

Building Communities

Wind Energy Community
Benefit Report
2024





€ 6,650,037.31

MILLION IN FUNDING IN 2024

in the Republic of Ireland

Mayo:

€774,783

Galway:

€1,119,451

Offaly:

€807,382

Kerry:

€597,907.73

Cork:

€812,119.20

The Top 5 Counties 2024

These are the top 5 counties for community benefit funds from wind farms in 2024"

1. Galway
2. Cork
3. Offaly
4. Mayo
5. Kerry



Legacy

Musical Well-being

Heritage **LASTING
IMPACT**

Community Spirit

FRIENDSHIPS

Sense of Community **Safe Place**
Open to All

**Educational, Social,
and Recreational
Activities**

Nature Garden

**ENERGY
EFFICIENCY**



COMMUNITIES ACROSS IRELAND BENEFITTING FROM WIND ENERGY

In 2024 local wind farms contributed €6.7 million to communities across the Republic of Ireland.

Data from Wind Energy Ireland's members shows that residents and community groups living near wind farms benefited from this funding, which supported local sports clubs, heritage organisations, schools, Tidy Towns groups and community development associations.

This record level of contributions to Community Benefit Funds highlights the significant positive impact of wind energy for rural communities in Ireland.

Many vital local initiatives would not have been possible – or would have faced major funding challenges – without this support.

Beyond these community funds, rural wind farms also provide nearly €70 million each year to county councils, enabling investment in essential infrastructure such as local roads, rural housing and libraries.

Expanding childcare facilities in Monaghan

Newbliss Childcare Services in rural County Monaghan is a facility much-loved by young children and parents alike. There is always a waiting list, which is why Patricia Stuart and her team from Newbliss Childcare Services have been fundraising for a long-awaited extension.

Now, thanks to a €30,000 grant from Energia Group's newly set-up Drumlins Park Wind Farm community benefit fund, the extension looks set to go ahead with the promise of a new 'wobbler' room (for children aged between 18 and 24 months).

Patricia Stuart from **Newbliss Childcare Services** said:

"We've been looking forward to getting this extension for a long time and would like to thank all our supporters and everyone who's helped with fundraising, including the new Drumlins Park fund, for making this happen. Expanding our services will make a huge difference to our community, families, staff and – most importantly – our little learners."

"A rural childcare service like this offers local children a chance to build friendships that can last a lifetime and strengthen our sense of community in the village."



BUILDING A NEW COMMUNITY HUB IN LIMERICK

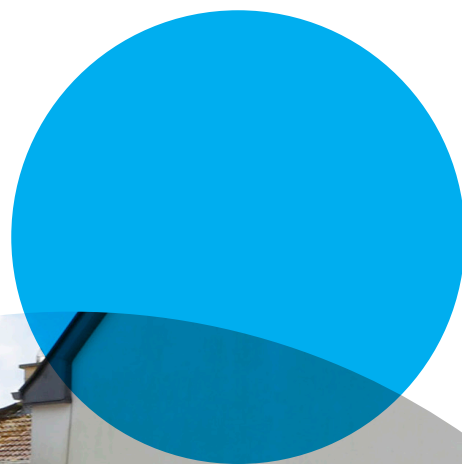
SSE Renewables has introduced a new multi-year funding strategy for its community benefit funds to provide sustained investment for bigger projects.

A five-year award to **Kantoher Development Association** in Limerick has enabled them to transform a derelict building into a thriving community hub. The early commitment of €100,000 from the West Limerick and North Kerry Community Fund – representing Lenamore, Tournafulla, Tournafulla II, Dromada, Rathchail, and Athea Wind Farms – helped attract €700,000 in match funding.

The hub provides a portfolio of social and recreational activities to all ages of the community and has turned a neglected site into a thriving community asset. The project has also considered its environmental impact and has energy efficiency measures to reduce carbon emissions.

Joe Kelleher, Secretary of **Kantoher Development Group**, said:

"The vision is to make the community more inclusive and help tackle pressing social challenges such as rural isolation. With the help of SSE Renewables, we are continuing to develop the community and breathing new life into a neglected space."



FUNDING THE FLEADH IN MAYO

Bofield CCÉ proudly hosted the Mayo Fleadh Cheoil 2025 in Ballina from 3 to 11 May 2025. The much-anticipated event brought together musicians, singers and dancers from across the county to celebrate the very best of traditional Irish culture.

In addition to the county competitions, the week-long festival featured a vibrant programme of music sessions, concerts, workshops and family-friendly events, transforming Ballina into a lively hub of ceol, rince and craic. Visitors and locals alike enjoyed an unforgettable celebration of Mayo's musical heritage and community spirit.

Funding from NTR's Bunnyconnellan Wind Farm was allocated towards the costs of hosting the Mayo Fleadh Cheoil 2025, helping to support this important cultural event and promote traditional Irish arts throughout the region.



FUNDING FOR MULLINAVAT GAA CLUB

In Kilkenny, Ørsted's Ballymartin and Smithstown Wind Farms provided €3,500 to **Mullinavat GAA Club** for fencing, a walkway and floodlighting.

The club provides a social and sporting outlet for young people and adults in the parish of Mullinavat. By constructing a community walkway, open to all, the club has provided a safe place for people of all generations to come together, to meet up and chat while enjoying the fresh air.

At present, the club does not have a floodlit playing field, which restricts the use of the facilities in the darker autumn and winter months. The installation of floodlights will allow the club to offer greater access to all their members.

On behalf of **Mullinavat GAA Club**, **Tom Duggan** said:

"Last year we completed the floodlit walkway and the construction of a new juvenile pitch. This has been warmly welcomed by young and old in our community and the walkway in particular has been very busy. Thanks to Ørsted's support we got a huge amount of work completed in 2024."



NEW PLAYGROUND FOR CAVAN'S RAINBOW KIDS PLAYGROUP

Across all community funds, a priority which is repeatedly identified by residents is ensuring there are opportunities for young people. The community of Kill, near Bindoo Wind Farm in County Cavan, was struggling to support working parents as there was no wrap-around care for school aged children.

With funding from Bindoo Wind Farm, the local playgroup worked with parents and children to re-purpose a local property into an after-school haven.

Forty children now benefit from a range of educational, social and recreational activities. A key component of the new site is the nature garden with wildflowers, nesting boxes and raised beds for organic vegetable planting. The garden is maintained by the children and helps instil a love and responsibility for nature from a young age.

Commenting on the success of the funding, **Siobhan McKenna**, Chairperson **Rainbow Kids Playgroup** said:

"As a result of the funding we received from SSE Renewables, we have made safe areas to play with fencing, gates and artificial grass."



NEW GRASS PITCH FOR THE ABBEY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL'S UNDER 14s GIRLS' TEAM

The **Abbey Vocational School's** under-14s girls' team have long envied other schools' grass pitches. They've been training on a dust court surface and unable to host games at their school in Donegal Town because their pitch has been waterlogged and out of action since the day they started school.

But this hasn't stopped the AVS under-14s from winning! When the Energia Renewables team from Meenadreen Wind Farm met them, they were on their way to the Ulster Final. From next season, though, they will be training, hosting and probably winning games on a new grass pitch.

The €350,000 project, which includes a running track and caters for every level of fitness, received a grant from the Government's Sports Capital Programme and was further funded by local Donegal businesses and individual donations - including a €10,000 grant from Energia's Meenadreen Wind Farm.

Vice Principal, **Ronan Doherty**, explained:

"We started fundraising in 2023 and are very grateful to all our funders because every donation counts. This new pitch and track have been funded by - and for - the local community and we'd like to thank Energia's Meenadreen Wind Farm fund."

Evie Sweeney captains the AVS under-14s girls' team and was excited to get out onto the pitch before the official opening. She said:

"We've been watching the grass grow and can't wait to host games on this new pitch. It can be hard training on an all-weather pitch, and this will boost our confidence, but it'll also be good to get out in breaktime and walk around the track."