

# Derrinlough Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund

Community Consultation Summer 2025



# Introduction

**As part of the development of Derrinlough Wind Farm we wish to ensure that people living in the vicinity of the wind farm benefit the most. During the first year of commercial operation, Derrinlough Wind Farm DAC, will develop and establish a Community Benefit Fund for the wind farm which will include:**

## **Strand One:**

Financial assistance to local communities and not-for-profit organisations within a prescribed distance of the wind farm (subject to the project meeting the overall terms and conditions of the Fund). A key criterion is that the projects and initiatives will benefit the communities surrounding the wind farm. As part of this strand, a minimum of 40% of the overall Fund shall be paid to not-for-profit community enterprises whose primary focus or aim is the promotion of initiatives towards the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular, Goals 4, 7, 11 and 13, including education, energy efficiency, sustainable energy and climate action initiatives. Derrinlough Wind Farm DAC wishes to consult with the local community regarding the Fund Guidelines that will be applicable to this Strand.

As part of this Strand, a Fund Committee will be established to review and allocate funding in line with the Fund's terms and conditions. The Committee will consist of a number of volunteer community representatives and representatives of Derrinlough Wind Farm DAC. Following the conclusion of this consultation process, we will commence recruitment of the Fund Committee later this year. This Strand will open later this year for applications. Details will be announced in due course.

## **Strand Two:**

An Educational Scholarship Scheme to support a number of local students in accessing further education. It will provide a monetary grant to a number of successful applicants, for each year of study, up to a maximum of 4 years, for a number of students (including apprenticeships) living in the vicinity of the wind farm. The Scholarship may be used towards course fees, accommodation, tools, transport costs etc. This Strand will open in August 2025 for applications.

## **Strand Three:**

A Near Neighbour Scheme which will offer principal primary residents within 1.85km of a wind turbine an annual fixed rate contribution towards their electricity usage. In addition to the electricity contribution payment, this Scheme will also offer participants a contribution towards the completion of energy measures on the property and/or education support. This is in line with existing near neighbour schemes that are active at other BnM operational wind farms.

## **Strand Four:**

10% of the overall Fund will be ringfenced annually for administration costs associated with the management and administration of the Fund.

Once the Derrinlough Wind Farm is operational, Derrinlough Wind Farm DAC will make an annual contribution of €2/MWh (of Loss-Adjusted Metered Generation) into a Community Benefit Fund. As the Fund value is calculated based on the annual output of the wind farm it will vary year on year.

To complete the feedback questionnaire please visit [www.derrinloughwindfarm.ie](http://www.derrinloughwindfarm.ie) or scan the QR below. Alternatively, please complete the feedback form and return via the FREEPOST envelope enclosed.

Please submit your responses by **15th July 2025**.

For further details, please contact Enda on 087 057 9141



Scan the QR code to complete the feedback questionnaire online



# UN Sustainable Development Goals

As part of the Community Benefit Fund, a minimum of 40% of Funds will be allocated to not-for-profit community enterprises whose primary focus or aim is the promotion of initiatives towards the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals have been set by the UN for all countries to deal with the challenges that are faced worldwide in order to grow sustainably over the 21st century.



The use of Funds to help address these challenges for local communities is important in developing sustainable communities in Ireland and in the achievement of a variety of national targets such as those pertaining to energy and climate. Fulsome delivery of the SDGs will enable a fundamental change to a greener, more inclusive economy and, more resilient communities.

To those ends, the Fund will place a particular emphasis on **Goals 4, 7, 11 and 13 - Quality Education, Affordable and Clean Energy, Sustainable Cities and Communities and Climate Action**. These goals have particular resonance for renewable electricity projects and the communities that host them.



**Goal 4 - Quality Education:** Funds could support knowledge and skills needed in communities to promote sustainable development, through education for

sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles. Formal training programmes to upskill communities are particularly desirable. Scholarship schemes are also encouraged.



**Goal 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy:** Funds could support energy efficiency projects or initiatives that encourage and deliver renewable electricity generation projects. Giving

local communities the ability to buy into the process themselves can be an important step in the development of sustainable energy communities



**Goal 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities:** Funds could be used to strengthen efforts to protect and enhance the cultural and natural heritage of the local community. Funds could also help in implementing integrated policies and plans for communities towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change.



**Goal 13 - Climate Action:** Funds can be used to improve education, awareness raising and improve capacity on climate change early warning, mitigation, adaptation and

impact reduction.



# Community Benefit Fund

## Thematic areas

In order to be eligible to apply for Funding under this category of the Community Benefit Fund, projects will have to meet at least one of the following six thematic areas:

### Biodiversity

Your project helps to protect, preserve and enhance habitats and life in your community, in particular those that contribute to ecosystem restoration in your area. Community Biodiversity Action Plans are especially desirable and can be supported as well as actions arising such as community allotments or bird nature trails.

### Environmental Sustainability

Your project enhances the local, natural and built environment for the community. Actions to deliver on recommendations from Energy Master Plans, integral in SEAL's SEC initiative, are appropriate. So too are community energy efficiency schemes or old mill wheel restoration. Any measures that make a positive contribution to the evolution of the circular economy are particularly welcome.

### Recreation

Your project delivers community-based sport and recreation activities such as upgrades to running tracks for local athletics clubs or sensory areas in outdoor playgrounds.

### Social Solidarity

Your project generates greater social cohesion and/or generates health and well-being benefits. Men's shed activities or community transport initiatives are examples.

### Culture and Heritage

Your project increases cultural awareness and preserves and promotes your local heritage. Your local museum or heritage centre may need some enhancements.

### Tourism

Your project develops new, and strengthens existing tourism initiatives, which make a contribution to the local economy. Eco camp sites or water-based activities could fit the bill.



## Fund Committee

The Fund Committee will be the decision-making body to make recommendations on the allocation of Funding to not-for-profit-community enterprises in line with the evaluation criteria of the Fund. It will undertake a vital role in supporting the strategic purpose of the Fund and undertaking the assessment and evaluation of all funding proposals in line with the Fund's terms and conditions.

The Fund Committee will consist of a number of volunteer community representatives, Derrinlough DAC and the Administrator.

While Fund Committee sizes may vary depending on circumstances, it is envisaged that a Fund Committee would not be smaller than 5 persons, including the Developer and Administrator. Following the conclusion of this consultation process, we will commence recruitment of the Fund Committee later this year.

# Who can apply for funding?

It is proposed, that in the first instant a distance of up to 10km should be considered, but over time, this area could be expanded.

The Fund will be open to individuals, and not-for-profit groups such as community and voluntary groups, charities, social enterprises and clubs and societies. All applicants that are entities should ensure they are appropriately constituted.



# What is ineligible for support?

To ensure the proper governance of the Fund, it should not be used to support any of the following arrangements:

- Retrospective funding
- Applications that promote religious or political activities
- Activities which do not directly benefit the local community or align with the funding strategy
- The direct replacement of statutory funding. The Funds are not designed to support statutory or other accountable bodies unless they can provide evidence that the project is community-led, open, accessible and for the benefit of the community and is not a statutory responsibility.

# Evaluation criteria

Each application received by the Fund will be evaluated according Fund criteria.  
At a minimum, this criteria will include:

- Project location within the hinterland of the wind farm, or provides services to the area from a Service Centre
- Evaluation of data on the need and potential impact of this proposal on the people and communities who live within the surrounding area
- Feasibility of the proposal including timelines and costs
- Assessment of thematic objectives and aims of the Fund as set out in its strategy
- Contribution of the proposal to sustainability and social inclusion
- It is recommended that extra weighting should be given to proposals that have energy efficiency, sustainable energy and climate action initiatives
- Longevity of benefits or legacy impact of the initiative.



#### Call us

Contact our Community Liaison Officer  
Enda on 087 0579141

#### Email us

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#### Website

[www.derrinloughwindfarm.ie](http://www.derrinloughwindfarm.ie)

#### Write to us

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