

Introduction

The impacts of climate change on our world are now widely accepted. We are all being challenged to consider the role we play in climate action.

At the moment, the majority of us still use fossil fuels to generate our electricity, heat our homes and run our cars, all of which release carbon into the environment. However, people are now moving towards a low carbon solution and accept that this needs to change. Last year, 43% of our electricity came from renewable sources. The development of renewable energy, including solar energy, is the foundation upon which effective climate action can be delivered.

The world is getting warmer and extreme weather events are a frequent occurrence. We cannot stop climate change, but we can take action to address it.

About Statkraft

Statkraft is Europe's largest renewable energy producer. It has been making clean energy for over a century.

At Statkraft Ireland we believe that a better, cleaner and more sustainable world is possible to achieve and that by working together, we can avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

Statkraft is already playing a significant role in combating climate change and it has a lot of experience in delivering renewable energy projects. Statkraft Ireland is developing renewable energy projects, including wind, solar and battery storage projects, that are appropriate for the local areas and bring long lasting benefits to our communities, our country and our future generations.

This Project

At a Glance

- Total project site size in excess of 500 acres
- 200MWp energy capacity
- Largest solar project in Ireland to date
- Capacity to power over 40,000 homes
- Fixed south-facing frames
- Maximum height of 3 metres above ground level



The Ballymacarney Solar Project encompasses sites which were initially developed by Lightsource and JBM Solar, and all were granted planning permissions between 2018 and 2019. The projects were acquired by Statkraft Ireland in 2019 and were subsequently successful in the Government's renewable energy auction in 2020. Construction commenced in early 2021.

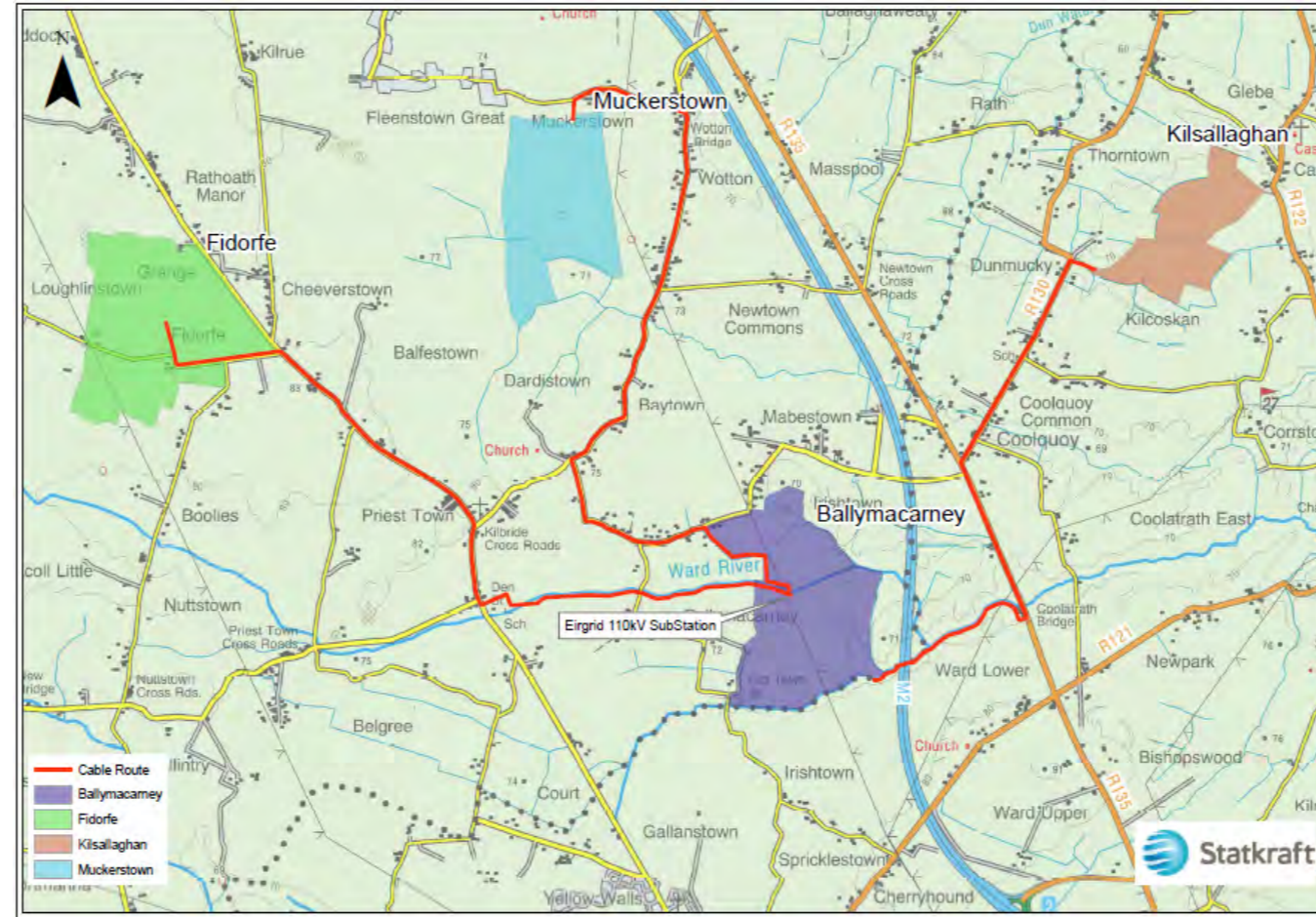
The project will see the installation of solar panels on agricultural land, close to the Dublin Meath border (see layout map). Once operational, it will provide renewable energy to the local electricity grid system. It will have the capacity to power over 40,000 homes with clean, green renewable energy.

A sub-station is being constructed on the Ballymacarney site. This is a 110kV substation which is connecting into existing Eirgrid lines that run through the site.

The solar panels which will be installed here will consist of monocrystalline silicon solar cells laminated behind a sheet of glass to make a weatherproof package. At the proposed height, the existing vegetation will provide some screening of the site and additional planting is proposed within the landscaping plan to minimise visual change to the area.



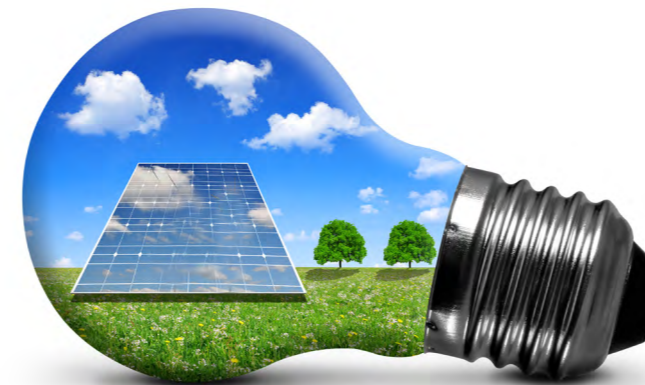
Map of the project sites



Current Stage & Upcoming Works

Construction is currently underway on the Ballymacarney site with the development of the sub-station and when this is completed, the installation of the solar panels will begin. Construction works on the other neighbouring sites will begin in early 2022.

As this project moves on through construction and operational phases, we will continue to engage with the local community. Updates will be provided both through the dedicated project website www.ballymacarneysolar.ie and by local newsletters.



Estimated Timeline

Site	Ballymacarney	Muckerstown	Kilsallaghan	Fidorfe
Planning Permission granted	Feb 2018	March 2019	October 2018 (Fingal CC)	Jan 2018
RESS Auction	August 2020			
Construction start	Jan 2021 (substation)	Feb 2022	Feb 2022	Feb 2022
Road Works	September 2021 – February 2022			
Compound Setup	February 2022 – March 2022			
Solar Farm Construction (incl civil works)	March 2022 – September 2022			
Electrical Testing & Commissioning	September 2022 – December 2022			
Operational	December 2022			

Aerial photo of Site



■ Benefits of Solar Power

Ireland is now on a path of decarbonisation and the energy that we are using is switching from fossil fuels to renewables. Solar power is a clean, abundant source of energy and has many benefits.

• Future energy

A solar farm will produce clean renewable energy for future generations. Local energy production improves energy security.

• Business rates

Solar farms pay rates to the local authorities, in this case both Meath and Fingal County Councils, thereby contributing to the funding of vital public services.

• Jobs

We encourage any local supplier that can play a part in the construction or operation of this solar farm to get in touch.

• Community benefits

The Irish Government requires that all renewable projects that are developed over the coming years invest a community benefit fund into the local area, which will bring significant opportunities for local communities. This fund will be in place once the project is operational.

• Air quality

Decarbonising our electricity system and moving away from fossil fuels allows us to deliver on climate action, and in doing so improves our air quality.

• Supporting biodiversity

For every solar farm we build, there is potential to improve the environment and increase the habitat diversity through a number of measures including: beehives; planting wildflower meadows; providing sections of species rich grass; improving hedgerows; tree planting; and, providing bird and insect boxes where needed. There is also potential for sheep grazing under the panels. Solar energy farms also provide a great opportunity for micro-habitats and can support a variety of wildlife.

■ The Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS)

Local people will be central to determining how this community benefit fund should be distributed.

Guidance on how the fund will be administered is currently being drafted by the Department of Environment Climate & Communications. Once the finalised guidance is available, further information will be provided on the project website.

Ballymacarney Solar Project could bring with it annual funding of over €300,000 for the local community.

We are interested in hearing what ideas you have on how this solar project could deliver the most benefit to the local area, and to you and your family.

■ FAQs

How does a solar energy farm work?

Solar panels generate electricity whenever light falls on them and the energy produced is proportional to the intensity of the light. The electricity is then transformed to the same voltage as the distribution grid to enable this to be exported, the energy produced is preferentially fed to the local area. The solar panels are mounted on fixed support structures, oriented towards the south, tilted to optimise production and raised a minimum of 0.8m above the ground.

Do solar panels work when it's cloudy?

Solar PV systems generate electricity when there is daylight, so they will still function on overcast days. Even though maximum efficiency is reached when the sun is shining, electricity is still produced on cloudy days and during winter.

Is a solar farm noisy?

There is some noise generated during daylight hours during the construction period. Once built, there is low level noise from the inverters and transformers when the solar farm is producing energy. The location of these is carefully selected, in order to ensure that they are not located close to any dwellings. A noise impact assessment is submitted as part of the planning application.

Can there be a glare from solar panels?

Solar panels are designed with anti-reflection coatings to ensure that they as much of the incident light as possible. There can be some glint and glare from the panels, but this is less than normal glass and we design them in such a way to minimise this, taking into account the location of properties and local landscape.

How are solar farms maintained?

After the construction period is completed the solar farm works automatically, is monitored remotely, and normally require 1-2 maintenance visits per month.

For more information, visit the following websites



Irish Solar Energy Association (ISEA)
www.irishsolarenergy.org

Meath County Council
www.meath.ie

Fingal County Council
<https://www.fingal.ie/>

Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI)
www.seai.ie

Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.ie

UN Climate Change Website
www.un.org/climatechange

Geological Survey Ireland
www.gsi.ie

Ireland's Climate Change Advisory Council
www.climatecouncil.ie

National Parks and Wildlife Service
www.npws.ie

Contact our Project Manager

Ronan Creedon is the Project Manager for the Ballymacarney Solar Project. He is available to provide information on the project works or indeed the wider issues of renewable energy and climate action.

We would encourage anyone who has any questions on the project to contact us on the below contact details:



By phone:
+353 1 211 8977



By email:
enquiries@ballymacarneysolar.ie

QR Code to site

www.ballymacarneysolar.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.co.uk/globalassets/1-statkraft-public/global-menu/privacy-statement-external-2018_eng.pdf - or you can also direct any specific questions you have to privacy@statkraft.com

Contact Us

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www.ballymacarneysolar.ie



Ballymacarney Solar

Project Booklet

October 2021

More details on RESS



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www.ballymacarneysolar.ie

