

Next Steps

We welcome your comments and feedback on any aspect of this project.

Winter 2024/25

- Community engagement continues with our CLOs available to discuss the project.
- Environment studies and on-site surveys continue.
- Wind farm site design is progressed based on results of studies and surveys.

Spring/Summer 2025

- Ongoing community engagement with our CLOs.
- Detailed brochure published.
- Refined turbine layout generated and shared with the community.
- Project updates uploaded onto the website.
- Virtual exhibition goes live including photomontages showing the project from various viewpoints.
- Local community engagement clinic held.



In addition to the specific engagements noted above, our CLOs are available throughout all stages to discuss any queries or concerns.



Contact us:

Community Liaison Officers:
Eamonn Keavney, Tom Costello

Call: Eamonn on 087 608 2061
or Tom on 087 352 5961

Email: lissinagroagh@futureenergyireland.ie

Website: lissinagroaghwindfarm.ie

 Lissinagroagh
Wind Farm

Newsletter 3
Winter 2024/25

Introduction

Our third newsletter on the proposed Lissinagroagh Wind Farm provides a project update. We encourage you to take some time to read the contents.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project in more detail, please get in touch with your local Community Liaison Officers (CLOs), Tom Costello and Eamonn Keavney, whose contact details are on the back of this newsletter.

Project Update

Detailed surveys and environmental studies for Lissinagroagh Wind Farm will continue during winter 2024/25. These studies are undertaken to understand the local environment and design the wind farm so that it makes the most of the available land and avoids sensitive habitats or species. The final wind farm design, as detailed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), will include the location of turbines and associated site infrastructure, access roads, hardstands and an electrical substation.

Surveys and studies to inform the preparation of the EIAR cover the following areas:

- Population and Human Health
- Biodiversity
- Ornithology
- Land, Soils and Geology
- Hydrology and Hydrogeology
- Shadow Flicker
- Material Assets
- Noise and Vibration
- Landscape and Visual Impact
- Air Quality
- Climate
- Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
- Traffic and Transport

The EIAR will be available to view as part of the planning application.

We welcome and encourage any information or insights that you may have in relation to this site and the surveys and studies being undertaken.

A summary of some of the studies and surveys is provided below.

Biodiversity

The biodiversity of the proposed wind farm site is being surveyed by an experienced team of ecologists and ornithologists. This includes studies on birds, bats, and aquatic and terrestrial habitats. These surveys have been ongoing for a number of years, particularly with respect to birds, and are informing the design of the wind farm.

The scope of the survey work is proportionate to the scale and nature of the proposed development and is being carried out in line with recognised good practice guidance such as that produced by NatureScot and Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).



Hydrology & Water Quality

Hydrologists are undertaking baseline studies of surface and groundwater features for the proposed wind farm site. These studies help us to understand the hydrology of the site and will inform the design of any surface water drainage systems.

Geology

Site investigations to understand the soils and geology of the area include the drilling of bore holes and trial pits to identify the soil type and bedrock. Peat probing is also undertaken to determine the location and depth of any peat which will inform a detailed Peat Stability Risk Assessment.



Recreation

As part of our ethos, we investigate the potential for new recreation opportunities, or enhancing recreation that already exists, where the local community would like to see this happen. Any recreation plan for the proposed wind farm site would be prepared in consultation with local recreational groups and be compatible with any environmental habitats and species present.

The proposed Lissinagroagh site has a network of tracks and trails that have the potential to provide a



recreational offering. A recreational proposal could include:

- Upgraded walking trails
- Waymarked signage
- Picnic areas (aligned with Leave No Trace Policy)
- Site information boards on topics such as renewable energy, forestry, biodiversity and history
- Viewing points
- Designated planting areas e.g. for native trees.

As an example of our approach, the FuturEnergy Ireland team was involved in setting up the recreational amenity at Sliabh Bawn Wind Farm in Co Roscommon, which is popular with locals and tourists alike. In 2023, the wind farm welcomed more than 22,000 visitors (www.sliabhbawnwindfarm.ie).

If this is of interest, we would welcome the opportunity to work with you to inform the design. Please contact our CLOs with any ideas and suggestions.



Community Benefit Fund

All successful Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) projects are required to set up a Community Benefit Fund that focuses on sharing the economic benefits of a wind farm with the local community.

The proposed Lissinagroagh Wind Farm would bring a sizable Community Benefit Fund to the local area. The scheme also puts the local community at the heart of decision-making with a committee made up of local people. The committee will decide where to invest the funds to boost local initiatives and infrastructure.

How does it work?

The scheme mandates all RESS projects to establish a Community Benefit Fund worth €2 per MWh (megawatt hour) of generated electricity for any future wind farm.

The project owners are required to contribute €2 per MWh annually into a community fund for the RESS contract period i.e. the first 15 years of operation. FuturEnergy Ireland also offers a further €1 per MWh contribution for the remaining lifetime of the proposed Lissinagroagh development. Every time you would see a turbine moving, it is generating funds for the local community.

The total fund per annum will depend on the final power output of a successful project. When the design layout is finalised, we will be able to share an estimated Community Benefit Fund figure for the Lissinagroagh area.

A good practice handbook was published in July 2021 by the Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications and sets out very specific guidelines on how Community benefit funds are managed and distributed. See <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/5f12f-community-projects-and-benefit-funds-ress/>.

