MOANMORE LOWER
Green Energy

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

2025

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Report Objective

The purpose of this report is to set out the method in which Moanmore Lower Green Energy initiated and carried out meaningful community consultation and engagement in the geographical area surrounding the site of the proposed wind farm. This consultation process represents Moanmore Lower Green Energy's continued commitment to actively engage with the community, to place value on their contribution and involvement, and to ensure their views and queries were taken into consideration as plans for the proposed wind farm developed.

Community Engagement Guidelines

In relation to national guidance on community engagement and consultation for wind energy developments, the Wind Energy Development Guidelines (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2006) state that: "While it is not a mandatory requirement, it is strongly recommended that developers of a wind energy project should engage in active consultation and dialogue with the local community at an early stage in the planning process, ideally prior to submitting a planning application". The Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, 2019) build on this recommendation, and state that, "It is essential that local communities are properly involved in the planning process, as early inclusion improves confidence in the openness and fairness of the planning process". They further suggest that to promote best practice, "planning authorities should require applicants to prepare and submit a Community Report with their planning application" and that "a condition on any subsequent planning permission should require developers to carry out the development in accordance with the approved Community Report". Both the 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines and the 2019 Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines have been taken into consideration in the approach to community consultation.

Project Renaming

After careful consideration, the proposed project was renamed from Moanmore South Green Energy to Moanmore Lower Green Energy to better reflect the geographical location of the site. This was purely a name change, and there were no alterations to the plans, objectives, or scope of the project that were publicly communicated as a result. This was shared on the project website on the main project overview page in September, 2024. All lines of communication to the project team remain open to date.

Project Overview

The proposed project is a 3-turbine wind farm, located on a site neighbouring the townland of Moanmore, near Kilkee, Co. Clare.

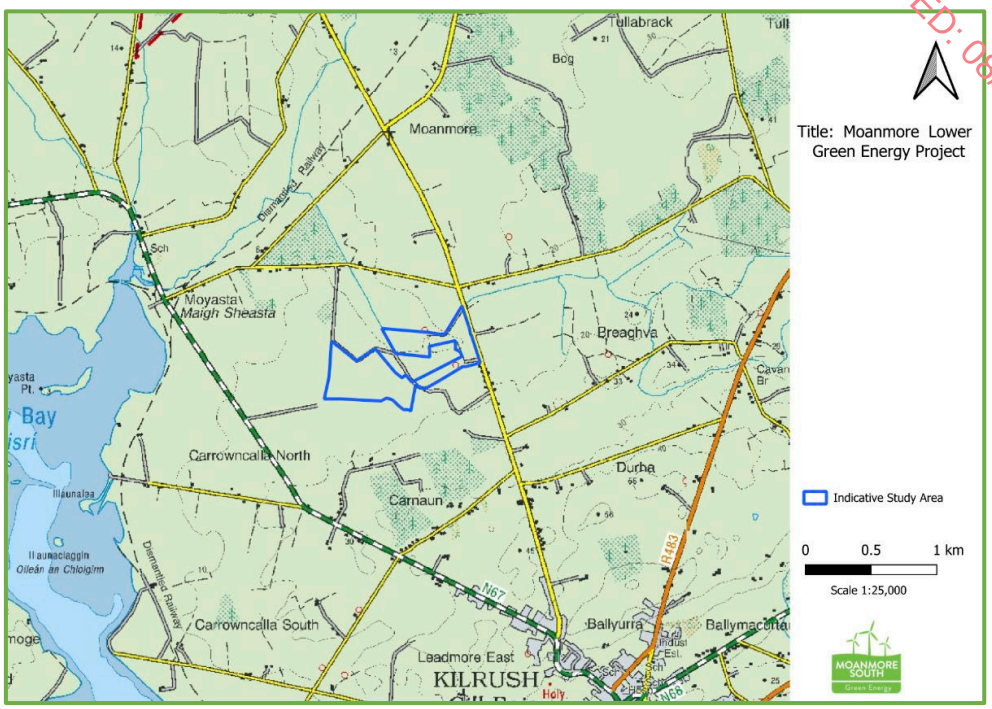


Figure 1: Proposed Moanmore Lower Green Energy Wind Farm Location

The Community Team

The Community Team comprised of the Project Manager; Harry Harbison, Communications Manager; Nadine Walsh and the Community Liaison Officer (CLO); Dr Susan Byrne. Dr Byrne and Nadine Walsh responded to all incoming queries via phone, email and face-to-face interactions with the residents of the community.

Community Benefits

- **Environmental:** Based on the current project scope, the proposed development has the potential to displace over 8,000 tonnes of CO_2 each year and provide the capacity to power in the region of 7,500 homes.
- **Employment**: The development will support employment in the energy supply and construction/maintenance sectors, creating approximately 25 direct and indirect jobs. The team is committed to working with local suppliers where possible to source engineering works, materials, equipment hire and catering.
- **Financial:** In line with the Community Benefit Fund Guidelines, governed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), and based on the current project scope, the development will generate a Community Benefit Fund estimated at €1.1 million over the first 15 years of operation. This amounts to approximately €75,000 per annum. Moanmore Lower Green Energy will work in partnership with residents in the local area to form a committee to oversee the administration of the Community Benefit Fund. The committee will be established once the project successfully completes the planning permission process and the necessary grid connection process. The value of the annual fund will be dependent upon energy production, a worked example of the community benefit fund is shown in Figure 2 below:

Description	% of Fund	Annual Amount
Initiatives and projects that support Sustainable Development Goals within the local area	40%	€30,000
Local clubs, societies and near neighbours	50%	€35,000 (based on 35 houses within 1km) €1,000 per household within 1km of turbine €2,500 Remaining balance to local clubs, societies and near neighbours within 2km of turbine
Administration	10%	€7,500
Worked example of how a fund value of €75,000 is allocated		
The above is subject to change based on final project details.		

Figure 2: Worked example of how the Community Benefit Fund is allocated

Strategy Objectives

The primary aim of the community engagement strategy is to share project information relating to the proposed development, thereby providing the community with the necessary information to arrive at well-informed opinions regarding the development. It was also of importance to share information regarding the current climate crisis and how this development can play a role in building a more sustainable community for future generations.

The Approach

Moanmore Lower Green Energy strives for transparent and interactive engagement with the communities surrounding the proposed development. The aim is to develop a wind farm that will address the four pillars of sustainability: human, social, environmental, and economic.

Research

- **Housing Registrar**: Mapping of the area to identify houses within 2km of the project. A suitable route is identified for door-to-door consultation with residents within 1km.
- **Electoral District:** Research is conducted to identify locally elected public representatives including County Councillors, TDs and Senators that represent the local area.
- **Community Overview:** Using social media and online research, key community groups are identified such as schools, religious organisations, sports clubs, local charities, and businesses.

Community Engagements Detail

The table below provides a timeline and description of the consultation undertaken to date.

Date	Description of Activity
20 July 2022	Project Website Launched www.moanmoresouthgreenenergy.ie
22 July 2022	Article in Clare Champion on 22 July 2022
20 July 2022	Letter and Brochure posted to each household within 1 km of the project
20 July 2022	Letter and Brochure posted to each household within 2 km of the project
02 August 2022	Door-to-door visits to households within 1km of the proposed project site. Engaged with 20 residents and left a note and leaflet with 22 residents. Previous conversations were had with landowners (4). A total of 46 residential properties within 1km of the proposed turbines. When nobody was not at home, an information pack was left for the resident where possible.
11 August 2022	Calls to Local Representatives re: the proposed project
12 August 2022	Follow-up email with letters and project leaflet issued to councillors
1 September 2024	Website update detailing the name change for the proposed project
16 April 2025	Postal mailout to all households within 1 km of the project advising of the upcoming planning application submission and a leaflet with answers to the most frequently asked questions.
Ongoing	Face-to-face meetings are available for any community member who requests them. Communication with residents continues via phone calls and email on the dedicated email and phone line.

Table 1: Public consultation events undertaken by Moanmore South Green Energy

Online Communication

The proposed development's website, www.moanmorelowergreenenergy.ie, went live in July 2022. This represented the launch of the community engagement program. The website is the key information hub, providing information regarding all aspects of the development such as company information, contact details, project-specific details and information on renewable energy. The website was developed with access for both mobile and desktop viewing. Where residents could not access the website, printed versions of all documents were posted and in some cases, hand delivered to the requestee.

Key pages

- **Project Information** - Includes the when, where and why of the project, including a proposed timeline, project detail and area map.
- **Benefits** - Sharing the potential benefits, including the community benefit fund, carbon offset, and the number of homes that could be powered by the proposed project.
- **Key Questions**- Answering the most frequently asked questions site for residents to review.
- **About us** - Detailed information on the company behind the proposed project.

Resources

Numerous materials were publicly available on the project website such as project leaflets, maps and information on Climate Change. Resources were also distributed offline during various phases of the public consultation process during door-to-door engagement and at the public consultation event and wind farm tours. Printed copies of all materials were also posted upon request and the project's key information leaflet was posted to residents within c. 2km of the project area.

The list of resources included a letter and leaflet with project information, and a brochure detailing the effects of climate change and Ireland's renewable energy targets.

Press

An article was placed in the Clare Champion Newspaper on 22th July 2022, to announce the commencement of the community consultation for the Moanmore Lower Green Energy Project.

THE CLARE CHAMPION
FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2022

NEWS 7

Wind bonanza cannot be missed

Councillors keen that Clare does not lose out on opportunities in multi-billion euro offshore energy industry

Fiona McGarry

OFFSHORE energy opportunities could turn West Clare into the "Aberdeen of the wind industry", local authority members have heard.

A debate on the potential of the renewable energy sector to transform the local economy was triggered at the July meeting of Clare County Council by a motion from Councillor Joe Killeen.

The Fianna Fáil member sought an outline of current and future efforts to harness offshore wind and wave energy and "efforts to position Clare as the location that companies throughout Europe will choose when considering investment in renewable energy".

Councillor Killeen also called for a seminar, in the autumn, on renewable energy.

"If you're not pushing forward, then you're in reverse," he said. "We will be overtaken when it comes to renewable energy. This is a Europe-wide issue. The most appropriate place for this industry is along the West Clare coast."

Referring to the deadline for submissions on the work of the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce, which is Friday, July 29, Councillor Killeen wondered how the authority members might best contribute.

"We need to get a strong submission in," he said. "You have to put the best foot forward and represent the county as best you can. I am completely confident in the work of the taskforce, but concerned about the short notice."

Councillor Ian Lynch asked that a sub-committee might be set up to look at the issue.

"There is a lot of frustration about the marketing of Clare," he said.

"We need to make sure our submission is very cohesive and very strong. West Clare and this county are key to renewable energy."

Councillor Cillian Murphy said he personally has no problem "sitting down and doing what needs to be done".

"There is still merit in a seminar in the autumn," he said.

"A lot of us don't get the scale of the opportunity, it runs to multiple billions of euros, lads. The community benefit fund will be north of €10m per annum. We're not at the races and I get cranky about this.

"This is a game changer an opportunity to turn into the Aberdeen of the wind industry in West Clare. We need to be preparing now, there's a lot of work to be done."

Council CEO Pat Dowling agreed wholeheartedly with members' views.

"We have been engaging," he said. "The government sees the opportunity. We're at a good stage in terms of the whole issue of offshore wind. We presented Kilrush Marina project at last Taskforce meeting."

Mr Dowling undertook to ask Senior Planner Brian McCarthy to liaise, before the end of July, on a submission to the Estuary taskforce.

"We already have a strategy for the Estuary," he said. "Whatever about Kerry, they'll have to tight their corner. We'll be fighting ours. There are things happening on Moneypoint. The ESB have a clear strategy. They're hitting some bumps and bumps along the way, but they have a very clear strategy. The taskforce will serve to get this on paper and get it back to government."

Mr Dowling also agreed to organise a full seminar in the Autumn. Councillor Killeen welcomed this commitment.

A written response to the motion from Mr McCarthy said that from a Clare perspective, the issue was outlined in the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary (SIFP).

"The land and marine based plan, the first of its type to be developed in the country, has informed decisions, policy and in particular significant investment decisions along the entire Estuary," the response said.

"Moneypoint and Cahercon are identified in the SIFP as Strategic Development Locations. The Chief Executive is the Chair of the SIFP implementation group.

"Moreover, Clare County Council, through its Strategic Economic Initiatives unit (SEI), has proactively led a number of initiatives to increase the proposition and attractiveness of County Clare for inward investment and economic development arising from opportunities from offshore renewables.

"These include the assistance and collaboration with a tidal test device company to locate a tidal test device off Cahercon – currently under assessment for a Foreshore Licence, the proposal to establish a Maritime Training Centre in Kilrush to provide a location for training for the undoubted opportunities for employment and training that the off-shore sector will require, and the management by the SEI of large scale scientific data gathering across the estuary to ensure that availability of scientific data to assist with project development and assessments."

The response added that "Clare County Council is seeking to maximise all efforts and advantages that Clare's natural and infrastructural resources and talented workforce have to ensure that off-shore renewables can be harnessed sustainably for the county.

"There are also several factors and stakeholders at national and EU level and from the private sector, international corporations, wind energy developers and infrastructural providers necessary to realise the opportunities.

"It is also vital that communities and stakeholders are central to the consideration and benefit of opportunities from renewable energy."

Mr McCarthy's response concluded: "The Shannon Estuary Taskforce Report is anticipated to be completed by the end of this year and will be presented to the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

"It will subsequently be considered by Government. In that context, the Task Force Report is a key next step and regarding the request for organising a seminar it may be appropriate to also wait until the publication of the Report and any recommendations."

Val Cummins, Simply Blue Group, Gordon Shearer, Shell, and Hugh Kelly, Simply Blue Group, at Loop Head lighthouse for the announcement of the Western Star floating wind project off Clare's coast last year.
Photograph by Diane Cusack

'A lot of us don't get the scale of the opportunity, it runs to multiple billions of euros, lads. The community benefit fund will be north of €10m per annum. We're not at the races and I get cranky about this.'

Pledge of €2.6m to local community as two windfarms planned for west

Dan Danaher

TWO more wind farms are being planned for West Clare with promises of direct payments worth an estimated €2.6 million to the local area as part of the Community Benefit Fund.

Limerick-based renewable energy company Greensource Ltd has announced it is commencing pre-planning consultation with local communities and stakeholders in West Clare regarding two new wind energy developments.

Proposals for the wind energy developments are being progressed for two sites, with up to four wind turbines in Ballykett and up to three wind turbines in Moanmore South, which would have capacity to power 17,500 homes in the area with green energy, offsetting carbon emissions by up to 19,300 tonnes of CO2 per year.

According to a statement issued by the company to the Clare Champion, both sites have been zoned as open to consideration by Clare County Council as part of the Clare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 Renewable Energy Designation due to the favourable conditions for wind energy generation.

Greensource said it will work with residents in the local area to form a committee that will oversee the administration of a Community Benefit Fund, estimated at €2.6million over the first 15 years of the project.

The committee will be established once the projects successfully complete the planning permission process and will manage direct financial payments for projects to support community development, education, recreation, health, social inclusion, heritage and culture.

The project will also support the creation of local employment, in the supply, construction and maintenance sectors.

Based on SEAI estimates, this will be in excess of 86 direct and indirect jobs.

In addition, Greensource has committed to utilising local suppliers where possible.

Speaking about the project, Greensource Community Liaison Officer Susan Byrne said the company is looking forward to engaging with residents of both the Ballykett and Moanmore South communities to discuss our proposals for wind energy developments that, subject to the planning process, will create new investment opportunities and contribute to Ireland's renewable energy strategy.

"We are committed to working in partnership with the community through a process where community participation plays a central role in how the development progresses.

"Onshore wind energy projects form a key part of the Government's plan to enhance clean electricity generation, reduce CO2 emissions, meet Ireland's environmental targets and to move towards a more secure energy future against the current backdrop."

The community engagement process will include house to house visits, meeting with various stakeholders and stakeholder groups, and regular updates via a range of platforms including websites for both projects: www.ballykettgreenenergy.ie, www.moanmoresouthgreenenergy.ie.

Greensource, an Irish owned and managed company, specialising in the development and management of renewable energy projects, is also progressing with an application for a wind energy project in Ballycar.

The Ballycar Green Energy project, a proposed 12 turbine wind farm on a 140-hectare site near Meelick, in South East Clare will have capacity to power more than 30,000 homes if it goes ahead.

Greens progressing marine planning for offshore wind generation, claims Garvey

Dan Danaher

REVAMPING marine planning to facilitate the development of offshore wind farms off the Clare coast is being prioritised by Green Party ministers.

That's according to Senator Roisin Garvey, who is confident the establishment of a new Maritime Area Planning Agency (MARA) will pave the way for offshore windfarms.

This is despite the "devastating" withdrawal of Norwegian firm Equinor as the ESB's main investment partner for its proposed €2 billion windfarm off the Clare coast due to its alleged dissatisfaction with Ireland's planning and regulatory regime.

When Equinor pulled out of a major element of Moneypoint's €5 billion Green Atlantic initiative last November, Deputy Violet-Anne Wynne asked "are other foreign investment partners going to be similarly off put by Ireland's excessive bureaucracy in terms of planning and regulation?

However, Senator Garvey is confident Transport Minister Eamon Ryan and Minister of State for Local Government, Malcolm Noonan are working together to address key issues.

"Eamon Ryan wants Ireland to be net exporters of off-shore energy," said Senator Garvey.

"Previous governments didn't look after marine planning," she added.

"Minister Malcolm Noonan and Eamon Ryan have been working together to develop a marine planning strategy. You can't put up offshore turbines any where you want. We have to do it properly. The new MARA agency will ensure we can develop offshore windfarms while protecting our marine life.

"We would love to have offshore wind operating since we went into government, but it takes time. The Green Party has been talking about offshore wind and moving away from fossil fuels for the last 30 years.

"Eamon Ryan and myself were up in the Cliffs of Moher with 'keep it in the ground' banners many years ago. But we have to work with systems and do it right.

"The environmental NGOs are very award of climate change because the rising temperature is affecting marine biology as well."

Once the new marine planning regime is in place, she predicted there would be no shortage of investors interested in developing offshore windfarms.

Asked about the setback to the Green Atlantic initiative, she said Equinor was aware of the current situation, which "couldn't be changed overnight".

The Government has pointed to renewable energy as a way to increase energy security and its Climate Action Plan set a target of at least 5GW of power from offshore windfarms by 2030 – greater than Ireland's current total wind capacity.

Meanwhile, Senator Garvey said Clare is again leading the way in renewable energy thanks to the provision of a fossil free energy renewable supply for the €8 million redevelopment of Lahinch Seaworld.

She outlined the use of geothermal, biomass from locally sourced woodchip and solar photovoltaic electricity generating panels has helped Seaworld to halve its energy costs.

"In an era where fossil fuels have gone completely out of control, renewable energy is the only way to go for every public and domestic building," she said.

"The amount of energy being wasted in public buildings is shocking. People and businesses should do an energy audit, which a local business can get done for free through the Local Enterprise Office.

"Photovoltaic panels use light not just sunshine. When the building is not in use at night, electricity can be sold to the national grid.

"Geothermal energy from under the ground is being used to heat water in the pool. A few years ago, the oil costs for Seaworld were totally unviable. This is a game-changer, it is pioneering, it is the way every place should be."

UP AND OVER

Aideen Lane from Parteen practicing for the C+ test at the Clare Pony Club summer camp which was held at Ennis Showgrounds last week.
Photograph by Natasha Barton

Clarity on transfer of staff to Irish Water welcomed by Councillor Hayes

CLARITY on the transfer of local authority staff to Irish Water, which is to take place over the next four years, has been welcomed by Caher-based Councillor Pat Hayes.

Ahead of the July meeting of Clare County Council, correspondence was received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage outlining the new framework for the future of water services.

This was published in June following engagement facilitated by the Workplace Relations Commission.

It follows a policy paper drawn up in February of 2021. On several occasions since the establishment of Irish Water to take over management of water services previously controlled by local authorities, Councillor Hayes has been raising the matter of the transfer of Council staff to the utility. It is estimated that the issue affects up to 150 staff of Clare County Council.

Councillor Hayes noted the correspondence from Irish Water and welcomed the clarity it offered on a number of issues, as well as the assurance that staff transfer will be voluntary.

The framework outlines that Irish Water to assume responsibility for the management and direction of water services operation and activities.

It also makes provision for the voluntary transfer, of existing Council water services staff to Irish Water as permanent employees between now and 2026.

The framework clarifies that water services staff not transferring to Irish Water will be facilitated to avail of opportunities to re-deploy to other areas within local authorities.

Recruitment to Irish Water will happen directly as vacancies arise and a voluntary redundancy scheme for local authority water service staff will be opened.

"A new Irish Water-Local Authority agreement is replacing the existing Service Level Agreement arrangements, to ensure that Irish Water has full accountability for the delivery of water services and direct management of the water services staff who choose to remain employed by their local authority under contract to Irish Water for the transitional period to the end of 2025," the framework also stated.

Minister Darragh O'Brien said he was encouraged by the "partnership and collaboration" shown by parties to the engagement process.

"We now have a suitable framework in place to facilitate the enormous transformations that are needed in our water sector and in our local government system in the next few years," he said.

"The Government will continue to work closely with all parties to ensure that the Framework is implemented in a fair and balanced manner that respects the key concerns of all parties, not least the workers."

Minister O'Brien said he would continue to work with the County and City Management Association to ensure that local authorities are not left with unsupported financial liabilities as a result of the transformation programme. The full framework document is available on Gov.ie.

Mail

On the 20th of July 2022 a letter and brochure were posted to households within an approximate distance of 2km of the proposed project.

Moanmore South Green Energy
Station Road
Adare
Limerick

Telephone: +353 (0)61 975200
Mobile: +353 (0)86 8525000

Email: info@moanmoresouthgreenenergy.ie

20/07/2022

Dear resident,

On behalf of Greensource, an Irish-owned renewable energy company in Adare, County Limerick, we are pleased to begin consultation with you about our preliminary proposals for a green energy development at Moanmore South which has the potential to deliver clean energy to the equivalent of 7,500 homes, offsetting carbon emissions by up to 8,000 tonnes of CO2 per year.

Our proposals are currently being progressed for the development of up to three wind turbines located on a site near the townland of Moanmore South, Kilrush, County Clare. This site has been designated as open for consideration by Clare County Council as part of the Clare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 (Renewable Energy Designation) due to its favourable conditions for wind energy generation.

We wanted to make you aware of the project and let you know that we have a dedicated team in place to provide a direct line of communication for residents and the wider community to engage with us throughout the pre-planning process.

Additionally, Greensource will work in partnership with residents in the local area to form a committee that will oversee the administration of a Community Benefit Fund, estimated at €1.1 million over the first 15 years of the project. The committee will be established once the project successfully completes the planning permission process and will manage direct financial payments for projects to support community development, education, recreation, health, social inclusion, heritage and culture.

This is the beginning of our consultation, and our community engagement process will involve open discussions with local residents and interested parties, with the outcome of these discussions being used to help maximise the benefits of the project for this community.

We would also like to make you aware that we are beginning pre-planning consultation with residents in the neighbouring community of Ballykett for an additional wind energy project of up to four wind turbines that would supply the equivalent of 10,000 homes with green energy. Based on the location of your home, the proposal does not directly impact you, however we are also happy to provide details as this project progresses over the coming months.

Our teams will shortly begin door-to-door engagement in the surrounding community, and we look forward to discussing the proposals in more detail with you and answering any questions you may have. In the meantime, we have launched a project website which we will keep updated which also includes our contact details: www.moanmoresouthgreenenergy.ie.

Should you require any further information or have any questions about our proposed development please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Byrne,
Community Liaison Officer

www.moanmoresouthgreenenergy.ie

Information Leaflet

The leaflet shown below was delivered to each household within an approximate distance of 2km of the proposed project via post and also available to download from the website.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- Communities neighbouring onshore wind developments benefit from wider investment in the area and key local projects
- Through the Community Benefit Fund, the local area will benefit from direct financial investment of an estimated €1.1 million over the first 15 years of operation
- Up to 50% of the fund will be paid to near neighbours (within 1km and 2km) and community-based projects, 40% of the fund will be awarded to community projects that relate to the Sustainable Development Goals and 10% will be assigned to the administration of the fund
- A local committee will be elected to manage the investment in projects which support sustainable community development
- Once connected to the grid, the local community will also benefit from the generation of clean electricity
- This project will provide green energy to the equivalent of 7,500 households, offsetting carbon emissions by 8,000 tonnes CO2 per year
- The project will also provide a range of economic benefits, including approximately 60 direct and indirect jobs in the area, particularly during the construction phase
- We are committed to working with local suppliers, to source engineering works, materials, equipment hire, catering, and other potential services

ABOUT GREENSOURCE

Greensource is an innovative Irish renewable energy company based in Adare, Co. Limerick that specialises in the development of renewable energy projects, working with communities from pre-planning to operation, and creating long-lasting local partnerships. Greensource has over ten years development and operational experience.

Greensource has a highly skilled and experienced team who are committed to developing projects with successful outcomes for all stakeholders.

Working with integrity and care for the local environment, the team has a strong track record, having successfully completed wind energy and other renewable projects in the West of Ireland.

CONTACT DETAILS

OUR ADDRESS

Moanmore South Green Energy
Station Road,
Adare,
Co. Limerick

CALL US

Office: 061 975 200
Mobile: 086 852 5000

MESSAGE US

Email
info@moanmoresouthgreenenergy.ie

www.moanmoresouthgreenenergy.ie

Mail

On the 16th of April 2025 a letter and brochure were posted to households within an approximate distance of 1km of the proposed project advising of the upcoming planning application submission and a leaflet answering frequently asked questions.

Moanmore Lower Green Energy
Address: Station Road, Adare, Limerick
Phone: +353 (0)61 975 200
Email: info@moanmorelowergreenenergy.ie

April 16th, 2025

Dear Resident,

We wish to inform you that the planning application for the proposed Moanmore Lower (South) Green Energy, a 3-turbine wind farm, will be submitted to Clare County Council in the coming months.

Details of the application, including environmental assessments and project specifications, will be available for public viewing via the council's website in due course. We encourage you to review these documents and we welcome any feedback you may have. Our dedicated community support team remain available for consultation via email or phone.

In the interim, we ask that you review the enclosed leaflet which contains the key facts in relation to the proposed project.

Thank you for your time.

Kind Regards,

Nadine Walsh

The Community Team, Moanmore Lower Green Energy

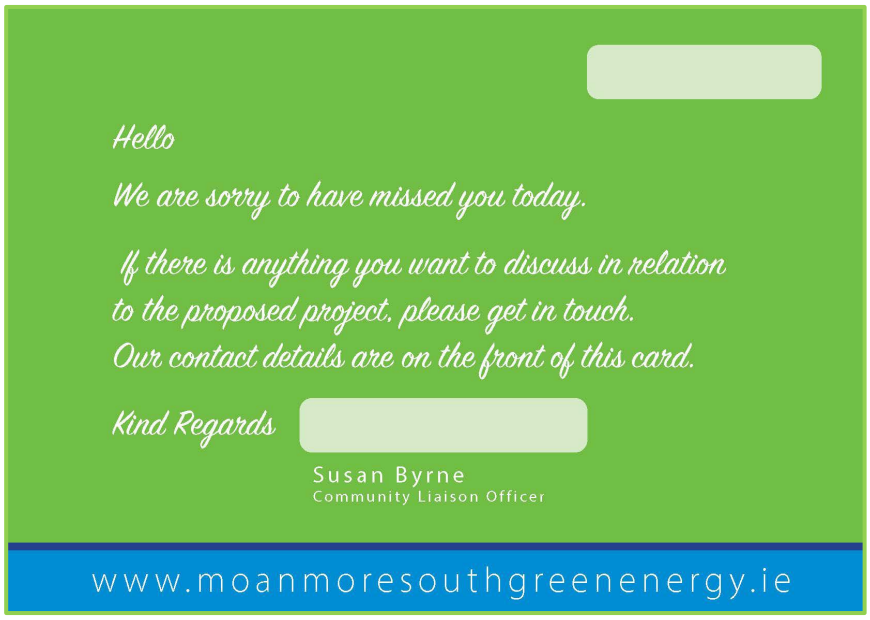
www.moanmorelowergreenenergy.ie

Door-to-Door

Over a period of one week, commencing 2nd August 2022, the CLO visited thirty-six residential properties located within 1km of each proposed turbine. The team spoke to thirteen residents and left contact details in the form of a signed and dated postcard in another thirteen occupied properties. Ten properties were either derelict, empty or newly built and not yet occupied. A leaflet outlining climate change, renewable energy and government targets was provided to residents who wanted more information.

Post the initial door-to-door engagement, fourteen telephone calls and nine email correspondences were recorded. All correspondences were replied to promptly, the majority of which within a 48-hour time frame.

A leaflet outlining climate change, renewable energy and government targets was provided to residents who requested further information.



Climate Change and Renewable Energy

What is Climate Change?

- Climate is the average weather over many years.
- Climate change is a shift in those average conditions.
- The Earth is now in a period of rapid climate change, with global temperatures rising.

What are the causes?

- There have always been natural variations in the climate, but global temperatures are rising now, because of human activities.
- The world is about 1.2°C warmer than before people started using oil, gas and coal to power factories and transport, and to heat homes.
- The greenhouse gases released by burning these fossil fuels trap the Sun's energy.

How have human activities influenced climate change?

- Humans are increasingly influencing the climate and the earth's temperature by burning fossil fuels, cutting down forests and farming livestock.
- This adds enormous amounts of greenhouse gases to those naturally occurring in the atmosphere, increasing the greenhouse effect and global warming.
- The amount of one greenhouse gas in the atmosphere - CO_2 - has risen about 50% since the 19th Century and 12% in the past two decades.
- Another source of greenhouse gases is deforestation. When trees are burned or chopped down, the carbon they normally store is released.

The Greenhouse Effect is a natural occurrence that is essential to human life. Energy from the sun warms the Earth as it is trapped in the atmosphere. Not all the energy from the sun is trapped, some of it is reflected into space. This process of absorbing and reflecting energy warms the planet to an average of 15 degrees Celsius, this ensures that life on earth is possible. Rapid changes to the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is resulting in global warming, where more of the Sun's energy is absorbed and less energy is reflected into space.

Changes to the composition of the atmosphere is a natural process. The Earth has gone through cycles of extreme cold, the Ice Age, and warmer eras, the Carboniferous period, where dense and swampy forests gave rise to large deposits of peat, which, over time transformed into coal. The growth of giant tropical forests removed huge amounts of carbon dioxide (CO_2) from the atmosphere and stored it as coal deposits, the same coal that we burn today.

The industrial revolution, saw the growth in coal consumption which gave rise to unprecedented levels of air pollution. This was followed by the production of industrial chemicals, increased production of consumer goods and intensification of agriculture. All these activities have something in common – they are energy intensive. Until recently most of our energy demands have been satisfied by our reliance on fossil fuels.

GREENSource

Climate Change and Renewable Energy

Government Targets

The requirement for climate action and energy security has led to an increased focus on renewable energy generation in Ireland. The transition to a low carbon electricity system, based on renewable energy and storage, is a key pillar of Project Ireland 2040 – National Planning Framework. Underpinning this, is our obligation to increase renewable energy from 30% to 70% by 2030. It is recognised that wind energy is a viable option for Ireland's transition to renewable electricity, whilst strengthening our energy security and meeting EU climate targets.

Renewable Energy and Agreed Targets

Key targets for 2030, at least:

- 40% cuts in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) (from 1990 levels)
- 70% renewable electricity
- 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency

According to a report published by the SEAI in 2020[1], Ireland ranks second last out of 28 EU countries and has missed the 2020 targets, making it more difficult to meet 2030 and 2050 targets.

Key Requirements to reach Targets	2030 Target
Onshore wind	4,000 MW's
Offshore wind	5,000 MW's
Solar Power	5,000 MW's

Table 1: Wind energy targets to 2030

Renewable Energy - Wind Power

Onshore wind energy projects form a key part of the Government's plan to enhance clean electricity generation, meet Ireland's environmental targets and move to a more secure energy future. In Ireland, electricity generation is the 3rd largest fossil fuel expending sector, with carbon dioxide (CO_2) the primary GHG released. Wind turbines do not emit GHGs while operational. It takes a turbine just three to six months to produce the amount of energy that goes into its manufacture, installation, operation, maintenance and decommissioning after its 20–25-year lifetime[2]. Therefore, wind energy can play a major role in reducing GHGs. **Economic benefits** from wind energy include employment, community benefit schemes, lower bills arising from reduced reliance on imported fossil fuels, a stable income for landowners who lease their land for wind farm development, income for local authorities through rates, and increased competition in the energy market which helps to lower costs for end users[3].

Wind Energy Impacts	2020	2030 Target
Capacity (MW's)	4,200	8,200
Total Industrial Output	€1.1bn	€1.5bn
Additional Gross Value Added from the sector's activities	€410m	€550m
Jobs throughout the sector and supply chain	5,130	7,020
Total payments in incomes to workers across the supply chain	€225m	€305m
Contribution to local authority rates	€45m	€100m

Table 2: Wind energy Impacts to 2030

[1] SEAI (2020) Renewable Energy in Ireland
[2] Baringa (2021) Endgame -A Zero Carbon Electricity Plan for Ireland
[3] KPMG (2021) Economic Impact of Onshore Wind in Ireland

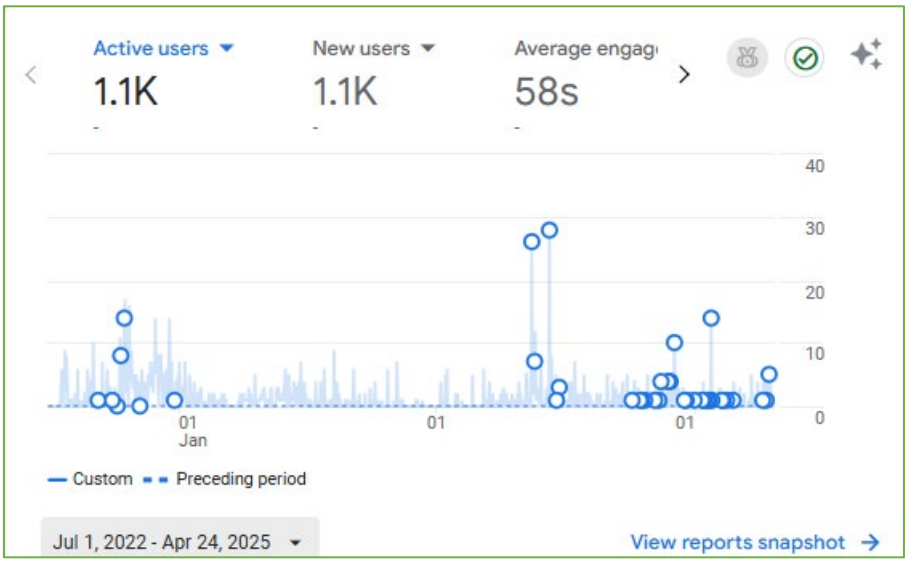
GREENSource

Engagement with Local Representatives

Personal emails and phone calls to all local area representatives including councillors and TDs occurred in August of 2024.

Website Analytics

The project website has received over 1000 visitors to date with the average user spending just under one minute on the site reviewing the proposed project's details.



Telephone Consultation

Dedicated project lines (061 975 200 / 086 852 5000) were opened in July of 2022 with business hours of Monday – Friday from 9 – 5 pm for the community to discuss the proposed development with the Community Liaison Officer (CLO). This phone number is published on the website and is added to all printed materials. This service remains open to date.

Email Consultation

A dedicated email address: info@moanmorelowergreenenergy.ie was managed and monitored daily by the project's CLO. All emails received were responded to in a timely manner and phone and in person consultations were offered to those seeking additional support.

Ongoing Contact

Throughout all stages of the development, a dedicated Community Liaison Officer for the project will be contactable by phone and email. The frequency and nature of interactions and communications will be dependent on the stage of development. As the project advances, updates relating to the project's status and activity will be posted to the project website.

Online Survey

The survey on the Moanmore Lower Green Energy site allows the community to share their views on the proposed wind farm project. It gathers feedback on climate change concerns, support for renewable energy, local wind power, and interest in community involvement. Participants can express their knowledge of the project's economic benefits and the Community Benefit Fund, as well as their willingness to engage further. Optional contact details can be provided for follow-up.

The survey can be accessed here.

Public Opinion

Public opinion on wind farms in Ireland remains overwhelmingly positive, particularly among those living in close proximity of a development. According to the SEAI RESS National Survey, a significant 73% of respondents who reside within 1 kilometre of a RESS1 wind project hold positive or very positive attitudes towards wind energy. Furthermore, 65% of these respondents believe that Ireland has too few wind farms, indicating strong local support for the expansion of wind energy infrastructure. The survey can be accessed via this link: https://www.seai.ie/publications/SEAI-RESS-National-Survey.pdf

Conclusion

Community engagement and public consultation has been ongoing for over two years, with a dedicated CLO, who performed door-to-door house calls, issued information letters and leaflets, and was available via phone and email, to ensure that residents were informed of the proposed development.

In addition, a dedicated website acts as a central information hub for the project and over 1000 visits have been recorded on this website since its launch in July 2022 and the site will continue to act as the key information source.

Moanmore Lower Green Energy has met the requirements of the 2006 regulations and has also followed industry best practice by preparing and submitting this Community Report as part of this planning application. Both the 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines and the 2019 Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines have been taken into consideration in the approach to community consultation for the proposed development.

We believe that we have demonstrated a considerable commitment to engaging with the residents throughout the pre-planning process. By proactively engaging with the residents through a variety of mediums, Moanmore Lower Green Energy has shown a genuine desire to create open dialogue with the community. Moanmore Lower Green Energy's responsiveness to community input and feedback underscores our commitment to transparency and accountability.

Through the availability of all information via print and online resources, one-to-one meetings, surveys, and other engagement initiatives, we have offered multiple opportunities for residents to express their thoughts, queries, and aspirations.

We welcome continued engagement with residents as the planning application progresses.