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COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REPORT

1.1 Introduction

This Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report has been compiled by MKO on behalf of Fuinneamh Sceirde Teoranta (FST), the Applicant, to document the processes of community engagement and consultation carried out during the pre-planning phase of the proposed Sceirde Rocks Offshore Wind Farm (the Project) in Co. Galway.

The Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report sets out the aims and objectives of a proactive programme of community engagement and consultation activities. It outlines the steps that the Applicant has taken to achieve these objectives and further demonstrates the Applicant's commitment to an ongoing dialogue with local residents up to and beyond the submission of an application for planning permission.

The Applicant has been committed to public participation with the local community and other stakeholders from a very early stage in the Project development. The Applicant has placed transparent and open engagement with the community at the forefront of their plans for the Project since project inception. The Applicant believes that effective and timely community consultation is critical to ensure that the voices of communities are heard. Engaging proactively with local stakeholders enables developers of projects to understand their needs, their preferences and their expectations. It can also help to build trust between the community and the developers.

These community engagement activities have been completed in line with the recommendations as set out in the *Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland - Guidelines for Community Engagement*¹ which state that developers of proposed wind farms should, in advance of submitting applications for planning permission, take:

"Active steps to: inform local communities as they begin to develop their proposals; take the views of local communities into account in designing their proposals; demonstrate what practical effect that process of engagement has had; and, set out how the project will perform as a good neighbour in the context of the long-term economic and social development of the community or communities within which it is situated."

All community engagement and public consultation activities have been carried out according to the fundamental principle that proactive consultation and open discussion with local stakeholders is a crucial element of any wind energy project. In carrying out these community engagement activities, the Applicant has endeavoured to put the community at the heart of the process to ensure that meaningful consultation was carried out.

1.1.1 Project Background

The Project is a fixed bottom offshore wind farm off the West Coast of Ireland, and under the transitional protocol is recognised as a Relevant Project and is now referred to in marine policy as a Phase One project. The Project will encompass 30 No. wind turbine generators (WTGs) with fixed foundations and associated ancillary infrastructure, and a maximum export capacity (MEC) of 450 megawatts (MW). The Project received a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) on the $23^{\rm rd}$ of December

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¹ Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland - Guidelines for Community Engagement issued by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (2016)



2022 (MAC no: 2022-MAC-007) and is therefore eligible to apply for planning permission to An Bord Pleanála under Section 291 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The Project site is located within the Atlantic marine area adjacent to the Connemara and Co. Clare coast. The Offshore Array Area (OAA) is located between 5 kilometres (km) and 11.5 km off the coast of Connemara, Co. Galway, between Slyne Head and Inishmore (Aran Islands). The closest settlement is Carna, Co. Galway, which is located approximately 8 km from the closest point of the Project. Land in the area of Carna is primarily pastural agricultural lands, as well as one-off rural housing. It is proposed to connect the Project to the national electricity grid via cabling to be buried within or on the seabed. The Offshore Export Cable (OEC) runs to the west and south of the Aran Islands to the Onshore Landfall Location (OLL) at Killard, Co. Clare. Once ashore, it is proposed that the Onshore Grid Connection (OGC) will run underground, mostly in the existing road network but also through some private lands and connect to an Onshore Compensation Compound (OCC) at Ballymacrinan near Moneypoint. The OGC will continue from the OCC to connect to the national grid at the existing Moneypoint 220kV Substation at, Co. Clare.

1.1.2 Background to Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Community and stakeholder engagement in relation to the Project is of utmost importance to the Applicant. It is seen as beneficial and valuable to both the Applicant and stakeholders to have ongoing open communication as the Project progresses. Any stakeholder and community engagement exercise must be based on honesty, sincerity, and trust. In the Applicant's opinion, to be broadly supported and welcomed by a local community, any wind farm development needs to be presented as an opportunity that will allow the community to achieve things and derive benefits from a project that otherwise would never accrue to the people living in that area. It also needs to communicate effectively that the wind farm project can co-exist with other existing and future maritime uses, as well as take on board and address possible concerns around potential environmental effects or other issues.

Objectives of the Community and Stakeholder Engagement Process

Before the process of community and stakeholder engagement began, it was important to set out clear and specific objectives and goals for the process. The overall goal of the community engagement team was to manage communications around the Project by providing clear, accurate information to the local community and stakeholders, and by providing the means and opportunities by which members of the community could provide their feedback, ask questions and voice concerns about the project.

Emerging from these overarching goals, the specific objectives of the community and stakeholder engagement process were as follows:

- To put the needs of the local community at the centre of the engagement process;
- To identify the appropriate community groups and stakeholders with whom to engage, based on their proximity to the Project site, impact the Project may have on their day-to-day lives and those stakeholders who have the most interest in the Project:
- To engage with the community and stakeholders in a manner that was timely, proactive and respectful;
- To ascertain the main concerns being expressed by the community in relation to the Project and address these concerns as comprehensively as possible;
- To establish and maintain an open, two-way dialogue between the Applicant and the local community for the duration of the planning process; and,
- To counteract the potential spread of speculation and misinformation relating to the Project.



To engage with stakeholders on feedback received throughout the pre-planning process as a means to complete a satisfactory EIAR.

1.1.4 Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

Prior to the start of communication activities, MKO compiled a comprehensive Community and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy (CSES) which sets out how the objectives outlined above would be achieved. The methods to be employed over the course of the engagement process were set out in the CSES. The CSES was an evolving document which could be continually reviewed and amended throughout the engagement process to reflect the specific demands of the Project as they were encountered, and to integrate feedback from the community. The CSES is based on the 'Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland Guidelines for Community Engagement' (DECC, 2016).

1.2 Consultation Activities

Engagement with Local Community

1.3.1 Irish language

The Connemara Gaeltacht, including much of the coastal area adjacent to the Project, is one of the largest and strongest Irish speaking areas in the country. Along with the language, the area is stepped in culture, heritage and has a strong tradition of Irish music, traditional séan nós singing, and dancing. However, sustaining and developing the language does present its challenges, and over the years great initiatives and plans have been designed and developed to help nurture and grow the language in all Gaeltacht areas.

Údarás na Gaeltachta in conjunction with its Community Development Co-operatives (Comharcumann Forbartha) have been developing and implementing language development plans (e.g. Pleanáil Teanga Connamara Láir) in many parts of the Gaeltacht.

The Applicant understands the importance of the Irish language and has made every effort to incorporate and facilitate the Irish language in its community consultation and project communications. This has been widely welcomed by the local community making project communication and consultation more relevant and inclusive.

- The Community Liaison Officer, Michael Cloherty, is a native Irish speaker
- > Irish language media interviews carried on TG4 and Radio na Gaeltachta
- Project videos and virtual consultation information have all been prepared in Irish and English
- All press releases, adverts and notices are circulated bi-lingually
- Project website, brochure and project consultation materials are all bi-lingual
- The project office is based in the Gteic building (part of the Gaeltacht digital hubs) in Carna village.

1.3.1.1 Community Liaison Officer

In 2022, a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) for the Project, Michael Cloherty, was appointed to commence the community and stakeholder engagement process and begin to raise awareness of the Project among local communities. Based locally in Carna (the closest settlement to where the offshore turbines are proposed), Michael's contact details have been readily accessible and he has been available to local residents, stakeholders and community groups from the initial development phase of the Project and will continue to be available through to the operational phase.



1.3.1.2 **Project Information Office, Carna**

To facilitate, develop and enhance our community and stakeholder strategy in the wider Connemara community, the Applicant opened a project information office in the Gteic building in Carna. The CLO has been based in the office fulltime since it opened, where he has been available to local residents, the wider community, stakeholders and community groups to share information, updates and responding to any enquiries.

The project office has been a valuable resource to the project and to the Applicant's community consultation. All materials, images, maps and VR equipment used during the public consultation for the Project has been available to view and use on an ongoing basis from the office. The office has been used to meet with individuals, small groups and stakeholders to discuss the Project, and has also been routinely used by other project team members working in the area at different times.

1,3,1,3 Information Brochure

To assist in the messaging and communication on the project an informative, easy to read and attractive information brochure was developed and designed by the Applicant. The brochure was bi-lingual with information on all aspects of the project and included contact details for our CLO and office hours. The brochure is a valuable resource for the public and has helped greatly in the overall consultation process.

- The information brochure was distributed at the public information events to all attendees during the week long event. (10-14 June 24)
- The information brochure was distributed to public locations around the community (July and August 24)
- The information brochure is still available from our CLO or at the project information office (ongoing)
- A copy and link to the information brochure is available on the project website.

1.3.1.4 **Project information Videos**

3 no. project information videos were developed during the consultation period providing information, updates, timelines and highlighting events that were organised to provide information on the Project and associated opportunities.

- Video on Job, training and skills event in Carna (December 2023)
- Video on timelines, updates and progress to date (March 2024)
- Video introducing our virtual consultation exhibition room which is available on our website.
 (April 2023)

1.3.1.5 **Community Support Fund**

To date, the Applicant has contributed over €150,000 in support and sponsorship as part of a community support plan. Having a proper structured plan in place has enabled the Project to reach out to a wide cross-section of community and volunteer groups. The support plan facilitated opportunities to communicate, engage and consult with the public, while providing much needed funding and support to local groups and organisations.

The main themes of the community support plan covered:

- Community services, social, and inclusive initiatives
- Sporting, recreational, and educational clubs and associations



- Language, culture, arts, and heritage initiatives
- Environment, biodiversity, and renewables schemes

Some examples of the types of groups and activities supported included local cultural events (music festivals and heritage events), various sports and marine activity clubs, senior citizen transport facilities and events, cultural activities around traditional marine craft, local community centres, beach restoration activities, mental health support events, local primary and secondary schools, childcare facilities, educational equipment and transport, youth organisations and many more.

The support fund was designed to ensure a broad reach to support organisations and activities that do not typically attract such support, as well as more mainstream organisations in line with the aims of the *ORESS 1 Community Benefit Funds Rulebook for Generators and Fund Administrators* which will be adhered to when the Project commences the construction phase. It was also a priority to ensure that it was distributed to groups within the nearby communities, from Inishmore to Slyne Head and beyond.

1.3.1.6 **General Timeline of Engagement and Consultation**

As highlighted previously, the Applicant has been committed to active community and stakeholder engagement from a very early stage in the Project. Table 2-1 below provides a timeline of the engagement activities that have taken place since the beginning of 2022, up to the present day. The local events attended provided an opportunity to engage with stakeholders who had an interest in the area and to understand how the Project could best support the community. The media interviews and publications provided information about the Project to the wider community. The information provided in Table 2-1 below is a selection of some of the engagement undertaken by the Project team since 2022 to demonstrate the range and depth of engagement and public information provided by the Project. Not included below are hundreds of phone calls, discussions and meetings with smaller groups and individuals and additional media engagement that have taken place over the entire period since early 2022.

Table 1-1 Timeline and Summary of Public Engagement Activities undertaken for the Project

Time Period	Consultation / Meeting
January – July 2022	 A Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) was appointed to the project to start consultation with the local fisheries and marine users. A Project Development Manager was appointed and commenced early consultation with local community groups.
August 2022	 In August 2022 the CLO began their work in the area. A two-week marine traffic assessment was carried out from Mweenish Island. The CLO liaised with local residents as part of the process. The CLO Michael Cloherty also engaged with local elected reps in the area TDs and CCs Basic project website was set-up with contact details for the CLO
September 2022	 In September 2022 the CLO and Development Manager with FST attended The Rosamhíl Harbour Conference in order to share information on the project and liaise with those engaged in local marine industry. Further to the above, the CLO attended the Gaeltacht Glas workshop. This Workshop showcased green economy opportunities in the Gaeltacht and enabled the Applicant to share information on

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	how the Project can enhance green economy opportunities in Connemara. The Project team undertook a two-day visit to the area, met with local groups, visited communities local to the site and completed a guided heritage coastal walk.
October 2022	 A meeting was held with ATU Sligo and Údarás na Gaeltachta (ÚnG) to discuss the LEAP (Local Energy Agency Programs) for the Aran Islands Energy Co Op. A meeting took place with local development co-op FCL, to explore setting up a project office, meeting facilities and the development opportunities around Gteic Carna (Digital Hub) for the Sceirde Rocks project. A meeting was convened with stakeholders to discuss the Irish Language Plan for Clifden Town, focusing on its role as a Gaeltacht service town.
November 2022	 In November 2022, the Project team visited the area, including Mynish Island, Mace Head, and Ionad na nImirce. The CLO attended below events to network and engage with business stakeholders, community groups and the public. This gave the Applicant an opportunity to update and inform these stakeholders about the Project and the potential opportunities going forward. The CLO attended the Gteic Carna Digital Connecting Event which was held, in collaboration with ÚnG, to connect Gaeltacht Gteic hubs and explore opportunities for local companies and startups. The applicant attended The Conamara Láir Energy Masterplan launch, with the local co-op unveiling its Community Energy Master Plan. The CLO attended the Business Breakfast Event which took place in Rosmuc, organized in conjunction with local development groups, the Irish Language Plan and Údarás na Gaeltachta.
December 2022	 In December 2022, a member of the Project team spoke as part of a panel at the ÚnG / Asia Matters, Blue Economy & Marine Innovation roundtable. A two-page feature article on the Project was published in the local annual yearbook for Iorras Aithneach and an advert for the Project was also placed in the same publication A press release on the MAC award was issued, and featured articles and news were published nationally and locally A foreshore licence application notice was published in local and national papers.
January 2023	> An interview with the CLO about the foreshore licence application, including updates on the project's timeline, was aired on TG4's main news programme.



	 A radio interview with the CLO regarding the foreshore licence application, timelines, and the CLO role in the area was conducted on Radio na Gaeltachta. Foreshore licence applications were made available for public viewing in local locations such as the Garda Station, libraries, and County Council buildings, which was featured on local radio news.
February 2023	 The CLO attended the The Rosamhíl Harbour development work launch/turning of the sod The Project team attended the funding announcement and launch event for the extension to the Ionad na nImirce centre in Carna, to share information on the Project. This was attended by local elected reps, with Údarás na Gaeltachta, Roinn na Gaeltachta, Fáilte Eireann, Galway CC and other local business and community groups in attendance. Local introductory meetings for the Project commenced with local development groups, voluntary coistes (community orgabnisations), local development companies and co-ops, and other relevant stakeholders.
March 2023	 An extensive radio interview with the CLO focusing on the Project, timelines, surveys, public consultations, and the Community Benefit Fund was broadcast on Radio na Gaeltachta. Project meetings with local groups and stakeholders continued.
April 2023	 The full website for the Project went live. The website launch was featured on Radio na Gaeltachta news bulletins. The CLO attended the launch of Comortas Peile na Gaeltachta 2028 taking place in Carna, which coincided with the announcement of CLG Carna Caiseal new pitch and sport facilities development, which the Applicant has supported to date through the community support fund Project meetings continued with local residents, development groups, local development companies and co-ops
May 2023	 The Project's success at the inaugural ORESS auction was featured in all national media and press. A press release on the ORESS success was issued in publications nationally and locally. An online meeting with Aran Island groups and development coops was held.
June 2023	 The project was featured on TG4's Climate Documentary Inucadh, where CLO featured, discussing the important role of the Project in contributing to Ireland's decarbonisation, with a general overview and timeline also provided. A public event was organized by the Applicant to raise awareness about the project's Community Benefit Fund.



	Radio and TV interviews about the event in Carna were conducted, and a press release was circulated with subsequent press and media follow-up.
July 2023	 The CLO attended the Rossamhíl business plan event to share information on the Project and outline potential opportunities Press release was issued on the Project's partnership with the Galway Hooker Association. Ongoing meetings with local community groups and development Co-ops.
August 2023	 Meetings were held with stakeholders at Rosamhíl Harbour including the Harbour Master, the Department of Marine, and the Irish Coastguard. Meeting was held with Connemara Airport. A meeting with Aran Island Ferries took place. An interview with the CLO was broadcast on Connemara Community Radio's Community Matters program, providing updates on the project and timelines
September 2023	 A meeting was held with NUIG at the Martin Ryan Marine Lab Carna to discuss potential collaboration on research associated with Lobster, the main local commercial fishery. A Notice of Determination for the foreshore licence was published in national and local papers. The Project team visited the site and learned about the local heritage in discussions at the Ionad Cuimhneachain na nImirceach (local Emigration Centre).
October 2023	 A public event for National and Local Supply Chain Business's for the Project took place with local and national suppliers invited to provide information on the opportunities for supply chain associated with the Project. Radio and TV interviews about the event in Carna were broadcast and a press release was circulated both locally and nationally. A radio interview the the CLO was broadcast on Raidió na Gaeltachta discussing the project, timelines, recent surveys, events, and public consultation.
November 2023	 The CLO attended the Bord Iascaigh Mhara Fisheries Local Action Groups consultation event in Clifden. The CLO attended a Careers Day at Scoil Chuimthseach Chiaráin in Carraroe to promote careers in renewable energy. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Applicant and Údarás na Gaeltachta to establish and support skills and training initiatives and consider opportunities at Rosamhíl Harbour.
December 2023	> A public information event for the Project with a focus on the Skills, Training, and Jobs was held.



	A radio interview with the CLO was broadcast on the Iris Aniar
	 Programme on Radio na Gaeltachta, responding to questions on a recent Offshore Industry report and outlining the upcoming public information event in Carna. An interview with the CLO was broadcast by TG4 on the 7 Lá current affairs programme from the event, answering questions about the project, providing an overview and timelines, inviting the public to engage with the Project, and welcoming consultation. The CLO attended the GFI (Gníomhaireacht Fuinnimh an Iarthar) Launch in Carraroe. This was the launch of the Western Energy Scheme for retrofitting, energy efficiency and upgrading for the Gaeltacht community and Islands. A featured article was published in the Iorras Aithneach annual local yearbook, which provided an extensive update on the Project, including general information and timelines, as well as an advert by the Project. A video was published on the Project website featuring the Project's Skills and Training event, which also showcased updates to the Project.
January 2024	 The Project Information Office opened at the Gteic building in Carna. An interview with the CLO was broadcast by TG4 on the 7 Lá programme, discussing climate targets, project timelines, the Community Benefit Fund, and opportunities for the area.
February 2024	 An article with updates regarding the Project, the planning application, and upcoming survey works was published in the Connemara news section of the Connacht Tribune. An interview with the CLO was broadcast on Connemara Community Radio's <i>Community Matters</i> program, providing updates on the Project and future community benefits and opportunities.
March 2024	 The Project team attended the Comhar Cumann Fuinneamh Arainn AGM & Public Meeting on Inis Mór to give a presentation on the Project and to meet with local groups and development co-ops. A business networking event, including a presentation on the Project and discussion, was held at the Gaeltacht Business Symposium in Carna, attended by over 50 businesses. Project video was published on the Project weebsite which provided an overview of the project, its progress to date and works completed, and timeline going forward.
April 2024	 The virtual consultation exhibition room linked to the project website was launched. The virtual room included new and updated project information, site maps and photomontages. A radio interview with the CLO was broadcast on Radio na Gaeltachta discussing recent Project information and informing on timelines and upcoming public information and consultation.



	 An interview with the CLO was broadcast on TG4, discussing recent updates on the Project, and providing information on timelines and upcoming public information and consultation. The CLO attended a meeting with local community groups and Council representatives to discuss areas in need of services, upgrades, and future opportunities.
May 2024	 An interview with the CLO was broadcast on Raidió na Gaeltachta to advertise the public consultation and describe the event, including dates and times. A Project information brochure was developed for circulation. The Brochure provides an overview of the Project, economic and community benefits, the Community Benefit Fund and contact details of the CLO. Virtual reality headset was developed to give a more realistic 360° view and improved visual perspective of a selection of photomontages viewing points. The headset experience was developed in preparation for the upcoming public consultation event.
June 2024	 A public consultation and information event was held over a four-day period in the Project Information Office, at the Gteic building in Carna, from Tuesday 11th June to Friday 14th June. Further detail in provided in Section 2.1.2 below. An interview with the CLO was broadcast by TG4 following up on the community engagement event. A series of interviews with the CLO were broadcast on Radio na Gaeltachta prior to, during and after the public consultation event.
July 2024	 Project information office was open to the public daily with all upto-date information on the Project, maps, images and virtual headsets available to view and use. Distribution of Project information brochure.
August 2024	Project information office open to the public daily with all up-to-date information on the Project, maps, images and virtual headsets available to view and use.
September 2024	 Meetings held with Údarás na Gaeltachta to discuss Rosamhíl development, training initiatives and community benefit fund plans. Project information office open to the public daily with all up-to-date information on the Project, maps, images and virtual headsets available to view and use. Distribution of project information brochure.
October 2024	 Project information office open to the public daily with all up-to-date information on the Project, maps, images and virtual headsets available to view and use. Distribution of project information brochure.



November 2024	> >	Project information office open to the public daily with all up-to-date information on the Project, maps, images and virtual headsets available to view and use. Distribution of project information brochure.
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1.3.2 **Public Information Event**

An important phase of the community engagement process was the hosting of an in-person Public Information Event to allow members of the community to meet with and speak directly to representatives of the Project team. A series of Public Information Events (PIEs) were held over the course of 4 days from 11th to 14th June 2024 in the Project Information Office at the Gteic building in Carna, as part of the public consultation and community engagement strategy for the Project. The events were held on:

- > Tuesday 11th June from 3-7pm;
- Wednesday 12th June from 12-4pm;
- > Thursday 13th June from 3-7pm; and
- Friday 14th June from 12-4pm.

The events were held in the conference room of the Gteic hub, located in the Enterprise Centre in Carna.

A strategic advertising campaign was designed and implemented to ensure that the Public Information Event was brought to the attention of as many members of the local community as possible. The events were advertised locally and nationally 2-3 weeks prior to the start through the Project website, local newspaper notices, media press releases, announcements, radio news features and interviews (see Appendices 1-4). All local political representatives were invited to the event.

1.3.2.1 **Event Format and Summary**

The Public Information Event was designed as a drop-in, exhibition-type event, to run over the course of the four days. The exhibition-type format was deemed the most suitable option for the event by the members of the Project team, because it would allow attendees to come and view the display materials at their own time and pace, and to speak directly to representatives of the Project team. Over the course of 4 events, approximately 150 no. people attended in person.

A wide range of detailed information on the Project was on visual display during the event, including information boards, maps, images, photomontages, planning and environmental information and more. In addition, members of the Project team, including representatives from FST (the Applicant) and MKO were available to answer questions and queries, and to provide and share information. The bilingual display materials were erected on boards on either side of the venue. The materials included:

- > Introduction to the Applicant
- **>** Background and reasons for developing the Project
- Maps and details of the Project site and description of the proposed development
- Overview of approach to consultation and a summary of engagement to date
- Information on the environmental assessment and surveys undertaken
- Information on visual impacts including ZTV map, route screening maps, set of photomontages and virtual headset for an immersive viewing experience where selected viewpoints could be experienced in a realistic setting.
- > Summary information from tourism impact assessment
- Information on supply chain, careers, employment and training



- Description of the operations and maintenance phase of the project and associated skills required
- Details on the Community Benefit Fund

The newly developed and published information brochure on the Project was available at the event, as well as feedback forms and follow up questionnaires.

Some of the main questions raised at the event were:

- Whether an EIAR will be undertaken as part of the planning application;
- How the area will benefit from the community benefit fund;
- If floating offshore turbines are an option for the Project;
- If the Project can be moved further out from shore;
- Whether there will be local employment opportunities; and,
- How the Project will be decommissioned when operation ceases.

Some of the main concerns raised were:

- Visual impact on local residents;
- Environmental impact on marine and other wildlife;
- Noise impact from the turbines;
- Impact on tourism and the fishing industry;
- > Impact on cultural heritage sites; and,
- Impact on the value of local homes.

The four day event was covered extensively by the media in newspapers, TV and Radio.

1.3.2.2 Event Team

The Public Information Event team included representatives from the Applicant, FST, and the lead planning and environmental consultants on the project, MKO. Present over the course of the four days were:

- Michael Cloherty, FST Community Liasion Officer
- Kieran O'Malley, FST Development Manager
- Claire Atkins, FST Assistant Development Manager
- Tim Coffey, FST Project Director
- Paul Concannon, FST Project Engineering Manager
- > Ivan Hartnet, FST Project Interface Manager
- Nick Norris, FST Project Onshore Manager
- Órla Murphy, MKO Project Manager
- Ronan Dunne, MKO Planner
- Mark Higgins, MKO Communications Specialist

Members of the MKO Project Communications unit had responsibility for welcoming attendees to the event and explaining the format of the exhibition. Upon arrival, attendees were invited to sign-in with their names and provide, if they so wished, a contact email and/or phone number. They were then given the option of viewing the exhibition materials on their own, or to be brought through the exhibition by a member of the project team.

Attendees were encouraged to ask any questions or raise any concerns they may have had about the Project with a member of the event team, who would endeavour to answer these questions or concerns as thoroughly as possible. Attendees also had the option of filling out feedback forms before they left the exhibition.



1.3.3 Engagement with Fishing Industry

A Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) was appointed in January 2022 to advise the project on fisheries related matters and to lead engagement with the local fishing community. The FLO is Fishery Liaisons Limited who have long experience both in the fishing industry and as advisors to project looking to undertake works in the marine environment.

The project team and FLO have engaged with the fishing industry on an ongoing basis throughout the course of the Project. Local fisheries were identified as a key stakeholder at an early stage in the Project and the primary objective of the Applicant was to engage with local fisheries from this early stage in an honest, open and transparent manner. Following appointment to the role, the FLO began organising meetings with key stakeholders within the fishing industry, which have continued since early 2022. These meetings are summarised in Table 2-2 below. This presents is a summary of meetings held in grouped format meetings. This does not include the hundreds of calls, emails and discussions with individuals and groups outside of the formally organised meetings.

Much of the focus of the initial meetings was to explain the proposed pre-planning survey works and to understand how they might interact with the ongoing fishing activity at the survey locations. These meetings built a two-way collaborative relationship between the Project team and the fishing industry. The engagement allowed the Project team to understand the fishing practices that exist within and surrounding the Offshore Site, and to take on board the feedback and concerns of the fishing industry. This feedback was communicated to the wider Project and EIAR team, allowing for fisheries to be a central consideration during the design process of the Project. At the same time, the meetings provided a platform for the fishing industry to learn about the Project and the proposed infrastructure, the design process, planned surveys, and more. The feedback from the fishing industry was considered at all stages of the Project's iterative design process.

Based on the mutual understanding developed through these meetings, the Project was able to successfully carry out geophysical and geotechnical surveys in 2022, 2023 and 2024 with the cooperation of the local fishing community.

Table 1-2 Consultation with the Fishing Industry

Time Period	Consultation / Meeting
2022: 9 th March, 27 th April, 5 th May, 25 th May, 2 nd June, 16 th June, 22-24 th June	Meeting at Carna – Emigration Centre (9 th March). Meetings at piers and various locations at Lettermullan, Kilkieran, Carna, Ard West, Roundstone, Bunowen, including calling to houses, etc. Discussed survey works and the wider project.
2023: 7 th February, 3 rd May, 13/14 th June, 4/5 th July and 1/2 nd August.	Meetings held at Roundstone, Ard West, Carna, Lettermullen, two at Rosamhil to discuss survey works and the wider Project. Discussed survey works and the wider project.
2024: 20/21 st February, 6/7 th March. 28 th March	Meetings held at Roundstone, Carna, Lettermullan, 28 nd March (Rosamhíl only) to discuss survey works and the wider Project. Discussed survey works and the wider project.

1.3.4 **Dedicated Contact Details**

From an early stage in the Project, dedicated contact details have been provided to the community, including a dedicated phone number (095-49009) and email address (enquiries@sceirderockswindfarm.ie). To date, these channels have facilitated numerous enquiries and ongoing stakeholder engagement in relation to the Project.



1.3.5 **Project Website**

In April 2023, a full dedicated Project website was launched https://www.sceirderockswindfarm.ie/. The website is an additional communication channel to keep members of the public informed about the Project. All information that was made available to the community over the course of the community engagement process has been uploaded to the website.

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

1.3.5.1 Virtual Consultation Room

The website for the Project includes a virtual consultation room, allowing for the public to have online engagement with the Project. The virtual consultation room contains general information on the Project, which includes:

- Welcome video from the CLO
- > 'Who We Are' section
- > Information on the need for offshore wind
- An overview of the Project
- Mapping
- > Community Benefit Fund information
- Summary of Public Consultation and Engagement
- **Employment and Training opportunities**
- Photomontages
- Information on Operations and Maintenance of the Project
- Environmental information, including surveys and EIAR chapters
- Grid Connection
- Contact information

1.3.6 **Engagement with Stakeholders**

The Applicant has been committed to extensive consultation with a range of stakeholders, in addition to those highlighted in previous sections. These include, but are not limited to, engagement, meetings and collaboration between the Applicant and the EIAR team with the following:

- Commissioners of Irish Lights
- > Fáilte Ireland
- Met Éireann
- University of Galway
- Irish Whale and Dolphin Group
- Irish Coast Guard
- > Port of Galway
- > Rossaveel Harbour
- Marine Survey Office

Further information on the above consultations is provided in Chapter 2 of this EIAR, and where relevant, addressed in the relevant EIAR chapters.



Enduring Economic Benefit

1.4.1 **Economic Benefits**

In May 2024, Biggar Economics prepared a report *Economic Impact of Sceirde Rocks Wind Farm*, which is included in Appendix 6-2 of this EIAR. Focusing solely on the Project, the report noted that with an initial capital investment of approximately $\&pmath{\in} 1.4$ billion, the Project will represent one of the largest ever private sector investments in the Atlantic Region. During the lifetime of the Project, it is estimated that approximately $\&pmath{\in} 2.4$ billion will be spent on the development, construction, operation and decommissioning of the wind farm. Companies and organisations in County Galway are estimated to be awarded contracts worth approximately $\&pmath{\in} 430$ million during this period, and the Atlantic Region is expected to benefit from contracts valued at $\&pmath{\in} 587$ million. On a national basis, Ireland will benefit from contracts valued at $\&pmath{\in} 708$ million. The largest short term economic opportunity will be during the development and construction phase of the Project; however, the long-term operation and maintenance (O&M) activity will be the main economic benefit from the Project. This expenditure will drive economic activity through the Gross Value Added (GVA) and jobs that it supports.

If the full impact of the Project over its lifetime is considered, including the induced impacts (i.e., impacts from staff spending across the wider economy), the Project will generate:

- ➤ €202 million GVA in County Galway;
- > €338 million GVA in the Atlantic Region; and
- > €564 million GVA in Ireland.

The positive impact during the construction phase is expected to peak in 2026, when an estimated 160 full-time jobs will be created. This, in turn, will have a knock-on effect on the local economy through the supply of services to the workforce. There is the potential for these impacts to be even greater and the Applicant is working with local supply chain companies to promote engagement with the supply chain. The Applicant has also signed an MoU with Údarás na Gaeltachta to develop skills and training opportunities to support local job creation and to encourage as much local content in the workforce as possible. There is also the potential for the Project to support up to 150 jobs across Ireland during its 38-year operational lifetime. This report underscores the significant economic impact that the Project will bring to what is one of the most economically deprived areas of the country.

1.4.1.1 Community Benefit Fund

In accordance with the terms and conditions of the first Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme (ORESS1), it is a requirement that for each megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity produced by the wind farm, the project will contribute $\[\in \] 2 \]$ into a community fund for the first 20 years of operation of the Project. The Community Benefit Fund (CBF) will be set up, administered and governed in compliance with the ORESS 1 Community Benefit Funds Rulebook for Generators and Fund Administrators published in January 2023 and it is estimated that the value of the ORESS CBF for the Project would be worth over $\[\in \] 3.5 \]$ million annually once the Project is operational if the wind farm is fully consented.

The Project held a CBF Briefing Event in June 2023 (detailed in Appendix 1) at the project location, to engage with the local community on the various opportunities that this Fund will bring to the community and how it will be managed over the 20-year period; follow-up events will be organised in turn.

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 Community Benefit Fund Committee that clearly represents both the local community to the project as well as neighbouring communities. A fund administrator must be appointed to ensure good governance and accountability for the fund. All fund activities will be reported annually to the



Sustainable Authority of Ireland. The Fund Administrator and CBF Committee must continue at all times to reach out to everyone in the local community to ensure they retain confidence and capacity to fully engage with the opportunities of the CBF. This is especially important for marginalised groups within the community which may require additional assistance to formulate and present funding applications for consideration. These supports must be made available by the Fund Administrator as necessary.

1.5 Conclusion

Active engagement and consultation with the local community has taken place from an early stage during the pre-application phase of the Project. The consultation process has been an extremely valuable exercise and has provided a detailed, and enhanced understanding of the key issues and concerns of the local community. It is the intention of the applicant to continue with the consultation for the entire lifespan of the Project.

The development of the Project will provide an enduring economic benefit to the communities surrounding the Project as outlined in Chapter 2 of the EIAR, through the community benefit package for residents and community groups, employment during the construction and other opportunities associated with such an innovative project on the Atlantic coast as indicated in the Tourism Impact Assessment Report.

The various issues raised by the residents over the course of the consultation process have been considered at all stages of the design of the Project and pre-planning considerations. At all stages of the engagement process, the Applicant was fully conscious of the need for members of the local community to be properly consulted with and listened to, and efforts have been made to address their questions and concerns as comprehensively as possible. The Applicant has sought to make the interests of the local community a primary consideration of the Project. This has been demonstrated through the extensive programme of engagement with the fishing industry, in-person consultation and ongoing liaisons with residents via the project website, email, phone and media communications as well as attendance at local events and presentations and the support of local community groups and activities. The establishment of the Community Benefit Fund will provide meaningful and lasting economic benefits to the residents of the communities surrounding the Project.

The Applicant is committed to maintaining the strong community engagement approach throughout the post-application stage and, if the Project is granted planning consent, will continue to consult with and be available to residents through the operational lifespan of the Project.



APPENDIX 1 - BROCHURE







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- 6 Community benefits
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RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATED FROM OFFSHORE WIND IN CONNEMARA, COUNTY GALWAY

The Sceirde Rocks Windfarm will be one of the largest ever infrastructure projects in the Connemara region. Located between five and twelve km off the west coast, near Carna, it is expected to become the first commercial-scale offshore windfarm on Europe's Atlantic margin.



Delivery of clean energy for homes and businesses



Providing economic development and job opportunities



Helping Ireland reach its national 2030 climate goals

WHY OFFSHORE WIND

Ireland has a goal to produce 80% of its energy using renewable sources by 2030, To achieve this, over 5 GW of offshore wind energy is expected to be developed by the end of the decade. These targets will reduce carbon emissions, help to meet increasing domestic electricity demand and strengthen energy security.

WHAT SIZE

Sceirde Rocks is set to be the first offshore windfarm on Ireland's west coast. The proposed project will have a capacity of up to 450 megawatts, providing enough electricity to supply more than 350,000 Irish homes.



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Up to 30 turbines with fixed foundations

1.75_M

Delivering 1.75 million MWh of clean electricity per year 325м

Up to 325 m turbine tip height

350_K

Supply 350,000 homes with green electricity

WHERE

- The site is located between c.5km and c.12 km off the coast of Connemara, Co.Galway.
- The closest settlement is Carna village, approx.8km from the site.
- The site has been selected due to its favourable characteristics for fixed bottom offshore wind development.
- Distance from the shoreline of at least 5 km.
- Water depths of up to 60 m were considered to facilitate fixed-bottom foundations.
- Avoidance of environmentally sensitive areas including Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's), Special Protection Areas (SPA's) and National Heritage Areas (NHA's).





Cable Route and Grid Connection

- Approximately 70km of grid connection cable to be laid in the seabed.
- Grid connection cable will come ashore northwest of Doonbeg, Co. Clare and run underground predominantly in the road network.
- Connection to the national grid via a 220kV substation near Moneypoint, Co. Clare including a Compensation compound at Ballmacrinnan near moneypoint.
- Avoidance of environmentally sensitive areas including Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's), Special Protection Areas (SPA's) and National Heritage Areas (NHA's).

WHEN

At the end of 2022, the Sceirde Rocks Windfarm was granted Maritime Area Consent by the Irish government, a significant milestone in the project's development.

In May 2023 the Sceirde Rocks project was one of four projects successful in the national ORESS1 auction guaranteeing a route to market for electricity produced by the project.

In September 2023 Sceirde Rocks was granted a Foreshore Licence which enabled further necessary marine surveys to be carried out.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The local Connemara community will play an integral role in the development of the Sceirde Rocks Windfarm. During our extensive community consultation program, we will engage frequently with the public and seek local support and cooperation to ensure the project's success for the region. We will be developing a virtual consultation room available to view on our website with extensive information and details about the project. We will also be opening a local office in the area at the gteic building in Carna as well as organising events locally highlighting various aspects of the project.

As part of our extensive programme of community consultation and public engagement we have engaged in regular communication and co-operation with the wider community by



Engaging and cooperating with the local fishing and marine community



Meeting with local community development groups and voluntary organisations



Hosting public events around different aspects of the project



Developing an online virtual consultation exhibition room through our website



Opening a local project information office at the qteic in Carna



Developing an information brochure on the project that is circulated and available locally.



Continually updating the public with updates, interviews and press releases in local TV, Radio and press.



ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Sceirde Rocks Offshore Windfarm is proud to be able to offer a way to bring employment and investment to the west coast of Ireland by harnessing its significant wind resource. Working with the local community in Connemara, we are committed to delivering cleaner energy to the Irish people, as well as supporting regional growth and development through the investment the project will bring to the region

The Sceirde Rocks Offshore Windfarm will drive social and economic benefits for the local community, through a range of employment and local supply chain opportunities during all phases of the project.

By the end of 2023 over € 2 million has been spent in the local and wider Galway area. This includes a wide cross section of suppliers, contractors, consultants, the marine industry, local businesses and services within the Connemara and wider Galway area.

A planning application for the project will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in the middle of 2024.

Subject to a positive decision, work on construction should commence in 2026 with the plan to be fully operational by 2030.





EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

In partnership with Údarás na Gaeltachta, Sceirde Rocks Offshore Windfarm will look to ensure that the project brings training, employment and longterm career opportunities to the Connemara region.

As part of our partnership, we have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formally collaborate and further strengthen our ongoing working relationship.

Údarás Na Gaeltachta launched its strategic plan in 2021 that includes initiatives relating to climate change, the green economy, the blue economy and the social economy.

Together with Údarás na Gaeltachta we will establish and support education and training initiatives within the Gaeltacht & Connemara region to provide a skilled workforce to support the deployment of offshore wind projects and the renewable energy industry on the west coast.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

If the project is fully realised, a significant community benefit fund of over €3.5 million per annum should be available to local community groups and organisations. The fund will start as soon as construction commences and will be able to support eligible projects and initiatives designed to enhance the local community.



€3.5M per annum



COMMUNITY BENEFITS FUND

As a result of being successful in Ireland's first offshore wind auction, the Sceirde Rocks Windfarm announced an estimated €70 million of funding over 20 years to local communities through a new Community Benefit Fund.



A community benefit fund committee will be established to facilitate community participation in the fund development plan and to ensure successful operation and delivery of the fund. Managed by an independent fund administrator, the fund will help support community-driven initiatives, much needed community facilities and amenities, improve infrastructure and services in consultation with local people in the wider area.





The fund aims to be a force for positive change: Not only around the project and climate change but also for the community benefit fund to have a transformative effect within the local area and communities which in turn will bring huge local investment and business opportunities.



The fund will open on a phased basis as soon as construction of the Windfarm commences and will become fully active once the project becomes operational.



For every megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity generated by the wind farm, €2 will be put into the Community Benefit Fund - expected to total €70 million over its lifetime. It is expected that most of this spend will support local suppliers and services, depending on the nature of the schemes that derive from the Community Benefit Fund.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Extensive environmental screening will be carried out during all stages of project development in order to avoid, minimise or mitigate any potential negative impacts. A comprehensive range of environmental assessments, reports and surveys will be undertaken, addressing topics such as biodiversity (including birds and marine mammals, benthic environment etc), visual impacts, shipping and navigation, and other environmental factors. These will be included in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and Natural Impact Report that will be submitted and published as part of the Sceirde Rocks Windfarm planning application. Some of the key surveys being carried out are;

OFFSHORE

- ► Geophysical & Geotechnical
- ▶ Benthic
- ► Birds and Mammal Surveys
- Metocean
- Marine traffic
- Seascape, Landscape and visual amenity

ONSHORE

- Terrestrial Ecology
- Archeology
- Environmental Walkover
- Baseline Noise Surveys
- Landscape and Visual



MORE INFORMATION

The Sceirde Rocks Windfarm team is committed to working with the local community and all stakeholders. An extensive programme of community consultation and public engagement will be undertaken during all phases of the project. Our locally based stakeholder and community liaison manager Michael Cloherty is working with the community throughout the project's development.

For further information, please contact Michael at:

Oifig Eolas Sceirde Rocks Gteic Charna, Ionad Fiontar Carna Co. Galway. H91VAF8



enquiries@sceirderockswindfarm.ie



095-49009



See also $\underline{www.sceirderockswindfarm.ie}$









CLÁR ÁBHAIR

- Fuinneamh in-athnuaite a ghintear ó ghaoth amach ón gcósta i gConamara, Contae na Gaillimhe
- 3 An chúis le gaoth amach ón gcósta
- 3 Cén méid
- 4 Cá háit
- 4 Cén uair
- 5 Comhairliúchán Comhphobail
- 5 Tairbhí eacnamaíocha
- 6 Fostaíocht agus Oiliúint
- 6 Tairbhí an Chomhphobail
- Ciste Sochair Pobail
- 7 An Timpeallacht
- 8 Tuilleadh eolais

FUINNEAMH IN-ATHNUAITE A GHINTEAR Ó GHAOTH AMACH ÓN GCÓSTA I GCONAMARA, CONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Beidh Feirm Ghaoithe Amach ón gCósta Charraigeacha Sceirdre ar cheann de na tionscadail infreastruchtúir is mó a rinneadh i gceantar Chonamara go dtí seo. Suite idir cúig agus dhá chiliméadar déag amach ó chósta an iarthair atá sí, gar do Charna, agus táthar ag súil go mbeidh sé ar an gcéad fheirm ghaoithe amach ón gcósta ar scála tráchtála ar imeall Atlantach na hEorpa.



Fuinneamh glan a sholáthar do thithe agus do ghnólachtaí



Forbairt eacnamaíoch agus deiseanna fostaíochta a chur ar fáil



Cabhrú le hÉirinn a spriocanna aeráide náisiúnta le haghaidh 2030 a bhaint amach.

AN CHÚIS LE GAOTH AMACH ÓN GCÓSTA

Tá sé mar sprioc ag Éirinn 80 % dá fuinneamh a tháirgeadh trí úsáid a bhaint as foinsí in-athnuaite faoi 2030. Chun é sin a bhaint amach, táthar ag súil go bhforbrófar os cionn 5 GW d'fhuinneamh gaoithe amach ón gcósta faoi dheireadh na ndeich mbliana seo. Leis na spriocanna sin, laghdófar astaíochtaí carbóin, cabhrófar le freastal ar an méadú atá ag teacht ar an éileamh intíre ar leictreachas agus neartófar an tslándáil fuinnimh.

CÉN MÉID

Beidh Carraigeacha Sceirde ar an gcéad fheirm ghaoithe amach ón gcósta ar chósta thiar na hÉireann. Beidh acmhainn suas le 450 meigeavata ag an tionscadal atá beartaithe, acmhainn a sholáthróidh dóthain leictreachais le freastal ar líon is mó ná 350,000 teach in Éirinn.



30

Suas le 30 tuirbín le dúshraitheanna daingne 1.75_M

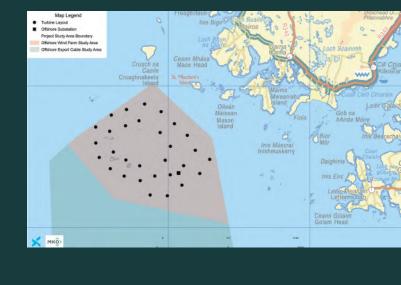
1.75 milliún MWh de leictreachas in aghaidh na bliana a sholáthar 325м

Airde bharr tuirbín suas le 325m 350_K

Leictreachas glan, glas chun cumhacht a thabhairt do níos mó ná 350,000 teach in aghaidh na bliana

CÁ HÁIT

- Tá an suíomh suite idir c.5km agus c.12km amach ó chósta Chonamara, Co. na Gaillimhe.
- ls é an lonnaíocht is cóngaraí ná sráidbhaile Charna, thart ar 8km ón suíomh.
- Roghnaíodh an suíomh mar gheall ar a thréithe fabhracha d'fhorbairt gaoithe amach óngcósta le dúshraitheanna seasta.
- Tá sé 5km ón líne chladaigh, ar a laghad.
- Breathnaíodh ar dhoimhneacht uisce suas le 60 m chun dúshraitheanna daingne a éascú.
- Limistéir íogaire chomhshaoil a sheachaint lena n-áirítear Limistéir faoi Chaomhnú Speisialta(SACanna), Limistéir faoi Chosaint Speisialta (SPAanna) agus Limistéir Oidhreachta Náisiúnta (NHAnna).





Bealaí Cábla agus Nascadh Eangaí

- Timpeall 70km de chábla nasctha eangaí le leagan l ngrinneall na farraige.
- Tiocfaidh an cábla nasctha eangaí i dtír siar ó thuaidh ón Dún Beag, Co.an Chláir agusrithfidh sé
- faoin talamh go príomha sa ghréasán bóithre.
- Nasc leis an grid náisiúnta trí cáblá faoi thalamh 23 km le fostáisiún Ghob na Muine igCo anChláir,
- lena n-áiritear Comhdhúil Cúitimh ag Baile Mhic Fhionnáin in aice le Gon na Muine.

CÉN UAIR

Ag deireadh 2022, thug rialtas na hÉireann toiliú Limistéar Muirí d'Fheirm Ghaoithe Amach ón gCósta Charraigeacha Sceirdre, agus ba chloch mhíle shuntasach á sin i bhforbairt an tionscadail I mí na Bealtaine 2023, bhí tionscadal Charraigeacha Sceirde ar cheann de cheithre thionscadal ar éirigh leo i gceant náisiúnta ORESS1 lenar ráthaíodh bealach chun margaidh le haghaidh leictreachas arna tháirgeadh ag an tionscadal. I mí Mheán Fómhair 2023, deonaíodh Ceadúnas Imeall Trá do Charraigeacha Sceirde, rud a d'fhág gurbh fhéidir tuilleadh suirbhéanna muirí riachtanacha a dhéanamh.

COMHAIRLIÚCHÁN COMHPHOBAIL

Beidh ról lárnach ag pobal áitiúil Chonamara i bhforbairt Fheirm Ghaoithe Amach ón gCósta Charraigeacha Sceirdre. Le linn ár gclár fairsing comhairliúcháin pobail, beimid ag plé go minic leis an bpobal agus ag lorg tacaíocht agus comhoibriú áitiúil lena chinntiú go mbeidh rath ar an tionscadal ar son an réigiúin. Beimid ag forbairt seomra comhairliúcháin fhíorúil a bheidh ar fáil ar ár suíomh gréasáin agus ar a mbeidh eolas cuimsitheach agus sonraí faoin tionscadal. Beimid ag oscailt oifig áitiúil sa cheantar ag an bhfoirgneamh gteic i gCarna chomh maith le himeachtaí a eagrú go háitiúil ar léiriú iad ar ghnéithe éagsúla den tionscadal.

Mar chuid dár gclár fairsing comhairliúcháin pobail agus rannpháirtíochta poiblí bhí muid i mbun cumarsáide agus comhoibrithe rialta leis an bpobal i gcoitinne ar na bealaí seo a leanas:



Teagmháil agus comhoibriú leis an bpobal áitiúil iascaireachta agus mara



Cruinniú le grúpaí forbartha pobail áitiúla agus le heagraíochtaí deonacha



Imeachtaí poiblí a óstáil maidir le gnéithe éagsúla den tionscadal



Seomra taispeántais comhairliúcháin fíorúil ar líne a fhorbairt trínár láithreán gréasáin



Oifig eolais áitiúil faoin tionscadal a oscailt ag an gteic i gCarna



Bróisiúr eolais a fhorbairt ar an tionscadal a scaipfear agus a bheidh ar fáil go háitiúil.



An pobal a choinneáil ar an eolas go leanúnach le nuashonruithe, agallaimh agus preaseisiúintí ar an teilifís, raidió agus sa phreas áitiúil.



TAIRBHÍ EACNAMAÍOCHTA

Tá Fheirm Ghaoithe Charraigeacha Sceirde, bródúil as a bheith in ann bealach a thairiscint chun fostaíocht agus infheistíocht a thabhairt go cósta thiar na hÉireann trí leasa bhaint as an acmhainn shuntasach gaoithe atá ann. Ag obair leis an bpobal áitiúil i gConamara, táimid tiomanta chun fuinneamh níos glaine a sholáthar do mhuintir nahÉireann, chomh maith letacú le fás agus forbairt réigiúnach tríd an infheistíocht a thabharfaidh an tionscadal chuig an réigiún.

Spreagfaidh Feirm Ghaoithe Amach ón gCósta Charraigeacha Sceirdre buntáistí sóisialta agus eacnamaíocha le haghaidh an phobail áitiúil, trí réimse deiseanna fostaíochta agus soláthair áitiúil le linn gach céim den tionscadal.

Go dti deireadh 2023 bhí os cionn € 2 mhilliún caite sa cheantar áitiúil agus i nGaillimh. Cuimsíonn sé seo trasghearradh leathan soláthraithe, conraitheoirí, sainchomhairleoirí, gnólachtaí, an earnáil Mara, agus seirbhísí áitiúla i gConamara agus i mórcheantar na Gaillimhe.

Cuirfear iarratas pleanála le haghaidh an tionscadail faoi bhráid an Bhoird Pleanála **i lár** 2024. Faoi réir cinneadh dearfach, ba cheart go gcuirfí tús leis an obair thógála in 2026 agus an plean ag feidhmiú go hiomlán faoi 2030.





TAIRBHÍ AN CHOMHPHOBAIL

Ach an tionscadal a chur i gcrích go hiomlán, ba chóir go mbeadh ciste suntasach leasa pobail níos mó ná €3.5 milliún in aghaidh na bliana ar fáil do ghrúpaí agus d'eagraíochtaí pobail áitiúla. Cuirfear tús leis an gciste a luaithe a chuirfear tús leis an tógáil agus beidh sé in ann tacú le tionscadail agus tionscnaimh incháilithe a bheidh á ndearadh chun an pobal áitiúil a fheabhsú.



€5.5M in aghaidh na bliana

FOSTAÍOCHT AGUS OILIÚINT

I gcomhpháirtaíocht le Údarás na Gaeltachta, feachfaimid lena chinntiú chun deiseanna oiliúna, fostaíocht agus gairmeacha a chruthú i gceantar Chonamara.

Mar chuid dár gcomhpháirtíocht le Údarás na Gaeltachta, tá Meabhrán Tuisceana comhaontaithe chun an comhoibriú eatarthu a mharcáil go foirmeálta agus an caidrimh oibre eatarthu a neartú.

Tá béim láidir i Straitéis 5 Bhliana Údarás na Gaeltachta ar an inbhuanaitheacht agus tá straitéis An Ghaeltacht Ghlas de chuid Údarás na Gaeltachta dírithe ar an athrú aeráide, an eacnamaíocht ghlas, an geilleagar gorm agus an eacnamaíocht shóisialta.

Le cheile bunóimid agus tacóimid le deiseanna oideachais agus oiliúna sa nGaeltacht, chun fórsa saothair oilte a sholáthar a bheas inniúil ar fhorbairt thograí fuinnimh eischósta agus an earnáil fuinnimh inathnuaithe ar chósta thiar na hÉireann.



CISTE SOCHAIR POBAIL

Mar thoradh ar a bheith roghnaithe sa chéad cheant gaoithe amach ón gcósta in Éirinn, d'fhógair Feirm Ghaoithe Charraigeacha Sceirde pleananna chun maoiniú thart ar €70 milliún thar 20 bliain a sholáthar do phobail áitiúla trí Chiste Sochair Pobail nua.



Bunófar coiste ciste sochair pobail chun rannpháirtíocht an phobail sa phlean forbartha ciste a éascú agus chun oibriú agus seachadadh rathúil an chiste a chinntiú. Agus é á bhainistiú ag riarthóir ciste neamhspleách, cuideoidh an ciste le tacaíocht a thabhairt do thionscnaimh faoi thionchar an phobail, áiseanna agus taitneamhachtaí pobail a bhfuil géarghá leo, feabhas a chur ar bhonneagar agus ar sheirbhísí i gcomhairle le daoine áitiúla sa cheantar i gcoitinne.





Tá sé mar aidhm ag an gciste a bheith ina uirlis ar mhaithe le hathrú dearfach: Ní hamháin maidir leis an tionscadal agus ar son an athraithe aeráide ach freisin go mbeadh tionchar bunathraitheach ag an gciste sochair pobail taobh istigh den cheantar áitiúil agus de na pobail áitiúla a chruthóidh, ina dhiaidh sin, deiseanna ollmhóra infheistíochta agus gnó áitiúla.



Osclófar an ciste ar bhonn céimnithe a luaithe a thosófar ar thógáil na Feirme Gaoithe agus beidh sé go hiomlán gníomhach nuair a bheidh an tionscadal i bhfeidhm.



I gcás gach meigeavata-uair (MWh) de leictreachas a ghineann an fheirm ghaoithe, cuirfear €2 isteach sa Chiste Sochair Pobail - meastar go mbeidh €70 milliún san iomlán i gceist thar a shaolré. Táthar ag súil go dtacóidh an chuid is mó den chaiteachas seo le soláthróirí agus seirbhísí áitiúla, ag brath ar chineál na scéimeanna a thagann as an gCiste Sochair Pobail.

AN TIMPEALLACHT

Déanfar scagadh comhshaoil fairsing ag gach céim d'fhorbairt an tionscadail d'fhonn aon tionchar diúltach a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ann a sheachaint, a íoslaghdú nó a mhaolú. Tabharfar faoi raon cuimsitheach measúnuithe comhshaoil tuarascálacha agus suirbhéanna, lena dtabharfar aghaidh ar ábhair amhail bithéagsúlacht, (lena n-áirítear éin agus mamaigh mhuirí, timpeallacht bheatach srl..), tionchair amhairc, loingeas agus loingseoireacht, agus tosca comhshaoil eile. Áireofar iad seo i dTuarascáil um Measúnacht Tionchair Timpeallachta agus i dTuarascáil Tionchair Nádúrtha a chuirfear isteach agus a fhoilseofar mar chuid d'iarratas pleanála Fheirm Ghaoithe Amach ón gCósta Charraigeacha Sceirdre. Tá cuid de na príomhshuirbhéanna atá á ndéanamh leagtha amach thíos;

SUIRBHÉANNA AMACH ÓN GCÓSTA

- Geoifisiceach agus Geoiteicniúil
- Beantach
- Suirbhéanna ar Éin agus Mamaigh
- Meit-aigéan
- Trácht mara
- Muirdhreach, Tírdhreach agus Taitneamhacht Amhairc

SUIRBHÉANNA AR TIR

- Éiceolaíocht Talún
- Seandálaíoch
- Réamhshuirbhé Timpeallachta
- Suirbhéanna Bonnlíne Torainn
- Tírdhreach agus Amharc



TUILLEADH EOLAIS

Tá foireann Fheirm Ghaoithe Amach ón gCósta Charraigeacha Sceirdre tiomanta do bheith ag obair leis an bpobal áitiúil agus leis na páirtithe leasmhara go léir. Tabharfar faoi chlár fairsing de chomhairliúchán pobail agus rannpháirtíocht phoiblí le linn gach céim den tionscadal. Páirtí leasmhar dár gcuid agus an bainisteoir idirchaidrimh pobail atá againn, Michael Cloherty, tá sé lonnaithe go háitiúil agus é ag obair leis an bpobal i rith fhorbairt an tionscadail.

Chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil, téigh i dteagmháil le Michael ag:

Oifig Eolas Sceirde Rocks Gteic Charna, Ionad Fiontar Carna Co. na Gaillimhe. H91VAF8



enquiries@sceirderockswindfarm.ie



095-49009



 $F\'{e}ach\ freisin\ \underline{www.sceirderockswindfarm.ie}$





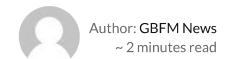
APPENDIX 2 - NEWS ARTICLES



Home

Breaking News

Offshore wind project links up with Galway Hooker Association to boost boat racing



Published: 26 September 2023



Galway Bay fm newsroom- A company planning to develop a large offshore wind farm nine miles west of the Connemara coast at Sceirde Rocks has teamed up with the Galway Hooker Association

The company, Corio Generation, is providing financial back-up for traditional sailboat respectacles on the West Coast

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The Atlantic winds are a common theme in this link-up between Corio Generation The Galway Hookers fraternity.

Go Up

Corio Generation, an offshoot of Macquarie, a major Australian Banking group, plans to develop an electricity-producing wind farm on the Sceirde Rocks nine miles west into the Atlantic.

It could power 350,000 homes and reduce the emission of harmful gases.

In the meantime, Galway Hookers and other traditional sailboats continue to maintain a great heritage of seafaring on the waters south and west of Connemara.

They are a great spectacle but they also bring with them many expenses in maintenance and upkeep. Organising the races also poses financial challenges.

The entry of Corio Generation could be a key factor for the future.

The Hookers and sailing boats are a hallmark of Connemara and Galway Bay says Michael Cloherty, Stakeholder and Community Lead with Corio Generation and the Sceirde Project. The winds, he says, that will power our project will also unfurl the sails of the great traditional craft and we can go forward together.

Máirtín Ó Catháin for Galway Bay Fm in Connemara.

The post Offshore wind project links up with Galway Hooker Association to boost boat racing appeared first on Galway Bay FM.

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Windfarm gets up to speed

Plans ready for largest infrastructural development in Galway Gaeltacht

BY DARA BRADLEY

A PLANNING application for an offshore windfarm in Conamara - believed to be the largest ever infrastructural development in the Galway Gaeltacht - will be lodged this summer.

International investors are poised to pump up to €2 billion into the Sceirde Rock Offshore Windfarm project off the west coast of County Galway, which they claim will produce enough 'clean' energy to power 350,000 homes.

The backers of the project, which has already attracted opposition through an online petition, said they will submit a planning application before the end of August.

Plans for the offshore windfarm were unveiled to the public at a series of consultation days in Carna earlier this lune.

Corio Generation, which specialises in green energy investment, estimated the project would cost between €1.5 billion and €2 billion to complete.

The company said it had already spent €2 million with Conamara and Galway businesses it had engaged to assist in its work so far.

It is planned to build a farm of up to 30 fixed-bottom turbines with

gravity-based foundations off the coast of Carna and Leitir Mealláin.

The company said each turbine has a 325-metre tip height based on a rotor diameter of 292 metres. Construction will start in 2026, if

Construction will start in 2026, all planning hurdles are jumped.

A spokesperson for the company, Michael Cloherty, stakeholder and consent lead based in Carna, said it was estimated the Sceirde Rocks project will create up to 150 construction jobs over three

It will result in a further 60 direct, full-time jobs during the 35year operational phase of the project, he said

He said the project was considering locating its Operation and Maintenance facility at Ros 'a Mhíl, which "will provide further employment opportunities and additional jobs during the construction phase".

Separately, Mr Cloherty pointed out that Údarás na Gaeltachta's

masterplan for Ros an Mhfl Harbour predicts 400 new jobs through the creation of a 'hub' in Conamara for the 'strategic development' of the offshore wind indus try along the west coast.

try along the west coast. Údarás signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Sceirde Rocks Windfarm to establish and support

education and training initiatives within the Conamara Gaeltacht, "to provide a skilled workforce to support the deployment of offshore wind projects".

Mr Cloherty said one of the primary benefits to Conamara was a planned Community Benefit Fund which will deliver an estimated €70 million over 20 years to local communities.

This will commence as soon as construction starts.

"At this stage, Sceirde Rocks project would encourage and seek expressions of interest from people and groups to come together across villages and communities to develop plans and projects that would make the best use of the Community Benefit Fund," Mr Cloherty said.

He said "support contributions totalling over €100,000" have already been made to local voluntary organisations, schools, community and environmental initiatives and services, and sporting and recreational organisations.

"This is reflective of the earlystage nature of the work to date, and we expect the value of contracts and community contributions to increase significantly as the project moves through the planning stage and then into construction

and operation," Mr Cloherty said. Asked to comment on environmental concerns and the negative visual impact of the project, which have been raised in an online petition opposing the plans, the com-

tion opposing the plans, the company said the project team have undertaken a comprehensive and detailed assessment of potential impacts of the project through a dedicated Environmental Impact Assessment.

"This assessment will consider any visible and non-visible effects the project will have on the people, environment, landscape, birds, wildlife, and marine life in the area.

"Offshore wind projects are subject to robust regulatory and planning processes, just like other major construction developments on land or sea. The Sceirde Rocks project has followed best practice with all analysis and surveys carried out - demonstrating that they are in line with good planning, national policy and meet relevant environmental standards," Mr Cloherty said.

A socio-economic assessment report and tourism impact assessment report will form part of the Environmental Impact Assessment to be lodged with the planning application, he said.

"Sceirde Rocks was chosen as the

most technically feasible location for the project. There are very few other suitable locations on the west coast for fixed-bottom offshore windfarms that can contribute to the country's 2030 Climate Change targets. Other areas along the west coast further out to sea are too deep for fixed-bottom projects.

"We are proud to be able to offer a way to bring investment to the south and west coast of Conamara by harnessing its significant wind resource. Working with the community in Carna, we are committed to delivering cleaner energy to the Irish people, as well as supporting regional growth and development through the investment the project will bring to the region," Mr Cloherty said.

"The windfarm will offer a significant economic, social and community investment into the Conamara area as well as providing a wide range of local employment and training opportunities. These longterm opportunities, linked to a natural renewable resource, are expected to have a significant positive impact on the region," Mr Cloherty added.

He invited anyone who wishes to discuss the project to visit its local information office at the Gteic building in Carna.



AFTER being selected in Ireland's first offshore wind auction, the Sceirde Rocks Windfarm has announced plans to provide an estimated €70 million of funding over 20 years to local communities through a new Community Benefit Fund.

The Community Benefit Fund, which will be managed by an independent fund administrator, will help fund community-driven initiatives in consultation with local people across Connemara to ensure that the Sceirde Rocks Windfarm is a force for positive change.

Referring to what he said will be one of the largest ever infrastructure developments in the Connemara region, Consent and Stakeholder Lead for the Sceirde Rocks Windfarm Michael Cloherty said he also believed it can have a transformative positive impact.

"It will bring investment, economic development and job opportunities, along with a significant Community Benefit Fund to support the local community," he said.

munity," he said.

"The Community Benefit Fund will play a pivotal role in supporting community grass-roots activities that have an enduring economic, social and cultural benefit, including helping to preserve the Gaeltacht language, culture and traditions which make this area unique."

The announcement of the fund was made at a community event at the Emigrants Commemoration Centre, Ionad Cuimhneacháin na nImirceach, in Carna, last week.

The event brought together representatives of the project



Michael Cloherty, Sceirde Rocks Windfarm Consent and Stakeholder Lead, addressing the meeting.

developer, Corio Generation, local stakeholders and community development facilitators Údarás na Gaeltachta.

The Sceirde Rocks Windfarm is due to be constructed between 2026 and 2029 and is expected to go into operation by 2030

The Community Benefit

Fund becomes fully active once the project is operational, with early disbursements available to support locally driven community initiatives from the start of construction. In the build-up to construction, the developer will in addition be supporting local initiatives through a separate smaller-scale community



Tim Coffey, Project Director Sceirde Rocks Windfarm, addressing the meeting.

support fund.

Following the announcement of the Community Benefit Fund, a community committee will be established to decide how best to allocate funding in ways that most effectively benefit Connemara, in accordance with an ORESS rulebook set by the Department of the Environ-

ment, Climate and Communications.

The committee will be comprised of local stakeholders and experts from a variety of backgrounds who will create a Community Benefit Fund Development Delivery Plan in consultation with community members.

For every megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity generated by the wind farm, €2 will be put into the Community Benefit Fund. Contributions will be made to the fund for the first 20 years of operation of the project and the fund is expected to total €70 million over its life-

Forbairtí/Dul Chun Cinn Fheirm Ghaoithe Charraigeacha Sceirde 2023

Íris Leabhar Iorras Aithneach

Le bliain anuas tá céimeanna suntasacha glactha ag tionscadal Fheirm Ghaoithe Eischósta Charraigeacha Sceirde maidir lena sprioc a bheith ar an gcéad fheirm ghaoithe ar scála tráchtála amach ón gcósta ar imeall Atlantach na hEorpa, suite amach ó chósta Ghaeltacht Chonamara.

Is é an sprioc atá leis an tionscadal suas le 450 MW a ghiniúint ar an láthair agus cuirfidh sé sin foinse fuinnimh inathnuaite ar fáil a thabharfaidh cumhacht do phobail agus a chabhróidh le hÉirinn a sciar d'fhoinsí in-athnuaite a mhéadú go 80 % faoi 2030 i gcomhréir le spriocanna náisiúnta athraithe aeráide.

Beidh tógra Gaoithe na Sceirde seo ar an tionscadal infreastruchtúir is mó a rinneadh i gConamara go dtí seo agus cuirfidh sé go mór le forbairt an cheantair amach anseo ar na bealaí seo a leanas:

- Cuirfidh sé deiseanna fostaíochta agus forbairt gheilleagrach ar fáil do phobail áitiúla i gConamara.
- Cruthóidh sé deiseanna do phobail, do ghnólachtaí agus do dhaoine aonair forbairt agus dul chun cinn a dhéanamh.
- Neartóidh sé agus tacóidh sé leis an infreastruchtúr cultúrtha eacnamaíoch agus pobail sa cheantar Gaeltachta.

Le linn 2023 bhain tógra Gaoithe na Sceirde spriocanna tábhachtacha amach, deonaíodh ceadúnais dó, agus rinne sé imeachtaí áitiúla sa phobal a óstáil.

- Nollaig 22 Deonaíodh dó an Toiliú Limistéar Mhuirí, lena gceadaítear don tionscadal páirt a ghlacadh i gCeant ORESS1
- <u>Bealtaine 23</u> D'éirigh leis i gceant ORESS1, lena ráthaítear an bealach chun an mhargaidh don leictreachas arna tháirgeadh ag an tionscadal
- Meitheamh 23 Reáchtáladh seoladh Chiste an tSochair Pobail in Ionad na nImirce
- Meán Fómhair 23 Deonaíodh Ceadúnas Imeall Trá
- Deireadh Fómhair 23 Cuireadh suirbhéanna ar an gcomhshaol muirí sa siúl
- <u>Deireadh Fómhair 23</u> Reáchtáladh imeacht Soláthróirí Gnó Áitiúla in Ionad na nImirce
 <u>Samhain 23</u> Oscailt Oifig Tógra Ghaoithe na Sceirde i gCarna (Gteic Charna)
- Nollaig 23 Beartaíodh imeacht maidir Gairmeacha, Oiliúna agus Scileanna Áitiúla

Cuirfear iarratas pleanála le haghaidh an tionscadail faoi bhráid an Bhoird Pleanála sa chéad leath de 2024. Faoi réir cinneadh dearfach, ba cheart go gcuirfí tús leis an obair thógála in 2026 agus ba cheart go mbeadh an Feirm Gaoithe ag feidhmiú go hiomlán faoi 2030. Mar thoradh ar thógáil an tionscadail, déanfar infheistíocht ollmhór sa cheantar agus cuirfear réimse leathan deiseanna áitiúla fostaíochta agus oiliúna ar fáil do cheantar Chonamara.

Tar éis an tionscadal a thógáil, beidh céim oibríochta thart ar 35 bliana ann, céim a mbeidh scileanna agus soláthairtí éagsúla ag teastáil ina leith. Tá an tionscadal nasctha le hacmhainn nádúrtha in-athnuaite, agus beidh tionchar dearfach suntasach ag na deiseanna a bhaineann le céimeanna éagsúla an tionscadail ar an gceantar.

Gné an-tábhachtach eile den tionscadal is ea an Ciste Sochair Pobail lena ndéanfar infheistíocht bhliantúil thart ar EUR 3.5 milliún ar feadh suas le 20 bliain ar a laghad a chur ar fáil chun infheistíocht a dhéanamh ar ais sa cheantar áitiúil trí thionscnaimh, comhpháirtíochtaí agus scéimeanna faoi stiúir an phobail. Beidh an Ciste Sochair Pobail ar fáil ar bhonn céimnithe a luaithe a thosóidh an tógáil agus beidh sé ar fáil go hiomlán nuair a bheidh an fheirm ghaoithe ag feidhmiú.

Ba mhaith le bainistíocht agus foireann Fheirm Ghaoithe Charraigeacha Sceirde buíochas ó chroí a ghabháil leis na hiascairí go léir a d'oibrigh in éineacht linn go dtí seo, leis na páirtithe leasmhara go léir a thacaigh leis an tógra go dtí seo agus leis an bpobal i gcoitinne as a dtacaíocht agus a spéis.

Ba mhaith le fhoireann an tógra buíochas ó chroí a ghabháil le Coiste agus fhoireann Ionad Cuimhneacháin na nImirce as ucht an Ionad a chur ar fáil duinn le imeachtaí agus chruinnithe a éagrú. Freisin buíochas ó chroi do FCI agus Gteic Charna as aiseanna Oifig a sholthair duinn agus muid ag súil go mór bogadh isteach inar n-oifig nua.

Bhí ríméad orainn a bheith in ann tacú le líon leathan grúpaí deonacha, eagraíochtaí agus clubanna áitiúla i gConamara i mbliana (Cumann Huiceirí na Gaillimhe, Coiste lár na gCurracahaí, Club Mara Conamara Láir, Cumainn Spóirt Aitiúla, Scoileanna agus grupaí eile) agus tá muid ag súil leanúint lenár gcomhpháirtíochtaí, tacaíocht agus lenár suim in éineacht leis an bpobal ar fad sna blianta amach romhainn.

Ainm — Michael O Clochártaigh, Bainisteoir Páirtithe Leasmhara agus Phobal

Tuilleadh eolais,

www.sceirderockswindfarm.ie

enquiries@sceirderockswindfarm.ie

095-49009

Cóir na gaoithe le scéim cumhachta na Sceirdí i nGaeltacht Chonamara

Tá léargas iomlán curtha ar fáil do na húdaráis pleanála maidir le forbairt sa Ghaeltacht a chosnóidh breis agus billiún euro in airgead caipitiúil



Máirtín Ó Catháin Déardaoin, Eanáir 5 2023 ag 5:55 am



Tá cóir na gaoithe anois leis an scéim mhór chumhachta atá beartaithe sa gceantar mara thart ar Charraigeacha na Sceirdí, naoi míle siar ó chósta Charna i nGaeltacht Chonamara.

Fógraíodh ar theacht na Nollag go raibh aitheantas tugtha don tionscnamh a fhágann go mbeadh deis mhaith aige a bheith istigh ar chlár tacaíochta an Rialtais d'fheilmeacha gaoithe amach ón gcósta.

Tá an t-aitheantas seo tugtha faoi dhlínse an chórais nua rialacháin do cheantair mhara – An tAcht Pleanála do Cheantair Mhara.

Bhí ar an gcomhlacht Corio, atá i mbun na tionscnaimh sna Sceirdí, léargas iomlán a chur ar fáil don údarás pleanála mara ar an bplean, agus ar na hacmhainní atá acu le dhul i mbun na scéime, a chosnóidh breis agus billiún euro in airgead caipitiúil.

Seo an chéad iarracht le tionscnamh gaoithe amach ón gcósta a chur ar bun sa limistéar mara as Dún nan Gall síos go Corcaigh, cósta thiar na hÉireann uilig.

Fiú is nach buille marfach a bheadh ann do scéim na Sceirdí mura mbeifí istigh faoi scéim tacaíochta an Rialtais, is fearr go mór dóibh a bheith aitheanta go poiblí mar seo.

Tugann an t-aitheantas seo, agus gníomhaíocht an chomhlachta Corio ina gcuid iarrachtaí le ceadúnais cladaigh a fháil, léargas ar dháiríreacht agus ar dhriopás na hoibre atá ar bun.

Foilsíodh fógra a bhaineann leis na ceadúnais chladaigh atá uathu an mhí seo caite – próiseas mór ann féin. Is cosúil go bhfuil siad ag obair go stuama agus go muiníneach ar an togra seo.

Ní raibh an mhuinín sin ann nuair a bhunaigh Seosamh Ó Laoi as Leitir Mealláin agus a dheartháir Nollaig agus Grattan Ó hÉallaithe an comhlacht Fuinneamh Sceirde Teoranta os cionn scór blianta ó shin.

Bhí daoine ann a chreid go láidir nach bhféadfaí aghaidh a thabhairt ar a leithéid seo de phlean i gceantar na Sceirde. Bhí, a dúradar, an réimse farraige sin ró-fhiáin agus ró-sceirdiúil. Bhí daoine i dtionscal na gaoithe a chreid gur cur amú ama a bhí san iarracht.

Bhí Údarás na Gaeltachta ar dhream amháin nach raibh ar phort an éadóchais. Tugadh cúnamh de bhreis agus €200,000 as ciste an Údaráis san am sin do Fuinneamh Sceirde Teoranta le haghaidh obair thaighde agus anailíse. Leagadh bunchloch de bharr na hoibre sin cé gurbh éigean fanacht tamall maith blianta sular tháinig beocht faoi iarracht na Sceirde.

Airgead as banc ollmhór Astrálach, Macquarie Group, atá le hinfheistiú sa bhfeilm ghaoithe agus tá siadsan gaibhte ag plé go láidir le gnó na bhfeilmeacha gaoithe anois i bhfad agus i ngearr. Tá siad ag plé le tionscnaimh eile mar seo ó thuaidh de chósta na hAlban, mar shampla. Billiún euro atá le cur isteach i scéim na Sceirdí, sin ar ndóigh, má fhaightear na ceadúnais atá ag teastáil agus an cead forbartha.

Ag labhairt dó an tseachtain seo dúirt Séamus Mac Cába, an Stiúrthóir Pleanála Sinsearach le comhlacht Corio (Gaeilgeoir paiteanta) go mbeidh an comhlacht ag obair i gcomhar leis an Rialtas, agus le pobal na háite in iarthar Chonamara agus an fhorbairt seo ar bun.

De réir ráiteas atá curtha ar fáil ag comhlacht Corio, bunófar ciste pobail ar fiú na milliún euro é ach a mbeidh scéim na Sceirdí ag obair – is é sin giniúint agus díolachán leictreachais faoi lán seoil. Faoin tráth sin beidh tacaíocht as an gciste ar fáil do "ghrúpaí as iardheisceart Chonamara" a dúradh.

Caithfidh dreamanna atá ag faire ar chuid den airgead as ciste na scéime foighid a bheith acu. Má thagann na ceadúnais chladaigh chucu gan moill mhór, d'fhéadfadh sé go mbeadh Corio in ann a dhul sa tóir ar chead pleanála in 2023 ach is dóigh go bhfuil 2024 níos réadúla mar sprioc.

Braithfidh go leor ar an achar ama a bheifear ag plé leis an iarratas iomlán pleanála. Sí tuairim bhainistíocht na comhlachta go mbeifear ag teannadh le 2030 sula mbeifear faoi réir leis an gcumhacht a chur ag obair.

Bheifí in ann an oiread a chur amach agus a thabharfadh cumhacht do 350,000 teach, de réir mheastacháin Corio.

Is dóigh gur faoin tráth a mbeifear ag crochadh crainnte na gaoithe is mó a bheidh buntáiste fostaíochta as scéim na Sceirde. Airítear go mbeidh 200 duine ag obair acu sa tréimhse sin. Tá ceisteanna go fóill ann faoi cá mbeidh an lárionad, agus ionaid seirbhíse eile, bunaithe ar an mórthír.

Is cosúil, de réir mar a chloisfeá in iarthar Luimnigh le déanaí, go bhfuiltear andóchasach ansin gur sa bhFianait a bheidh an príomhionad mórthíre le haghaidh tionscnamh na Sceirdí. Níl a fhios, ag an tráth seo, arbh éigean do Corio an príomhionad agus ionaid eile a ainmniú sna cáipéisí a cuireadh isteach chuig lucht riartha pleanála na gceantar mara. Ach dúradar féin sa ráiteas a chuireadar amach go raibh orthu cuntas an-iomlán teicniúil a chur ar fail sula bhfuaireadar aitheantas oifigiúil Rialtais.

Is deacair a rá cá bhfuil plean forbartha chalafort Ros an Mhíl faoi láthair, nó an mbeidh sé sa gcomhaireamh go suntasach i scéim na Sceirdí. Tá ceist an bhóthair go Gaillimh ann i gcónaí agus tá an éiginnteacht mhór faoi chuarbhóthar sa gcathair ag cothú amhrais freisin.

Is léir freisin – mar is dual do lucht gnó príobháideach – go bhfuil Corio ag ullmhú go tréan anois, níos tréine i bhfad, b'fhéidir ná an próiseas a bhaineann le forbairt Chalafort Ros a Mhíl. Agus más tuilleadh moille é, d'fhéadfaí Ros a Mhíl a fhágáil ar an trá fholamh.

Ciste pobail €70 milliún fógartha ag comhlacht gaoithe i nGaeltacht Chonamara

Tá ciste mór pobail ag brath ar chead forbartha a bheith ar fáil ón mBord Pleanála d'fheirm ghaoithe thart ar Charraigeacha na Sceirdí, naoi míle siar ó chósta Charna i nGaeltacht Chonamara

Kieran O'Malley, Michael Cloherty, Tim Coffey agus Máire Éinniú

Máirtín Ó Catháin

Dé Luain, Meitheamh 26 2023 ag 5:45 am

Tá ceann de na cistí forbartha is mó ariamh in iarthar Chonamara fógartha.

Ag ócáid in Ionad Cuimhneacháin na nImirceach i gCarna ag deireadh na seachtaine seo caite a fógraíodh an ciste atá ag brath ar chead forbartha a bheith ar fáil ón mBord Pleanála d'fheilm ghaoithe thart ar Charraigeacha na Sceirdí, naoi míle siar ó chósta Charna i nGaeltacht Chonamara.

Fógraíodh i mí na Bealtaine go raibh an togra mór Gaeltachta i measc cheithre tháirgeoir ar éirigh leo sa chéad cheant stáit riamh do sholáthar fuinnimh gaoithe ar muir.

Má thagann an scéim mhór cumhachta seo slán sa gcóras pleanála, agus má bhíonn ceadúnais chladaigh ar fáil, beidh €70 milliún sa chiste tacaíochta pobail atá bainteach léi. Mairfidh tréimhse an chiste seo ar feadh 20 bliain. D'fhágfadh sin go mbeadh €3.5 milliún le caitheamh, ar an meán, in aghaidh na bliana sa tréimhse sin.

Cé nár tugadh aon mhioneolas faoin taobh tíre a bhainfeadh tairbhe as an gciste seo, tuigtear gur ar na pobail is gaire do charraigeacha na Sceirdí is mó a bheadh an bhéim. Is iad pobail Chill Chiaráin, Charna, an Chaisil agus cuid de Chloch na Rón is gaire don láthair. Ach bheadh Ros Muc, ceantar na nOileán agus na Ceathrún Rua agus Ros an Mhíl thoir sa gcomhaireamh freisin chomh maith le réimsí de Chonamara amach i dtreo an Chlocháin.



Mhínigh Ciarán Ó Máille, bainisteoir forbartha scéim gaoithe na Sceirdí go mbaineann an ciste seo le Scéim Tacaíochta atá ag dul le tionscnaimh fuinnimh amach ón gcósta. Braitheann méid an chiste ar an méid fuinnimh a bheadh dá chur amach. Cuireann na forbróirí i gcomhar leis an Rialtas an t-airgead sa gciste.

Áirítear go dtabharfadh scéim na Sceirdí cumhacht do 300.000 teach. nó a gcomhionann. Thosódh íocaíochtaí as an gciste chomh luath

agus a thosódh an obair forbartha. Chaithfí 30% den €3.5 milliún sa gcéad bhliain tógála, 60% sa dara bliain tógála agus 80% sa tríú bliain tógála agus 100% sa cheathrú bliain agus as sin amach.

Bheadh coiste ceaptha le scrúdú a dhéanamh ar iarratais ar an airgead. Idir seachtar agus ceathrar déag a bheadh ina mbaill ar an gcoiste seo. Ceaptar go dteastódh oifig lánaimseartha in iarthar Chonamara agus stiúrthóir lánaimseartha ag obair ann. Ní dhéanfar aon chaiteachas as an gciste le haghaidh obair a bhainfeadh leis an gComhairle Contae nó le haon eagras Stáit. Ach dúirt Ciarán Ó Máille nach gcuirfí as an áireamh uilig go bhféadfadh comhoibriú a bheith ann le heagras stáit ó am go chéile. Grúpaí agus coistí pobail is mó a bhainfeadh leas as an gciste ach níor cuireadh as an áireamh, ach an oiread, go bhféadfaí cuidiú le fiontar príobháideach a chuirfeadh seirbhís nó acmhainní riachtanacha ar fáil don phobal.

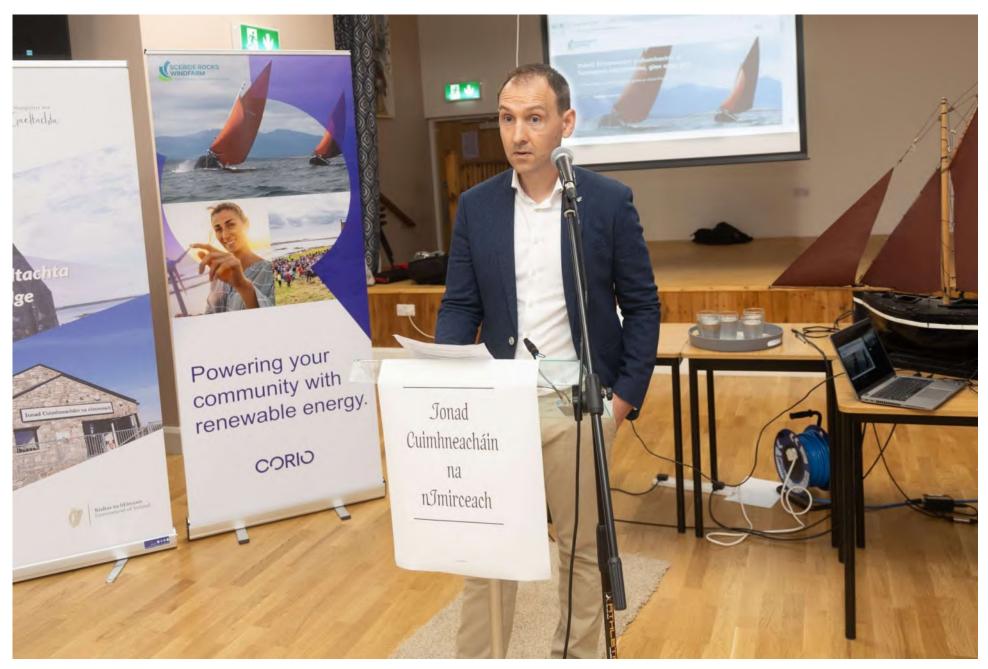
Dúirt Tim Coffey, an Bainisteoir Ginearálta ar scéim na Sceirdí, go raibh milliún euro caite cheana féin ag an gcomhlacht Corio in iarthar Chonamara. Cé nár fhógair an tUasal Coffey é seo, tuigtear go mbaineann tuairim is €800,000 de sin le cúiteamh a tugadh d'iascairí a bhíodh gníomhach i limistéar na Sceirdí. Thart ar dhá scór iascaire a íocadh de réir na dtuairiscí; fuair beagán acu íocaíocht a bhí ag bordáil ar cheithre scór míle euro ach bhí cuid eile acu taobh leis an gceathrú cuid de sin, nó níos ísle. Baineann na híocaíochtaí sin le bliain amháin nuair nach raibh na hiascairí in ann a ngnó a dhéanamh i réimse farraige gar do na Sceirdí de bharr go raibh taighde ar bun ansin.

Ba as ceantar Chill Chiaráin, Charna agus Chloch na Rón formhór na n-iascairí a fuair cúiteamh. D'fhéadfadh tuilleadh cúitimh a bheith i gceist sna blianta beaga romhainn amach má bhíonn cosc ar iascairí drannadh le ceantar na Sceirdí mar gheall ar obair thaighde nó obair thógála.

Cead forbartha an chéad chéim mhór eile atá le láimhsiú ag lucht forbartha na feilme gaoithe i limistéar na Sceirdí. Táthar ag súil go mbeifear réidh le dhul chuig an mBord Pleanála roimh dheireadh na bliana seo, nó i bhfíorthús na bliana seo chugainn. D'fhéafadh an obair tosú sna Sceirdí in 2025 nó 2026, ag brath ar an achar a chaithfeadh an t-iarratas sa mBord Pleanála, agus ag brath ar an toradh a bheadh air. Is ansin a bheadh an ciste tacaíochta pobail ag teacht i bhfeidhm.

Tá sé i gceist go gcuirfí cúig cinn de na muilte gaoithe ar imeall thiar, agus thuaidh na Sceirdí. Caithfear na na muilte sin a dhaingniú sa gcaoi agus go mbeadh seasamh acu in aghaidh farraigí chomh hard le 25 troigh − sin rud nach dtarlaíonn ach uair amháin chuile leathchéad bliain, ar an meán, de réir na staire. Tuairim scór crann gaoithe a bheadh taobh istigh ar an taobh foscúil de na carraigeacha agus iad daingnithe le seasamh in aghaidh farraigí chomh hard le 15 troigh. Tugann an costas €13 milliún atá ar fheistiú crann amháin

gaoithe i limistéar mar seo léargas ar an gcostas atá i gceist. an ceann. Cosnóidh scéim na Sceirdí billiún euro uilig. Comhlacht Corio, a d'eascair as infheistíocht Bhanc MacQuarie as an Astráil, atá i mbun an tionscnaimh.



Tim Coffey

Glactar leis, a deir Tim Coffey, an bainisteoir ar scéim na Sceirdí, go bhfuil an fhorbairt seo i limistéar a bhfuil cáil an fhiántais air i measc na bhforbairtí is anróití – nó b'fhéidir an ceann is anróití – i bhfarraigí na hEorpa. Dúirt sé go bhfuil innealtóireacht nua-aimseartha agus deiseanna nua le cur i bhfeidhm sa tionscnamh. Creideann sé go mbeidh ceannródaíocht, stuaim agus saineolas ag baint leis an scéim nár fachtas fós san Eoraip.

Dúirt Michael Cloherty, Ceannasaí Toilithe agus Páirtithe Leasmhara d'Fheirm Ghaoithe Charraigeacha Sceirde: "Beidh sé seo ar cheann de na forbairtí bonneagair is mó riamh i réigiún Chonamara agus creidimid go bhféadfadh tionchar dearfach claochlaitheach a bheith aige. Tabharfaidh sé infheistíocht, forbairt eacnamaíoch agus deiseanna fostaíochta, mar aon le Ciste Sochair Pobail suntasach chun tacú leis an bpobal áitiúil.

"Beidh ról lárnach ag an gCiste Sochair Pobail maidir le tacú le gníomhaíochtaí pobail ar an talamh a bhfuil leas eacnamaíoch, sóisialta agus cultúrtha seasmhach ag baint leo, lena n-áirítear cuidiú le teanga, cultúr agus traidisiúin na Gaeltachta a chaomhnú a fhágann go bhfuil an ceantar seo uathúil."

Ní raibh mórán dóchais ag go leor daoine go bhféadfaí feilm ghaoithe a lonnú i limistéar na Sceirdí nuair a tosaíodh ar an iarracht in 2000. Bhí na Sceirdí i gcaint na ndaoine in iarthar Chonamara riamh anall — trí cinn d'oileáin charraigeacha a raibh farraigí corracha timpeall orthu. Bhí iascairí agus mairnéalaigh cúramach thart ar na bealaí seo i mbéal an Atlantaigh riamh, ach níor chuir sin bunaitheoirí plean gaoithe na Sceirdí go leataobh.

Deartháireacha as Leitir Mealláin, Seosamh, Noel agus Pádraic Ó Laoi, a chuir tús leis an iarracht trí bliana fichead ó shin. Tháinig saineolaí fuinnimh, Grattan Ó hÉallaithe, atá ina chónaí gar do Mhaigh Cuilinn anois, agus Pól Mac Suibhne as contae Chiarraí isteach ar an bhfoireann de réir a chéile. Rinneadh staidéir féidearthachta, timpeallachta agus innealtóireachta mar chuid den réamhobair. Bhí costas trom ag baint leis sin agus thug Údarás na Gaeltachta cúnamh.

Cé nach ndearnadh mórán as an nua ó 2008 i leith coinníodh an comhlacht beo agus á riar. Ansin de réir mar a bhí cúrsaí aeráide agus ceisteanna faoi éalú carbóin amach san aer ag éirí níos práinní, tháinig na Sceirdí ar ais sa gcomhaireamh agus chuir Banc MacQuarie as an Astráil suim sa cheantar.

Tuilleadh faisnéise ag gov.ie/ReduceYourUse







Fág freagra ar 'Ciste pobail €70 milliún fógartha ag comhlacht gaoithe i nGaeltacht Chonamara'

Tuairisg

Dé Luain, Meitheamh 26 2023 ag 8:59 am Ag iarraidh an pobal a cheannacht.

Seán ÓM

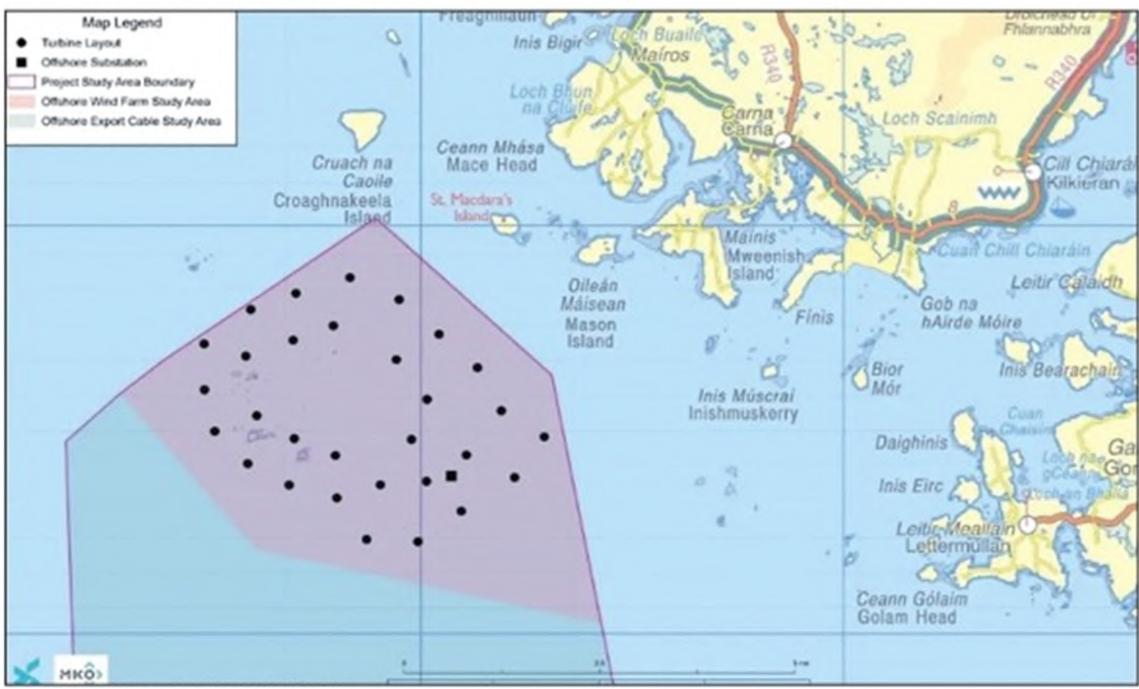
Dé Luain, Meitheamh 26 2023 ag 9:16 am A mhuintir Chonamara uasal,

Ní cóir dom meascadh isteach sa mbealach a chaitheann sibhse bhur gcuid airgid fhéin – ach amháin mar smaoineamh: céard faoi uasghrádú ollmhór ar Chalafoirt Ros a Mhíl? Ansin bheadh sibh in ann i bhfad níos mó tuirbíní gaoithe a thógáil ar an bhfarraige agus – le cúnamh Dé – cúpla ciste eile sa mbreis cosúil leis an gceann seo a fháil.

Níl ann ach smaoineamh le machnamh air.

Windfarm gets up to speed

■ Plans ready for largest infrastructural development in Galway Gaeltacht



A map illustrating the scale of the Sceirde Rocks windfarm.

BY DARA BRADLEY

A PLANNING application for an offshore windfarm in Conamara - believed to be the largest ever infrastructural development in the Galway Gaeltacht - will be lodged this summer.

International investors are poised to pump up to €2 billion into the Sceirde Rock Offshore Windfarm project off the west coast of County Galway, which they claim will produce enough 'clean' energy to power 350,000 homes.

The backers of the project, which has already attracted opposition through an online petition, said they will submit a planning application before the end of August.

Plans for the offshore windfarm were unveiled to the public at a series of consultation days in Carna earlier this June.

Corio Generation, which specialises in green energy investment, estimated the project would cost between €1.5 billion and €2 billion to complete.

The company said it had already spent €2 million with Conamara and Galway businesses it had engaged to assist in its work so far.

It is planned to build a farm of up to 30 fixed-bottom turbines with gravity-based foundations off the coast of Carna and Leitir Mealláin.

The company said each turbine has a 325-metre tip height based on a rotor diameter of 292 metres.

Construction will start in 2026, if all planning hurdles are jumped.

A spokesperson for the company, Michael Cloherty, stakeholder and consent lead based in Carna, said it was estimated the Sceirde Rocks project will create up to 150 construction jobs over three years.

It will result in a further 60 direct, full-time jobs during the 35year operational phase of the project, he said.

He said the project was considering locating its Operation and Maintenance facility at Ros 'a Mhil, which "will provide further employment opportunities and additional jobs during the construction

Separately, Mr Cloherty pointed out that Odarás na Gaeltachta's masterplan for Ros an Mhil Harbour predicts 400 new jobs through the creation of a 'hub' in Conamara for the 'strategic development' of the offshore wind industry along the west coast.

Odarás signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Sceirde Rocks Windfarm to establish and support education and training initiatives within the Conamara Gaeltacht, "to provide a skilled workforce to support the deployment of offshore wind projects".

Mr Cloherty said one of the primary benefits to Conamara was a planned Community Benefit Fund which will deliver an estimated €70 million over 20 years to local communities.

This will commence as soon as construction starts.

"At this stage, Sceirde Rocks project would encourage and seek expressions of interest from people and groups to come together across villages and communities to develop plans and projects that would make the best use of the Community Benefit Fund," Mr Cloherty said.

He said "support contributions totalling over £100,000" have already been made to local voluntary organisations, schools, community and environmental initiatives and services, and sporting and recreational organisations.

"This is reflective of the earlystage nature of the work to date, and we expect the value of contracts and community contributions to increase significantly as the project moves through the planning stage and then into construction and operation," Mr Cloherty said.

Asked to comment on environmental concerns and the negative visual impact of the project, which have been raised in an online petition opposing the plans, the company said the project team have undertaken a comprehensive and detailed assessment of potential impacts of the project through a dedicated Environmental Impact Assessment.

"This assessment will consider any visible and non-visible effects the project will have on the people, environment, landscape, birds, wildlife, and marine life in the area.

"Offshore wind projects are subject to robust regulatory and planning processes, just like other major construction developments on land or sea. The Sceirde Rocks project has followed best practice with all analysis and surveys carried out - demonstrating that they are in line with good planning, national policy and meet relevant environmental standards," Mr Cloherty said.

A socio-economic assessment report and tourism impact assessment report will form part of the Environmental Impact Assessment to be lodged with the planning application, he said.

"Sceirde Rocks was chosen as the

most technically feasible location for the project. There are very few other suitable locations on the west coast for fixed-bottom offshore windfarms that can contribute to the country's 2030 Climate Change targets. Other areas along the west coast further out to sea are too deep for fixed-bottom projects.

"We are proud to be able to offer a way to bring investment to the south and west coast of Conamara by harnessing its significant wind resource. Working with the community in Carna, we are committed to delivering cleaner energy to the Irish people, as well as supporting regional growth and development through the investment the project will bring to the region," Mr Cloberty said.

"The windfarm will offer a significant economic, social and community investment into the Conamara area as well as providing a wide range of local employment and training opportunities. These longterm opportunities, linked to a natural renewable resource, are expected to have a significant positive impact on the region," Mr Cloherty added.

He invited anyone who wishes to discuss the project to visit its local information office at the Gteic building in Carna.



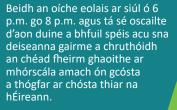
APPENDIX 3 – NEWSPAPER ADVERTS

Feirm Ghaoithe Charraigeacha Sceirde

ÓCÁID FAISNÉISE POST, OILIÚNA AGUS SCILEANNA

Beidh Ócáid Faisnéise Post, Oiliúna agus Scileanna ag Feirm Ghaoithe Charraigeacha Sceirde agus Corio Generation ag Ionad Cuimhneacháin na nImirceach, Carna Dé Máirt seo chugainn, an 5 Nollaig.

Taispeánfar ag an imeacht an iliomad deiseanna gairme a thabharfaidh Feirm Ghaoithe Charraigeacha Sceirde, feirm ghaoithe atá beartaithe, go réigiún Chonamara.



Chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil faoin imeacht, tabhair cuairt ar sceirderockswindfarm. com nó seol ríomhphost chuig Michael Cloherty, Ceannasaí Phobal agus Páirtithe Leasmhara Charraigeacha Sceirde, ag michael.cloherty@sceirderockswindfarm.ie



Sceirde Rocks Wind Farm

JOBS, TRAINING AND SKILLS INFO

Sceirde Rocks Wind Farm and Corio Generation will host a Jobs, Training and Skills Info Event at the Carna Emigrants Commemorative Centre this Tuesday, December 5th.

The event will showcase the many career opportunities that will be brought to the Connemara region by the proposed Sceirde Rocks Wind Farm.

The information evening will run from 6pm to 8pm and is open to anyone with an interest in the career opportunities that will be generated by the first large-scale offshore wind farm to be built on the west coast of Ireland.

To find out more about the event, visit sceirderockswindfarm. com or email Michael Cloherty, Sceirde Rocks Consent and Stakeholder Lead, at michael.cloherty@sceirderockswindfarm.ie





email sonaijosie@gmail.com



Clifden Community School students in front of their wall mural, created entirely with old bottle tops.

booster station.

He confirmed that this work included land purchase and planning and it was hoped to have works completed on the booster station by the end of the year.

"The provision of this booster station would reduce interruptions in supply and ensure a better supply for the more remote areas of the scheme and for houses on higher ground," he said

"Provision for the booster station will also require for planning and safety reason a suitable parking area for service vehicles.

"Ultimately, however, there is a need for

more water storage capacity in the area and work is ongoing in Uisce Éireann on this project to see what the quickest and most viable solution is.

"There is an urgent need to ensure a good and reliable supply of water in this area and I will continue to pursue this matter," he added.

Renvyle House delight

Renvyle House Hotel & Resort is delighted that its acclaimed Rusheenduff Restaurant has been awarded the prestigious titles of Best Customer Service in Connacht and Best Customer Service in All-Ireland for 2024.

The awards were presented at the grand finale of the Irish Restaurant Awards 2024, held last week at the Clayton Hotel, Burlington Road, Dublin.

This event celebrated excellence in the Irish hospitality industry, with almost 1,200 of the industry's finest owners, chefs, managers, and staff in attendance.

Receiving these accolades were key members of the Rusheenduff Restaurant team, including Anne Marie Kelly (General Manager), Tomás Griffin (Restaurant

Manager), Jude Dassanayke (Head Chef), Tim and Carmel O'Sullivan. Their collective dedication to exceptional service and culinary excellence has set a new benchmark for the hospitality industry in Ireland.

Anne Marie Kelly, General Manager of Renvyle House Hotel & Resort, expressed her pride and gratitude.

"These awards are a testament to the hard work, passion, and commitment of our entire team. We strive to provide a memorable experience for every guest, and it is an honour to be recognised for our efforts on both a provincial and national level," she said.

Feirm Ghaoithe Charraigeacha Sceirde

COMHAIRLIÚCHÁN PHOIBLÍ

Ag tógáil ar thionscnaimh éagsúla rannpháirtíochta poiblí go dtí seo, tá tréimhse chomhairliúcháin phoiblí á reáchtáil ag Feirm Ghaoithe Charraigeacha Sceirde a chuirfidh ar chumas bhaill an phobail níos mó a fhoghlaim faoin togra agus na buntáistí a chuirfeadh sé ar fáil do phobail Chonamara agus an cheantair amach anseo trí,

- Deiseanna fostaíochta agus forbairt gheilleagrach a chur ar fáil do phobail áitiúla i gConamara
- Bonneagar cultúrtha, eacnamaíochta agus pobail i gceantar na Gaeltachta a neartú agus tacú leis
- Ciste sochair pobail ar fiú
 €70 milliún thar 20 bliain a
 chinnteoidh go mbeidh Feirm
 Ghaoithe Charraigeacha
 na Sceirde ina údar iontach
 athraithe

Tabharfaidh an Comhairliúchán Poiblí deis do bhaill de phobail Chonamara agus den phobal i gcoitinne féachaint ar na pleananna tionscadail d'Fheirm Ghaoithe Charraigeacha Sceirde atá beartaithe, chomh maith le bualadh le hionadaithe ó fhorbróir an tionscadail sula gcuirfear iarratas ar chead pleanála isteach níos déanaí an samhradh seo.

Beidh tréimhse 4 lá comhairliúcháin phoiblí d'fheirm ghaoithe Charraigeacha Sceirde ar siúl ó Mháirt an 11 go dtí Aoine an 14 Meitheamh

Beidh na laethanta comhairliúcháin á n-óstáil ag an mol gteic i Roisín na Mainiach, Carna, H91 Y295, agus beidh siad ar oscailt Dé Máirt an 11 Meitheamh ó 3-7pm; Dé Céadaoin an 12 Meitheamh ó 12-4pm; Déardaoin an 13 Meitheamh ó 3-7pm; agus Dé hAoine an 14 Meitheamh ó 12-4pm.

Chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil faoin tionscadal, téigh chuig

Sceirde Rocks Wind Farm

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Building on various public engagement initiatives to date, the Sceirde Rocks Wind Farm are hosting a public consultation period enabling members of the public to learn more about the project which will contribute significantly to the future development of the area by:

- Providing job opportunities and economic development for local communities in Connemara
- Strengthening and supporting cultural, economic and community infrastructure in the Gaeltacht area
- A community benefit fund worth €70 million over 20 years which will ensure that the Sceirde Rocks Wind Farm is a force for positive change

The public consultation will afford members of the communities of Connemara and the wider public the opportunity to view the project plans for the proposed Sceirde Rocks Wind Farm, as well as to meet with representatives of the project developer prior to the lodgement of an application for planning permission later this summer.

A four-day period of public consultation for the proposed Sceirde Rocks Wind Farm will take place from Tuesday, June 11th to Friday, June 14th in Carna, Connemara.

The consultation days will be hosted in the gteic hub at Roisín na Mainiach in Carna (H91 Y295) and will be open on Tuesday, June 11th from 3-7pm; Wednesday, June 12th from 12-4pm; Thursday, June 13th from 3-7pm; and Friday, June 14th from 12-4pm.

To learn more about the project, visit







APPENDIX 4 - EVENT NOTICE INVITATIONS

Siompóisiam Eacnamaíoch

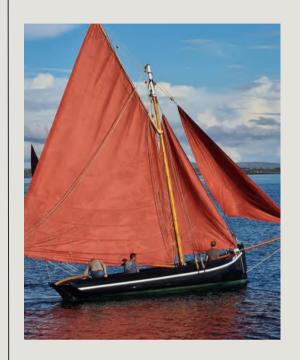
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Coiste Comhairleach Plean Gníomhaíochta Iorras Aithneach

Achmhainní & Riachtanais áitiúla

Téamaí an Lae

- Gnó nua a fhorbairt
- Cianobair
- Fostaíocht agus Oiliúint
- Turasóireacht
- Earnáil na Mara
- Fuinneamh in-athnuaite
- Na Meáin Cumarsáide
- An Ghaeilge & Cultúr



IONAD CUIMHNEACHÁIN NA NIMIRCEACH CÁRNA.

> 26Ú MÁRTA 10.00H-3.00 IN.

BÍGÍ LINN SA CHOMHRA!













Tuilleadh eolais: Eithne 0874019989



SÁBHÁIL AN DÁTA / SAVE THE DATE



FÍS DO ROS A' MHÍL 2037 VISION FOR ROS A' MHÍL 2037

Limistéar Fiontraíochta Straitéiseach Ros a' Mhíl - Gaoth Fischósta Ros a' Mhil Strategic Enterprise Zone - Off Shore Wind

> Cruinniú le Páirtithe Leasmhara / Meeting with Interested Parties



Dáta / Date: 01.09.2022 Am / Time: 10:00- 13:30

Láthair / Location: Ionad Iasc Mara, Ros a' Mhíl

Coinnigh an Dáta

28.11.2022

Coláiste
Chuimhneacháin an
Phiarsaigh, Rosmuc

11:00 r.n.

Ba mhaith linn cuireadh a thabhairt duit chuig 'Bricfeasta Gnó' atá á n-eagrú ag Pleanáil Teanga Chonamara Láir do ghnólachtaí agus seirbhísí an cheantair.

Is deis é seo líonrú le gnóanna/seirbhísí eile agus eolas a fháil maidir le tábhacht na Gaeilge san earnáil ghnó ó aoichainteoirí ina bhfuil an taithí chuí acu. Breis eolais le teacht go luath.

Ba bhreá linn dá mbeadh sibh inár dteannta. Beidh sólaistí agus pacáistí ar fáil ar an lá.



Má theastaíonn tuilleadh eolais uait, seol ríomhphost chuig ocpt@conamaralair.ie



PLÉ FAOIN EACNAMAÍOCHT GHORM & NUÁLAÍOCHT MARA 29/11/22

BLUE ECONOMY & MARINE INNOVATION ROUNDTABLE

08.30 - 09.00 Deis casadh leis na cainteoirí / Networking in person with Speakers Tagann na rannpháirtithe fíorúla i láthair / Virtual participants join

09.00 Oscailt & Fáilte Rónán Mac Con Iomaire, Stiúrthóir Forbartha Réigiúnaí, Pobail & Pleanáil Teanga

09.05 Agallamh agus Mór phictiúr den Eacnamaíocht Ghorm Domhanda

Gemma Corrigan, Ceannaire Polasaí & Abhcóideachta, Federated Hermes, faoi agallamh ag Martin Murray, Stiúrthóir Feidhmeach Asia Matters

Interview Global Blue Economy Overview Gemma Corrigan, Head of Policy and Advocacy, Federated Hermes, with Martin Murray, Executive Director Asia Matters

<u>09.30</u> Painéal 1: Fuinneamh Gaoithe Eischósta Cathaoirleach: Cathal Lee, Páirtnéir Bainistíochta, Instinctif • Seamus McCabe, Stiúrthóir Sinsireach Forbartha, Corio Generation • Dr. Edel O'Connor, Bainisteoir Forbartha Gnó, IMDO • Jayasurya Francis, Stiúrthóir - India le Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)

Panel 1: Offshore Wind Energy Chair: Cathal Lee, Managing Partner, Instinctif

• Seamus McCabe, Senior Development Director, Corio Generation • Dr. Edel O'Connor, Business Development Manager, IMDO • Jayasurya Francis, Director - India at Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC)

10.15 Painéal 2: Nuálaíocht Mara Cathaoirleach: Martin Murray, Executive Director, Asia Matters

• Caroline Bocquel, Príomhfheidhmeannach Eatramhach, Bord Iascaigh Mhara • Sean Mulvany, Bainisteoir Infheistíochta Sinsireach, Speisialtóir Bia & Talamaíochta, Ciste Straitéiseach Infheistíocha na hÉireann Fund • Máire Ní Éinniú, Speisialtóir san Eacnamaíocht Ghorm, Údarás na Gaeltachta

Panel 2: Marine Innovation Chair: Martin Murray, Executive Director, Asia Matters

• Caroline Bocquel, Interim CEO, Bord lascaigh Mhara • Sean Mulvany, Senior Investment Manager - Food and Agriculture Specialist, Ireland Strategic Investment Fund • Máire Ní Éinniú, Blue Economy Specialist, Údarás na Gaeltachta

11.00 Clabhsúr Alan Dukes, Cathaoirleach, Asia Matters / Closing Remarks Alan Dukes, Chairman, Asia Matters

CLÁRAIGH LE BHEITH LINN GO FÍORÚIL /
REGISTER TO JOIN VIRTUALLY



Asia Matters



SEOLADH MÁISTIRPHLEAN FUINNIMH CHONAMARA LÁIR







Bígí linn/ Join us

Dé Luain 21 Samhain 2022 @ 18:00 Coláiste Cuimhneachán An Phiarsaigh, Rosmuc, Co. na Gaillimhe

Tráthnóna Eolais / Information Evening

Cur i láthair ó Mel Gavin ATU Sligo, Maoiniú Poiblí, Scéim LEADER, Airgeadas, Comhar Creidmheasa Chonamara, Painéil Ghréine, Struchtúir Ghréine & Rannpháirtíocht PhobaiL, Forbairt Chonamara Láir Teo.,

Conamara Láir Energy Master Plan Presentation by Mel Gavin ATU Sligo, Public Funding, LEADER Scheme, Finance, Connemara Credit Union, Solar Panels, Solar Structures & Community Involvement Forbairt Chonamara Láir Teo.

Máistirphlean á sheoladh ag Rónán Mac Con an Iomaire, Stiúrthóir Forbartha Réigiúnaí, Pobail & Pleanála Teanga, Údarás na Gaeltachta. Launch will be opened by Rónán Mac Con an Iomaire, Stiúrthóir Forbartha Réigiúnaí, Pobail & Pleanála Teanga, Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Ceol & Sólaistí ar fáil













Dé Máirt 15 Samhain Tuesday 15 November



Lá Digiteach ar dTús -Greasán gteic ag cumasú fás digiteach Digital First Day -gteic Network enabling digital growth

- 10:00 Miriam Ní Néill Tacaíochtaí Údarás na Gaeltachta
- 10:30 Noreen Conway, Ionad Teicneolaíochta na Gaillimhe (GTC) -Ag cruthú tionchair digiteach réigiúnach trí chomhoibriú agus trí thacaíocht
- 10:45 Cás Staidéir Samplaí do chomhlachtaí a úsáideann na gteic; 4 Théama ;
 - 1. Fiontraíocht Andrew Cameron Feeltect
 - 2. Comhlacht Aoife O'Connor IPSOS
 - 3. Cian Oibrí Damian Duff DND Group
 - 4. Diaspora Rita Boyle Pangea Group
- 11:25 Grow Remote Eoin Byrne

11:40 Maidin Caife i do gteic áitiúil – gteic@Béal an Mhuirthead, gteic@Gaoth Dobhair, gteic@Corr na Móna, gteic@Carraig Airt, gteic@An Tearmann, gteic@Cill Charthaigh, gteic@An Dromaid, gteic@Acaill, gteic@An Cheathrú Rua, gteic@Baile na Sceilg, gteic@Corca Dhuibhne, gteic@Carna, gteic@Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh.

Le Fear an Tí - Seán Ó Coisdealbha

Is ócáid dhátheangach í an ócáid seo. Tá fáilte roimh chách.

This is a bi-lingual event. Everyone is welcome.



Nasc Eventbrite/ Link



Urraithe Ag



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development













CUIREADH



Ba mhór ag

Forbairt Chonamara Láir Teo.,

tú a bheith i láthair nuair a sheolfaidh

Rónán Mac Con Iomaire,

Stiúrthóir Forbartha Réigiúnaí, Pobail & Pleanála Teanga,

PLEAN GNÍOMHAÍOCHTA 5 BLIANA DO CHONAMARA LÁIR 2023-2028

Dáta: 11 Nollaig 2023

Ionad: Coláiste Cuimhneacháin

an Phiarsaigh

Am: 7:00 i.n.

FÁILTE ROIMH CHÁCH

















BOS AN WHIL - CIEE BONAIN -CIEE CHIABAIN

LAMB'S WEEK 2023



Devoloping Sailing Communities and Facilities on Galway Bay

Aerogen

Grúpa Oidhreachta agus Seandálaíochta Iorras Aithneach

Lá Eolais in Ionad Cuimhneacháin na nImirceach Cárna

Dé hAoine 8ú Márta 2024

10AM Oscailt agus Fáilte.

10.15AM Gníomhaíochtaí agus pleananna Grúpa Oidhreachta agus Seandálaíochta Iorras Aithneach le Kiaran Ó Maoileáin

11.15AM Crannóga Chonamara le Richard Long

Conamara, Fianaise na Staire, an Introduction to 8000 Years of History and Archaeology le Michael Gibbons

1.15IN Tae agus Sóláistí

Fáilte Roimh Chuile Dhuine





27/09/2023 Sceirde Rocks Offshore Windfarm Supplier Event invitation.

Dear [name],

Sceirde Rocks Windfarm and Corio Generation would like to invite you to our upcoming Supplier Event.

At the event, we aim to have discussions with you and several other local, regional, and national companies about potential opportunities to supply to the Sceirde Rocks Windfarm project, either directly or through partnerships with other companies. We would also like to learn from you about any planned or ongoing developments within your company that may be of interest to our project, and how Sceirde Rocks Windfarm and its mother company Corio Generation could best support such developments to successfully include you in our supply chains.

Date: 10 October 2023

Time: 10.30 – 12.30, with refreshments served afterwards
 Venue: The Emigrants Commemorative Centre Carna -

https://maps.app.goo.gl/uzf8ByDnZ2sAFiiu8

Sceirde Rocks Windfarm is located off the Connemara coast in County Galway. Its planned capacity of 450Megawatts has the potential to power up to 350,000 Irish households with clean energy, and is targeted to become operational by 2030.

We would like to ensure that this meeting will be relevant and interactive for all participants, and therefore have made this an invite-only event. We would appreciate if you could confirm your participation by replying to this email prior to 02 October.

Kind regards,

Teun Cobussen, Supply Chain Strategy Lead, Corio Generation

Feirm Ghaoithe Charraigeacha Sceirde Cuireadh chuig Imeacht Soláthraí.

A [insert name], a chara,

Is mian le Feirm Ghaoithe Charraigeacha Sceirde agus Corio Generation cuireadh a thabhairt duit chuig ár nImeacht Soláthraí atá amach romhainn.

Ag an imeacht, tá sé mar aidhm againn ábhair a phlé leat agus le comhlachtaí áitiúla, réigiúnacha agus náisiúnta faoi dheiseanna féidearthachta a chur ar fáil do thionscadal Fheirm Ghaoithe Charraigeach Sceirde, go díreach nó trí chomhpháirtíochtaí le comhlachtaí eile. Ba mhaith linn foghlaim freisin faoi aon fhorbairtí pleanáilte nó leanúnacha laistigh de do chomhlacht ar díol spéise iad dár dtionscadal, agus an chaoi is fearr a d'fhéadfadh Feirm Ghaoithe Charraigeacha Sceirde agus

a mháthairchomhlacht Corio Generation tacú le forbairtí den sórt sin chun thú a bheith san áireamh go rathúil inár slabhraí soláthair.

• Dáta: 10 Deireadh Fómhair 2023

 Am: 10.30 - 12.30, cuirfear sólaistí ar fáil ina dhiaidh
 Ionad: Ionad Cuimhneacháin na nImirceach Carna https://maps.app.goo.gl/uzf8ByDnZ2sAFiiu8

Tá Feirm Ghaoithe Charraigeacha Sceirde suite amach ó chósta Chonamara i gContae na Gaillimhe. Tá cumas ag a acmhainn pleanáilte de 450Meigeavata 350,000 teach cónaithe a chumhachtú in Éirinn le fuinneamh glan, agus tá sé i gceist é a bheith oibríochtúil faoi 2030.

Ba mhaith linn a chinntiú go mbeidh an cruinniú ábhartha agus idirghníomhach do gach rannpháirtí, agus mar sin is imeacht le cuireadh amháin an imeacht seo. Bheimis buíoch leat má dhearbhaíonn tú go mbeidh tú i láthair tríd an ríomhphost seo a fhreagairt roimh an 2 Deireadh Fómhair.

Le dea-ghuí,

Teun Cobussen, Ceannaire Straitéiseach Slabhra an tSoláthair, Corio Generation





20/06/2023

Feirm Ghaoithe Charraigeacha Sceirde Imeacht eolais faoin gCiste Sochair Pobail Déardaoin 22 Meitheamh 2023 Ionad Cuimhneacháin na nImirceach, Carna 4i.n.

Ba mhaith le foireann Fheirm Ghaoithe Charraigeacha Sceirde cuireadh a thabhairt <u>duit féin, do</u>
<u>Choiste, d'eagraíocht nó do chlub</u> teacht chuig ár n-imeacht a bheidh ar siúl Déardaoin 22
Meitheamh ag 4i.n. in Ionad Cuimhneacháin na nImirceach, Carna.

Ag an ócáid, tabharfaidh foireann an tionscadail Fheirm Ghaoithe Carraigeacha Sceirde eolas faoi conas is féidir leis an togra agus a Chiste Sochair Pobail tacú le ceantar áitiúil Chonamara, le ranníocaíochtaí ó Údarás na Gaeltachta agus ionadaithe pobail eile.

Tá súil againn ó chroí gur féidir leat freastal ar thráthnóna Déardaoin, beidh sólaistí ar fáil ina dhiaidh sin i gcaifé an Ionaid.

Le dea-mhéin Micheál O Clochártaigh Ceannasaí Geallsealbhóirí agus Pobail Feirm Ghaoithe Charraigeacha Sceirde

> Sceirde Rocks Offshore Windfarm Community Benefit Fund information event Thursday 22nd June 2023 Ionad Cuimhneacháin na nImirceach, Carna 4pm.

The Sceirde Rocks Offshore Windfarm team would like to invite <u>you, your Coiste, organisation, or club</u> to our upcoming event on Thursday 22nd June at 4pm in Ionad Cuimhneacháin na nImirceach, Carna.

At the event, The Sceirde Rocks Offshore Windfarm project team will provide information about how the project and its Community Benefit Fund can support the local Connemara area, with contributions from Údarás na Gaeltachta and other community representatives.

We sincerely hope you can attend on Thursday afternoon, there will be light refreshments served afterwards in the centre's café.

Kind regards
Michael Cloherty
Stakeholder and Community Lead
Sceirde Rocks Wind Farm