



# POWERING CORK



[www.windenergyireland.com](http://www.windenergyireland.com)



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Wind energy is Ireland's main source of clean energy. It cuts our carbon emissions, helping lead our fight against climate change.

Generating wind energy will reduce our dependence on imported oil and gas and our exposure to price increases caused by international upheaval and the global energy market.

Wind farms in Cork are creating jobs, supporting rural communities and investing in the Cork economy.

A Cork wind energy cluster is within reach. Cork has the harbour, seafaring tradition, innovative spirit, third-level colleges and strong communities needed to build a strong, local, wind energy industry.

**Now is the time** to imagine, prepare, plan and invest.

**CHEAPER POWER.**  
**CLEANER POWER.**  
**SECURE POWER.**  
**IRISH POWER.**

An enormous opportunity now exists for a whole new industrial sector to emerge in CORK -  
**A WIND ENERGY SECTOR**

Thank you to the people, organisations and Global Wind Day competition entrants whose photographs we have used.





# POWERING CORK JOBS

## Good for DePuy, good for Cork jobs, good for the planet

Using renewable energy on its sites is a tremendous source of pride for DePuy employees. DePuy employs 1,500 people in Ringaskiddy manufacturing orthopaedic and joint replacement products.

The DePuy Synthes wind turbines, supplied by Tralee based Enercon, generate 8.5 GWh (on average) of energy per year. That is enough energy to power 18,800 homes or to power Ballincollig - for the whole year. The turbines have saved 36,991 tonnes of CO2 going into the atmosphere.

At full output the wind turbines are capable of supplying all the power the DePuy sites need.



## Janssen Sciences Ireland powered by Wind

Janssen Sciences Ireland constructed its on-site wind turbine in 2014 to sustainably power the manufacture of its high demand products. Over 1,000 people are employed at the Cork site.

Since its introduction, the 3 MW turbine has saved over 35,000 tonnes of CO2. It was the first major step towards the site's 2025 carbon neutrality target.

J&J Campus Ireland decided to engage in a Power Purchase Agreement to buy their remaining electricity from two wind farms in the Munster region. This will maintain low levels of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the purchase of electricity.



## Wind energy jobs bring Irish people home

Ronan Creedon, Project Development Support Manager at Statkraft, worked in the wind industry in Australia. Having Statkraft, a Norwegian company with a long history in renewable electricity generation, choose Cork as its Irish HQ allowed Ronan to move home and continue to work in renewables. He is working to create a sustainable future for his children (and their children), through the delivery of wind farms and other renewable projects in Ireland.

Ronan believes, "It is a testament to the opportunity that exists in Ireland, that a big company like Statkraft decided to invest in Cork and create jobs here".



## Working in a cutting edge new industry

Jack Reardon from Kinsale says, "I completed my master's thesis on green hydrogen supply chains in Galway. Now, as a Project Support Engineer at EIH2, I have returned to Cork to take up the opportunity to work towards making green hydrogen in Ireland a reality".

## Working with communities from her home in Kinsale

Having worked in sales roles, Yvonne Cronin completed a masters degree in 2021 in Environmental Science at UCC MaREI Research Centre for Energy, Climate and the Marine. While at MaREI, she was involved in EirWind research which led her to her new role, focused on offshore wind, with DP Energy.







### Serving the needs of communities

SECAD Partnership in Midleton manages community benefit funds for some of Ireland's largest renewable energy providers. **Elaine Barrett** coordinates funds with 25 communities around Ireland. The SECAD team helps communities to maximise the impact of community benefit in their area.

*"I never tire of seeing the positive impact wind farm funds have on rural communities"* said **Elaine Barrett**.

### Local passion for building understanding and trust

**John Lyons**, the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) for the proposed FuturEnergy Ireland, Ballinagree Wind Farm near Macroom, is local to the area and has a genuine passion for community work.

According to John, *"Active and open discussion with our community stakeholders is essential for the success of our projects. Through two-way conversation, relationships with local communities and mutual trust are developed, which we hope will lead to good things for the community, for people and for the success of our project"*.



### Offshore wind opens opportunities

**Declan McMahon**, Offshore Development Manager at Iberdrola, works in conjunction with the Cork based DP Energy team in the development of their joint venture offshore wind projects in Ireland. *"The development of offshore wind in Ireland opened the opportunity for me to move home in August 2021, having worked in Glasgow for 11 years."*



# POWERING CORK'S ECONOMY



### Statkraft's workforce in Cork has doubled since 2018

Statkraft's Irish HQ is at Cork Airport Business Park. The company has tripled its development portfolio since 2018. The Statkraft team in Cork develops, owns and operates renewable energy projects and trades power.

### Leading the blue economy from a HQ in Cork

Headquartered in Cork, Simply Blue, a leading developer in the blue economy, has a team of almost 60 people, many of whom are focused on the offshore renewables sector and the potential it presents for a whole new industrial sector to emerge in Cork.





## Cork wind farms pay €7.2 million in commercial rates in 2022

Figures from the Valuation Office, and rates experts Halpin & Co, show that wind farms in Cork pay €7.2 million in commercial rates to Cork County Council. This makes up more than 6 per cent of the county's entire commercial rates income.

This money pays for essential local services across the county including libraries, repairing roads, supporting tourism and helping local businesses to thrive.

### Roots in Buttevant, expansion into Cork City

DP Energy, with its global headquarters in Buttevant, opened their second Cork office in January 2022 at Waterfront Square. Their Irish offshore wind team currently consists of 17 people based in Cork, with plans to grow the team as they develop projects. Once operational, their wind energy projects are expected to generate enough clean energy to power 2.6 million Irish homes.



### Farming wind and land together to secure a farming future in Cloyne

Michael Quirk says he embraced generating power from wind energy on his farm because, "I saw electricity as a commodity my land could produce from wind, just as livestock are commodities my land can produce from grass and feeds".

Michael saw the advantage of having a wind turbine on his land and providing a guaranteed income to support his family at a time when the future of farming is full of uncertainty.

He already has plans to build on this success and to develop a solar energy project on the same land currently being used by his wind turbines.

### "I hear investors in London saying Cork is a hub for renewables"

TJ Hunter, Senior Director Ireland & UK with Ørsted, says, "Ørsted's decision to locate its European Onshore Wind base in Cork in 2021 is a real vote of confidence in Cork".



The rate of growth of the Cork team demonstrates the breadth and depth of talent in Cork as well as Cork's attractiveness as a place to live. Ørsted is proud and excited to be based in Cork with over 150 MW of wind, solar and storage solution projects in progress in the county.



# POWERING CORK'S COMMUNITIES

## Saving lives by saving time

Timely access to emergency services is a concern for rural communities. The community near SSE Coomacheo and Curragh wind farms used some of their funds to support the Irish Community Air Ambulance Service charity.

Based out of North Cork, this lifesaving service brings paramedics from the National Ambulance Service to the roadside, farms or rural homes within minutes of an incident and transfers casualties to hospital for immediate treatment. The service responds to 500 incidents a year.

**Karen O'Sullivan** of the Irish Community Air Ambulance Service said, "Support from the wind farm fund helps us bring hope to rural people, helping them to feel they can receive equal emergency health care to those living in urban areas."



## Perfect timing for Ballyhoura Mountain Bikers

Ballyhoura Mountain Bike Club runs events in the Ballyhoura Mountains on the North Cork border. They get local club members out on their bikes to enjoy the area. Mountain biking also brings tourism to the area.

Their local wind farm funded a timing system which allows them to run timed events, and classify participants. This has enabled them to run more events with up to 170 competitors from all over Ireland now able to participate.

*"With the support of the Wind Farm Community Fund, Ballyhoura Mountain Bike Club was able to host safe and enjoyable events"* Timo Shinnors, Chairperson.



Wind farm funds are supporting Cork communities to do projects that matter to them in Dunmanway, Cúil Aodha, Ballymakeera, Shanballymore, Béal Átha'n Ghaorthaidh and beyond...

## Game, set, match at Twopothouse, Cork

Hazelwood Tennis Club has two courts but one was unplayable. The second court was completely resurfaced using community benefit funding from Castlepook wind farm. As a result membership has grown and for the first time ever the club was able to host a Summer Cup Competition and to field a team in the Munster Winter League.

*"The assistance of Castlepook Wind Farm has given our little club a new lease of life."* Niamh Kenny, Committee Member.



## Carriganima – Broadband just in time

Ørsted's Gneevs Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund came to the rescue when the Carriganima community were told an upgrade to broadband in their area would not be commercially viable. The wind farm fund made €10,000 available to help the community progress the upgrade.

On March 15, 2020, the day Ireland went into its first pandemic lockdown, homes were connected to the new system. Working from home, home schooling, access to services and Zoom calls with loved ones during the pandemic all became possible as a result.



**Cork communities  
received €437,478  
in direct community  
benefit funding in 2020**



# POWERING CORK'S ENVIRONMENT

## Cork makes recycling history

The Re-Wind multinational research group, including UCC and MTU, is working on repurposing decommissioned wind turbine blades. Their aim is to come up with exciting and innovative ways to re-use wind turbine blades.

The Re-Wind Network completed its first full scale project at the end of January 2022 by building a 5.5m pedestrian bridge on the Middleton to Youghal Greenway. MTU Cork designed the bridge, using two decommissioned turbine blades as girders, and are now exploring business opportunities for the creation of bridge kits.

Go to @windenergyireland on Facebook to see a short video of the bridge being put in place.



## Comharchumann Forbartha Mhúscraí working for a vibrant sustainable Gaeltacht

Grousemount wind farm has funded this Gaeltacht co-operative to help progress retrofit of homes and other buildings in their community to improve energy efficiency, leading to warm comfortable rural homes and vibrant communities.

"We hope to surpass the national average for homes retrofitted for sustainability" said **Caroline Ní Nuallain**, Bainisteoir.



## Proud to be part of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

In 2021 Wind Energy Ireland member wind farms recognised that wind farms could play a role in creating a network of safe places for bees and other insects by introducing the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan pollinator-friendly management of wind farms.

*Sarah Hayes, Statkraft Cork, has been taking a lead in rolling out a biodiversity plan on all Statkraft owned and managed wind farms. "Since joining Statkraft I have had endless opportunities to learn and work with likeminded people towards a common goal of a greener future."*



# POWERING CORK'S FUTURE

## Cork ports set for big opportunities

A Carbon Trust Report identified economic opportunities associated with offshore wind for several Cork ports.

Cork Harbour, one of Ireland's top-tier ports, is suitable as both a construction port and an operations and maintenance base for offshore wind.

Kinsale has potential as an operations and maintenance base for offshore wind farms off the southeast and south coasts. Similar bases have already been identified in Wicklow and Arklow, where 80 full-time jobs are expected to be created in each port.

Castletownbere and Bantry are suitable as operations and maintenance bases as wind farms begin to be developed off the southwest coast.

With planning, investment and support, the commercial and job creation opportunities for Cork from offshore wind energy are within Cork's grasp and are vast.



## Green Rebel – surveying to make green energy happen off the coast of Cork

*"When the opportunity came up in 2021 to get involved in the offshore wind industry with Green Rebel, I jumped at it. The industry is extremely attractive. It has a clear purpose - to produce clean and renewable energy."*

*"It's a great time to join a sector with significant growth potential, working with people with shared values around sustainability. Anyone with transferrable skills should strongly consider offshore wind as the next stage on their professional journey." Tom Murphy, Head of Operations and Projects, Green Rebel, Co Cork.*

Green Rebel provides survey services to the wind industry, to both protect and harness our maritime resource.

The company will double its investment in Cork by the end of 2022, bringing it to €20 million.

It operates two state-of-the-art survey vessels and aircraft out of Cork and employs around 75 people as boat crews, electrical engineers, geoscientists, ecologists, surveyors and business support professionals.



## Ireland's first green hydrogen company

Pearse Flynn from Ballycotton recognised the need for a zero-carbon fuel to replace oil and gas. HGVs and airplanes cannot be fuelled efficiently by electricity. Energy cannot be easily stored as electricity.

Therefore he set up EIH2 to produce safe and zero-carbon green hydrogen. EIH2 is working to kick-start and grow Ireland's hydrogen economy.

## Putting our fishing communities at the heart of the conversation about offshore wind

As an island nation with a maritime area 10 times the size of our landmass, Ireland must look both to its land and its maritime area to meet our climate action targets.

*"All our futures are threatened by climate change," said Captain Brian Fitzgerald, "the voice of the fishing community is invaluable to those looking to the sea as a source of future energy generation."*



**Offshore Wind Energy is Ireland's Economic Strategy for the Future... and Cork can be central to it**