

Supported by
Irish Wind
ENERGY

BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Wind energy community
benefit report 2018



WINDFALL OF SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES

Wind farm communities across the Republic of Ireland received funding of just under €2,470,000 in 2018.

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.

Projects, funding models and applications vary across the country to tailor for local need. But the common denominator is the impact these funds have on homes, villages and towns across Ireland.

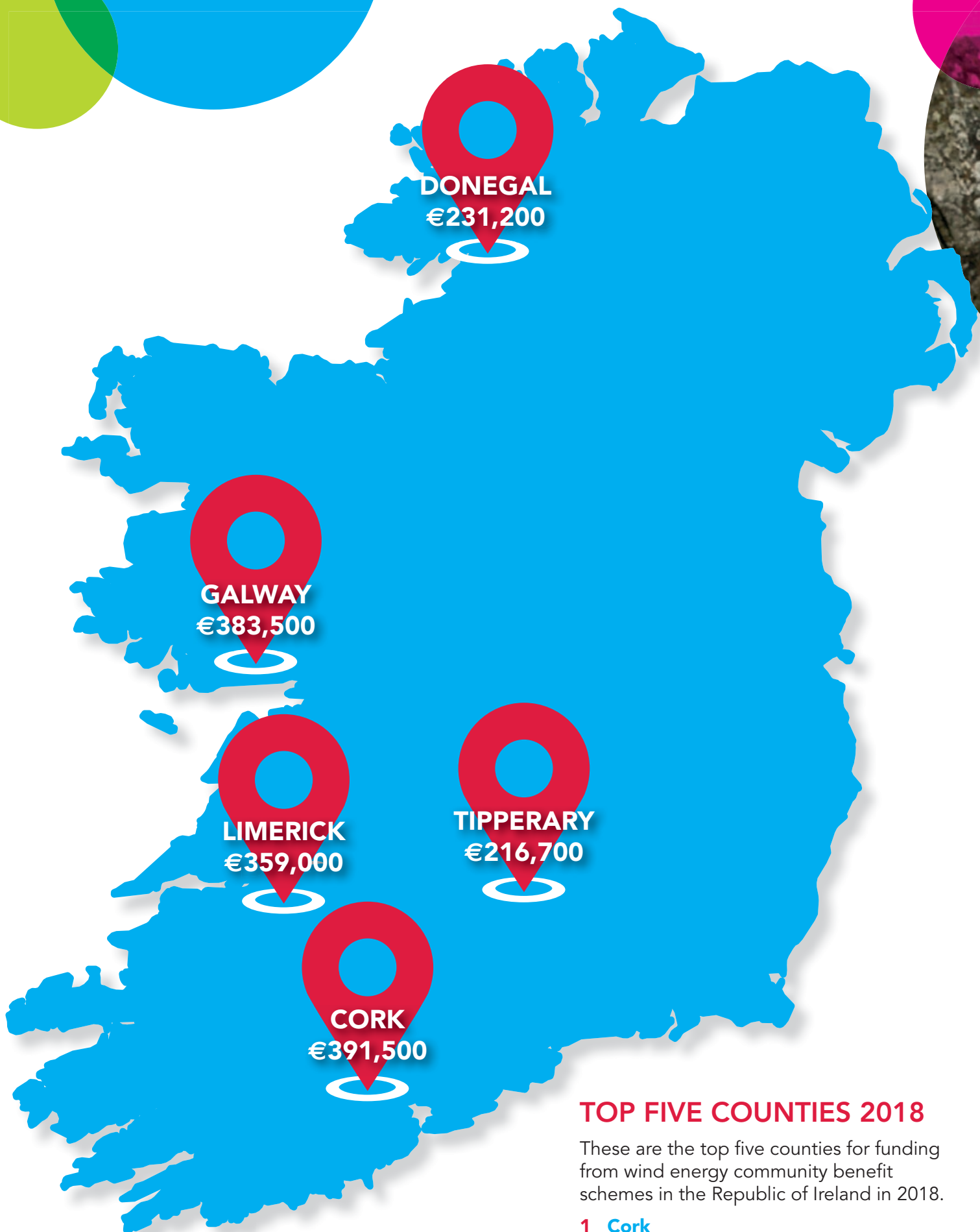
Wind energy is Ireland's most valuable tool in the fight against climate change – already it is providing almost a third of our electricity each year. The more clean energy we can generate for our homes, farms, schools and businesses the less we rely on fossil fuels.

In addition to the €2,470,000 donated in Community Benefit Funds in 2018, wind farms also pay an average of €30 a million a year to local councils – funding roads and services across rural Ireland.



MILLION IN FUNDING IN 2018
in the Republic of Ireland

MUSIC **RETRO FITTING** **SPORTS**
BUILDINGS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY
ACTIVE RETIRED
SCHOOLS
LIBRARY FESTIVAL
YOUTH GROUP **ATHLETIC CLUB** **SHEEP SHEARING COMPETITION** **RESIDENTS GROUP**
SINGERS CIRCLE **TEA ROOMS** **PLAYGROUND** **SEWING GROUP**



TOP FIVE COUNTIES 2018

These are the top five counties for funding from wind energy community benefit schemes in the Republic of Ireland in 2018.

- 1 Cork
- 2 Galway
- 3 Limerick
- 4 Donegal
- 5 Tipperary



GREENER, WARMER HOMES

Galway resident and wind farm neighbour, **Barbara Allen**, was one of the homeowners who availed of an energy efficiency fund to make her home greener and warmer.

The project focused on energy efficiency measures for homes in the areas of Seanaphasteen, Fermoyale and Bunagippaun close to Galway Wind Park.

The 47 homes within these areas received various energy efficiency measures such as insulation, Solar PV panels, replacement of doors and windows and climate controls.

Community consultation was also an integral part of this fund. Meetings were held throughout with SSE Home energy Services and SSE Renewables as well as SEAI and Údaras ná Gaeltachta.

The fund was run as part of the Major Project Fund under the overall Galway Wind Park Community Fund. It is managed by SSE Renewables in conjunction with their partners Greencoat Renewables.

This Galway project also won Chambers Ireland's Corporate Social Responsibility Awards in 2019 in the 'Community Programme' category.

"I am very happy with the works done to my home and now that it's done, I wish I had it a long time ago. My only complaint now is my home is sometimes too warm!"
said Barbara Allen.

LET'S GET PHYSICAL

The new running track at Ballycoog National School, located just outside Avoca in Co Wicklow, is hugely popular with students, staff and the wider local community.

"We applied to Raheenleagh Wind Farm community fund for funding to build a running track to support our mission to encourage pupils to enjoy an active lifestyle," said **Mary-Claire Culliton** of Ballycoog National School.

"We have a number of initiatives in school that promote exercise, including our lunchtime running club. We also hold a weekly WOW day (walk to school Wednesday) which can now take place away from the busy road and on our fantastic new, all-weather walking track. Parents and younger siblings join us for these WOW days and everybody is so impressed with this new facility.

"We are so grateful to Raheenleagh Wind Farm community fund for making this dream a reality and this new amenity supports the important work of the school in promoting a healthy, active lifestyle for the next generation."

Raheenleagh Wind Farm Community Fund is a jointly owned subsidiary of ESB and Greencoat Capital.



HEROES POWERCHAIR FOOTBALL

'Heroes' was founded in 2014 - it is Cork's only Powerchair Football Club. Heroes train every weekend in Buttevant GAA Hall with volunteer coaches. Powerchair Football is a competitive team sport for disabled people. It offers a fast-paced, highly competitive, outlet for a group of severely disabled people whose choice of sports is very limited.



"The difference the Wind Farm Grant has made to our club was immense," said **Gráinne Lynch** from Heroes. "It gave us the funds to purchase a new sports chair for one of our players. This allowed him to join a training camp in the UK that otherwise would not have been suitable. The Wind Farm Grant has allowed us to play 4 players in the AIPF League matches with chairs of equal ability. This gives us a sporting chance, all we are short of is experience but that will come in time."

Funded by ESB's Castlepook Wind Farm Co Cork Fund.

