
Drehid Wind Farm

Project Booklet

Q3 2024



Drehid Wind Farm



Statkraft

■ Introduction

Statkraft is committed to delivering affordable renewable energy on to the Irish grid system and engaging with communities to explore how these projects might work best in their areas. We work to harness Ireland's natural resources to produce clean energy that can deliver for the present, while safeguarding our future.

As you may know, Statkraft have been working on the proposed Drehid Wind Farm project for a number of years and we appreciate your patience and engagement thus far. Should this project come to fruition, it offers many opportunities for you and your community. Through the government-led Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS), your local community can look forward to benefits including job creation, funding to support the community, and reduced energy costs for homes and businesses.

Our Community Liaison Team will be engaging with people in the local area over the coming weeks, and will be available to discuss the project.

■ Why your area is being considered for this project

Projects like Drehid Wind Farm enable communities to utilise their own natural resources and provide clean affordable energy solutions that reduce carbon emissions and our dependence on expensive fossil fuels.

The people of Kildare have always harnessed their natural surroundings to power their county. At one time, the county's canals served as vital arteries to transport energy, with barges delivering fuel such as coal across Ireland. Businesses were powered and industry thrived – transforming the county into one of Ireland's most innovative, progressive regions.

While coal might have served Kildare well during the 19th century, the days of relying on costly, polluting fossil fuels are being consigned to history. Now is the time to find new ways of using the county's natural resources to power its world-renowned companies and indigenous businesses, and to sustain future employment.

As with all our projects, local appropriateness is a fundamental consideration. The areas around Drehid, Ballynamullagh, Kilmurry, Coolree, Mulgeeth and Killyon are zoned as *open to consideration* for wind farm developments in the Kildare County Development Plan with planning permission for this particular project been initially granted by An Bord Pleanála in 2020.

The nearby solar farm, which is currently under construction, is a symbol that Kildare is adapting to new ways of using its natural resources to generate clean energy and combat climate change.

Kildare is home to world-renowned companies and is brimming with industry and innovation; generating wind energy to power its businesses and local communities would be a natural step for such a forward-thinking county.

Electricity prices have put huge pressure on households and businesses, especially as the cost of living continues to rise.

To keep these prices stable, there must be a continued supply of clean energy. Irish wind farms protect consumers every day by reducing our dependency on imported fossil fuels.

WIND ENERGY CUTS THE PRICE OF WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY

The Average Wholesale price of Electricity in April:

€88.52
Per Megawatt Hour

In April 2024 the Average Price of Electricity on the days with:

MOST WIND ENERGY
€51.55
Per Megawatt Hour

LEAST WIND ENERGY
€111.05
Per Megawatt Hour

Source: Wind Energy Ireland



■ This proposal

This proposal is to develop an 11-turbine wind farm in north Kildare. The location under consideration was initially identified following a review of areas that could allow for the development of this type.

The proposed project includes sections of Coillte property in addition to other third-party lands. If you have any queries related to Coillte, please contact lsinfo@coillte.ie.

This proposal has the capacity to deliver climate action by supplying thousands of homes and businesses in Kildare and across Ireland with green power while bringing very real benefits to the local area and its people.

■ Different perspectives

The shift to a low-carbon economy will require some changes in Ireland's landscape and we understand that renewable energy projects may generate mixed views within communities. Some people may find wind turbines aesthetically pleasing and symbolic of a better future, while others may dislike their appearance. Our goal is to provide accurate information on our plans and to seek feedback on the following aspects: how to design this project in a way that maximises its sustainability and suitability for the local area, and how the associated Community Benefit Fund (CBF) could make a meaningful contribution to the lives of local people.

A Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) is a development which is of strategic economic or social importance to a local area.

■ How your feedback has shaped project design

Designers drafted a project outline that would maximise the wind energy potential of the site. Placing local appropriateness as a fundamental consideration and taking on board feedback received from the local community, further optimisation of this design was carried out. Originally, this project secured planning as a 12-turbine layout but is now being brought forward as a revised 11-turbine proposal with an approximate output of 52MW. The setback distance of the nearest property is 640m with approximately 70% of the properties in excess of 800m.



■ Project at a Glance

- 11-turbine project
- 110kV on-site substation
- Over 52MW of renewable energy to the Irish electricity grid
- Zero shadow flicker policy
- Height of turbine up to a maximum of 169m
- Total Community Benefit Fund of circa €3.9 million, over a 15-year period, depending on the final design
- Annual rates payments to Kildare County Council. These rates go towards public services including street lighting, libraries, footpath and road maintenance
- Associated works will include access tracks, met mast, turbine foundations and hard standing areas, drainage works, temporary site compounds, underground electrical and communication cables between turbines, and an underground cable to connect the proposed project via a loop-in connection to the existing Harristown-Dunfirth (Tee)-Rinawade 110 kV overhead line

■ Strategic Infrastructure Development

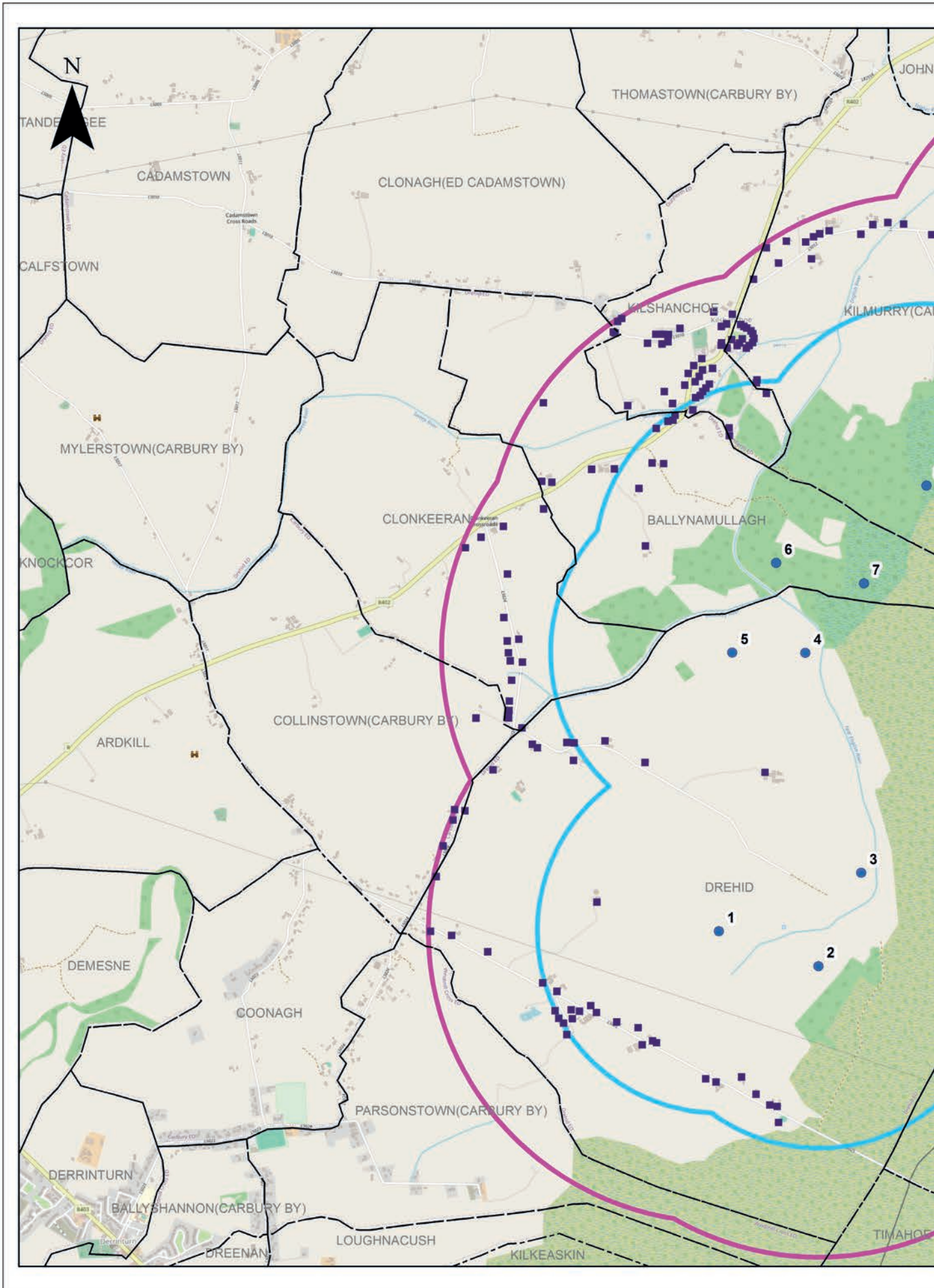
Wind farms with a total output greater than 50 megawatts are considered a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID). In a pre-application meetings with An Bord Pleanála. It was determined that the 52MW wind farm and the 110kV substation were both considered SID and it was determined that separate SID applications would be submitted at the same time to An Bord Pleanála. Kildare County Council will also be consulted on the applications.

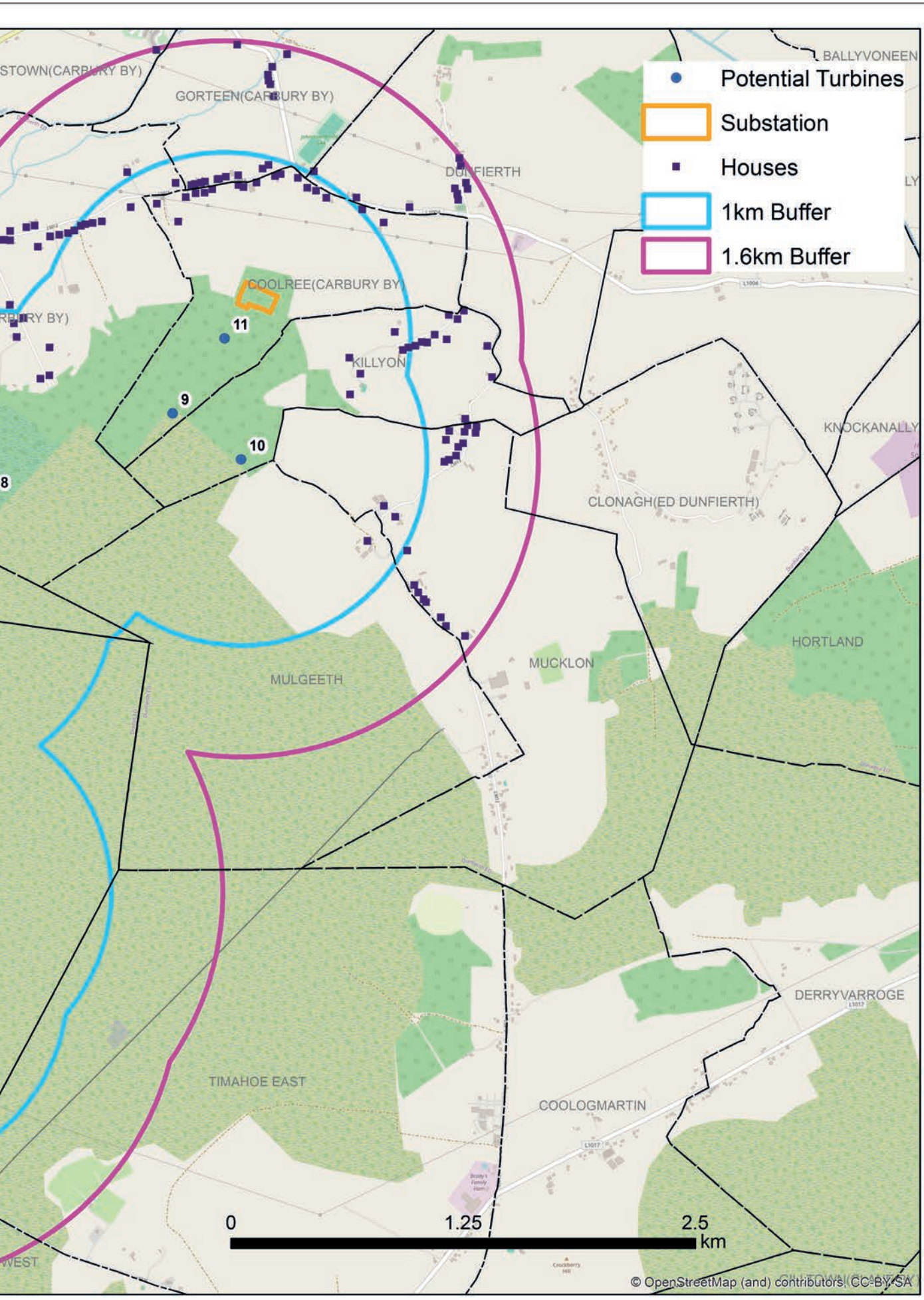
■ Typical Configuration





■ Site Map







■ Community Benefit Fund

A dedicated Community Benefit Fund (CBF) is a great way to invest in sustainable, local initiatives that benefit the entire community. Guidance on how the Community Benefit Funds associated with RESS projects are to be administered is centred around community decision-making.

The funds are designed to be allocated for local community initiatives that reflect the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ensuring that our communities develop towards a healthy, inclusive and green future. If you have any questions in relation to the CBF, please contact the Community Liaison Officer whose contact details are on the back of this booklet.

The Drehid Wind Farm, as proposed, could bring with it funding in the region of an estimated €260,000 each year, or over €3.9 million over a 15-year period. The following are some examples of what has been considered in other areas where we have worked and might give a good indication of what can be achieved and advanced locally.

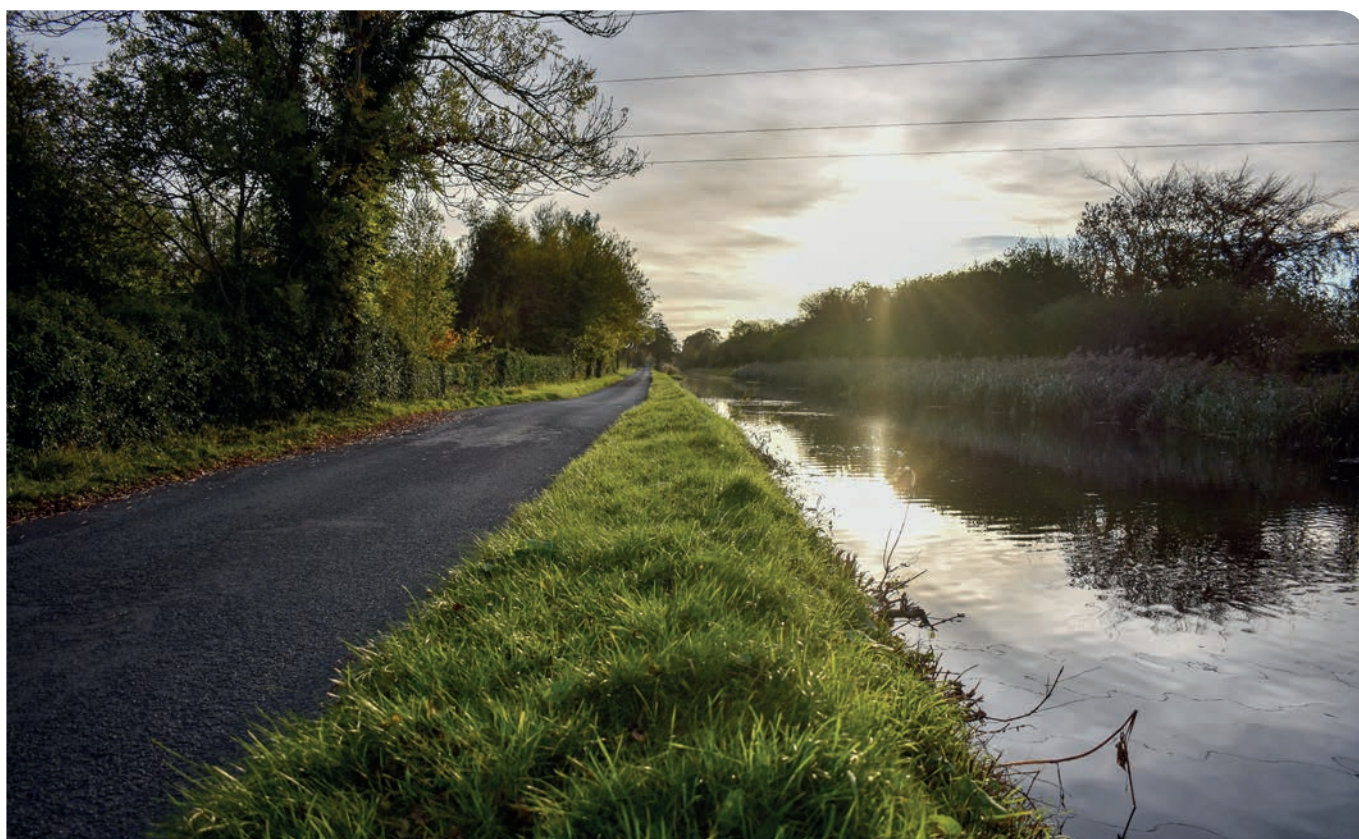
■ How the CBF can benefit your community?

- Direct benefit schemes, such as near neighbour payments
- Energy efficiency schemes for households
- Funding for amenity and equestrian trails
- Funding for local heritage initiatives
- Job creation and investment in the local economy
- Support for local education schemes
- Biodiversity initiatives
- Local festivals and events

Should this project go ahead, we will liaise directly with local and county-wide sustainability and community groups to ensure the CBF is utilised.



[Find out more about the UN SDGs here](#)



If you have any suggestions for biodiversity initiatives that Statkraft could implement alongside the project, please contact the Community Liaison Officer whose contact details are located at the back of this booklet.



■ Our obligations and responsibilities

We would hope that our first steps in the development of this proposal will be recognised as open, transparent, and respectful. Addressing climate change and energy security warrants nothing less. During consultation, our objective is not to seek support for the proposal, but to provide information to allow you to develop your own considered opinion, based on accurate information, on what this proposal has to offer. As this process develops, we will continue to work with you to ensure that this wind farm delivers effective climate action while also delivering for the local area.

■ Project sustainability

Our ambition is to contribute to a more sustainable future for all. At the same time, the way we develop our projects in local communities must be sustainable and responsible – and we are guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



■ Sustainability of the project includes:

- Stakeholder engagement which provides us with valuable input and helps us to continuously improve and strengthen our relationships and business practices
- A biodiversity plan is provided as part of all planning submissions. Typical biodiversity measures included are: planting wildflower meadows, providing sections of species-rich grass, improving hedgerows, tree planting and providing bird nesting
- Supply chain management. This covers health and safety, environment and climate, human rights, labour rights, and business ethics





For more information, please visit the following websites

www.windenergyireland.com Wind Energy Ireland (WEI)	www.epa.ie Environmental Protection Agency
www.seai.ie Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI)	www.gsi.ie Geological Survey Ireland
www.un.org/climatechange UN Climate Change Website	www.npws.ie National Parks and Wildlife Service
www.climatecouncil.ie Ireland's Climate Change Advisory Council	www.kildarecoco.ie Kildare County Council

Talk to our Community Liaison Officer

The Community Liaison Officer for this project is John Lowry who is also supported by a dedicated team who have years of experience in renewables and working with communities. While they are very knowledgeable about renewable energy projects, they also appreciate the fact that individuals and communities have different thoughts on what works in their individual areas. The team are available to provide information on this proposal or indeed the wider issues of climate action. We would encourage anyone who has an interest in this proposal to get in touch with us using the contact details below.

■ Dedicated Website

There is a dedicated project website in place where all information and updates relevant to the project will be posted. This also provides you with the opportunity to share your feedback.

If you have any further questions, you can contact your dedicated Community Liaison Officer on the contact details provided below.



www.drehidwindfarm.ie



"Climate change is a fundamental problem that we must solve and not merely pass on to the generations to come. We can't let our children and grandchildren look back on this critical period in time and say that we failed them." Mary Robinson

Privacy Policy

Here at Statkraft we take your privacy seriously and we treat your information with respect. To facilitate environmental safety management systems and to ensure appropriate assessment and development; consultation and domiciliary data within the study area is collected. For more information about how Statkraft processes personal data, please consult our general privacy policy at <https://www.statkraft.ie/privacy-statement/> – or you can also direct any specific questions you have to privacy@statkraft.com.

■ Contact Us

Community Liaison Team

John Lowry

Phone: 057 9379043

www.drehidwindfarm.ie

