needing an hour-long appointment, we also facilitated half-hour slots. If more community members had asked for an evening appointment, we would have facilitated this by extending the second day. We also accommodated unexpected walk-ins with no appointments and people who missed their appointment on the first day and attended instead on the second day.</p> <p>Overall, the booking system worked extremely well and we are satisfied that all community members with genuine questions and issues were given the opportunity to be heard and accurate information provided at the community clinics. It is worth noting also that a number of members of the anti-wind group, the Knockmealdown Protection Group, attended the clinics and were given individual one-hour appointments with the Project Manager, the Project Director and other specialists from the team.</p> <p>Based on the numbers that turned out (20 individuals), we are satisfied that the venue suited many and did not unduly preclude/prevent those with an interest in the project from attending. There were a few local people who could not attend the event due to other commitments. The team arranged separately to meet these individuals where requested.</p> <p>Material on display at the clinics included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12 pull-up displays - Large AO size maps on location with respect to other windfarms existing or under development in the area - Turbine layout map - Grid route map - Turbine delivery route map - Community benefit fund - Photomontages from varying locations around the site (near and far) <p>More than 10 team members were on hand to answer questions and discuss matters with attendees throughout the two days. No political representative chose to attend the information hub or the two-day clinic.</p>

TIME PERIOD	ACTIVITY
Q4 2024	<p>Advertisements will be placed in a regional and national newspaper, informing the public of a 'notice to submit' a planning application for the project. Please refer to Table 3 - Media Report for details.</p> <p>Site Notices will be placed around the proposed project site.</p> <p>A letter will be distributed to the 2km priority area advising of the intended submission date.</p>
Planning application submission	<p>The planning applications will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála. The EIAR will be available for viewing at the offices of An Bord Pleanála and Waterford County Council. When the full suite of documentation has been received by An Bord Pleanála, it will be uploaded and available to the public to view at www.scartmountainplanning.ie as well as on the An Bord Pleanála website.</p>
Post-planning submission	<p>The project team will remain available as the key points of contact and to answer any queries that may arise.</p>

General engagement points to note

- The project team has maintained a continuous log of all communications with stakeholders using the Zoho management software tool. The CLOs logged all feedback in the form of questions, concerns, requests for information and general commentary. All queries were responded to as information became available and we are satisfied that there were no questions left unanswered.
- All published project material has been routinely uploaded onto the Scart Mountain project website www.scartmountainwindfarm.ie, including additional information requested by stakeholders as a result of door-to-door conversations. These can be found on the Project Updates page of the project website. The website will continue to be maintained and updated during the post-planning stage as updates become available.
- An extensive Frequently Asked Questions section on the project website has been maintained and continually updated since the project was publicly launched. This provides detailed responses on a range of topics including, but not limited to, noise, shadow flicker, health impacts and property price impact. See more on the FAQ on page 17 of this report.
- The CLOs' work included being available on Saturdays and evenings in an effort to meet residents unavailable during the weekdays.
- All Scart Mountain project communications material included both CLOs' contact numbers, the project email and postal address.
- Fortunately, all Covid-19 restrictions ended in early 2022 and did not impact our face-to-face engagement. However, the CLOs remained alert and respectful to vulnerable residents or those who do not wish to have conversations on the doorstep. In such cases, and indeed where a homeowner may not be at home at the time of calling, the contact details (phone, text, email and website) of both CLOs were always left in the post box.

Local interest groups and local elected representatives in Co. Waterford

The project CLOs routinely contacted local interest groups from the wider community and local elected representatives in counties Waterford and South Tipperary to keep them up to date and informed. Typically, this took the form of hand-delivering or emailing the latest project newsletter and being available to answer questions or concerns. A list of the key community groups is outlined in Table 4.

In the case of local political representatives (see Table 3 right), all newsletters and brochures were emailed, and hard copies posted once the 2km near neighbours had received the material first. Note that material newsletter 1 and the detailed project brochure were also sent to South Tipperary political representatives due to the fact that the project site is located adjacent to the county boundary. In all instances, political representatives were invited to get in touch if they had any queries or concerns.



Table 3 - Local political representatives contacted during engagement

Elected TDs/Councillors	Party	County
Mary Butler, TD.	Fianna Fáil	Waterford
David Cullinane, TD.	Sinn Féin	Waterford
Matt Shanahan, TD.	Independent	Waterford
Marc Ó Cathasaigh, TD.	Green Party	Waterford
Mattie McGrath, TD.	Independent	Tipperary
John Cummins, Senator	Fine Gael	Waterford
Garret Ahern, Senator	Fine Gael	Tipperary
Cllr Liam Brazil	Fine Gael	Waterford
Cllr Ger Barron	Labour	Waterford
Cllr Declan Clune	Independent	Waterford
Cllr John O’Leary	Fianna Fáil	Waterford
Cllr Seanie Power	Fine Gael	Waterford
Cllr Tom Cronin	Fianna Fáil	Waterford
Cllr Declan Doocey	Fine Gael	Waterford
Cllr Damien Geoghegan	Fine Gael	Waterford
Cllr Pat Nugent	Fine Gael	Waterford
Cllr Séamus O’Donnell	Independent	Waterford
Cllr John Pratt	Labour	Waterford
Cllr Mairead Tobin	Fianna Fáil	Waterford
Cllr Thomas Phelan	Labour	Waterford
Cllr Conor McGuinness	Sinn Féin	Waterford
Cllr John Fitzgerald	Fine Gael	Tipperary
Cllr Niall Dennehy	Independent	Tipperary
Cllr Michael Murphy	Fine Gael	Tipperary
Cllr Pat English	Independent	Tipperary
Cllr Richie Molloy	Independent	Tipperary
Cllr Siobhan Ambrose	Fianna Fáil	Tipperary
Cllr Michael Anglim	Fianna Fáil	Tipperary
Cllr Andy Moloney	Independent	Tipperary
Cllr Mairin McGrath	Independent	Tipperary
Cllr Marie Murphy	Fine Gael	Tipperary

Table 4 - Local interest groups contacted during engagement

Group/ Enterprise	Location	Description
Cappoquin Community Centre	Cappoquin	Community hall & recreational facilities
Deise Care of the Elderly	Dungarvan	Community care facility
Knockmealdown Active	South Tipperary/West Waterford	Recreational walking group
Knockmealdown Protection Group	West Waterford/ Mount Melleray	Anti-wind objection group
Mount Melleray Abbey	Mount Melleray	Monastic community of Cistercian [Trappist] monks
Melleray Community Centre	Mount Melleray	Community hall & facilities
Melleray Mountain Meitheal	Mount Melleray	Voluntary group for nature
Melleray Glen Rovers GAA	Mount Melleray	Sports club

Table 5 - Website visits, virtual tour visits, local on-site clinic attendance

Summary of	Numbers
Project website user hits (Nov 2022 – Mar 2024)	1,400 users 11,000 event counts (clicks on pages or links)
Virtual Exhibition hits (Oct 2023 – Nov 2024)	356 visitors
Community clinic attendance: (22 – 23 Nov 2023)	20



The Scart Mountain community clinics took place in November 2023



The Scart Mountain project team were available for queries and questions at the community clinics

Table 6 – Media Report

Date	Topic	Media Type Available	Purpose & pick-up
17th Oct 2022	Press release for launch Newsletter 1	Issued to local print/online media outlets and local radio stations	Introduction to the Scart Mountain project. See Appendix 1 for copy.
25th Nov 2022	Advertorial	Print: The Avondhu, Waterford News & Star, Dungarvan Observer, Dungarvan Leader. Print and online: The Nationalist	Outline the link between climate change, the Government's targets for onshore wind and the proposed development of Scart Mountain Wind Farm. See Appendix 1 for copy.
28th Feb 2023	Press release for Newsletter 2	Issued to local print/online media outlets and local radio stations	Progress update See Appendix 1 for copy.
15th May 2023	General renewable energy article	Print: The Avondhu and Dungarvan Leader, Dungarvan Observer and Waterford News & Star	Advertorial by Dr Paul MacArtain, Learn Renewables & Dundalk Institute of Technology. See Appendix 1 for copy.
12th June 2023	Press release for Newsletter 3	Issued to local print/online media outlets and local radio stations	Community benefit fund information. See Appendix 1 for copy.
24th Aug 2023	Webinar advert	Issued to local print/online media outlets	Webinar advertised in four Waterford newspapers two weeks in advance. Also advertised in local shop windows See Appendix 1 for copies.
14th Nov 2023	Press release for detailed project brochure	Issued to local print/online media outlets and local radio station	Publicised the release of the detailed project brochure. It also provided notice of the community clinics and a pop-up information hub in Cappoquinn to facilitate bookings for the clinics. See Appendix 1 for copy.

Table 7 – A summary of the main issues raised during the course of engagement

Topics	Issues raised
Health impacts	Concerns expressed around the potential for health impacts on local residents. How can the developer mitigate or reassure people? Concerns expressed on behalf of a noise and visually sensitive minor living in the area.
Community Benefit Fund	How will the fund be governed? Who can be part of the Fund Committee? What type of activities will it support?
Property prices	How will the wind farm affect property prices in the area?
Traffic/Transport/Construction Management	How will traffic disruption be managed during construction to and from the site and how would issues be resolved?
Shadow flicker	How can the developer ensure that shadow flicker won't occur?
Visual impact	Concerns expressed in relation to the visual impact on residential properties and the proximity of turbines to houses. Concerns also expressed in relation to the height of the turbines.
Noise	How much noise will the wind farm create? How will the developer ensure that the wind farm will not breach noise limits/ impact upon residential properties?
Biodiversity & ecology	What steps is the developer taking to ensure protection of existing wildlife in the area, specifically for hen harrier, bats and red squirrel?
Local water supplies	How will construction of the wind farm affect local water supply and quality?

Table 7 summaries the main issues raised as collated by the CLOs during conversations, submitted via email and at the community clinics. All these topics are also addressed in detail within the EIAR chapters 5 - 16. Many of the concerns were initially brought up during the door-to-door newsletter deliveries and via subsequent phone calls and email correspondence. By and large, face-to-face conversations proved to be the most productive in terms of gathering and understanding the concerns and our CLOs being able to respond with accurate factual responses.

In many cases, the CLOs were able to alleviate concerns but occasionally an in-depth technical response was required and therefore referred to the project manager. Overall, the experience of engaging homeowners in conversations has been positive and has given the team a full appreciation of what matters most to the neighbours closest to the project and indeed to the wider community.

As outlined in Table 2 previously, a list of frequently asked questions was included on the project website from the beginning of the engagement process (see FAQ Fact File list). Based on the developer's own experience on projects throughout Ireland, questions relating to those in Table 7 above are quite common. Our approach is to provide the answers (including peer-reviewed references) from the start, keep these updated and add new questions as they arise. The Scart Mountain online FAQ list consisted of 12 questions at the launch of the project, growing to 30 questions and answers over the period of the engagement. The additional FAQs concerned a range of topics including, but not limited to, environmental screening and impact assessment, turbine specification and layout, substation location and the availability of ZTV images (see the online FAQ list for full responses to submitted questions).

The project team acknowledges that not everyone was satisfied with the answers provided nor pleased about hosting the potential project in their locality. However, we responded to the best of our ability and continue to endeavor to build relationships until such time as a final planning decision has been made.

While it is not always possible to satisfy the preferences of every community member on engagement matters, it is important to point out there are members of the community who welcome the proposed wind farm, have found the engagement programme to be very extensive and were appreciative of our efforts to respond to queries and have our CLOs available.

It is also worth noting that the CLOs were treated with respect and in many instances have established trusted working relationships with many near neighbours. The long timeframe for this engagement has allowed people to digest the information, discuss among themselves and reach out to the project team on any items that they felt needed further clarification.

Response to questions asked during engagement & influence of engagement on the evolution of the wind farm design

As outlined in the previous section, the main areas of concerns for local residents include impacts relating to health, community benefit fund, property price impacts, traffic disruption relating to construction, shadow flicker, potential turbine noise, visual impacts, biodiversity/ecology and water supply.

Impacts associated with health

A review of the literature relating to health effects associated with wind turbine noise finds no evidence of any significant health effects associated with low frequency noise or infrasound. The project team posted a detailed Frequently Asked Question (Q.10) on this topic and can be viewed under the Fact File on the project website.

There is no evidence to support an increased likelihood of significant health issues associated with noise sensitive medical conditions. A detailed written response was provided to any individual with specific concerns on their own health circumstances.

Further details on this can be found in the EIAR.

Impacts associated with the Community Benefit Fund

Concerns were raised with the CLOs regarding the structure and administration of the proposed Community Benefit Fund. The project team posted a detailed Frequently Asked Question (Q.12) on this topic and can be viewed under the Fact File on the project website.

The Scart Mountain Community Benefit Fund will be designed and established based on RESS Community Benefit Fund Good Practice Principles as published by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communication in July 2021. RESS (Renewable Electricity Support Scheme) is a policy initiative to deliver on the Government's Climate Action Plan and has specific requirements in relation to providing local support for those living close to wind farm developments. An important feature of RESS is that all projects must establish a Community Benefit Fund to be used for the wider environmental, social and economic wellbeing of the local community. It is accepted that those living in closest proximity to the project should be priority beneficiaries and that is why some of the fund is designated for Near Neighbour payments. However, it is important that broader community benefits apply as well.

See more on the community benefit fund in the next section “**Potential Enduring Benefits**”.

Impacts associated with property prices

Concerns were raised about potential impacts on the value of properties surrounding the site area. There are several wide-ranging international studies that consider potential effects of wind farms on nearby property values. Based on our review of available research papers, we have not identified any peer-reviewed evidence in Ireland that indicates wind farms have a significant impact on property value. In other parts of the world, the vast majority of studies indicate that there is no evidence to support the claim that a wind farm has a negative impact on local property prices.

Much of the research data emphasises the specific context of an individual wind farm, which makes engaging with local communities even more important. The specific location, the quality of the community engagement programme and the level of net community gain in the form of a benefit fund and/or near neighbour scheme has been cited as important considerations. A detailed Frequently Asked Question (Q.11) on this topic and can be viewed under the Fact File on the project website.



Some of the project information signage on display at the community clinic

Impacts associated with traffic/transport/construction management

Concerns were raised about the potential disruption of traffic and construction in the area and the potential of damaging existing roads, properties adjacent to the roads and follow-up repairs not taking place.

The intention is that a liaison group will be established prior to the commencement of construction. Members of the project team will meet with this group monthly during the construction phase and monitor activities. The group will assist with developing plans for communicating effectively with those directly impacted by construction activity, especially traffic planning, to minimise disruption.

The noise assessment considered all construction-related noise associated with machinery and traffic and all site activities and found that the proposed layout complies with all relevant regulations. Further details can be found in the EIAR.

Impacts associated with potential shadow flicker

Concerns were raised directly with the CLOs from numerous households about the potential impact of shadow flicker from the turbines. The proposed layout can conform with the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006 of maximum 30 minutes of shadow flicker per day or 30 hours per annum at any sensitive receptor through the management of the turbine operations during periods when there is a potential for shadow flicker.

Further to this, in accordance with emerging best practice and the draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019, the project is committed to near zero shadow flicker, subject to safe shut down of the turbines, through the daily management of turbine operations. Frequently Asked Question No. 9 was posted on this topic and can be viewed under the [Fact File](#) on the project website. Further details on this can be found in the Shadow Flicker Chapter of the EIAR.

Impacts associated with noise and visual impact

Noise and visual impacts were addressed as part of the layout design process. A decision was made early in the design process to ensure that a minimum distance of 800 metres would be maintained between nearest inhabited dwellings and turbines. This approach was guided by learnings from previous projects where it proved popular with near neighbours to increase the setback distances greater than the current recommended setback of 500 metres as set out in the Wind Energy Development Guidelines (WEGs) 2006. The setback of >800 metres also complies with the Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines (WEGs) 2019 which are not, as of the time of writing this report, official policy and may change in the final form. The Draft WEGs 2019 recommend a minimum setback of 4 times the tip height of proposed turbines to protect residential amenity.

Visual Impact

Various configurations and layouts were examined as part of the initial design considerations, which at the early concept stage included a layout comprising 17 turbines. Following a series of design iterations, as detailed in Chapter 3 (section 3.6.2), the final proposed layout is for 15 turbines. One turbine was removed for biodiversity reasons and another was removed due to its prominence on the landscape from a scenic route. This iterative design process was led by the project team, and incorporated feedback and information from landowners, neighbours and on-site studies, and factored in the need to ensure sufficient separation distances are maintained for on-site constraints. In particular, a detailed visual impact assessment and ecological constraints determined that a 15-turbine layout was the most suitable, providing a balance between efficient use of the project site area and minimising any visual impacts on the local and wider area. Notably, the public feedback directly resulted in the re-location of the proposed onsite substation being moved to alleviate local concerns relating to the previous location (see Chapter 3 of the EIAR – Consideration of Reasonable Alternatives).

A number of residents requested images of what the wind farm would look like from their particular location. The photomontages prepared for the project are not intended to show the view from every dwelling but to be representative of local, regional and sensitive views in a wide area around the development site. On the Scart Mountain Virtual Tour, an interactive photomontage viewer presents 37 viewpoints and can be accessed via the project website [Homepage](#). Residents can judge the visual impact of the project from these selected locations online. In addition, a hard copy book of all 37 photomontages was available at the on-site community clinic for attendees to discuss with the project team. This helped to alleviate the level of concern around visual impact for many people at the clinic.

Noise

Potential noise emissions from the proposed development and the potential effects on local residents were an important consideration in the design of the turbine layout. The 15-turbine layout was subject to a detailed noise impact assessment and it was determined that the proposed layout will meet the noise requirements set out in the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006 and relevant current guidance and best practice. The noise assessment also involved working with community members in order to compile the background noise levels. To do this, noise monitors were placed at local residences surrounding the project study area during spring 2023.

At the on-site community engagement clinic, the process of cumulatively assessing noise was explained along with the difference between 20-year-old and modern wind turbines, 2006 guidelines, post-commissioning noise monitoring, adherence to the planning application and mitigation measures that can be used. According to feedback, these discussions were very informative and helpful to attendees.

The noise assessment considered all construction-related noise associated with machinery and traffic and all site activities, as well as operation and decommissioning, and found that the proposed layout complies with all relevant regulations.

Please find further details in the respective chapters of the EIAR.

Impacts associated with biodiversity and ecology

Concerns were raised about potential impacts on local ecology and habitats in the site area, including those relating to hen harrier, bats and red squirrel species. Detailed site surveys and assessments were undertaken to consider potential impacts on all aspects of biodiversity including habitats, mammals, bats, birds, etc. The initial survey findings informed the layout design such that potentially sensitive areas were avoided in the layout. More detailed surveys were undertaken following from the preliminary infrastructure layout, which resulted in a turbine being removed from the layout to avoid a biodiversity sensitive area.

Ecological enhancements will also be provided throughout the wind farm site as set out in the Biodiversity Management Plan which includes more than 200 hectares of habitat restoration. Please find further details in Chapter 6, Biodiversity, and Chapter 7, Ornithology, of the EIAR.

Impacts associated with water supply

A number of queries were received in relation to how local water supplies might be impacted, particularly during the construction period. FAQ 30 of the project Fact File was developed to reassure stakeholders that firstly, wells located close to houses are hydraulically separated from turbine sites, and secondly, in the unlikely event that impacts occur, swift action would be taken to remediate the situation.



Potential Enduring Community Benefits

Scart Mountain Wind Farm has the potential to bring significant positive benefit to the local community. The project will create sustainable local employment, it will contribute annual rates to the local authority and provide a local Community Benefit Fund in line with the new Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS). A Community Benefit Fund will be put in place for the RESS period and for up to 15 years beyond to provide direct funding to those areas surrounding the project.

Community Benefit Fund

There are two important government policy developments that will have a bearing on the establishment of future community benefit funds. The first is RESS, and its terms and conditions published by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. The second is the updated Wind Energy Development Guidelines, which have yet to be released. Both sets of policies specify government requirements on future community benefit funds for renewable energy projects. FuturEnergy Ireland confirms that these important policies will be fully adopted and integrated in our design and establishment of the Scart Mountain Community Benefit Fund.

Based on RESS, for each megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity produced by the wind farm, the project will contribute €2 into a community fund for the RESS period i.e. 15 years of operation. The Scart Mountain Wind Farm, if constructed as proposed, means that the project could provide more than €540,000 per annum to the Community Benefit Fund for the first 15 years of its operational life. For the remaining lifetime of the wind farm, FuturEnergy Ireland commits to contributing around €270,000 per year. Therefore, over the expected lifetime of Knockshanvo Wind Farm, the Community Benefit Fund would be in the order of €12 million.

These figures are indicative only and will be dependent on the generation capacity of the wind farm, which is influenced by a number of factors including:

1. Number of wind turbines.
2. Capacity and availability of energy production of those turbines.
3. Quantity of wind



RESS guidelines for the annual distribution of this fund are as follows:

- A minimum of €1,000 shall be paid to each household located within a distance of a 1-kilometer radius from the nearest turbine.
- A minimum of 40% of the funds shall be paid to not-for-profit community enterprises whose primary focus or aim is the promotion of initiatives towards the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 4, 7, 11 and 13, including education, energy efficiency, sustainable energy and climate action initiatives.
- A maximum of 10% on administration.
- The balance of the funds shall be spent on initiatives successful in the annual application process, as proposed by clubs and societies and similar not-for profit entities, and in respect of Onshore Wind RESS 1 Projects, on “near neighbour payments” for households located outside a distance of 1km, but within a distance of 2km from such RESS 1 Project.

How the fund works

The Government’s ‘Community Benefit Fund Good Practice Principles Handbook’ provides full details on how the fund is to be governed and requires local community participation in all decisions in regard to how the funding should be used. The fund is open to individuals, and not-for-profit groups such as community and voluntary groups, charities, social enterprises and clubs and societies. High quality administration, local where possible, is also a key expectation. Further details can be found here.

Should the project receive a positive planning outcome, the project team and the local community will work together to develop an appropriate local structure that would design the Scart Mountain Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund. This group will make decisions on funding allocations and, with the assistance of an administrator, manage the fund, ensuring transparency and good governance.

Employment Opportunities

It is estimated that the proposed project will create approximately 100 jobs during the peak construction phase and two or three long-term technical jobs during the operational and maintenance phases of the proposed development. During construction, additional employment will be created in the region through the supply of services and materials. There will also be income generated by local employment from the purchase of local services i.e., travel and lodgings, catering.

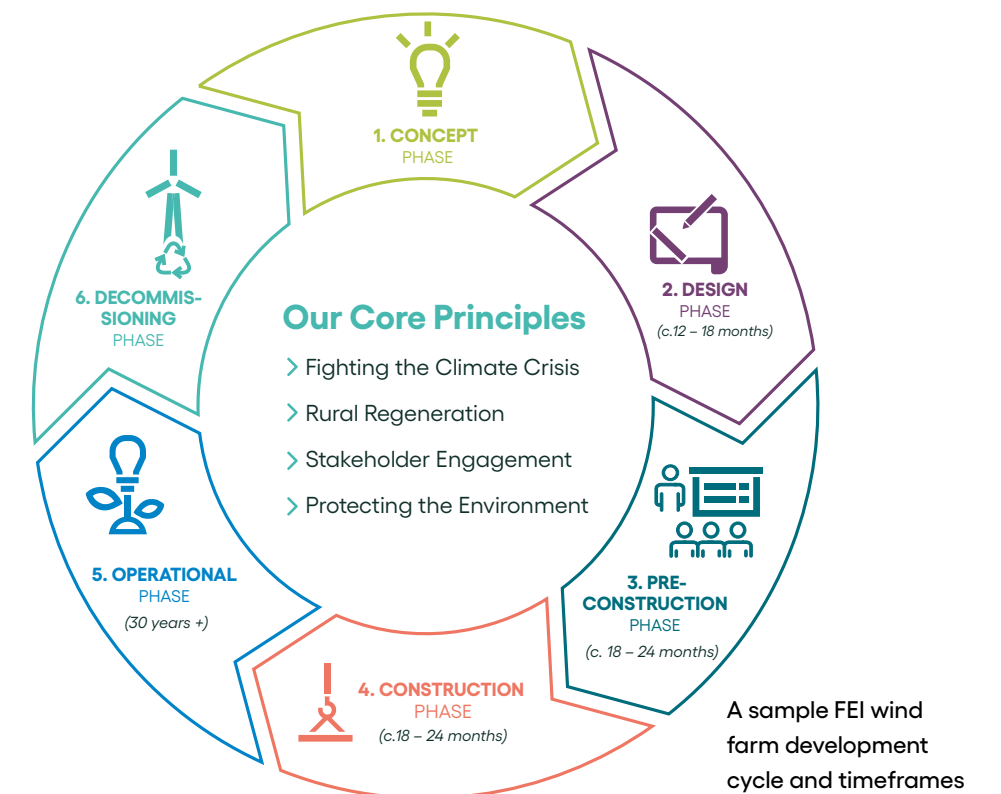
Local County Council Rates

Should the project be constructed and operated as designed, annual rates will be paid to the local authorities of approximately €896,000 - €1.056 million annually. This would make Scart Mountain Wind Farm an important future contributor to county councils' funding. This could positively impact local infrastructure and amenities such as roads, public lighting, street cleaning, libraries, fire services and public amenities. on-site recreational amenities and employment.



Ongoing Liaison and Contact

The project phases detailed below outline the varying levels of engagement anticipated depending on the level of project activity. Underpinning the engagement will be a dedicated Community Liaison Officer who is contactable by email and phone. These details will remain on the Scart Mountain website, which will be in place for the duration of the project. As the Scart Mountain Wind Farm progresses, regular updates will be posted to this website.



If the proposed project receives a favorable planning decision and has progressed successfully through the next stages of project development, there will be a period of approximately 24 to 36 months when key community-related activities will begin. The first is a participatory design process for the Scart Mountain Community Benefit Fund (CBF) that will take place in the months preceding and during construction work.

The team will start reaching out, to residents within the 2km zone as well as those living in the wider community, to bring together a small group who are interested in working on the design and structure of a community-based entity that would ultimately run the Community Benefit Fund.

This process will start with a scoping exercise followed by a series of facilitated workshops. It is hoped that representatives involved in existing local development initiatives will become stakeholders and therefore contribute to this strategy

Pre-construction and construction phase

Six months prior to construction, we will initiate the formation of a liaison group with the CLOs acting as the key point of contact. The project team will meet this group monthly to prepare for the construction phase and monitor activity during construction. This group will develop plans for communicating effectively with residents directly impacted by construction activity and deliveries, especially traffic planning to minimise disruption.

The project will also engage with local suppliers to outline its future needs and promote the use of local suppliers and service providers wherever possible. This may take the form of a “meet the buyer” event.

Operational phase

The project will move forward with a proposed annual meeting with the liaison group to update them on the project’s performance and address any issues. Once again, the CLOs will be available throughout this period to directly address any issues raised by local residents. The project website will also be maintained as a means of providing regular, up-to-date information. There will be regular updates on the performance of the Community Benefit Fund and regular calls for funding proposals.

Decommissioning phase

A year prior to decommissioning, the project team will engage with the established liaison group as well as all residents within the 2km zone to outline the decommissioning plan and address any issues.

In line with the Government’s Renewable Electricity Support Scheme and the Code of Practice 2016, the project will publish an annual report of all engagement activities on the project website.



Conclusion / Commitment

In conclusion, this report illustrates that there has been very active and extensive community engagement in the vicinity of the proposed Scart Mountain Wind Farm project throughout the planning/design phase.


Many of our neighbours are supportive of the project, despite the fact that the local anti-wind group do not wish to see it proceed. Our project team have worked hard to ensure that information has been made available to the local community on a transparent basis, that all concerns and questions raised locally have been addressed to the extent practically possible and that the community engagement work on this project has been extensive and carried out to the highest standards. To this end, we are satisfied that we have achieved and surpassed these objectives.



APPENDIX 1: Project Literature

All Project newsletters, brochure, webinar information and other information are accessible from the project website at www.scartmountainwindfarm.ie

Oct 2022 Newsletter 1:



Press release
October 17, 2022

FuturEnergy Ireland announces plans for Waterford wind farm project

FuturEnergy Ireland is exploring the potential for an onshore wind farm in Co Waterford. The proposed renewable energy development is located 4km northeast of Cappoquin in an area known as Scart Mountain.

The proposed Scart Mountain Wind Farm is in the early stages of development. The project team is undertaking initial site studies and environmental assessments which will inform a preliminary design layout, the results of which will be shared with the local community as soon as they are available. This will be followed by in-depth studies on topics including hydrology, ecology, landscape, noise, shadow flicker, telecoms, traffic, soil and archeology alongside further community engagement activities. The results of these studies and engagements will be used to inform an appropriate final turbine layout that will be submitted to planning, for independent review by An Bord Pleanála.

This week, two local Community Liaison Officers, John O'Halloran and Liam Cleary, are introducing the project to the community. As part of their engagement, the first project newsletter is being distributed to houses in the vicinity of the project site. The Community Liaison Officers are available to answer any queries about the project in person, by telephone or via email. This marks the start of a comprehensive community engagement programme that will include newsletter and website updates, a webinar and a community engagement clinic, giving local community members an opportunity to learn about and discuss the project with the team.

In light of the energy crisis, which is threatening electricity supply and hiking energy costs, the Government is calling for a rapid increase in the construction of renewable energy projects to support our national requirements and reduce costs for consumers. The Scart Mountain project has the potential to make a meaningful contribution by utilising Ireland's natural resources to provide low-cost electricity to the national grid.

The FuturEnergy Ireland team has a strong track record of developing and delivering projects exclusively in Ireland, and is excited to explore the full potential of the Scart Mountain project, including the important benefits the project could bring to Co. Waterford. Once operational, the project would provide a substantial local Community Benefit Fund and significant rates contributions to Waterford County Council. It also has the potential to provide recreational amenities and employment opportunities.

Emer Campbell, Project Developer for the proposed Scart Mountain Wind Farm, said: 'Ireland urgently needs more renewable energy. The summer brought heatwaves, droughts, wildfires and floods, many of which have been linked to global warming. Increasing the amount of wind energy is critical to achieving 80% of renewable electricity by 2030 and slowing down climate change. Adding to this pressure, as winter approaches, we are facing the prospect of soaring energy bills. Wind energy projects such as Scart Mountain are vital if we are to achieve greater

Sponsored Education Programme (National Schools):


STEAM Education Climate-Action-in-a-Box







March 2023 Newsletter 2:



Press release
February 28, 2023

FuturEnergy Ireland issues a draft turbine layout for Scart Mountain Wind Farm

FuturEnergy Ireland has issued a second newsletter for the proposed Scart Mountain Wind Farm that includes the sharing of a first draft turbine layout with the local community. The proposed renewable energy development is located on a site 4km northeast of Cappoquin.

Initial site studies and assessments have informed the preliminary design layout, which consists of 17 wind turbines. If this design is adopted, these turbines would generate enough clean electricity to power around 61,000 homes and save approximately 105,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions per annum, which would have otherwise been created by fossil fuels.

Further detailed environmental studies, including field surveys, are now underway, the results of which will in due course inform a second draft layout. This will be followed by additional field studies to validate the design, after which the project team will issue a third turbine layout. The expectation is that this third layout will be included as part of the planning application.

This week, two local Community Liaison Officers (CLOs), John O'Halloran and Liam Cleary, are hand-delivering the second project newsletter to houses within 2km of the proposed project site. The newsletter also includes a project update, key milestones and information on several environmental studies and surveys. If you would like a hard copy, please contact the CLOs. Otherwise, the newsletter is available to read and download at www.scartmountainwindfarm.ie. The Fact File on the project website has also been updated to answer questions and queries received from the community.

The FuturEnergy Ireland team has a strong track record of developing and delivering wind energy projects. Emer Campbell, project developer for Scart Mountain, said: "We are very excited by the development potential of the proposed site and its ability to deliver affordable, clean green power to Irish consumers."

"We have received several queries from the community since the launch of the project. The project team has responded to all individual queries and added information to our Fact File on the website to ensure that everyone is kept updated. Our CLOs are available to discuss all aspects of this project, so please contact them if you require any further information."

Renewable energy projects such as Scart Mountain are vital if Ireland is to meet its climate action target of generating 80% of electricity from renewables by 2030. The Government is also calling for a rapid increase in renewable energy development to improve national energy security and independence.

Once operational, the proposed Scart Mountain Wind Farm would provide a substantial local Community Benefit Fund. More information on this will be provided in the next newsletter.

If you have any queries about the Scart Mountain Wind Farm proposal, please call Community Liaison Officers John O'Halloran on 087 742 7293 or Liam Cleary on 087 967 1981, or email scartmountain@futureenergyireland.ie. For regular updates visit www.scartmountainwindfarm.ie.

Editor's Notes

Link to website



June 2023 Newsletter 3:



Press release
June 12, 2023

Local community stands to gain €12 million in funding from the proposed Scart Mountain Wind Farm

What can Scart Mountain Wind Farm do for your community? That is the question asked by FuturEnergy Ireland in its latest newsletter, which includes details of the Community Benefit Fund that would accompany this renewable energy development if it gets the go ahead. The project is located 4km northeast of Cappoquin in Co. Waterford.

FuturEnergy Ireland's third newsletter for the proposed Scart Mountain Wind Farm also includes an updated draft turbine layout which shows a reduction from 17 to 16 turbines following the results of environmental surveys. More work has yet to be carried out before the layout is finalised.

The Scart Mountain Wind Farm project currently intends to apply for the Government's Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS), which mandates a Community Benefit Fund worth €2 per megawatt hour (MWh) of generated electricity for any future wind farm. An important cornerstone of RESS is that the local community participates in all decisions regarding how the funding should be used. This places the community at the heart of the decision-making process and will be key to its success.

If Scart Mountain Wind Farm is consented based on the current draft design, the project would contribute an estimated €540,000 annually to the Community Benefit Fund for the first 15 years of operation. For the remaining lifetime of the wind farm, FuturEnergy Ireland commits to contributing €1/MWh, which equates to around €270,000 per year. Therefore, over the expected 30-year lifetime of the wind farm, the Community Benefit Fund would be in the order of €12 million. If this project does not qualify for RESS, FuturEnergy Ireland pledges to match these contributions.

The proposed Scart Mountain Wind Farm project would expect to contribute a minimum of €896,000 in annual rates payments to Waterford County Council. This would positively impact the development of Co Waterford's infrastructure and amenities, from street lighting and recreational spaces to path and road upgrades.

Emer Campbell, project developer for Scart Mountain, said: "This Community Benefit Fund would offer huge opportunities for local residents to fund strategic projects such as developing community facilities, deep retrofit schemes for homes or tourist attractions as well as supporting local clubs, societies and events. A proportion is also designated for near neighbours."

"A community vision backed by reliable funding would significantly boost the local area. If Scart Mountain Wind Farm receives a planning grant, the project team will carry out public consultation to establish a Community Benefit Fund Committee. This committee will be made up of locals assisted by an administrator and workshops to help you get the most out of your fund."

Nov 2023 Detailed Project Brochure:

The image shows a presentation room setup. On the left, three vertical banners are displayed, each featuring the FuturEnergy logo at the top and a photograph of a wind turbine in a field at the bottom. The banners are titled 'Welcome', 'The Team', and 'Project Overview'. To the right of the banners, a map of the Scart Mountain area is displayed on an easel. The map shows the proposed wind farm layout with red lines and various site markers. The room has a light-colored wooden floor and a plain wall.

Nov 2023 poster advertising community clinics:



Ireland
futurEnergy

**SCART MOUNTAIN WIND FARM
COMMUNITY CLINIC**

Scart Mountain Wind Farm is a proposed renewable energy development in Co. Waterford.

You are invited to a community clinic to meet the team, learn more about the project and ask your questions.

Tuesday November 28, 12pm-8pm
Wednesday November 29, 10am-4pm
The Park Hotel Dungarvan, X35 CC97


Strictly by appointment only

Contact us to book a slot:
Email: scartmountain@futureenergyireland.ie
Call or text: Community Liaison Officers Liam Cleary on 087 967 1981 or John O'Halloran on 087 742 7293
In Person: Visit the information hub, Friday Nov 24th, 3pm-8pm, Cappoquin Community Hall

We look forward to hearing from you

View the Virtual Exhibition, including a full set of photo montages, at www.scartmountainwindfarm.ie

Ermer Campbell, Project Manager for Scart Mountain, says: "This renewable energy proposal comes at a time when we are beginning to see the reality of climate change. Ireland's unseasonably warm October is part of a bigger weather trend - 2023 is set to be the hottest year



Ireland FuturEnergy

We've got the power to help stop climate change

**It's natural, free and in plentiful supply – wind energy
is key to Ireland hitting its renewable energy goals**

NENESE spent his job, Waverley yet again sat
down causing widespread flooding. This was the
first of the Staines Orange weather alert in his weeks,
during which strong winds and heavy rain caused
severe flooding in the Staines area. The weather was
causing serious damage, damaged homes and the
structure of several top sites.

Scientists are told that increasingly common
severe weather conditions, such as affecting at a
rate of one in five, are likely to become the norm
due to increasing climate change.

To help reduce global warming, the Government
has set a target to generate 40% of Ireland's
energy from renewable sources by 2020, which
requires an additional 4,000 MW of renewable
capacity. FutureEnergy Ireland is a company
dedicated to Ireland's renewable energy goals by
developing projects at St. Michael's Mount in
Co. Wexford.

St. Michael's Mount is a small, rocky peninsula
situated in a 500 ha bay by Collins and Binn
the Atlantic Ocean. The island is a National
Monument. FutureEnergy Ireland team has a strong
track record of developing and delivering wind
and energy projects in a responsible manner.

St. Michael's Mount Farm, which is located at
the foot of the island, is a 100 ha farm. The
development of the project is undertaken under
the planning and environmental assessment which
allows a preliminary design study, the results of which
will be shared with the local community as part of the
consultation.

Last month, local Community Liaison Officers,
John O'Mahony and Liam Cavanagh, introduced the
project to the community to address any introductory
questions and concerns that will arise.

This marked the start of a comprehensive
community engagement programme that will include
newsletter and website updates, a website and
a community engagement clinic, together providing local
community members with easy to learn about and

discuss the project and the planning.

We are out on the ground meeting locals
about the project and gathering their feedback at
this early stage of the project. FutureEnergy Ireland
will be working closely with the local community as
part of the consultation process and will continue to
be in the project team to provide updates.

FutureEnergy Ireland, and its subsidiary on
open, licensed development, has been successful in
obtaining planning permission from the local
authorities and councils to build the project. The
project would bring local benefits too, if St. Michael's
Mount Farm Farm is a green energy project and
business operation, it would provide a substantial
local Community Benefit Fund to support the
development of the project.

The project is located in the heart of the
community to Wexford County Council. It is also
the intention to provide a significant benefit to the
community.

The St. Michael's Mount project is being led by
FutureEnergy Ireland, a company that has been
successful in developing and delivering wind and
energy projects in a responsible manner.

The project is a 100 ha farm. The development of
the project is undertaken under the planning and
environmental assessment which allows a preliminary
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The Climate Action Plan requires onshore wind energy generation to almost double by 2030 or

www.scarrumountenergyireland.ie
www.scarrumountenergyireland.ie

Advertorial which ran in local newspapers in November 2022.





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