

BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Wind energy community
benefit report 2019



PUPPY LOVE IN DONEGAL

Barnesmore Sheepdog Society in Donegal benefitted from community benefit funding from their local wind farm last year, helping them to stage their annual dog trials.

"Our dog trial weekend in September involves more than 70 competitors and brings local farmers and the whole community together," said Sheepdog Committee member **David Bustard**.

"It keeps our dogs to a high standard and it's a chance to showcase the time and commitment that goes into training sheepdogs. Without this funding, we couldn't stage such a big and popular annual event."

The Sheepdog trials were supported as part of the community benefit funding from Energia Meenadreen Extension Community Benefit Fund.

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CRONALAGHT WIND FARM

Cronalagh Wind farm in Gweedore, Co Donegal, has been funding local schools, sports clubs and festivals each year as part of its community benefit fund – the wind farm has been in operation since 1997, making it one of the oldest in the country. Ireland's first wind farm was built in Bellacorick, Co Mayo, in 1992 it is still operating today.

Funded through the
Gineadoirí Gaoithe Teoranta
wind farm fund.



From L to R in the photo, Eoghan Gillespie, wind farm, Eileen Curran, Local old folks home, Pat Shovlin, Local old folks home, Owenie Gillespie, Cronalagh Wind Farm.



WINDFALL OF SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES

Wind farm communities across the Republic of Ireland received funding of just under €3.5 million in 2019.

Using figures compiled from its members the Irish Wind Energy Association confirmed that residents living close to wind projects received millions of euro to support their local projects, clubs, schools, sports clubs and energy efficiency programmes.

Local communities deserve to benefit from the construction and operation of wind farms. Putting a figure on the amount of money donated in a given year, shows the significant support green energy is giving to Ireland's rural communities. Without this support, many fantastic local projects would struggle to find alternative funding.

The best community benefit programmes put local people and the priorities they have identified at the heart of decisions around how funding is allocated, empowering them to invest in their local area and to shape their own future.

Wind energy is Ireland's most valuable tool in the fight against climate change – already it is providing more than a third of our electricity each year. The more clean energy we can generate for our homes, farms, schools and businesses the less we rely on fossil fuels.

In addition to the €3,475,080 donated in Community Benefit Funds in 2019, wind farms also pay approximately €40 million each year to local councils – funding roads and services across rural Ireland.

#WINDCOMMUNITIES

'Wind farm fund now open'

'Cork wind farm top local attraction for families'

'Cash boost forecast for local wind farm'

'Community energy training programmes'

'75K funding open to communities within 8k of wind farm'

'Support available for education & skills, wellbeing, social inclusion, environment, conservation, energy efficiency & culture'

'WIND FARM FUND NOW OPEN'

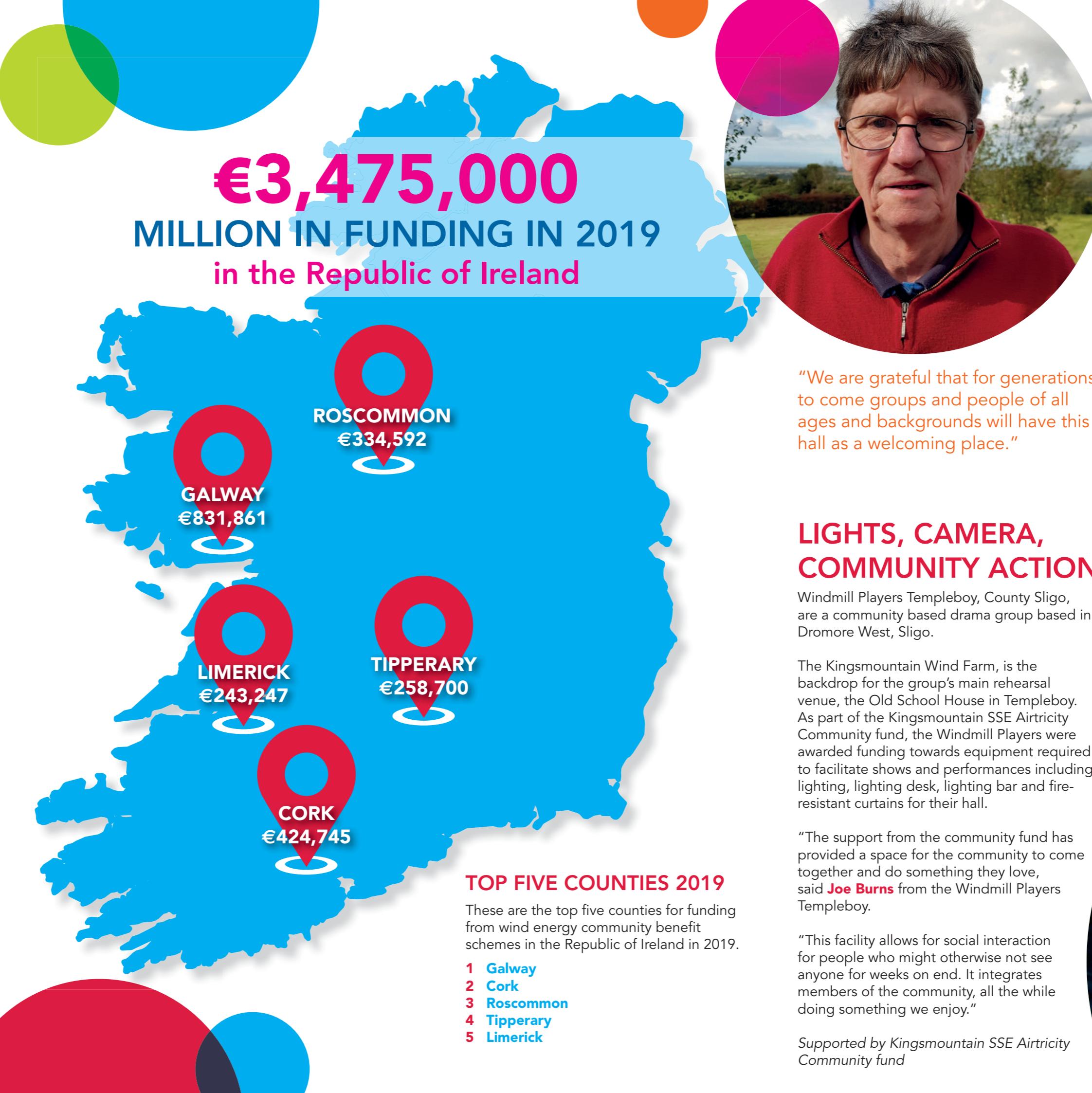
'Wind park scholarships now open'

Plans to link wind farm and local greenway

'THIS IS A TRUE COMMUNITY PROJECT'

'WIND FARM FUND NOW OPEN'

'Cancer support fund'



BUILDING A HUB FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

Ballyfad Community Centre is due to be completed this year, much to the delight of the local community who have been campaigning for a local centre there since 2003. Located just 1 km from their local wind farm at Raheenleagh – the community benefit fund was central to their success.



"We are grateful that for generations to come groups and people of all ages and backgrounds will have this hall as a welcoming place."

"Our project coincided with the development of the Raheenleagh Wind Farm Project which is near the village. From the beginning, the joint partners of the wind farm showed a keen interest in our new hall development."

Along with funding from other sources including Wexford County Council, fundraisers, donations and voluntary donations from people in the community the hall is now almost ready to open.

Ballyfad Community Centre Project, ESB / Greencoat Renewables.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, COMMUNITY ACTION

Windmill Players Templeboy, County Sligo, are a community based drama group based in Dromore West, Sligo.

The Kingsmountain Wind Farm, is the backdrop for the group's main rehearsal venue, the Old School House in Templeboy. As part of the Kingsmountain SSE Airtricity Community fund, the Windmill Players were awarded funding towards equipment required to facilitate shows and performances including lighting, lighting desk, lighting bar and fire-resistant curtains for their hall.

"The support from the community fund has provided a space for the community to come together and do something they love, said Joe Burns from the Windmill Players Templeboy.

"This facility allows for social interaction for people who might otherwise not see anyone for weeks on end. It integrates members of the community, all the while doing something we enjoy."

Supported by Kingsmountain SSE Airtricity Community fund