

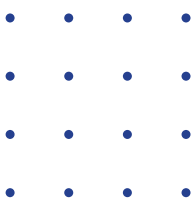


SUPPORTING FIRST-RESPONDERS IN CORK

The 2021 Coomacheo and Curragh Community Fund of almost €120,000 was awarded across 37 community groups. **Irish Community Air Ambulance**, which operates Ireland's first and only charity funded Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) air ambulance, received funding to run their services.

"We are delighted to be receiving funding from SSE Renewables as this will enable us to continue our services. Support like this helps us to bring hope to those most vulnerable so they can receive equal healthcare to those living near cities and major hospitals. July 2021 was one of our busiest months to date, crew were tasked to 57 separate incidents in 8 counties."

Karen O'Sullivan,
Key Relationships Manager.



NATURE WALKS IN KERRY

Statkraft's Kilathmoy Wind Farm is a 23 MW project which became operational in 2019. Over the lifetime of the wind farm, it will invest over half a million euro into the local community.

These funds will be used to support local sustainable initiatives. A flagship project is the **Moyvane Development Association's Nature Walk Trail** which was awarded €10,000 in the latest round of funding.

"Renewable energy projects play a vital role in the transition to a zero-carbon society and community support is at the centre of that," said Alan Edwards, Head of Operations at Statkraft.

"We feel very strongly that renewable projects should give something back to the local community. We were delighted to support local groups in the Moyvane and Athea areas, ranging from drama groups to GAA clubs to national schools. The local community here work tirelessly and that work should be commended."

Noreen McEvoy, Chairperson of the Moyvane Development Association, highlighted how important funding like this is for volunteer-led organisations like themselves.

"Funding from Statkraft has helped the association to develop our Nature Walk Trail, which has proved hugely popular with the local community, particularly during the current pandemic. The most recent funding will help to develop the trail even more, with new signage and fencing planned. We thank Statkraft for their support and we look forward to progressing the trail in 2022."

Other local benefits associated with the wind farm include introducing pollinator-friendly management across the different habitats and ecosystems.



AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY IN KILKENNY

Bord na Móna set up the **Bruckana Community Gain Scheme** in 2014 with annual funding of €42,000 thanks to the help and cooperation of the communities' local to Bruckana Wind Farm.

Bord na Móna administers the scheme and an awards committee is drawn from the local communities of Crosspatrick and Moyne/Templetuohy which decides which projects are granted financial support. To date, the funding has benefitted schools, sports clubs, general amenity, social initiatives as well as community facilities.

"I want to thank the Awards Committee for their work, which we appreciate very much. We believe local people know best what their own area needs. That's why our Community Gain Fund is administered and awarded with active participation from the local community."

Karina Dennigan, Communications Manager, Bord na Móna.

The fund for 2021 is supporting 11 projects across Kilkenny and Tipperary, including support for schools, sports clubs, Tidy Towns groups and the enhancement of community facilities

Bruckana Wind Farm also runs a Near-Neighbour Scheme where residents living close to a wind turbine receive an annual contribution towards their electricity bill. They are also entitled to a once-off contribution to make their homes more energy-efficient or to support further education.

Report published November 2022



Supported by
Irish Wind ENERGY

BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Wind energy community benefit report 2021



BUILDING COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITIES ACROSS IRELAND BENEFITTING FROM WIND ENERGY

Communities across the Republic of Ireland received nearly €4.5 million in 2021 from local wind farms.

Using figures compiled from its members, Wind Energy Ireland confirmed that residents living close to wind projects received millions of euros to support education initiatives, installation of solar panels and energy efficiency upgrades, biodiversity and community enhancement projects to support local wellbeing, support for local services and resources, schools, sports clubs, Tidy Towns groups and community development associations. Funding was also provided to many initiatives and supports for communities to get back on their feet following COVID lockdowns.

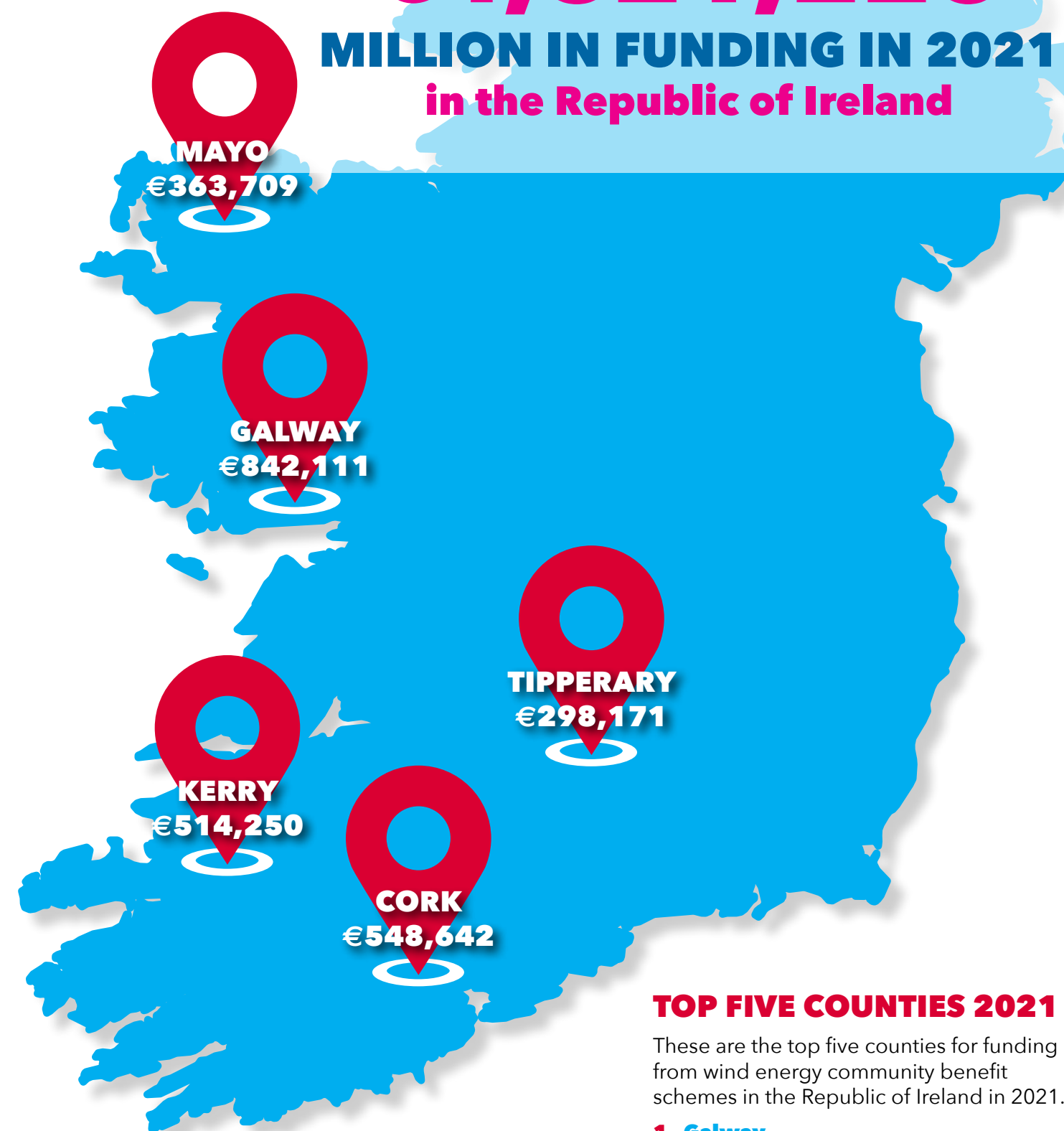
Highlighting the amount of money donated each year in Community Benefit Funds shows the significant impact and support that wind energy is giving to Ireland's rural communities. Without this support, many fantastic and hugely effective local projects would struggle to find alternative funding and may not be developed.

In addition to the Community Benefit Funding donated in 2021, wind farms also pay nearly €50 million each year to local county councils to fund roads, libraries and other services around rural Ireland.

#WINDCOMMUNITIES

wellbeing
biodiversity
COMMUNITY CARE
COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT
education
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
local services
sports facilities
solar panels
walking trails

€4,321,225
MILLION IN FUNDING IN 2021
in the Republic of Ireland



TOP FIVE COUNTIES 2021

These are the top five counties for funding from wind energy community benefit schemes in the Republic of Ireland in 2021.

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



SUPPORTING OLDER PEOPLE IN TIPPERARY

Cappawhite Community Council in Tipperary is a voluntary elected group representing each and every member of the community. The Cnoc Rua Committee reports to the community council and looks after the running of the **Cnoc Rua Recreational Centre**.

Since 2004 the recreational centre has provided a social centre for older people in the region.

It offered essential social interaction, supporting the mental well-being of its clients, many of whom live alone and would otherwise be isolated at this time.

In 2021 ESB donated €8,000 to the Cappawhite Community Council to support the activities of the Cnoc Rua Recreational Centre. This helped fund home delivery of meals throughout 2021 which promoted independent living and prevents isolation.

"The highlight of our service is knowing that the clients that availed of the meal provision and delivery service to their homes were looked after, safe and happy. During COVID restrictions, the Cnoc Rua centre continued to operate to support its clients' needs. The support from this funding enabled the provision of meals and meal delivery to continue."

Anne Crowe, Secretary

SENSORY GARDEN FOR STUDENTS IN DONEGAL

Every year **St Francis' National School in Barnesmore**, south Donegal, elect a student council keen to make a difference. They came up with the idea of a sensory garden beside the school playground to provide a peaceful area with easy access for any children with limited mobility who want to sit and read or chat at lunchbreak, rather than take part in group games.

The school received a €2,700 grant from the Energia Meenadreen wind farm community benefit fund to install planting beds with wheelchair-friendly paths, which were chosen for their colour, aroma and calming properties.

Twelve-year-old **Cora Cassidy**, says the council is proud of the garden, which she and her fellow council members maintain.

"The Covid pandemic made some of us anxious, particularly when we all had to wear masks. Getting outside and sitting in this quiet space has helped. We were very keen to make sure that any students using walkers or wheelchairs can access the space easily and move around between the flower beds."

