

Supported by
Irish Wind
ENERGY

BUILDING COMMUNITIES

Wind energy community
benefit report 2019



Crosspatrick Community
Supported by
BORD NA MÓNA
through the
Bruckana Wind Farm
Community Gain Scheme

WINDFALL OF SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITIES

Wind farm communities across the Republic of Ireland received funding of just under €3.5 million in 2019.

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.

The best community benefit programmes put local people and the priorities they have identified at the heart of decisions around how funding is allocated, empowering them to invest in their local area and to shape their own future.

Wind energy is Ireland's most valuable tool in the fight against climate change – already it is providing more than 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 €3,475,080 donated in Community Benefit Funds in 2019, wind farms also pay approximately €40 million each year to local councils – funding roads and services across rural Ireland.

#WINDCOMMUNITIES

'Wind farm fund now open'

'Cork wind farm top local attraction for families'

'Cash boost forecast for local wind farm'

'Wind park scholarships now open'

Plans to link wind farm and local greenway

'Community energy training programmes'

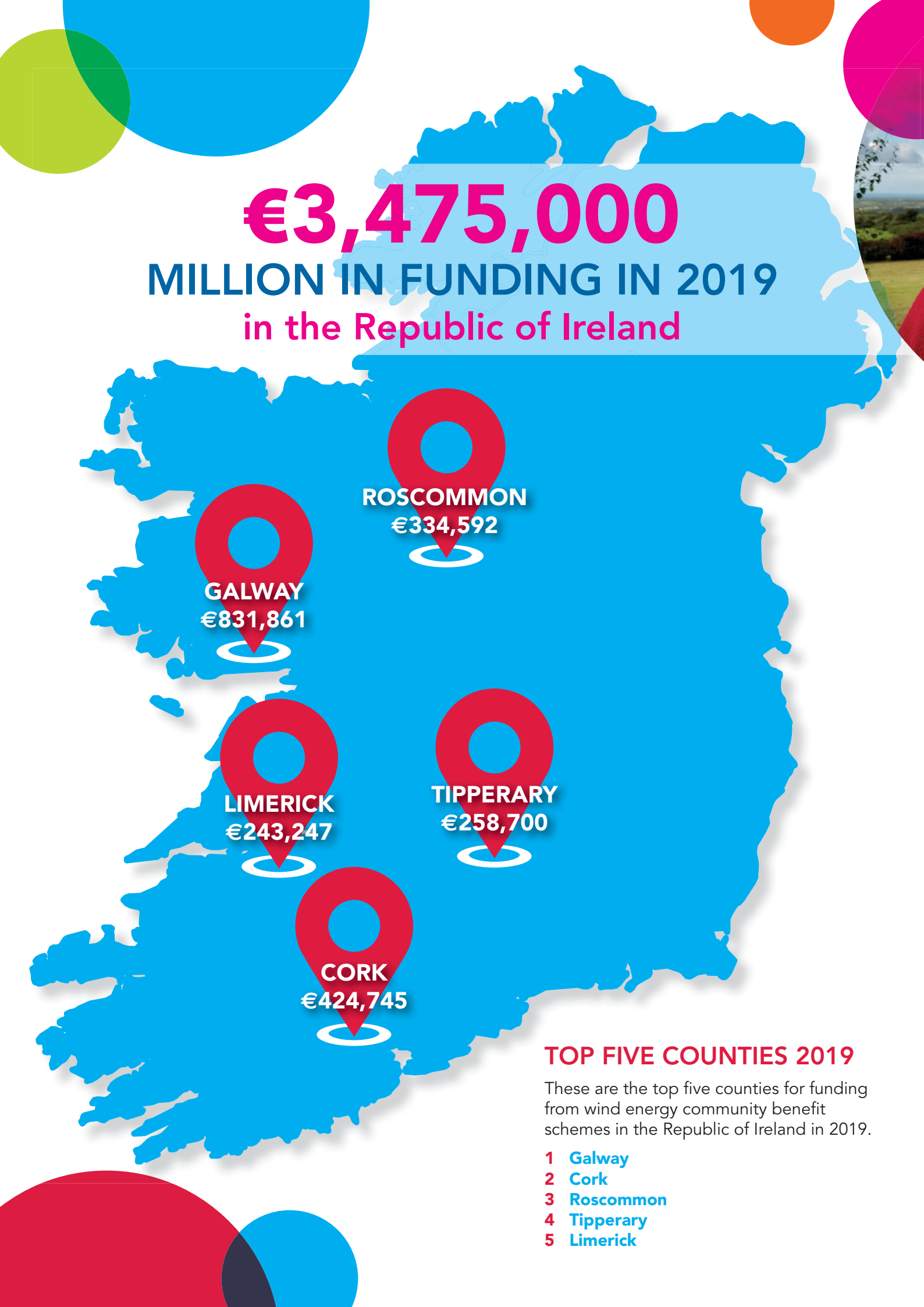
'THIS IS A TRUE COMMUNITY PROJECT'

'75K funding open to communities within 8k of wind farm'

'WIND FARM FUND NOW OPEN'

'Support available for education & skills, wellbeing, social inclusion, environment, conservation, energy efficiency & culture'

'Cancer support fund'



€3,475,000 MILLION IN FUNDING IN 2019 in the Republic of Ireland

GALWAY
€831,861

ROSCOMMON
€334,592

LIMERICK
€243,247

TIPPERARY
€258,700

CORK
€424,745

TOP FIVE COUNTIES 2019

These are the top five counties for funding from wind energy community benefit schemes in the Republic of Ireland in 2019.

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



BUILDING A HUB FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

Ballyfad Community Centre is due to be completed this year, much to the delight of the local community who have been campaigning for a local centre there since 2003. Located just 1 km from their local wind farm at Raheenleagh – the community benefit fund was central to their success.

“We are grateful that for generations to come groups and people of all ages and backgrounds will have this hall as a welcoming place, said **Myles Carroll** of the Ballyfad Community Centre Committee. The hall will be a focal point and will keep the community together and offer the opportunity for people to come together and enjoy their leisure time in a modern comfortable facility.”

“We are grateful that for generations to come groups and people of all ages and backgrounds will have this hall as a welcoming place.”

“Our project coincided with the development of the Raheenleagh Wind Farm Project which is near the village. From the beginning, the joint partners of the wind farm showed a keen interest in our new hall development.”

Along with funding from other sources including Wexford County Council, fundraisers, donations and voluntary donations from by people in the community the hall is now almost ready to open.

Ballyfad Community Centre Project, ESB / Greencoat Renewables.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, COMMUNITY ACTION

Windmill Players Templeboy, County Sligo, are a community based drama group based in Dromore West, Sligo.

The Kingsmountain Wind Farm, is the backdrop for the group’s main rehearsal venue, the Old School House in Templeboy. As part of the Kingsmountain SSE Airtricity Community fund, the Windmill Players were awarded funding towards equipment required to facilitate shows and performances including lighting, lighting desk, lighting bar and fire-resistant curtains for their hall.

“The support from the community fund has provided a space for the community to come together and do something they love, said **Joe Burns** from the Windmill Players Templeboy.

“This facility allows for social interaction for people who might otherwise not see anyone for weeks on end. It integrates members of the community, all the while doing something we enjoy.”

Supported by Kingsmountain SSE Airtricity Community fund





PUPPY LOVE IN DONEGAL

Barnesmore Sheepdog Society in Donegal benefitted from community benefit funding from their local wind farm last year, helping them to stage their annual dog trials.

“Our dog trial weekend in September involves more than 70 competitors and brings local farmers and the whole community together,” said Sheepdog Committee member **David Bustard**.

“It keeps our dogs to a high standard and it’s a chance to showcase the time and commitment that goes into training sheepdogs. Without this funding, we couldn’t stage such a big and popular annual event.”

The Sheepdog trials were supported as part of the community benefit funding from Energia Meenadreen Extension Community Benefit Fund.

“Without this funding, we couldn’t stage such a big and popular annual event.”

CRONALAGHT WIND FARM

Cronalaght Wind farm in Gweedore, Co Donegal, has been funding local schools, sports clubs and festivals each year as part of its community benefit fund – the wind farm has been in operation since 1997, making it one of the oldest in the country. Ireland’s first wind farm was built in Bellacorick, Co Mayo, in 1992 it is still operating today.

Funded through the Gineadoirí Gaoithe Teoranta wind farm fund.



From L to R in the photo, Eoghan Gillespie, wind farm, Eileen Curran, Local old folks home, Pat Showlin, Local old folks home, Owenie Gillespie, Cronalaght Wind Farm.

