



An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902

24 June 2026

Reference ABP-319864-24

Dear sir/madam,

I am writing to make a submission on behalf of Wind Energy Ireland in support of the application for planning permission by Sure Partners Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of SSE Plc, for the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project.

Wind Energy Ireland represents the Irish wind energy industry. We are the collective voice of more than 200 companies working to make Ireland an energy-independent electrostate, powered by affordable, clean, Irish energy.

Arklow Bank 2 is a proposed 800 MW offshore wind project being developed in the Irish Sea off the coasts of Wicklow and North Wexford.

Benefits of wind energy

I would like to begin by identifying the benefits of wind energy to Irish families, businesses and communities which would be significantly enhanced by the development of Arklow Bank 2.

Security

Wind energy is Ireland's main source of renewable electricity. Last year onshore Irish wind farms provided a third of the country's electricity and strengthened our energy security.

Every hour, Ireland spends €1 million to import fossil fuels and the construction of new wind farms like Arklow Bank 2 will help to keep that money at home, supporting Irish businesses, growing our economy, creating jobs and investing in coastal Ireland.

In the past four years, Irish wind farms cut spending on imported fossil fuels and carbon credits on the island of Ireland by €6.7 billion.¹ In 2025 alone, just for the Republic of Ireland, wind farms displaced €840 million worth of gas imports, enough to heat every household in the country.

¹ [*Cutting Carbon, Cutting Bills 2025*](#).

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Wind energy saved €6.7 billion in gas costs since 2022

Last year wind saved the equivalent annual emissions of 1.2 million homes

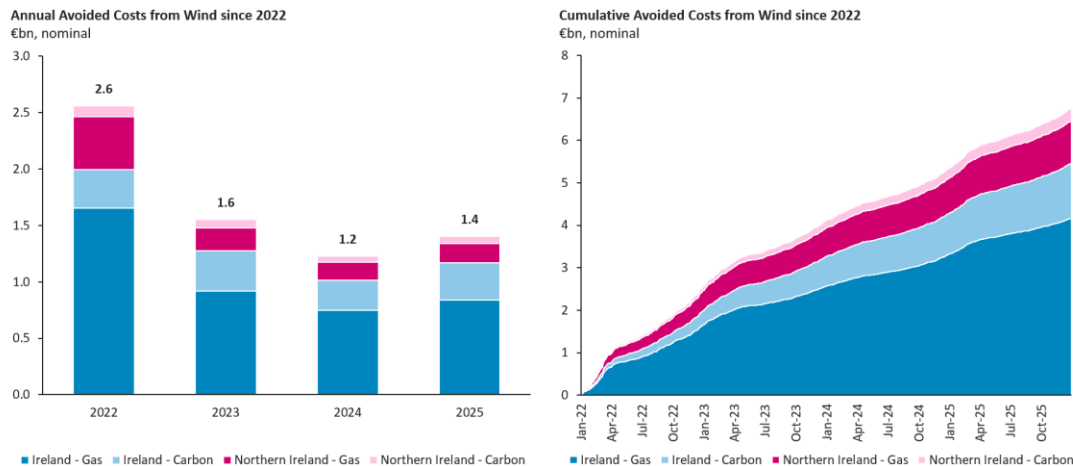


Figure 1: Source: Cutting Carbon, Cutting Bills (Baringa, 2025)

To put that in context that impact is being delivered by over 5,000 MW of installed onshore wind energy and the contribution of the 800 MW Arklow Bank 2 project can thus be expected to displace – at least – tens of millions of euro of gas imports.

Affordable

Wind farms protect and support Irish electricity consumers. Research published last year by Baringa demonstrates that since 2000, renewable electricity has – conservatively – saved consumers nearly €1 billion in their electricity bills.

Between 2020 and 2023 alone, at the height of the previous fossil fuel crisis, renewable electricity cut bills by an average of €320 per person.²

Every single Irish electricity consumer is better off today because our members – supported by successive governments – built wind and solar farms. This will continue to be true when Arklow Bank 2 is built and those Irish families and businesses struggling to pay their bills will benefit from enormous volumes of affordable power.

Clean

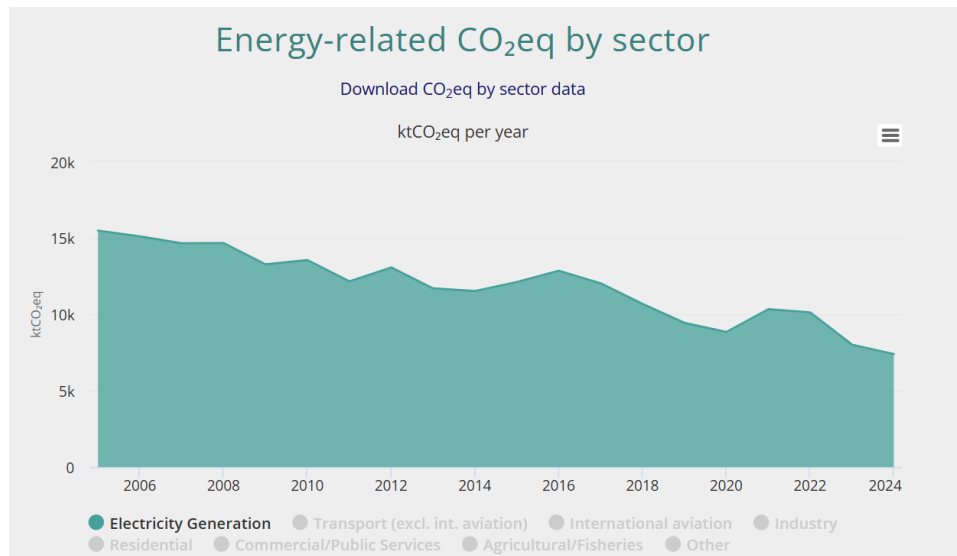
Finally, Irish wind farms produce clean electricity, cutting the carbon emissions which are driving the global climate emergency.

As the SEAI's figures show (see graphic on the next page), from 2005 to 2024, carbon emissions from the electricity sector have more than halved despite significant rising demand.³

² [Good for your Pocket.](#)

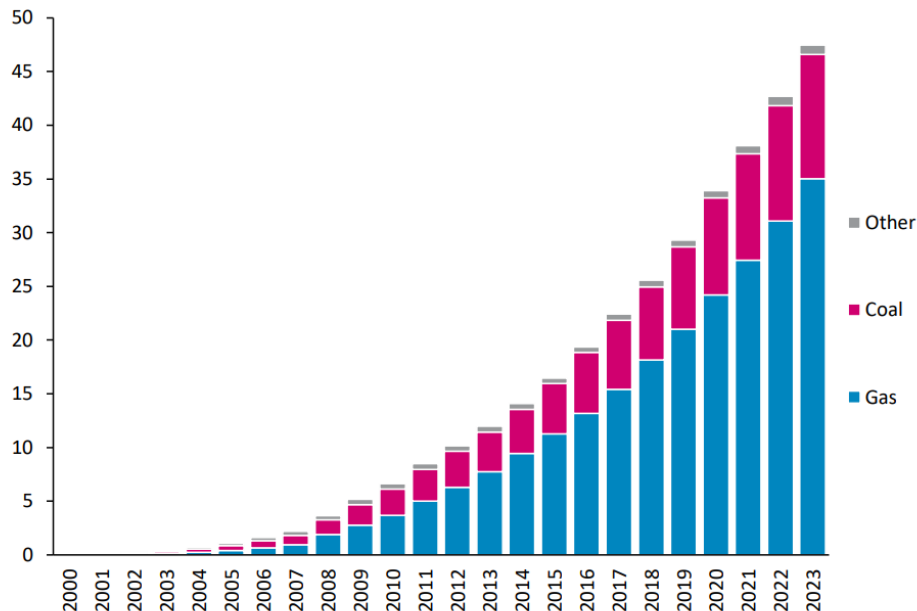
³ <https://www.seai.ie/data-and-insights/seai-statistics/co2>

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Irish renewable energy has avoided more than 47 million tonnes of CO₂ between 2000 and 2023, equal to the lifetime emissions of 1.1 million midsize cars, as shown in the graph below from *Cutting Carbon, Cutting Bills 2025*.⁴

Figure 3: Cumulative avoided CO₂ emissions in Ireland from 2000 to 2023, million tonnes



⁴ [Cutting Carbon, Cutting Bills 2025](#).



The benefit of our existing onshore wind farms to Ireland is indisputable and the development of Arklow Bank 2 would only improve this, ensuring greater Irish energy security, more affordable electricity prices and cleaner, carbon-free, power.

Phase One and Arklow Bank 2

Arklow Bank 2 is one of the five east-coast offshore wind energy projects collectively known as the Phase One projects.

The delivery of Arklow Bank 2 and the other four projects is essential to meet Ireland's 2030 Climate Action Plan renewable electricity targets and commitments made in the Programme for Government.

They are also critical to achieving Ireland's carbon emissions targets, legally enshrined in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.

Wind Energy Ireland has repeatedly emphasised that every effort must be made by the Irish Government and relevant State bodies and agencies to strategically and actively support these projects until the turbines are in the water and exporting clean, affordable, electricity to consumers.

In addition, the development of a major infrastructure project like Arklow Bank 2 will attract significant investment to Arklow and the surrounding region, both during the construction of the project, but also during its operation.

The delivery of Arklow Bank 2 means jobs, investment and significant amounts of resources in community benefit funds for Arklow and the south Wicklow – north Wexford region.

We would respectfully ask An Coimisiún Pleanála to consider these points in making a decision on this application for planning permission and to make a positive decision for Irish electricity consumers and our country's response to the global climate emergency.

Yours sincerely,

Justin Moran
Director of External Affairs
Wind Energy Ireland