

Building Communities

Wind Energy Community Benefit Report 2022

Local groups received funding in Donegal

A total of €76,500 was given to local sports teams, schools, and volunteer organizations by Gineadoiri Gaoithe Teoranta's (GGT) Cronalaght Wind Farm. The donation of €50,000 was made to the local St. Vincent De Paul Society and €2,000 was provided to Donegal Cancer Flights and Services and Ionad Naomh Pádraig, Dore.

Scoil Chonail, Bunbeg, Scoil Phódraig, Dore, Scoil Naomh Dúigh, Annagry, Scoil Oilibheir Pluincéad, Rann na Feirste, Scoil Eoin Pól, Loughanure, Scoil Mhuire, Derrybeg, Scoil Adhamháin, Lunniagh, Scoil Bhríde, Meenacladdy and Pobal Scoil Ghaoth Dobhair were all schools that received €1500 each.

Additionally, the following groups received €1000: Ionad Lae Ghaoth Dobhair, Comharchumann Forbartha Ghaoth Dobhair, Naíolann Ghaoth Dobhair, CLG Ghaoth Dobhair, Ceiltigh Ghaoth Dobhair, Gaoth Dobhair Aontaith, Ceiltigh Dhún Lúiche, Galf Chumann Ghaoth Dobhair. Scioból na bhFear and Scioból na mBan were also awarded €500.

The Cronalaght Wind Mills Company, located in Gaoth Dobhair, is greatly appreciated by the various groups for their annual generous donations, according to Mary Coyle, Manager of Ionad Naomh Pádraig, Dore. Pádraig, Dore.



Outdoor play facilities for a playschool in Sligo

First Friends Playschool in Geevagh, County Sligo, is one of the first community groups to benefit from Energia's Derrysallagh Wind Farm fund. The playgroup, which currently caters for 15 local children between the ages of 3 and 5, received over €5,000 for a new swing, slide, seesaw, garden shed and outdoor shelter.

Dermot MacDermott, Chair of the First Friends' Board of Directors, says the playschool has an important role:

"We want to offer parents in Geevagh a chance for their children to build friendships that can last a lifetime and strengthen our sense of community in the village."

"Here at First Friends, we have indoor and outdoor facilities which we're improving all the time – thanks to funders like Energia. By the time our children are old enough to go to St Patrick's National School just over the road, they've already made friends and their first day doesn't seem like an ordeal at all."



Sand carpet playing pitch in Kerry

Kilgarvan GAA club is a thriving club in the middle of the Kilgarvan community, children and adults from all around the parish and those closest to the Grousemount windfarm are members of the club. The club provides a fun, safe, activity-based place for the children and adults in the community to meet and socialise and most importantly provide physical activity for both young and old. The club provides coaching and games for the players from age 5 to 40.

Funding from ESB's Grousemount Wind Farm will assist in the development of a state-of-the-art sand carpet playing pitch, providing the community a space to play and allowing for year-round training and games. €50,000 in total will be payable over five years in €10,000 increments. A contractor will install new drainage in the existing field and apply a sand carpet to a dept of 75mm with special sand and reseed all the pitch. The work will ensure that the people of Kilgarvan have a place to play all year round. The surface will be state of the art and ensure the health both physically and mentally of our community.

"This project will make a huge difference to people in our community."



"The community benefit fund has made a huge difference to Kilgarvan GAA Club. The funds we were awarded for doing drainage and sand carpet work on our pitch was invaluable. We have had problems with having a wet pitch for years. If we did not receive this funding, we would have been unable to do the work. Our senior and juvenile players will be able to train now in the winter months under lights which we were unable to do before. People coming to use our walking track during the winter months can let their children play on the pitch now if they wish without them getting all wet and dirty. We are extremely grateful to SECAD and the Grousemount Wind Farm for this funding."



Communities across Ireland benefiting from Wind Energy

Local wind farms contributed €4.2 million to communities around the Republic of Ireland in 2022. Wind Energy Ireland confirmed, using data gathered from its members, that residents living near wind projects received millions of euros to help develop projects such as a Low Carbon and Sustainability Centre of Excellence and to provide support for community development associations, sports teams, schools, Tidy Towns groups, and local resources.

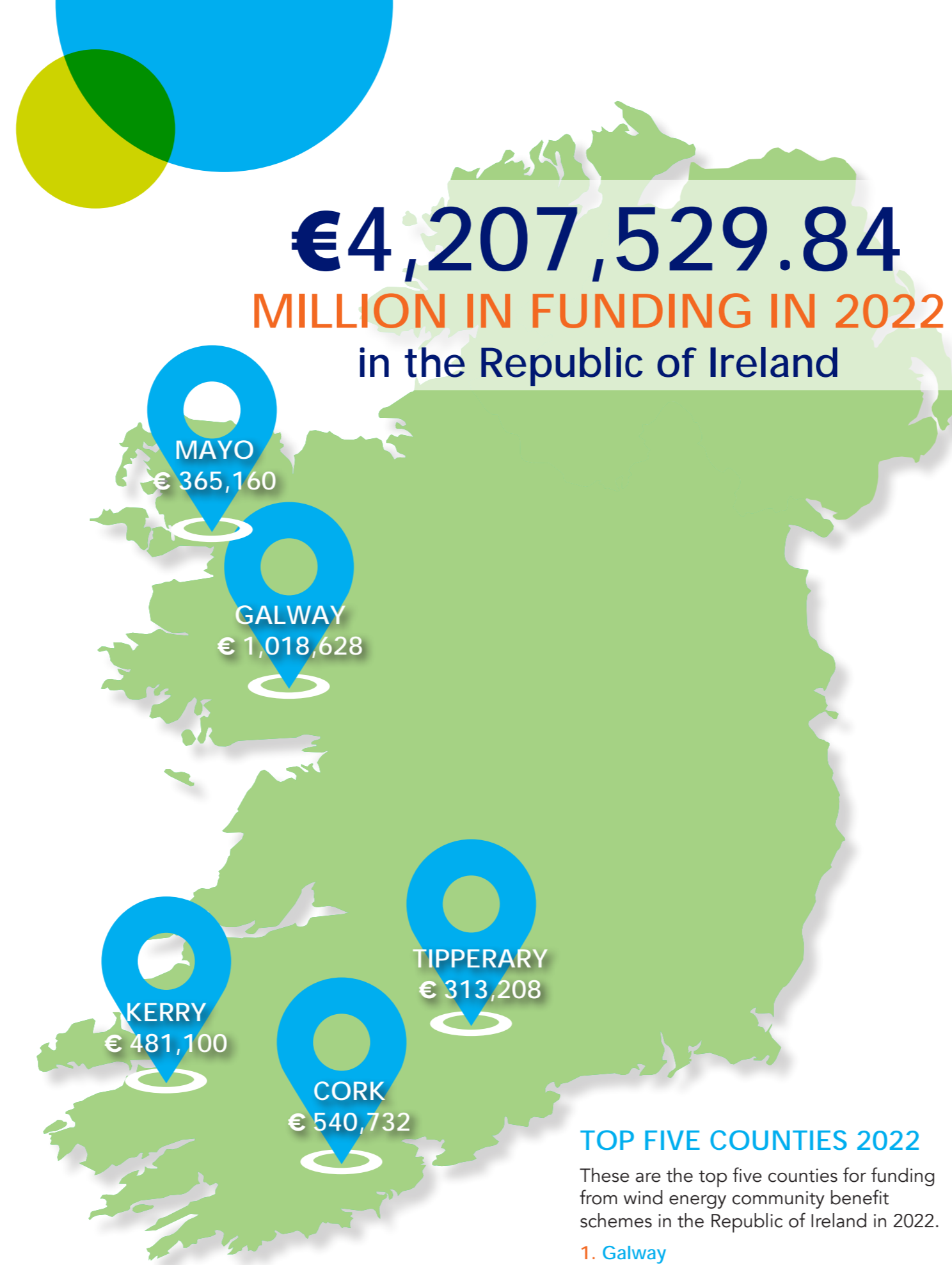
It is evident from highlighting the annual contributions made to Community Benefit Funds how much wind energy is helping Ireland's rural communities. Without this assistance, a great deal of amazing and profoundly influential local projects might not be developed or struggle to find other sources of funding.

Apart from the Community Benefit Funds allocated in 2022, wind farms also contribute almost €50 million annually to county councils in rural Ireland, which is used for funding services such as roads, libraries, and other infrastructure.

#WINDCOMMUNITIES

BUILD FRIENDSHIPS

LOCAL SPORTS TEAMS SENSE OF COMMUNITY
 SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNITIES
 CLIMATE ACTION COMMUNITIES
 VOLUNTEER ORGANISATIONS PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
 SCHOOLS A PLACE TO PLAY
 INDOOR AND OUTDOOR FACILITIES



TOP FIVE COUNTIES 2022

These are the top five counties for funding from wind energy community benefit schemes in the Republic of Ireland in 2022.

- Galway
- Cork
- Kerry
- Mayo
- Tipperary

The development of a low carbon and sustainability centre of excellence in Galway

To achieve meaningful and lasting climate action in Ireland we need to ensure households across the country achieve home energy upgrades. The requirement for home retrofits is at the centre of the country's climate priorities, including new national retrofit targets. To respond to this national requirement, there is a need for a significant upskilling of installers to meet the increasing demand for the improvements. Comhairle Ceantar na nOileán received €110,000 from SSE Renewable's Galway Wind Park to establish the Low Carbon and Sustainability Centre of Excellence in Casla, County Galway.

The centre will create new sustainable economic opportunities that will contribute to the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of the region by supporting the re-skilling of workers and supporting homeowners to complete improvements. They will provide skills in emerging retrofit technologies including solar PV, external wall insulation and ventilation. The project will train 280 professionals per annum and support the energy improvement of up to 10,000 local homes.

"In Galway, the waiting list for energy efficient home upgrades is nearly 2 years. Through the development of this training centre in Galway, timeframes for upgrades will be reduced with the project having the potential to impact over 30,000 individuals and in excess of 10,000 homes and contribute towards Ireland's net zero goal"

Patrick McHugh, Director Comhairle Ceantar na nOileán

