



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.

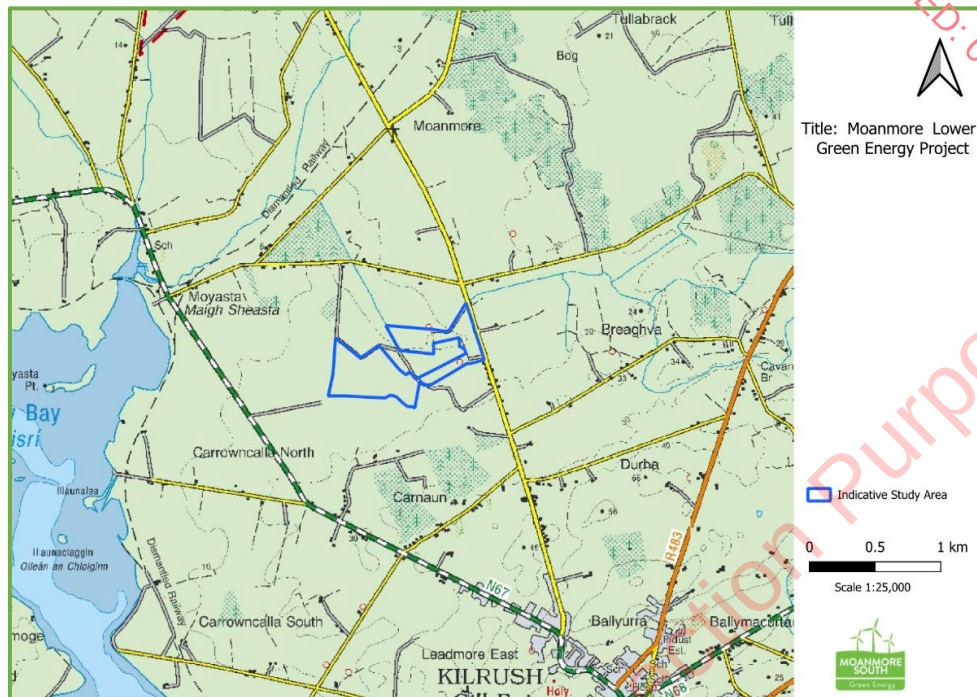


Figure 1: Proposed Moanmore Lower Green Energy Wind Farm Location

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 CO₂ 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.

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.

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.

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.

MOANMORE SOUTH
Green Energy

Building Wind Energy, Powering Sustainable Communities

Providing clean energy for 7,500 households
in Moanmore and surrounding communities

MOANMORE SOUTH GREEN ENERGY PROJECT

Greensource, an Irish owned and managed renewable energy company, based in Adare, County Limerick, is pleased to announce preliminary plans to develop the Moanmore South Green Energy Project - which has the potential to deliver wind energy to the equivalent of 7,500 homes.

The project is a proposed 3 turbine windfarm, located on a 21-hectare site neighbouring the townland of Moanmore, near Kilrush Co. Clare. This site has been designated as open to consideration by Clare County Council as part of the Clare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 (Renewable Energy Designation)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

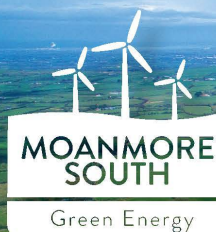
Moanmore South Green Energy is committed to creating a wind energy development that is socially responsible, and provides a substantial community benefit fund where community participation plays a central role.

The team has commenced an extensive community engagement and consultation programme to capture views and provide key information to residents. A dedicated team is in place, providing a direct line of communication for residents and the wider community.

Consultation, undertaken in line with the latest public health guidelines, will also take place for those in the wider area to provide up-to-date information and opportunities for the community to understand more about the project.

Project Process

- 1 Community Engagement
- 2 Planning Process
- 3 Construction Phase
- 4 Operation Commences



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



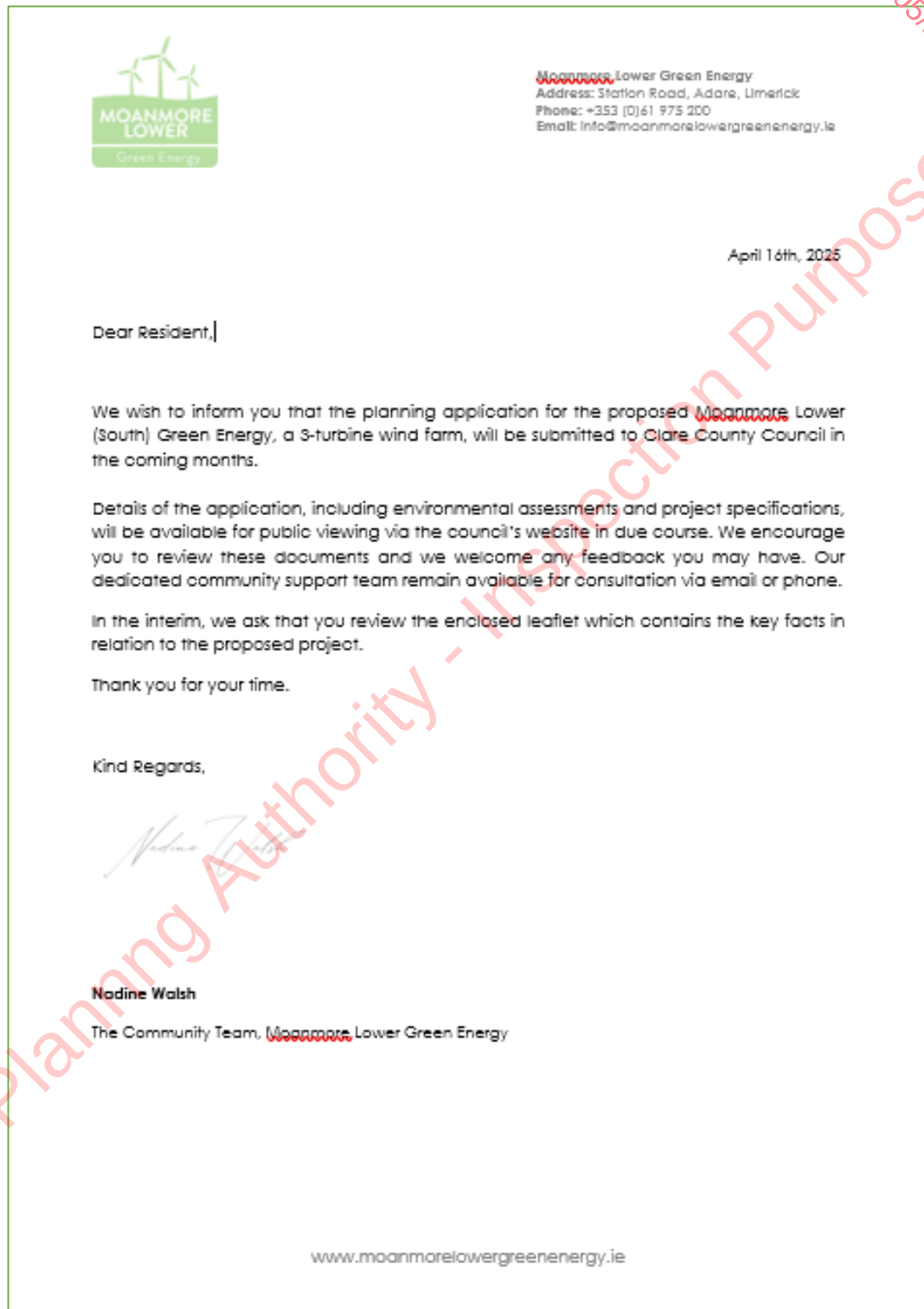
MESSAGE US

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.



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.

MOANMORE SOUTH
Green Energy

Building Wind Energy, Powering Sustainable Communities

Providing clean energy for 7,500 households
in Moanmore and surrounding communities.

We welcome your comments and feedback. Please get in touch.

CONTACT DETAILS
Moanmore South Green Energy
Station Road,
Adare,
Co. Uimerick

CALL US
Office 061 975 200
Mobile 086 852 5000

MESSAGE US
Email info@moanmoresouthgreenenergy.ie
Website www.moanmoresouthgreenenergy.ie

Printed on recycled paper

Hello

We are sorry to have missed you today.

*If there is anything you want to discuss in relation
to the proposed project, please get in touch.*

Our contact details are on the front of this card.

Kind Regards

Susan Byrne
Community Liaison Officer

www.moanmoresouthgreenenergy.ie

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 - CO₂ - 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 (CO₂) 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.

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 2020¹, 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 (CO₂) 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 lifetime². 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 users³.

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

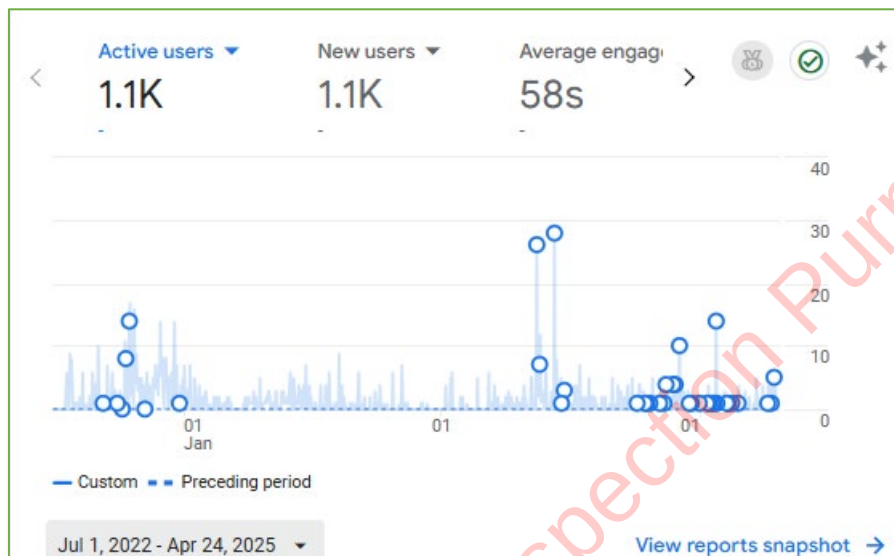
³ KPMG (2021) Economic Impact of Onshore Wind in Ireland

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.