

Ballyfeeny Green Energy Project



Environmental Impact Assessment Report Volume III

Appendix 5.1 – Community Report September 2025

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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SEPTEMBER 2025



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Community Consultation

Report Objective

The purpose of this report is to set out the method in which Ballyfeeny Green Energy Limited (the 'Applicant') 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 Ballyfeeny 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 are taken into consideration as plans for the proposed wind farm are developed.

Community Engagement Guidelines

Wind energy developments are subject to both statutory requirements and best practice guidance for community engagement. Wind Energy Ireland have set out best practice guidance for community engagement that advocates for meaningful consultation throughout the pre-planning, planning, construction, and operational phases. This includes the creation of a project website, appointment of a community liaison officer and the implementation of door-to-door visits. This follows on through the operation phase, where it's required to maintain the project website with up-to-date information on the project, as well as the continued acknowledgement of requests or concerns from the community.

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.

The community engagement strategy incorporates learnings from the publication on the Wind Energy Ireland website – the 'Good Neighbour IWEA Best Practice Principles in Community Engagement & Community Commitment'. Ballyfeeny Green Energy has abided by the direction in the handbook where it states '*IWEA members will*

continue to commit to full, open and transparent dialogue with local communities around proposed wind farm projects, including promoting at an early stage the company policy on local benefits and opportunities for public participation, so that local residents and the wider community are informed regarding the development of the proposals and have an opportunity to comment on their development.'

The Community Team

The Community Team was led by the Project Manager; Tomas Leen, Community Liaison Officer (CLO); Nadine Walsh and the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) Coordinator; James Massey. Tomas Leen and Nadine Walsh responded to all incoming queries via phone, email, and face-to-face interactions with the community residents. The CLO, Project Manager and EIAR coordinator were available at the community clinics.

Project Background

The proposed wind energy development comprises six wind turbines and all associated infrastructure including Turbine Foundations, Turbine Hardstands, Site Access Tracks, Wind Farm Internal Cabling, Relay Tower, Onsite Substation and all associated infrastructure. The proposed development also includes the underground grid connection from the Onsite Substation along the public road network, to where the R371 meets the Sliabh Bawn Substation Road (hereafter the proposed 'Development').

The works required within the existing Sliabh Bawn 110kV Substation and works to install the underground grid connection, along the Sliabh Bawn Substation Road to where it meets the R371, have been included as part of the assessment. However, these works will be subject to a separate planning permission and do not form part of this planning application. The underground grid connection works within the planning application Redline Boundary (RLB), the works required within the existing Sliabh Bawn 110kV Substation and along the Sliabh Bawn Substation Road to the R371, are collectively known as the Grid Connection Route (GCR).

The EIAR also presents an assessment of temporary accommodating works required along the public road network from the port of origin in Galway Port, to facilitate the delivery of turbine components to the wind farm Site. Two route options have been assessed in full within the EIAR. These routes collectively are referred to as the Turbine Delivery Route (TDR). These temporary accommodating works are assessed in this EIAR, however, do not form part of this planning application.

For this EIAR the proposed Development, the works for the underground grid connection within the existing Sliabh Bawn 110kV Substation and along the Sliabh Bawn Substation Road to the R371 and the temporary accommodating works along the TDR, are hereafter referred to as the proposed 'Project'. A full and detailed description of the proposed Development for the purposes of the planning

application and the additional elements that form part of the overall Project assessed in the EIAR, is contained in **EIAR Chapter 2 – Project Description**.

The main components of the proposed Project will comprise of:

- The construction and operation of a wind farm consisting of six wind turbines;
- The turbine specification is unconfirmed but will fall within the parameter range outlined by Roscommon County Council and will be one of the following three Options;
 - Technology Option 1: tip height of 160m, rotor diameter of 136m and hub height of 92m; or
 - Technology Option 2: tip height of 156m, rotor diameter of 133m and hub height of 90m; or
 - Technology Option 3: tip height of 159m, rotor diameter of 138m and hub height of 90m;
- Construction of Turbine Hardstands (including crane and assembly areas) and Turbine Foundations;
- Construction of approximately 3.9km of new permanent internal Site Access Tracks and the upgrade of 0.5km of existing internal access tracks;
- Construction of a permanent 38kV Onsite Substation, including one single story substation building with welfare facilities, Lidar, diesel generator and fuel storage tank, all associated electrical plant and equipment, all associated underground cabling, rainwater harvesting and storage tank, wastewater holding tank, security fencing, gates, signage, and all ancillary structures and works;
- Installation of underground electrical and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines to the proposed 38kV Onsite Substation;
- Construction, of two Temporary Construction Compounds with associated site offices, welfare facilities, car parking, site fencing and lighting;
- Erection of a permanent 30m high Communications Relay Tower;
- Construction access via six site entrances (SE1 – SE6) to include:
 - SE1 on the R371, SE2 and SE3 on the L6018, and SE4, SE5 and SE6 on the L60498;
 - SE1 and SE6 are temporary and will be reinstated following construction. SE1 may be re-established if required for turbine component repair or

replacement. SE2 – SE5 will be retained permanently for operational access;

- Tree felling to facilitate the construction and operation of the proposed Project;
- Installation of approximately 5.8km of permanent underground electrical cabling for the Grid Connection Route including cabling within the public road corridor, extending from the proposed onsite 38kV Substation at Ballyfeeny to end at the existing Sliabh Bawn 110kV Substation in the townland of Bunnageddy (also known as Runnageddy);
- All associated site works, including site clearance, landscaping, site drainage, security gates, fencing, permanent and temporary signage and biodiversity mitigation and enhancements, including hedgerow and treeline planting.
- Temporary accommodating works along the TDR, to facilitate turbine delivery from the port of entry at the Port of Galway to the wind farm site entrance (SE1) at Ballyfeeny, via Lough Atalia Road, College Road, R339, R685, N6, M6, M18, M17, N17, N5 (New N5 Ballaghadereen to Scramoge Road Project) and the R371

The Applicant is seeking a 10-year planning permission and 35-year operational life, initiating from the date of full commissioning of the entire wind farm. The development is covered by the provisions of the Renewable Energy Directive III (Directive 2023/2413).

The planning application is subject to section 34D of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. When a notice issues in accordance with section 34D(b), the provisions of article 26A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to 2025 shall apply.

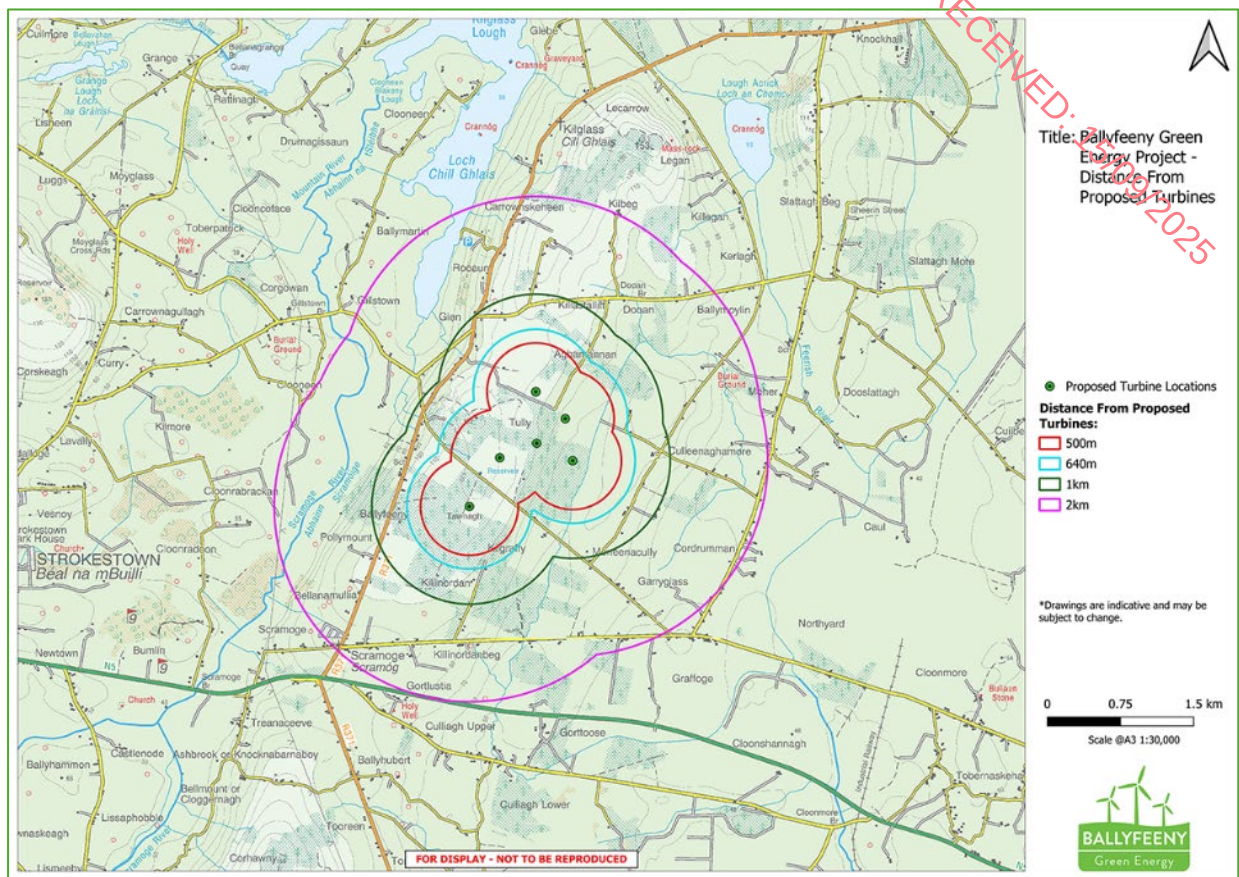


Figure 1 - Proposed Turbine Layout

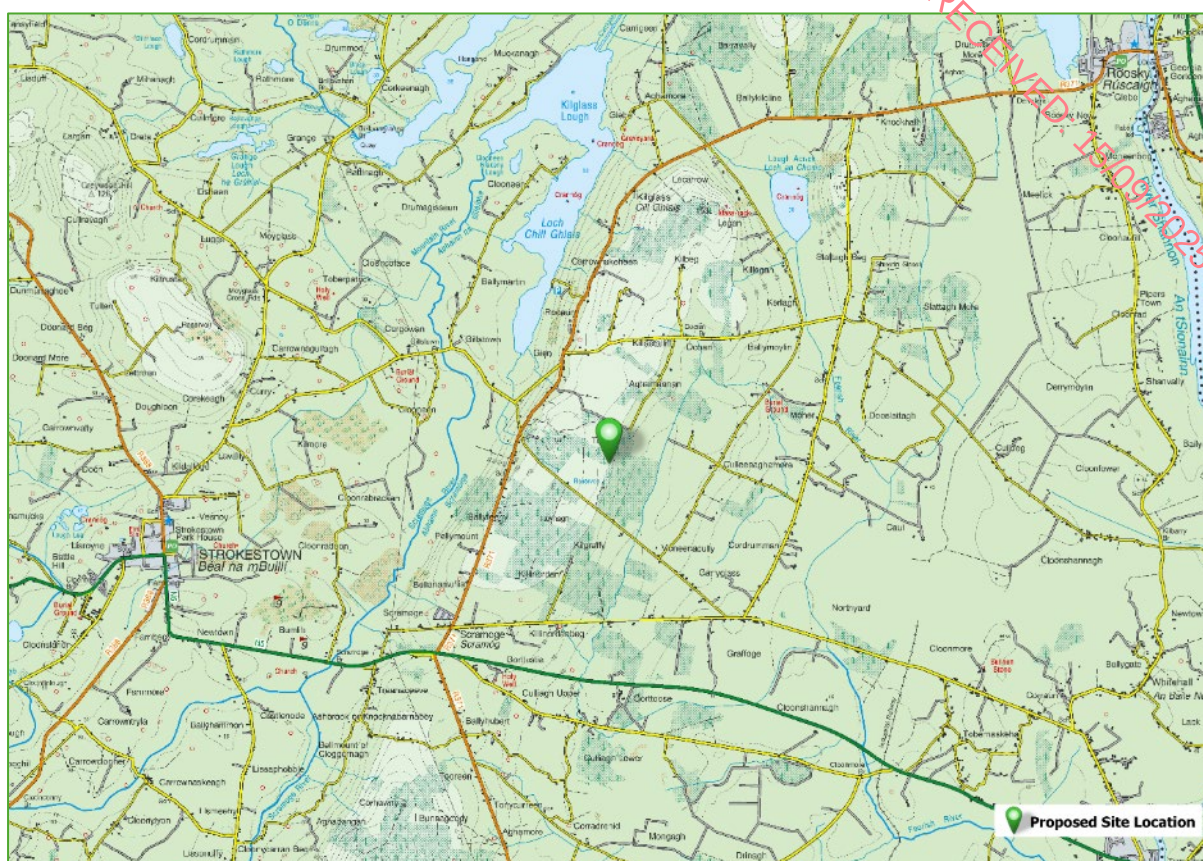


Figure 2 - Proposed Site Location

Alignment with Roscommon's Climate Action Plan

The Ballyfeeny Green Energy Project directly supports key themes and actions outlined in Roscommon County Council's Climate Action Plan (2024–2029), which aims to transition the county toward a low carbon, climate resilient future by 2050

- Mitigation through Renewable Energy:** The Plan emphasises reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing energy efficiency across all sectors, particularly through renewable energy deployment. The wind farm contributes directly to decarbonising the local electricity supply, aligning with the Plan's objectives in sustainable resource management.
- Just Transition & Community Empowerment:** A core pillar of the Plan is fostering a "just transition" and supporting community-led climate action. Ballyfeeny's inclusion of a Community Benefit Fund with mechanisms for local input and oversight echoes the Council's commitment to inclusive governance and ensuring that transition benefits are shared equitably.
- Local Capacity & Infrastructure Development:** The Climate Action Plan supports community projects—such as EV charging, energy retrofits, and low-carbon technology via its climate action programme roscommoncoco.ie. By generating clean energy locally, the project provides a reliable, sustainable

power backbone that enables such infrastructure improvements and energy-efficient upgrades.

- **Natural Environment Protection:** Roscommon's Plan requires all climate initiatives to incorporate biodiversity and habitat protection, including safeguards for sensitive European and Natura 2000 sites. The Ballyfeeny project's environmental assessments and mitigation strategies align with these standards, helping fulfil the Plan's environmental protection and sustainability objectives.
- **Governance and Stakeholder Engagement:** With a dedicated Climate Action Unit and multi-sectoral advisory structure roscommoncoco.ie, the Council encourages transparent, participative planning. Ballyfeeny's engagement through the survey and the invitation for residents to join governance committees exemplifies the practical application of these governance goals: evidence-based, community-oriented decision-making.

This synergy between the Ballyfeeny Green Energy project and Roscommon's Climate Action Plan ensures that the project not only generates renewable energy but also advances shared priorities in emissions reduction, community engagement, environmental stewardship, and a fair, collective transition to a low-carbon future.

The site was selected following extensive local examination, taking into account the proximity to residential properties, natural heritage, landscape and visual impacts, archaeology, hydrology, and many other considerations including the zoning in the Renewable Energy Strategy of the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 as a 'most favoured' area for wind energy development. This map was shared with residents in the context of site selection.

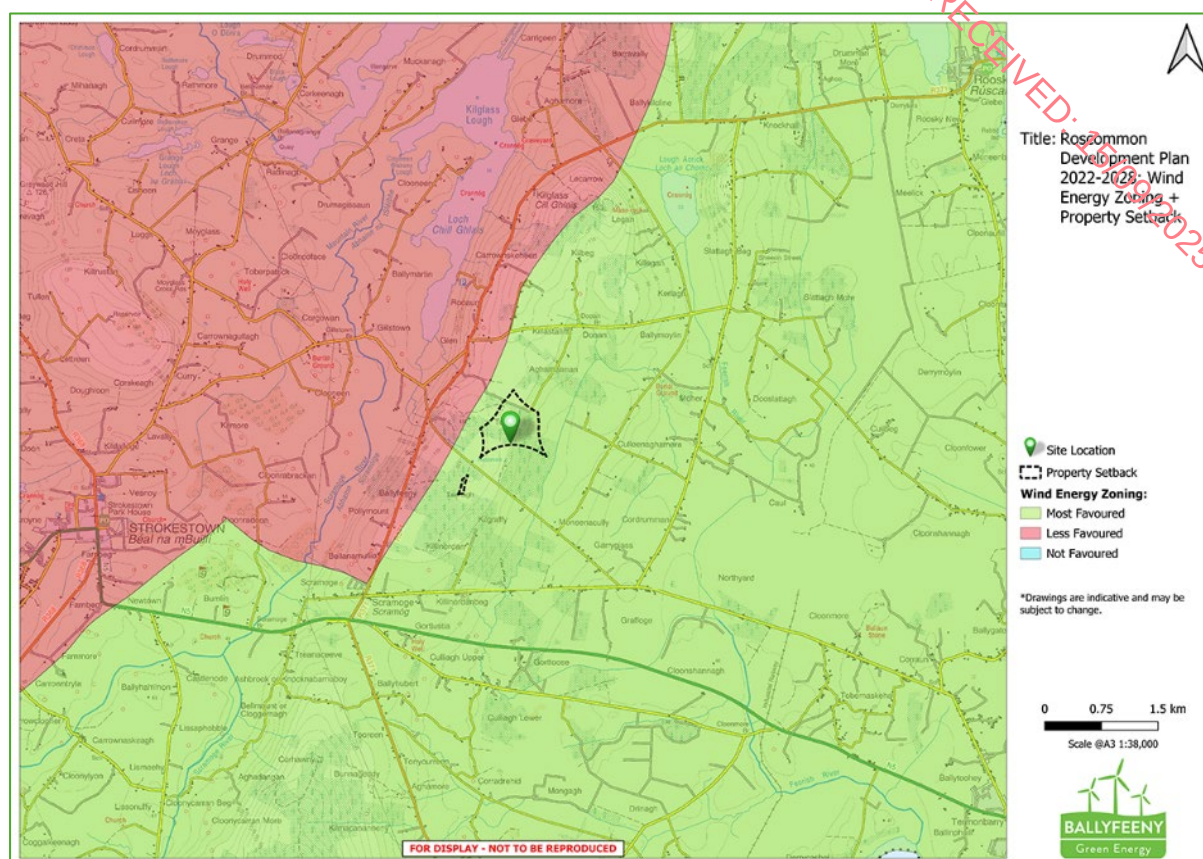


Figure 3 Roscommon County Development Plan – Wind Energy Zoning

Community Consultation Milestones 2025

Date	Activity
22/4/25	Ballyfeeny Green Energy Website Launch
23/4/25	Calls and emails to all local TD's and Councillors to brief them on the project proposals
24/4/25	Letters and leaflets issued to all residents within 2km of the site
25/4/25	Notice of public consultation in the Roscommon People newspaper
21/5/25 – 22/5/25	Door to Door visits to all residents within 1km of the site
1/6/25- Ongoing	Virtual Consultations
26/6/25	Letters issued to all residents within 1 km of the site informing them of the community clinics
8/7/25 – 10/7/25	Community Clinics
12/8/25	Planning Notification Letter issued to members of the community
Ongoing	Continued consultations

Project Website Launch

The Project website was launched on the 22nd of April 2025, and to date has received over 600 visitors. The website included maps of the proposed Project location, relevant project information, education on wind energy, as well as a survey for community members to input their feedback about the project. This survey received 31 responses throughout the engagement process. As the project progressed, the website was updated regularly to ensure the community were informed of where Ballyfeeny Green Energy were in the process.



Figure 4 Project Website Homepage

Project Survey

The Ballyfeeny Green Energy Project survey available on the project website invites local residents to share their views on the proposal and its impact on climate change. It begins by collecting contact details and then asks participants to offer open-ended feedback on the project itself. A key focus is the proposed Community Benefit Fund and survey respondents are asked to suggest how this fund could be best utilised, and whether they would be interested in joining a committee to oversee its distribution, with options for "Yes," "No," "Maybe," or "Other." The survey is clearly structured and designed to take around five minutes to complete, demonstrating a commitment to accessible, community-led engagement, although it explicitly notes that it's not the primary means of contacting the engagement team. For direct consultation, participants are directed to email the team separately. The survey had 31 responses and the key findings are listed below.

The first question asked participants to share their general thoughts about the proposed project. All commentary was negative. Several mentioned issues relating to the visual impact of the project, citing destroying the local landscape, proposed adverse effects on health and in particular effects on those with sensory issues. Most

cited that they would be opposing the proposed project. There were threatening comments and references to the community team as 'disgusting' people.

Residents were asked 'What do you think the best use of this fund would be?' Answers ranged from, it is 'not wanted and not needed' to statements such as 'none of the local community will accept it' and that it was an attempt to 'bribe' the community.

Participants were then asked, 'Would you like to be a part of the committee that oversees the Community Benefit Fund?' 97% of the respondents said, No.

Another question was 'What are your thoughts about wind energy, or renewable energy in general?' The main overriding comment was that wind energy projects should be placed offshore and not in residential settings, like Ballyfeeny.

Participants were asked on a scale of 1 – 5, how concerned are you about climate change.

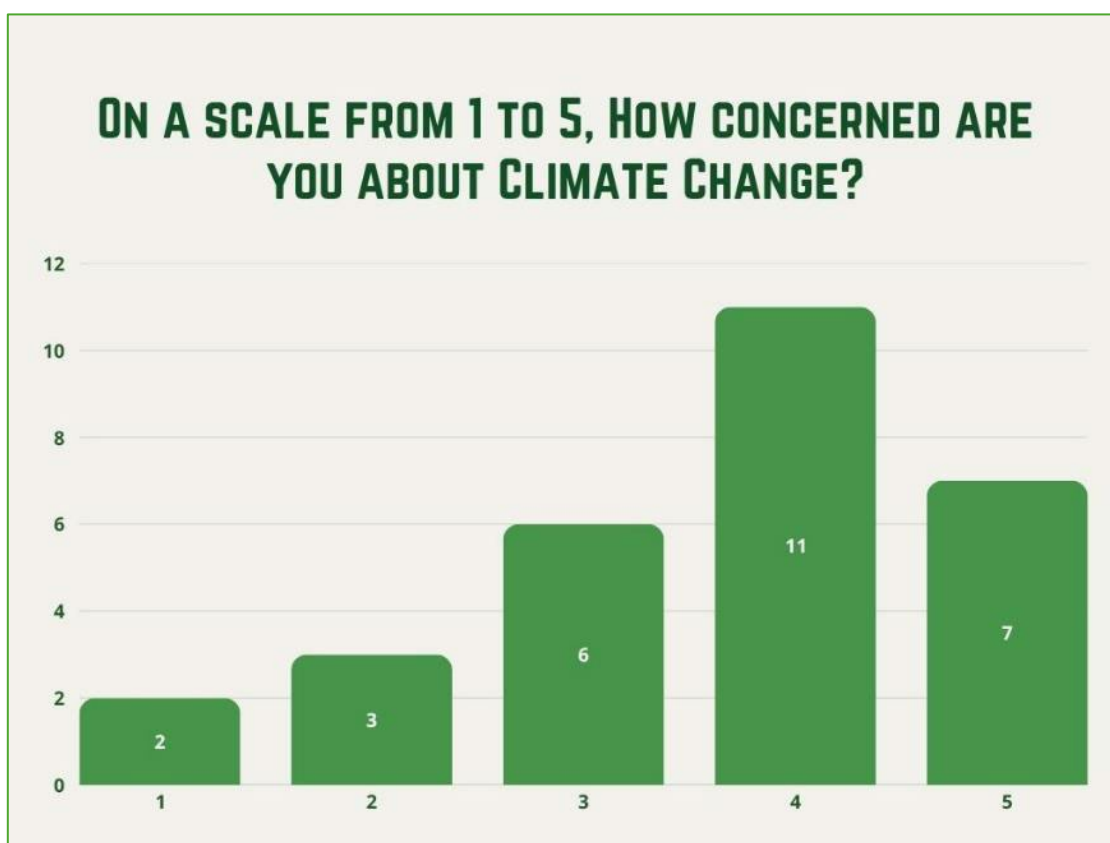


Figure 5 - Survey Question - Climate Change

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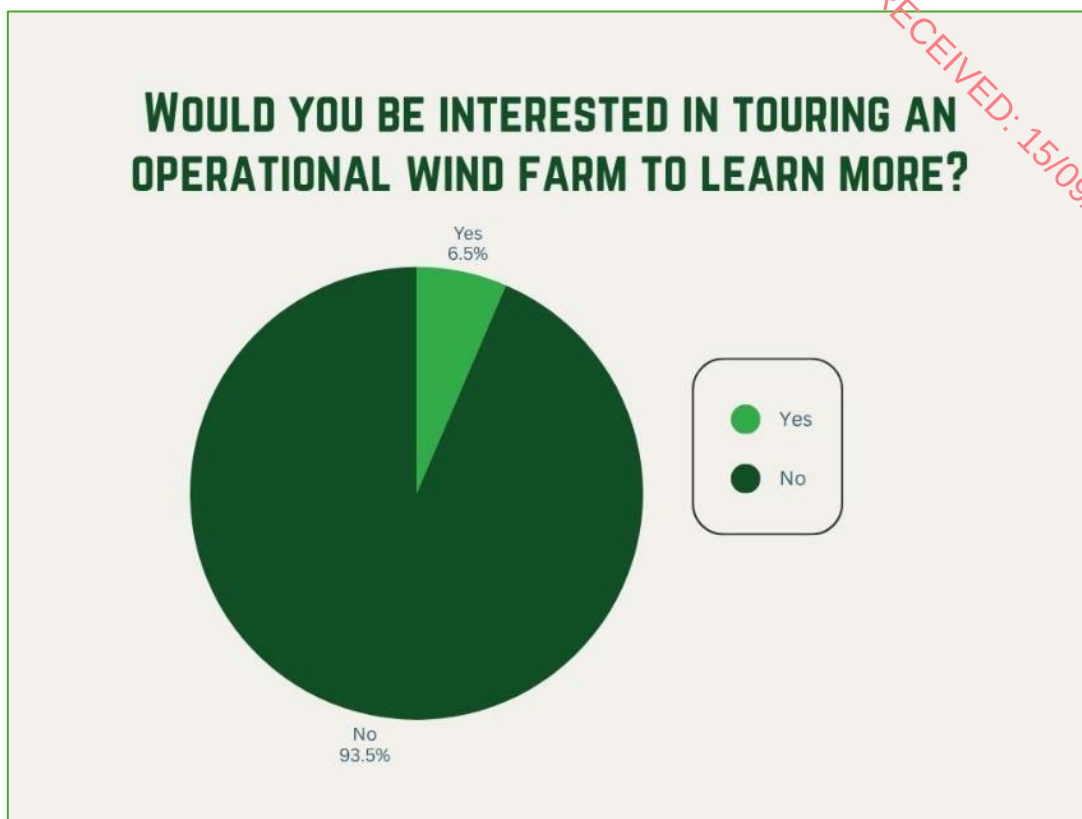


Figure 6 Survey Question - Wind Farm Tour

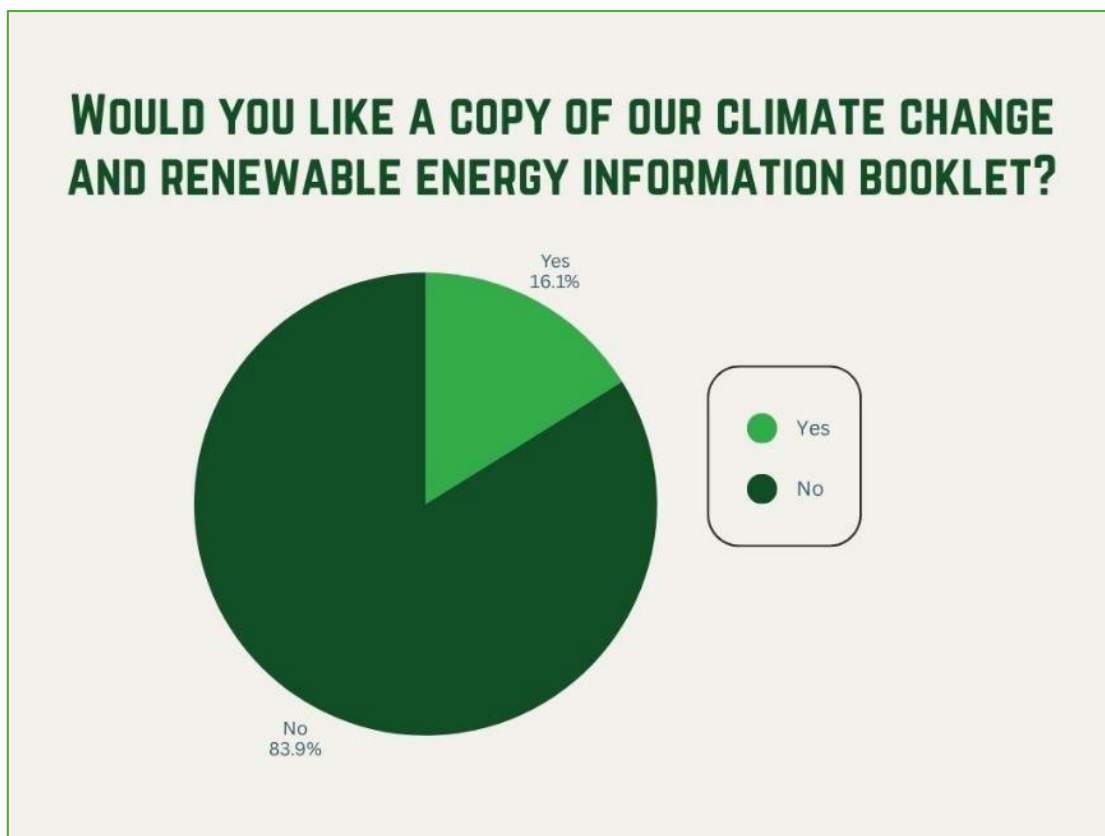


Figure 7 - Survey Question - Climate Change Brochure

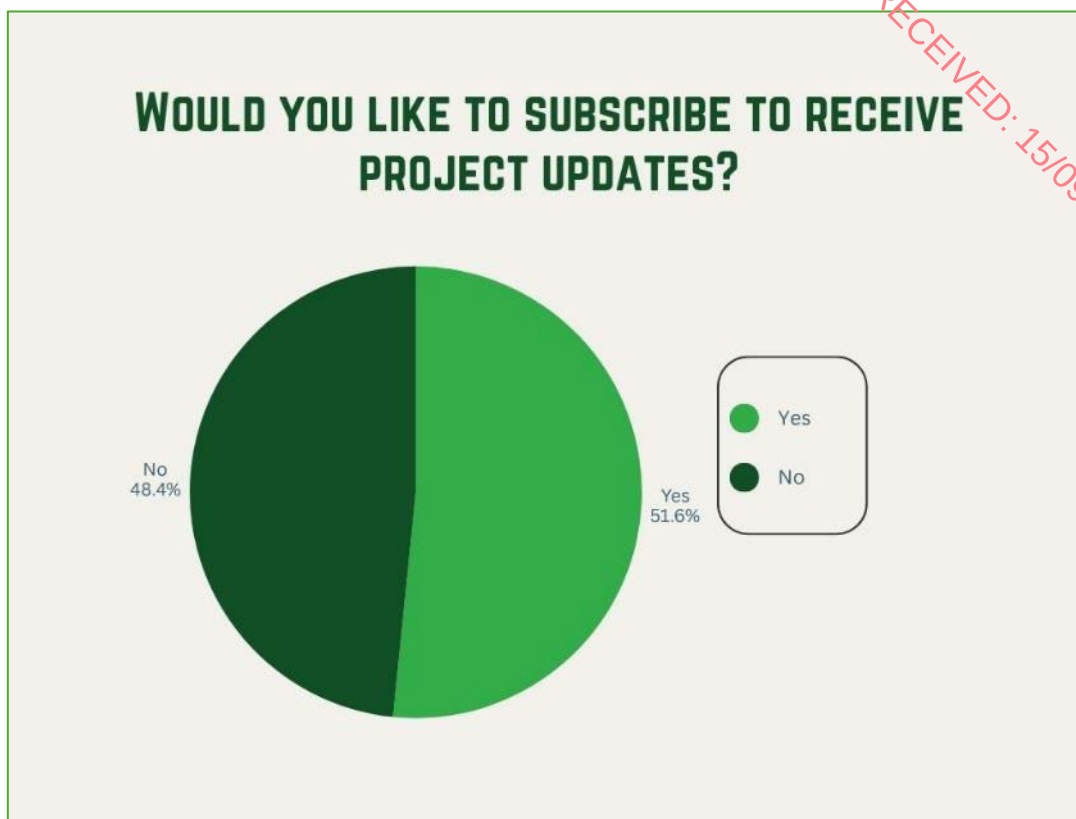


Figure 8 - Survey Question - Project Updates

Notification to TD's & Councillors

On the 23rd of April 2025, all local councillors and TD's received both email and phone calls with information regarding the Ballyfeeny Green Energy project. The responses received were varied from neutral to positive. Constructive feedback was received in relation to community engagement, which the team incorporated into the community engagement plan. This included informing local businesses and schools of the project.

Project Letter & Leaflet

On the 24th of April 2025, letters and leaflets were posted to all houses within 2 km of the project. Both the letter and leaflet outlined the key details of project, specifically the project location, benefits and the community benefit fund as well as offering further consultation to the community in the form of one-to-one community clinics.



Ballyfeeny Green Energy

Station Road,
Adare,
Co. Limerick

Telephone: +353 (0)61 975 200

Email: info@ballyfeenygreenenergy.ie

RECEIVED: 15/09/2025

Dear Resident,

I am writing to introduce myself as the Community Liaison Officer for Ballyfeeny Green Energy, a proposed wind energy project in your area. This proposed project is owned and managed by Greensource, an indigenous Irish firm with over two decades of experience in the development and management of renewable energy projects

Ireland faces a significant challenge as it transitions from a fossil fuel-based energy system to one powered by renewables. The Government's *Climate Action Plan 2024* identifies onshore wind as a key element in achieving this goal by enhancing clean electricity generation, meeting environmental targets, and ensuring energy security. We believe wind energy has a central role to play in Ireland's journey toward a low-carbon future.

We are pleased to begin consultation with you about our proposals for the Ballyfeeny Green Energy Project, which has the potential to deliver clean energy to the equivalent of 15,000 homes. The proposed project is a 6-turbine wind farm, on a site located in the townlands of Tully and Ballyfeeny, Co. Roscommon.

We recognise that communities neighbouring wind developments play a vital role in supporting the generation of green energy. As part of our community engagement process, we are committed to holding open and meaningful discussions with residents and interested parties. The feedback we receive will help shape and refine the project.

In line with Community Benefit Fund Guidelines, governed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), and based on the current project scope, Ballyfeeny Green Energy will generate a Community Benefit Fund estimated at €1.8 million over the first 15 years of operation. This amounts to approximately €125,000 per annum, which will be used to benefit key local projects and support wider investment in the community. There will be opportunities for you to join a new community committee to assist in the allocation of this Community Benefit Fund.

We have a dedicated team in place to ensure an open line of communication throughout the pre-planning process. You are welcome to contact us via phone, email, or by visiting our website: www.ballyfeenygreenenergy.ie. Over the coming weeks, our team will be visiting households to discuss the project in person. In the meantime, please find a leaflet enclosed with further information about our proposal.

We look forward to meeting with you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Nadine Walsh

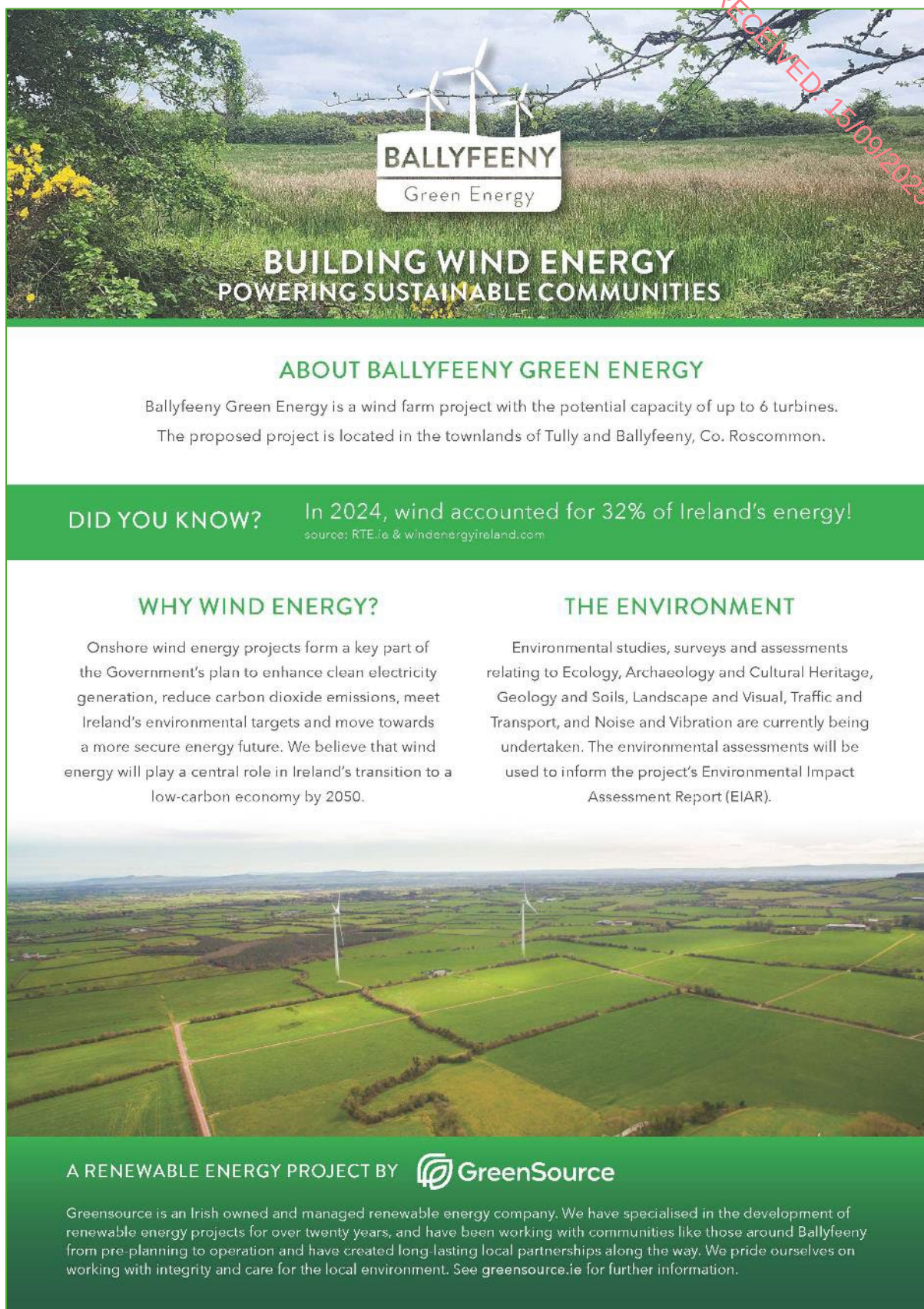


Community Liaison Officer

Ballyfeeny Green Energy

www.ballyfeenygreenenergy.ie

Figure 9 Resident Letter 1



BALLYFEENY
Green Energy

**BUILDING WIND ENERGY
POWERING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

ABOUT BALLYFEENY GREEN ENERGY

Ballyfeeny Green Energy is a wind farm project with the potential capacity of up to 6 turbines.
The proposed project is located in the townlands of Tully and Ballyfeeny, Co. Roscommon.

DID YOU KNOW? In 2024, wind accounted for 32% of Ireland's energy!
source: RTE.ie & windenergyireland.com

WHY WIND ENERGY?

Onshore wind energy projects form a key part of the Government's plan to enhance clean electricity generation, reduce carbon dioxide emissions, meet Ireland's environmental targets and move towards a more secure energy future. We believe that wind energy will play a central role in Ireland's transition to a low-carbon economy by 2050.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental studies, surveys and assessments relating to Ecology, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, Geology and Soils, Landscape and Visual, Traffic and Transport, and Noise and Vibration are currently being undertaken. The environmental assessments will be used to inform the project's Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

A RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT BY  **GreenSource**

Greensource is an Irish owned and managed renewable energy company. We have specialised in the development of renewable energy projects for over twenty years, and have been working with communities like those around Ballyfeeny from pre-planning to operation and have created long-lasting local partnerships along the way. We pride ourselves on working with integrity and care for the local environment. See greensource.ie for further information.

Figure 10 Project Leaflet - Front

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PROJECT BENEFITS

This project has the potential to:



PROVIDE CLEAN POWER
FOR UP TO 15,000 HOMES



OFFSET CARBON EMISSIONS
BY APPROXIMATELY 20,000
TONNES PER YEAR



GENERATE UP TO €125,000 IN
COMMUNITY FUNDING TO
THE LOCAL AREA EACH YEAR



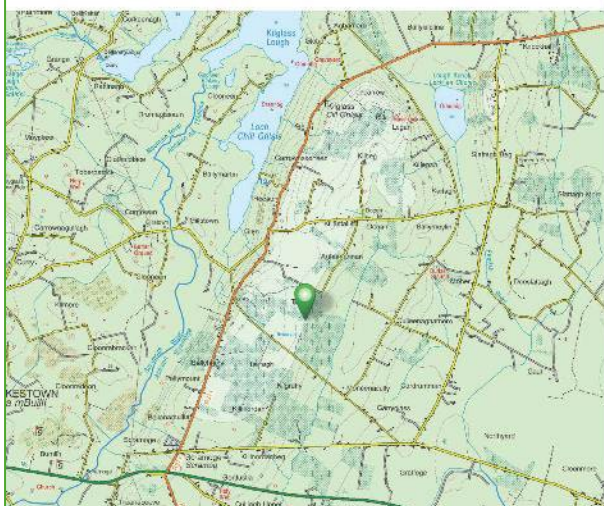
CREATE OVER 35 JOBS,
WORKING WITH LOCAL
SUPPLIERS WHERE POSSIBLE

THE COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

In line with Community Benefit Fund Guidelines, governed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), and based on the current project scope, Ballyfeeny Green Energy will generate a Community Benefit Fund estimated at €1.8 million over the first 15 years of operation. This amounts to approximately €125,000 per annum. The fund will be administered by a locally elected committee. There will be opportunities for you to join a new community committee to assist in the allocation of this Community Benefit Fund.

PROJECT AREA

The proposed site location is indicated on the map below. Ballyfeeny Green Energy are currently in discussions with Coillte about the inclusion of sections of Coillte property in the proposal in addition to other third party lands. If you have any Coillte related queries about the proposal, please contact lsinfo@coillte.ie



Description	% of Fund	Annual Amount
Initiatives and projects that support Sustainable Development Goals within the local area	40%	€50,000
Local clubs, societies and near neighbours	50%	€65,000 (shared between those closest to the project and the balance will be allocated to local clubs, societies and near neighbours within 2km of a turbine)
Administration	10% (Max)	€12,500

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We are currently at the community engagement phase of the project. Here is where we will engage directly with the local community to gather feedback on the proposed project. You will receive updates on the project via post or you can visit the project's dedicated website. To share your feedback, please visit our website and complete the survey.



LET'S DISCUSS

Our dedicated community team are available to discuss the project with you. Should you wish to arrange a personal consultation, please feel free to contact us:

- 061 975 200
- info@ballyfeenygreenenergy.ie
- www.ballyfeenygreenenergy.ie



SCAN ME

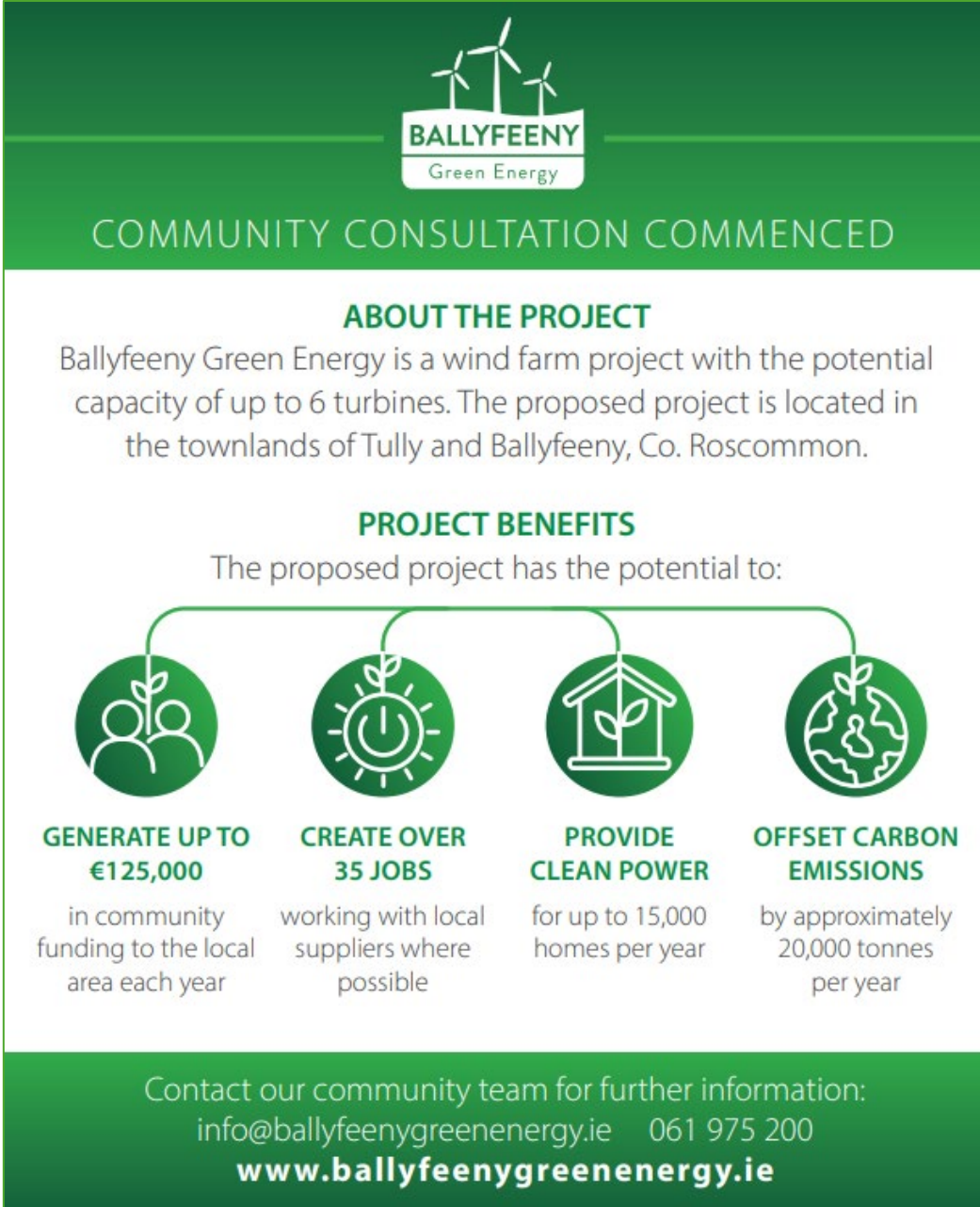


Figure 11 - Project Leaflet - Back

After distributing letters and leaflets to the local community regarding the project, the team received a number of emails and phone calls from residents. The Project Manager and Community Liaison Officer responded to all correspondence promptly and ensured that each query was addressed in a timely manner.

Notice of Public Consultation

On the 25th of April 2025, a notice of public consultation was published in the Roscommon People newspaper.



BALLYFEENY
Green Energy

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION COMMENCED

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Ballyfeeny Green Energy is a wind farm project with the potential capacity of up to 6 turbines. The proposed project is located in the townlands of Tully and Ballyfeeny, Co. Roscommon.

PROJECT BENEFITS

The proposed project has the potential to:

			
GENERATE UP TO €125,000	CREATE OVER 35 JOBS	PROVIDE CLEAN POWER	OFFSET CARBON EMISSIONS
in community funding to the local area each year	working with local suppliers where possible	for up to 15,000 homes per year	by approximately 20,000 tonnes per year

Contact our community team for further information:
info@ballyfeenygreenenergy.ie 061 975 200
www.ballyfeenygreenenergy.ie

Figure 12 - Project Advertisement

Door-to-door Visits

The community team visited all residences within 1 kilometre of the site from the morning of the 21st of May to the evening of the 22nd of May. When members of the community were not home to engage in consultation, they received a 'Sorry we missed you' letter to allow them to arrange a consultation at a later date.



Figure 13 - Call Back Letter

Ballyfeeny Green Energy Code of Respectful Community Engagement

During the door-to-door engagement for the proposed Ballyfeeny Green Energy project, members of the community engagement team were subjected to abusive language and threatening behaviour from a small number of residents. In several instances, team members faced hostility and felt the environment was unsafe to continue consultation. On multiple occasions, the level of intimidation made it necessary for team members to leave certain properties for their own safety. These incidents were deeply concerning and contrary to the spirit of constructive dialogue that the engagement process aims to foster. In light of this, a code of respectful engagement was prepared and used in all project communications going forward. The code details *'Our Community Team is happy to assist with any project-related queries and is committed to providing helpful, respectful, and timely support. We kindly ask that all communications remain courteous and respectful. The Ballyfeeny Green Energy community team reserve the right to refrain from further correspondence in cases that violates our code of respectful engagement.'* In advance of further one-to-one engagement, residents were asked to adhere to a code of respectful engagement as shown below in Figure 14.



RECEIVED: 3/19/2025

Code of Respectful Engagement for Community Consultation

We value and welcome your input on wind farm projects in your community. To ensure positive and productive dialogue, we ask that you follow this guidance when engaging with our team via phone, email, or in-person consultation. Our team will also abide by this.

1. General Principles

Be respectful: Treat all members of the engagement team and other participants with courtesy and kindness.

- Stay informed: Ask questions and seek clarification if needed—we're here to help.
- Listen actively: Allow others to speak and be open to different perspectives.
- Be respectful: Offensive language and behaviour will not be tolerated.

2. Phone Calls

- Begin by stating your name and the reason for your call.
- Use calm and respectful language throughout the conversation.
- Avoid shouting, interrupting, or using aggressive language.
- If a conversation becomes disrespectful or aggressive, the call may be ended.

3. Emails

- Use a clear subject line and write in a respectful tone.
- Clearly outline your questions or concerns.
- Avoid using offensive or threatening language—such messages will not receive a response.
- Our team will do their best to respond in a timely and helpful manner.

4. In-Person Consultations

- Be courteous to all attendees, including staff and other community members.
- Allow space for everyone to speak and be heard.
- Aggressive, discriminatory, or harassing behavior will not be tolerated.
- If necessary, staff may end the session or ask individuals to leave, to maintain a safe environment for respectful engagement.

Any questions can be addressed to info@ballyfeenygreenenergy.ie

www.ballyfeenygreenenergy.ie

Figure 14 - Code of Respectful Community Engagement

Virtual Consultations

When in-person meetings were not feasible, virtual consultations were offered to community members via Microsoft Teams. This approach enabled the community team to accommodate individuals seeking engagement by providing appointments at convenient times and dates for them, where possible. Virtual consultations remained a consistent feature throughout the engagement process and will continue to be available to ensure inclusivity and responsiveness to all community members' consultation requests.

Community Clinic Letter

A letter was issued to all houses within 1 kilometre of the site on the 26th of June 2025 to invite them to attend the community clinics. An update was also posted to the website.



Ballyfeeny Green Energy
Address: Station Road, Adare, Co. Limerick
Telephone: +353 (0)61 975 200
Email: info@ballyfeenygreenenergy.ie

June, 2025

RECEIVED: 15/09/2025

Dear Resident,

We are writing to invite you to Ballyfeeny Green Energy's community clinic. This marks an important step forward as we continue to design and develop this renewable energy project in line with best environmental practices and community feedback.

Appointment-based community clinics will be held in the second week of July. These clinics are an opportunity for local residents like yourself to meet with our Community Engagement Team to find out more about this sustainable energy project.

The clinic is suitable for individuals or a maximum of three people per session. Each clinic will be held by appointment only and is designed to provide a one-on-one setting where you can:

- Learn more about the proposed project
- Ask questions
- Share your thoughts and feedback

To schedule an appointment, please contact us by emailing info@ballyfeenygreenenergy.ie or by calling 061 975 200.

We look forward to meeting you.

Yours sincerely,



Nadine Walsh,

The Community Team at Ballyfeeny Green Energy

Please note: Our Community Team is happy to assist with any project-related queries and is committed to providing helpful, respectful, and timely support. We kindly ask that all communications remain courteous and respectful. The Ballyfeeny Green Energy community team reserve the right to refrain from further correspondence in cases that violates our codes of respectful engagement.

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Figure 15 - Community Clinic Letter

Community Clinic

Community clinics were held from July 8th to 10th at the Percy French Hotel in Strokestown. Sit-down meetings were facilitated between the community team and community members, with many participating in the clinic. This provided the space for meaningful engagement where community members asked questions, raised their concerns and offered insightful feedback about what the project could do for the surrounding community. All people who attended these clinics were provided with a feedback form, in which zero forms were completed. The clinic set-up can be seen in Figure 16 below.



Figure 16 Community Clinic Set - Up

In response to the hostility faced during door-to-door visits, community clinics were held as individual resident meetings allow for meaningful and constructive conversations, where everyone could express their individual feedback, concerns, and questions. Where members of the community were unable or preferred not to attend the clinic, a visit to their home was facilitated on the same dates.

The conversations at the community clinic were both constructive and informative. Members of the community were offered information on the project, including turbine layout, shadow flicker, noise, and the community benefit fund. The opportunity for distance checks were provided for those who requested them. Following the community clinics, additional information was uploaded to the project website and

provided to those who requested them during their appointment. Following the community clinic the community team continued to engage with the local community including responding to emails providing key facts about the project to residents and the offer of virtual meetings, and meetings to be held at alternative locations.

Planning Notification Letter

A letter was issued to all members within a 1km radius of the site, informing them that the application for the Ballyfeeny Green Energy project was submitted.

Phone Calls

Approximately 20 phone calls have been answered to date.

Emails

Over 100 emails have been received to date.

Key Issues Raised During Consultation

Feedback on Shadow Flicker and Noise

During the engagement process, several community members expressed concerns about the potential for experiencing shadow flicker and noise nuisance at their homes.

They were assured that as a part of the Environmental Impact Assessment, shadow flicker and noise would be assessed in line with National Policy, Roscommon County Development Plan, European Directives and World Health Organisation regulations. We assured the members that these guidelines have been drafted to ensure that developments are held to the highest standards of scrutiny, and to achieve a balance between meeting our energy goals, and the effect on the local environment.

Residents were informed that shadow flicker can only be experienced when the sun is low in the sky near the horizon, typically during sunrise and sunset when the turbine is between the sun and the house, therefore the opportunity for shadow flicker to occur is not constant. They were assured that with advancing wind turbine technology and their ability to automatically shut down and start up the turbines, that this software will be utilised to prevent shadow flicker from occurring. Ballyfeeny Green Energy commit to adopting the latest technology and industry best practices to ensure that adverse shadow flicker will be eliminated at houses. This is detailed within the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

In regard to noise, members were assured that the Ballyfeeny Green Energy project will comply with best practice noise criteria recommended in Irish Guidance when operational. They were also informed that once operational a noise monitoring regime would be undertaken to ensure the proposed project complies with regulations.

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Feedback on Proximity and Setback Distances

During the engagement process, several community members expressed concerns about the proximity to dwellings and the setback distances from turbines. The project team assured community members by providing distance checks between members' homes and the nearest turbine. They were also informed that a setback distance of 640 metres (4 times the tip height) was in place, in line with the Draft 2019 Wind Energy Guidelines.

Feedback on Environmental Impact

During the engagement process, several community members expressed concerns about the potential environmental impact of the project. They were assured that as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment the effects of the project on the surrounding environment would be assessed by competent professionals and mitigation measures would be implemented where necessary. They were assured that their concerns would be noted for consideration within the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Feedback On Wind Energy Guidelines

During our community engagement, several residents expressed concern that the existing 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines are outdated and no longer provide adequate protection or clarity for communities. Many called for the immediate adoption of the Draft 2019 Wind Energy Guidelines, specifically in relation to noise, shadow flicker, and setback distances. Ballyfeeny Green Energy support Wind Energy Ireland's position that new evidence-based wind energy guidelines are needed, as stated in their opening statement to the to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate, Environment and Energy on the 16th of July 2025. Importantly, the proposed Ballyfeeny Green Energy project has been designed with due regard to the principles outlined in the 2019 Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines. This includes maintaining a minimum setback distance of four times the turbine tip height from residential properties and eliminating adverse shadow flicker impact through turbine design and operational controls. Our adherence to these draft measures reflects our commitment to best industry practices, responsible development, and the well-being of the local community and these conformities are outlined in the relevant chapters in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report submitted as part of the planning application.

Project Partnership

Partnership with Ballyfeeny National School

A meeting was requested and held with the principal of Ballyfeeny National School. The principal informed Ballyfeeny Green Energy of how we could potentially support sustainable initiatives at the school.

Ballyfeeny NS is planning to develop new sustainable infrastructure, including an eco-friendly playground, and to enhance its climate-related education programs.

Ballyfeeny Green Energy has presented a proposal of funding for the school's sustainable development, and it is with the school's Board of Management for review. This partnership is independent of the Community Benefit Fund and would support the school's sustainability initiatives.

We look forward to the potential of working together to inspire and empower the local students while contributing positively to the local community and environment.

Consultation on Community Benefits

Community Benefits and Community Benefit Fund Distribution

- **Environmental:** Based on the current project scope, the proposed project has the potential to displace 20,000 tonnes of CO₂ per annum and provide the capacity to power approximately 15,000 homes with clean energy.
- **Employment:** The project will support employment in the energy supply and construction sectors, creating approximately 35 direct and indirect jobs during the construction phase. Once operational, the proposed Project will support 2-3 long-term technical jobs, in addition to jobs for the wider ancillary services. The team is committed to working with local suppliers where possible to source engineering works, materials, equipment hire and catering.
- **Financial:** In line with Community Benefit Fund Guidelines, governed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), and based on the current project scope, Ballyfeeny Green Energy will generate a Community Benefit Fund estimated at over €1.8 million over the first 15 years of operation. This amounts to approximately €125,000 per annum. Ballyfeeny 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:

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Description	% of Fund	Annual Amount
Initiatives and projects that support Sustainable Development Goals within the local area	40%	€50,000
Local clubs, societies and near neighbours	50%	€62,500 (shared between those closest to the project and the balance will be allocated to local clubs, societies and near neighbours within 2km of a turbine)
Administration	10% (Max)	€12,500

Figure 17 Worked example of the Community Benefit Fund allocation

Sentiment Analysis

All in-person, door-to-door consultations regarding the proposed Ballyfeeny Green Energy project were recorded and categorised as positive, neutral, or negative based on residents' responses during the engagement process. The findings revealed a mix of sentiments, with 39% of interactions deemed positive, 28% neutral, and 32% negative.

Sentiment Analysis	
Negative	32%
Neutral	28%
Positive	39%

Local Opposition Group

While the majority of local residents were either supportive or undecided at this stage, the emergence of a local opposition group shortly after these consultations suggests that concerns expressed during the engagement may have gathered a coordinated resistance post this phase of consultation.



Figure 18 - Opposition Group Facebook Page 1

After the completion of the door-to-door visits, a local group was created named 'Ballyfeeny Against Turbines' and later renamed to 'Ballyfeeny Action Group'. They held community meetings to rally support for the opposition to the proposed project. A Facebook page was also created, and at the time of writing the report, it had 136 followers. The group also erected several signs across the area with slogans such as 'no wind turbines here'. The group encouraged members to participate in the survey available on the project website, as well as send a pre-formulated email to the project email. Misinformation regarding shadow flicker, noise, and other key project facts was circulated via the opposition group's Facebook page and at the locally held meetings.

The community team have engaged with the Ballyfeeny Action Group via email and phone on several occasions. A meeting was held with three committee members in July 2025. The meeting lasted almost one hour. The group asked for the meeting to be

described as 'negative'. A detailed and constructive discussion was held on several topics, including reasons for site selection, noise, shadow flicker, health impacts, property value, visual impacts, housing setback and the Community Benefit Fund.

After the meeting, meeting minutes were circulated by the Ballyfeeny Action Group that did not accurately reflect the content or tone of the meeting. In order to ensure that all members have access to clear, factual, and objective information, a comprehensive Key Project Facts document has been created. This document provides an accurate account of the project details discussed and aims to address any potential misunderstandings or misrepresentations that may have arisen. This document can be found in Appendix 1.

Supporting Continued Engagement

Consultation in the form of one-to-one visits, and video conferences continues to date and will continue throughout the planning application process. The dedicated community team remains in place and will ensure residents receive support when needed. Consultation also continues with the opposition group via email. The project website will be regularly updated with key milestones.

Summation

Ballyfeeny Green Energy remains committed to transparent, respectful, and ongoing dialogue with the local community. Through a comprehensive consultation process including face-to-face engagement, online platforms, community clinics, and dedicated response channels we have sought to ensure that residents are fully informed, heard, and respected at every stage of the project's development. While we acknowledge differing views within the community, we believe that meaningful engagement can foster mutual understanding and collaboration. Ballyfeeny Green Energy welcomes continued engagement with all stakeholders and looks forward to building long-lasting partnerships that contribute to a more sustainable, climate-change resilient, and empowered community.

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Appendix 1: Key Project Facts

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Key Project Facts- Discussion with the Ballyfeeny Against Turbines Committee 08/07/2025

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

- The consultant undertaking the Environmental Impact Assessment Report is Rowan Engineering Consultants Ltd.
- Consultation with statutory and non-statutory bodies is ongoing for the proposed project that will help inform the EIAR.
- Environmental surveys have been ongoing for the proposed project for over 2 years in order to inform the EIAR in line with best practice guidance. All survey data necessary for the EIAR will accompany the planning application for the proposed project.
- All surveys undertaken have been used to inform the project design.
- All matters discussed during the community clinics regarding the proposed project will be incorporated into the EIAR. All points raised from the Community Clinics, responses to the project website, project email, and project phone queries and from the visits to local residents will be compiled and presented in the EIAR. In the interest of allowing open conversations with all parties, all the items raised will be summarised and responded to, though not attributed to the individual that raised the point.

Site & Location

Key considerations for selecting the proposed project for consideration for wind energy development include,

- local, national and European policy context
- proximity to local dwellings/receptors
- proximity to designated European Sites
- favourable wind speeds for wind energy development
- proximity and connection points to the national electricity grid
- archaeological and cultural heritage features
- soils and hydrological landscape and;
- supporting infrastructure such as the local road network for the delivery of wind turbine components.
- The site was chosen due to its designation by Roscommon County Council as Most Favoured for wind energy development, within the Renewable Energy Strategy of the Roscommon County Development Plan 2022 – 2028.
- The process of the determination of site suitability and the reasonable consideration of alternatives will be presented in the EIAR.
- A visual amenity setback distance of four times the turbine tip height in line with the Draft 2019 Wind Energy Development Guidelines is achievable from the proposed wind turbines to dwellings/receptors. The proposed setback distance to dwellings/receptors is 640m (160m maximum tip height x 4). This is in excess of the current guidelines Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006) which requires a 500m setback.
- The dwellings/receptors have been mapped using open data sources such as google satellite imagery, geodirectories and Roscommon County Council e-plan, followed by a ground-truthing exercise to verify the receptors surrounding the proposed project.
- The proposed project will include a grid connection to the national grid. The proposed connection point will be at Sliabh Bawn 110kV Substation. The grid connection will

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consist of a 38kV underground cable primarily within the carriageway of the local road network (R371). The grid connection will be designed in accordance with ESB Networks specifications. No overhead powerlines are proposed in this project.

- Maps are available on the project website here: <https://ballyfeenygreenenergy.ie/project-information/>

Turbines

- Ballyfeeny Green Energy are in receipt of a design flexibility opinion from Roscommon County Council.
- The dimensions of the wind turbine technology options being proposed are as shown on the drawing presented at the community clinic and attached to this email.
- The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) will assess the three technology options being presented.
- The turbine locations are subject to change up to the finalisation of the EIAR and planning application documentation. The final grid reference points will be provided as part of the planning application to Roscommon County Council.

Shadow Flicker

- Shadow Flicker is an effect which can occur when the sun is low in the sky and the rotating blades of a wind turbine casts a moving shadow which, if passes over a window in a nearby house or other receptor can result in a flicker in the incoming light. Shadow flicker does not occur all the time, it can only occur under specific circumstances and is present for only a short duration when:
 - The sun is shining
 - The turbine is directly between the sun and the receptor
 - There is enough wind energy to ensure the turbine blades are moving.

If any one of the conditions outlined above is absent, shadow flicker cannot occur.

- The 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines require that no more than 30 minutes per day or 30 hours per year of shadow flicker is experienced at offices and dwellings.
- In line with recommendations of the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019), Ballyfeeny Green Energy has committed to eliminate shadow flicker at receptors which will be detailed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) chapter submitted as part of the planning application.
- Turbine technologies are ever evolving and the most up to date shadow flicker control technologies will be used to ensure the elimination of shadow flicker at receptors is achieved.

Noise & Vibration

- Ballyfeeny Green Energy will comply with best practice guidance and literature relevant to the proposed project.
- A noise impact assessment will be conducted and will be included as a part of the EIAR and planning application.
- The occurrence of Special Audible Characteristics such as tonality, amplitude modulation and Low Frequency Noise will be discussed in the Noise and Vibration chapter associated with the EIAR.
- A comprehensive post construction noise compliance monitoring programme will be implemented to ensure the proposed project complies with the best practice noise limits set out and any subsequent conditions of planning.

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- A vibration assessment will be completed for the proposed project to assess any effects associated with blasting at the local quarry. Engagement with the turbine manufacturers have confirmed that the vibration levels anticipated are well below the thresholds that could cause any damage to the proposed wind turbines.

Land, Soils & Water

- As part of the EIAR on site surveys associated with Land, Soils and Water have been undertaken for the proposed project.
- The respective chapters of the EIAR will assess any potential effects associated with land and soils as well as the surrounding water environment.
- Potential effects on the surface water and groundwater will be assessed as part of the proposed project including the assessment of any mapped wells surrounding the proposed project.
- The assessment will also take into consideration any likely effects on the neighbouring quarry and its activities.

Traffic Management

- A comprehensive traffic management plan (TMP) will be prepared and will accompany the EIAR and planning application for the proposed project.
- The TMP will include traffic control measures in accordance with best practice for any works on or near the public road network, including works along the grid connection route and turbine delivery route.
- Turbine components are proposed to be delivered from the port of Galway and utilise the N5 bypass of Strokestown. Large turbine components such as blades, towers, nacelles etc. will be delivered under license and escorted by An Garda Síochána to site.

Community Benefit Fund & Community Engagement

- In line with Community Benefit Fund Guidelines, governed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), and based on the current project scope, Ballyfeeny Green Energy will generate a Community Benefit Fund estimated at over €1.8 million over the first 15 years of operation. This amounts to approximately €125,000 per annum. Ballyfeeny 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 the figure below:

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Description	% of Fund	Annual Amount
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Local clubs, societies and near neighbours	50%	€62,500 (shared between those closest to the project and the balance will be allocated to local clubs, societies and near neighbours within 2km of a turbine)
Administration	10% (Max)	€12,500

- The near neighbour payment will be made to all households within 1 km of the project and the remaining fund will be allocated to local clubs, societies and near neighbours within 2 km of the project by the administration committee of the Community Benefit Fund.
- [RESS | Community Benefit Fund | SEA](#) has further information on how the community benefit fund scheme can be used.
- Ballyfeeny Green Energy is committed to meaningful and transparent community engagement. Community Consultation was launched in April 2025 with an advertisement in the Roscommon Post newspaper. Project information was sent to all houses within 2km, and all houses within 1km of the proposed project were visited by the community team. Community Clinics took place in July of 2025. The dedicated community team continues to be available for consultations with all interested parties, and engagement is ongoing.

Educational Partnerships

- Education is a core part of what we do. Our team regularly work with primary schools to teach our younger generations about climate change, climate action and environmental sustainability.
- Ballyfeeny Green Energy welcomes the potential opportunity to support community institutions such as Ballyfeeney National School and other local initiatives.

Next Steps

- Ballyfeeny Green Energy, Rowan and our specialists are completing the EIAR for planning submission. Once submitted, all the assessment and reports will be available through the Roscommon County Council website for review, and links will be provided via the Ballyfeeny Green Energy website. At that time anyone who wishes will be able to make an observation on the proposed project through the Council.

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