

Appendix 1-4 Community Engagement

EIAR - Volume 3

Knockanarragh Wind Farm

SLR Project No.: 501.V00727.00008

25/01/2024



March 2024

Technical Appendix 1-4 Community Consultation Report

Project: Knockanarragh Wind Farm



Community Consultation

Background

Initial public consultation for a wind energy proposal at this location began at a very early stage in the development process. Engagement with the local community started during initial feasibility and scoping stages back as far as 2013 when the proposed wind farm encompassed part of the much larger proposed Greenwire wind development. At that time, a nominated Community Liaison Officer (CLO) was appointed to the area. This larger proposed development was ultimately put on hold but Knockanarragh as a standalone development has now been progressed through design and to pre-planning stage.

Public consultation specific to the proposed Knockanarragh Wind Farm commenced in March 2023 at an early stage in its development process. At that time, a Community Liaison Strategy (CLS) was established and set in motion, with a newly nominated CLO being appointed for this specific project. Since then, this CLO has been the main point of contact with the local community. Engagement with the CLO was conducted over the following months and included meeting with those in the local community to deal with queries and feedback. A second round of consultations consisting of in-person calls to all houses in the area took place in August and September 2023. Engagement will go on throughout the lifetime of this proposal, continuing during development and extending into construction and operations where the project comes to fruition.

The CLS is based on the 'Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland Guidelines for Community Engagement'. The Code's core fundamentals are to engage with the local community in an open, honest, and transparent manner with the aim of providing clear and understandable information on a project, and for getting feedback from, and the views of, the local community and to use this information to inform the design and development process. This gives the local community a chance to have input in the project development path and influence the final project design. The CLS was based on the fundamental principle of active engagement with all households within a minimum of 1.6km of the design layout under consideration, with the view to opening a two-way dialogue with people in this area. To date, 157 houses in this area have been visited, with project information and contact details provided. In all, 196 face-to-face meetings have been held with residents in the local area. Some of these meetings were held on an individual level, while others involved meeting small groups of people. The form that the meetings took in terms of numbers was dictated by the residents; it was important to facilitate their schedules and preferred format in all cases, with the CLO engaging with everyone who made contact about the proposal. Wider access to information was made and is available via the project website and virtual consultation room facilities.

There are 54 houses within 1km of the proposed development. Of these, 60% met and engaged with us. Residents in all houses within 1.6km of the proposed layout, totalling 144 houses (including the 54 properties within 1km), were provided with project information, with engagement extending to residents in 11 properties beyond 1.6km (13 houses were derelict/vacant/without post box). Where it was not possible to engage directly with residents as they were not home, *Sorry we missed you* cards,

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featuring contact details and QR codes to the community consultation portal and Knockanarragh website, were left at the property. In total, 90 of these cards were left at properties over the consultation period. Over 35 people requested meetings after we left these cards at properties.

The core objective of this consultation approach was to provide information on what was being considered and to receive feedback from people in the local community that would be used to inform the design process.

An important aspect of the community engagement strategy was the distribution of project information and the gathering of feedback. In total, 350 project booklets and 155 newsletters were distributed across the local and wider area.

The following information was provided within the consultation area:

- Contact details for contacting the CLO at any time
- 2 project booklets (310 distributed to local residents)
- Details on the dedicated project website
- Details on the virtual consultation room
- Newsletter update prior to planning submission
- Information about the Community Benefit Fund was provided to local community groups

Project Booklets, Website, Virtual Consultation Room, and Feedback Form

In March 2023, the Community Engagement team called to every house in the area with a detailed project booklet. The main purpose of these visits was for the CE team to introduce themselves, provide contact details and to provide information on the project under consideration, with the view to establishing a line of dialogue between the company and residents.

Project Booklet Number 1

During the initial door-to-door calls, information and a booklet on the project being considered were provided. The project booklet was in the form of an 8-page booklet that detailed information on what was being considered, outlined the opportunity to provide feedback, advised how this feedback would be used in the design process and provided details on where people could get further information. Statkraft contact and website details were clearly outlined on this booklet while QR codes were also provided to assist with access.

This booklet also contained educational information about climate change and fossil fuel dependency to provide context on why this project was being considered. Furthermore, the booklet outlined how the project could bring benefits to the local area and sought feedback from people on how they thought that the Community Benefit Fund should be used. A flexible approach has been taken to facilitate the

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timing of meetings e.g., arrangements to meet with people at times and locations convenient to them. Engagement extended beyond the CLS-identified area and extended beyond 1.6 kilometres from the proposed turbine locations. A total of 144 households were individually contacted with information regarding the proposed project, with feedback on the proposal sought.

Project Website

A project-specific website (www.knockanarraghwindfarm.ie) was created for this proposal. The website includes a virtual consultation room (VCR) featuring photomontages, videos, explanations on Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) and the SID application, as well as a community survey. This website went live in March 2023 shortly after the commencement of community engagement. The purpose of the website is to provide the public and all stakeholders with an up-to-date platform on project information. The project website is used to provide context for the project, an educational section to develop a greater understanding of the issues being faced, information on how these issues can be addressed and details on the need for renewable energy development.

The website also provides information on the project and on the consultation approach. The project website has evolved with the project and continues to be a source of updated information as the project progresses. The aim has been to keep the information clear, concise, and engaging on this website. A feedback facility, as outlined below, was also incorporated into the site.

The website was well utilised, with 1,174 visits to the site from over 561 users over the course of engagement on this proposal. Visits to the website are ongoing.

Project Booklet Number 2

A second booklet was distributed by the CE team to all houses within the consultation area during August and September of 2023. This was to ensure that everyone in the local area was aware that firstly, the design review stage of the project was reaching its conclusion and that a planning layout had been established, and secondly, that people were notified and aware that a planning submission was due to be submitted in the near future. This circulation process was carried out in person by the project CE team who called door-to-door in an effort to meet with all homeowners in the area to discuss the project and provide updates. These booklets gave feedback from the consultation process, detailed an estimated timeline for submitting the planning application and provided an indicative timeline for the future stages of the development process. After the first round of community consultation, the CLO was given feedback that the map of the proposed project site in the first project booklet was not easily understood. To improve legibility, the map in the second project booklet included additional features such as highlighted main roads, estates, GAA clubs and natural features such as lakes.

The second booklet also contained four individual photo montages from the proposed project from different viewpoints across the project area to aid residents who voiced concerns over visuals during the first round of consultation. Additionally, a case study of how the Community Benefit Fund from a recently commissioned Statkraft Windfarm in Moyvane is being used was highlighted. People were

again encouraged to continue to provide feedback, to visit the project website for updates, or to contact the CLO for additional information or to arrange a meeting. A total of 144 households were individually contacted with information regarding the proposed project, with feedback on the proposal sought.

Virtual Consultation Room

A virtual consultation room (VCR) was set up for members of the public to obtain key information about the Proposed Development and share their views. The VCR was launched in August of 2023 following distribution of the first project booklet and door-to-door community engagement. The VCR demonstrated the evolution of the Proposed Development from the initial round of consultation; this design process was guided by community feedback in tandem with environmental assessment.

The VCR was broken down into the following segments:

- A welcome video setting out an introduction to Statkraft, the parent company of the Applicant and a brief overview of the Project.
- **About Statkraft**, where Statkraft, the parent company of the Applicant, introduced the company to the website visitor.
- **Project overview and evolution** – where the Proposed Development was set out in simple terms for the public and the evolution of the Project was briefly synthesised. A voluntary question for consultees to answer, about what aspects of the Project was most important to them, was also provided.
- **The need for the Project** – this section set out the importance of the impact of climate change and energy security alongside the goal of sustainability. Two voluntary questions about the personal view of the consultee on the benefits of renewable energy were also posed.
- Links to the community consultation brochures from both rounds of community door-to-door consultation were also included.
- **The process of environmental impact** – a diagram of the process was provided.
- **Community feedback** – a brief overview of how community consultation inputs affected the assessment and a response to the most common concerns voiced by the community.
- **Community Benefit Fund** – a brief section on the Community Benefit Fund and what the community is entitled to as a result of the Proposed Development. Three voluntary questions were provided for consultees to disclose how they would like the fund to be disbursed within their community, and what they considered to be the most important use of the fund.
- **A map of the Proposed Development layout** – this featured a voluntary section allowing the consultee to enter details of their location.
- **A link to a selected number of photomontages** – to demonstrate the visual impact that the proposed turbines would have on the surrounding areas.
- **Contact us** – an area which provided the contact details of the community liaison officer and an area for a consultee to leave their own contact details.

Project Consultation Feedback Form

A specialised online Geographic Information Systems (GIS) form was created to capture feedback and views from the community (<https://knockanarraghwindfarm.ie/this-opportunity/community-consultation/>). The form was accessible through QR codes on the Project Booklets (x2), the *Sorry we missed you* cards left with any residents the CE team was unable to engage with in-person during initial door-to-door consultations, through a dedicated link on the project website and the final newsletter. This form provided key information to households, such as an exact distance to the nearest turbine from their home, as well as providing a platform for households to provide their feedback and concerns on the Proposed Development and on specific environmental, landscape and other concerns. It also provided an opportunity to provide feedback on how community development funds might be utilised.

This feedback form was structured as follows:

- **Page One** provided information on the distance from a proposed turbine using a location provided (Eircode or a point on the map) and generated the distance from that point (in km) to the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development.
- **Page Two** allowed for the consultee to select whether it was a home address or other location.
- **Page Three** allowed the consultee to select a number of key concerns such as 'environmental', 'landscape' or general comment. Each of these primary headings allowed the consultee to specify concerns related to these headings and allowed an open text box for the consultee to state more details about their concerns. This page also allowed for some feedback on how the consultee would like to see the Community Benefit Fund disbursed within the local community.
- **Page Four** provided a summary of all entries into the tool to this point and allowed for a blank text box to provide any additional information.
- **Page Five** allowed for a submission button.

Final Newsletter

The project newsletter, distributed to all residents (155 in total) within the 1.6km radius in February 2024, included general information on the project, a reminder that the proposal is to be submitted as an SID application in the coming weeks and that there was still time to submit feedback or request further information from the CLO. The CLO's contact details and details on how to access the VCR and project website were also included.

Phone calls

The CLO team received 48 calls from the public in relation to the proposal.

Emails

The CLO received 52 emails from the public in relation to the proposal each of which were responded to (as of 12th March 2024).

Key Issues Raised During Consultation

General Feedback

During our one-to-one meetings with residents as part of the consultation process, people were actively encouraged to provide feedback on the proposal and/or their areas of concern.

Feedback from meetings with people in the area showed that the need to take effective climate action was recognised, and it was apparent that many of them are considering what changes they will need to make in their daily lives to play their part in combatting climate change. The local community also well understood that Ireland cannot continue to rely on imported fossil fuels such as oil and gas for its energy needs, the importance of Ireland's energy security and how this project could help to achieve this aim.

While the need for the development of renewable energy was appreciated, there remained an apprehension about the development of wind energy in the area. This was essentially based on the perception that this would lead to change in the area. In terms of this change, the most significant factors included the visual change that would occur, any potential effects on the area's hydrology system and what a transition to a low-carbon society will mean for families and individuals living locally.

Taking into consideration their concerns and queries, it was generally accepted that the Community Benefit Fund associated with the project would mean that people living closest to the development could benefit from locally generated electricity and the transition to a low-carbon society. There was significant interest in the benefits of this Fund and how it could deliver to the local area, with suggestions that the funding could support an amenity trail, help preserve local heritage sites or fund the installation of chargers for electric vehicles, including electric bicycle.

Feedback on Shadow Flicker

A number of people raised an initial concern regarding shadow flicker but were reassured from the outset that there will be no shadow flicker at properties in the area. Two houses near the proposed project raised concerns about autism. During our consultation with those who engaged with us on this topic, we reiterated our commitment to eliminating shadow flicker and provided contact details for a school for children with special needs, including autism. This school has first-hand experience of bringing these children to local wind farms as a means of therapy. In addition, the school provides care for children who live close to wind farms without experiencing any ill effects.

Feedback on Traffic/Haul Routes

The impact of haulage traffic on narrow country roads and on the main N52 road was an issue brought up during consultation. There were concerns that heavy trucks and machinery would leave roads in poor condition, that the use of the N52 would result on major traffic delays and that subcontractors would use roads outside the predefined and agreed Haulage Route. The CE team assured the residents that 1) All roads used for the development would be reinstated by Statkraft; 2) Subcontractors are not allowed to deviate from the Haul Route as it would be against their contracts; and 3) The CE team recorded the names and contact details of the residents that voiced these concerns and were told that this would be passed on to the dedicated Statkraft CLO for projects in their construction phase who would be in regular contact if the project was granted planning.

Noise

The noise that haulage trucks would cause for residents living on the Haulage Route was also a topic of concern. We similarly took the names and contact details of these residents to pass over to the dedicated construction phase CLO who would be their point of contact. Residents concerned about the noise coming from the turbines, especially nighttime noise levels, received information and were reassured about national regulations which restrict noise levels to 43 dB(A).

Feedback on Proximity & Setback Distances

Several people raised initial queries regarding the setback distance between turbines and houses in the local area. The design proposal presented during consultation, detailing a 720m set back from the nearest house not involved with the wind farm, was generally but not unilaterally acknowledged as an acceptable setback.

Feedback on Visuals

As is the case in most communities, people's thoughts on how wind turbines look ranged from those who like the look of wind turbines and see them as a beacon of hope for the future, to those who have a negative view and do not like the look of them. The people who do not like the visual aspect of turbines raised this as a concern, stating that they did not like the view of turbines on the landscape. Despite these concerns, there were a number of these people who acknowledged that screening in the area would mitigate the visual impact.

A number of people also said that while they did not particularly like the look of wind turbines, they accepted that wind farms have an important role to play in delivering effective climate action. It was generally accepted that the reduced number of turbines, increased setback and increased tip height struck a more appropriate balance in terms of the design of an acceptable proposal. The consultation team provided photo montages, which were available from the second round of consultation, that helped residents get a sense of how the turbines would look on the landscape. Further details of the alternatives and design process are contained in Chapter 3 of the EIAR: Alternatives.

Feedback on Hydrology

It was generally accepted by residents that should climate change go unchecked, an increasing number of extreme weather events are likely to be experienced in the locality. Despite this, one person still expressed concerns that the proposed development could potentially cause an issue with more run-off that could increase the water table at critical times. Our consultation team sought information from our design team about the hydrology surveys and predictions associated with this project, which showed that, given the design of the wind farm in terms of the use of existing roads and the design of the drainage system (which is designed specifically for the local topography), the impacts of the wind farm on the water table would be negligible. This information was provided to the concerned residents to endeavour to address these concerns.

Feedback on Design

The preliminary design was reviewed to reflect consultation responses commonly received from the public. Areas queried included potential shadow flicker, setback distances, proximity to houses and noise. Feedback gathered during this consultation process on the proposal design was relayed to the design team who worked to take on board the local community's views and concerns. A design review process was undertaken in which this feedback, along with technical appraisals, were considered. The process gave the design team the opportunity to make amendments to the design layout and the project being considered, based on the local feedback received.

The proposed design resulted from this consultation process. The design proposal being brought forward for consultation included a commitment to eliminate shadow flicker and with a setback distance of 4x times the tip height of the proposed turbines (720m) or more to the nearest home in the community. As explained in the project booklet, any potential noise from the development has been reduced. These early design changes were welcomed and were generally seen to address people's initial concerns.

In response to queries about the grid connection, we informed the public that the potential grid connection would be a proposed new substation west of Clonmellon, with the grid connection along the N52 using underground cables.

Feedback on Property Value

One question raised during the consultation process was the effect that nearby wind farm developments would have on property values. Direct payments to near neighbours as well as Greener Homes Schemes and Community Benefits Funds were highlighted as mechanisms to limit the potential for any negative financial impacts that such developments may cause local residents.

Feedback on Health Effects

A small number of residents also asked about any potential negative health impacts of living close to

wind farms. The CE team reassured those with concerns that there was no evidence of negative physical health effects caused by living in close proximity to a wind farm and that the reduction in CO₂ in our air as a result of the diminished reliance on fossil fuels will, in fact, bring positive health impacts to the local and wider community.

Consultation on Community Benefit

In addition to what is outlined above, over the course of engagement with the local community/individuals, local businesses and community groups, feedback was actively sought on ideas regarding the form that the community benefit scheme should take, and how best to achieve maximum potential benefit for the local area from the funding associated with this project.

Background to Community Benefit Provided

Details were announced in October 2021 of the Government's second Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS). Renewable energy projects developed under this scheme have a significantly increased community benefit fund associated with them. For wind energy, this contribution is currently set at €2/MWh. This would offer a significant opportunity in terms of bringing economic, environmental, and social benefits to the local area. Feedback from the local community, which is set out below, highlighted several ways in which people felt this fund could be beneficial.

Knockanarragh Wind Farm and Community Benefit

Knockanarragh Wind Farm is committed to ensuring that renewable energy delivers real and tangible benefits for the local communities and sees community involvement in such schemes as a fundamental requirement. The Community Benefit Fund for the local area, assuming an export capacity of in the region of 57.6MW (based on the proposed layout and working assumptions) and where developed under RESS, will be approximately €300,000 per year for the local area for the duration of the scheme. The value of this fund will be directly proportional to the number of MWhs of electricity produced by the wind farm, and on the project being successful in securing RESS support and the duration of that support. This equates to a Community Benefit Fund in the region of €4 million over a 15-year period for the local area; this presents a significant opportunity to develop the social, economic, and environmental sustainability of the local area.

Feedback from the Local Community about Community Benefit Fund

During the consultation process, feedback was sought in terms of how the Community Benefit Fund could bring real and tangible benefits to the people living in the local area. A total of 75 households enquired about the Community Benefit Fund.

The CE team also held two meetings with local community groups to provide information on the funding and how local groups can apply for it provided the project is granted planning.

People were not only asked to consider suggestions outlined in the project booklet; we also requested that they highlight the needs of the locality as well as local initiatives and organisation they felt could benefit from support.

The results from the Consultation Feedback Form highlights the number of people supporting various aspects of community benefit, and are as follows:

Community Benefit Initiative	No. of people supporting
Amenity Trails	3
Biodiversity Areas	3
Community Organisation	2
Cultural and Heritage	2
Electric Bike Hire	2
EV Charging Locations	2
Local Employment	3
Recreation	3
Social Solidarity	1
Sustainable Food Hub	1
Tourism	1
Other	4

Queries about the Community Benefit Fund included:

- The value of the fund – Community Benefit Fund of approximately €300,000 per annum
- Funding for local heritage projects
- Energy efficiency
- Who benefits from these funds? Is it the people within close proximity to the development or the wider area?
- How is the Committee set up?
- How do you sit on the Committee?

The overriding message received from residents was that the Community Benefit Fund associated with this development should bring direct benefit to those living in the local area. The need for climate action was also important to residents; as a result, they suggested that the Community Benefit Fund be used to assist households to reduce their carbon footprint.

Administration of the Community Benefit Fund

During our consultation, we asked people how they felt the fund should be administered. The overwhelming feedback on this was that the community should have an input into how the fund would be administered. Community involvement in decision-making around how community benefit funds should be allocated is a key feature of these funds under the RESS scheme and is an approach endorsed and encouraged by Knockanarragh Wind Farm. It was also highlighted to the community that a fund administrator would be appointed to oversee the establishment of structures and to ensure that the administration of the fund was carried out in a compliant and transparent manner.

Community Benefit Scheme

An important part of wind farm development is the Community Benefit Scheme. The main benefits of the scheme include support for local community groups and support for local educational funds. The concept of directing benefits from wind farms to the local community is promoted by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), the National Economic and Social Council (NESCC) and the Wind Energy Ireland (WEI), among others.

As set out in the terms of the Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS), all renewable energy projects applying for RESS will require a Community Benefit Fund prior to commercial operations of the Proposed Development. RESS requires a contribution of €2/MWh for all projects. Furthermore, the Community Benefit Fund will provide a minimum payment of €1,000 to all dwellings located within a 1km radius from the project and sets out that a minimum of 40% of the funds shall be paid to not-for-profit community enterprises, whose primary focus or aim is the promotion of initiatives towards the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Knockanarragh Wind Farm supports and endorses this approach to the delivery of community benefit funding and endeavours to work with local communities in a proactive and engaging way to deliver real and tangible benefits for the local areas.

At the earliest stages of the development process, Statkraft sought to obtain positive engagement from the community in terms of considering what associated Community Benefit funds could mean to the area. Given that local people understand the needs and requirements of the local community best, consultation on the form that the community benefit package should take, has been an integral part of developing this proposal. As detailed in Chapter 1, public consultation and engagement with the local community and businesses began at a very early stage in the development process and feedback was actively sought on ideas about the Community Benefit Fund and how best to achieve maximum potential benefit from the available funding.

During public consultation, the local community clearly expressed a strong view that part of this fund should be ring-fenced to provide support to the residences closest to the Proposed Development through initiatives including the provision of a near-neighbour scheme and support for adopting low carbon technologies to reduce household energy usage and bills. Details of how the funds would be allocated would be developed in line with the RESS requirements which require community

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involvement in the decision-making processes.

Summation of Public Consultation Process

Publicly available, full, clear, and comprehensive information has been made available about the project at all key stages and consultation has been carried out in an open, transparent, and honest manner while promoting active and engaging two-way communication.

Consultation commenced at an early stage in the development process and feedback was actively sought on the proposed wind farm. The design process incorporated the feedback received and changes were made to take account of local views where appropriate.

At all stages of the community engagement process, contact details in the form of a contact phone number and email address for enquiries were distributed. These contact details were included on the project booklets, project website, and associated virtual consultation room. These details are again being incorporated into the newsletter to be distributing to coincide with the planning submission. Additionally, feedback facilities are provided the project website and virtual consultation room.

Leading on from this consultation approach, the CLO has become well-known in the area and has worked to foster good relations in the local community. There was good engagement from the residents and constructive feedback was received both on the design and community benefit aspects of the project. The majority of people engaged in this process, advising how they felt that the proposal could be improved, raising any concerns that they held and providing feedback on how the Community Benefit Fund could be used to bring real benefits to the local area.

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Knockanarragh Wind Farm

Project Booklet

Q2 2023



Knockanarragh Wind Farm



Statkraft

■ Introduction

The cost of energy and the cost of living have recently become the biggest topics of discussion in most households across the country.

Statkraft is committed to delivering affordable renewable energy on to our grid system and working with communities to explore how these projects might work best in the local areas. We are also committed to delivering local funds to assist people and communities in a real and tangible way, making lives easier, better, and more sustainable.

Recent global events have challenged us to ask ourselves if it makes sense to pay for much of our energy to come from overseas. The relevance of this question is all the greater when we have ample sources of clean energy here at home. Irish wind farms protect consumers every day by pushing expensive gas generators off the system and reducing our dependency on imported fossil fuels.

As a generation, we have a unique opportunity to make a real difference in securing our own energy independence. We believe that we can deliver for the present, while safeguarding our future.

Positive engagement and feedback on this proposal, while design is ongoing, will ensure that all possible opportunities can be captured and ultimately delivered, should the project come to fruition.

■ Who we are

At Statkraft, 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. As Europe's largest renewable energy producer, we have been making clean energy possible for over a century and continue to lead the way towards a carbon-free future.

Statkraft has been present in Ireland since 2018 and now employs approximately 100 people across its offices in Cork and Tullamore. The Statkraft Ireland team has two decades of development experience and our staff are experts in areas such as site selection and environmental assessment.

We endeavour to develop suitable and appropriate renewable energy projects that will bring long-lasting benefits, not only to our country and future generations, but also to the local communities in which they are located.





■ The need for this project

The impacts of climate change on our world are indisputable. We are all being challenged to consider the role we play in climate action and how we can reduce our reliance on costly and polluting imported fossil fuels. 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. Renewable energy development is a vital part of that action.

Price hikes have put huge pressure on households and businesses, and exacerbated the cost-of-living crisis. Our electricity demands are also on the rise and providing sufficient supplies to avoid potential power shortages has become ever more challenging.

Furthermore, energy security in Ireland has come into sharp focus. Having our own secure energy supply will shield us from global market energy price increases and continue to help protect families and businesses from the worst effects of a crisis caused by our reliance on fossil fuels. We can tap into our own natural resources and roll out clean, affordable energy that won't break the bank.

■ This Proposal At A Glance

- **8 turbine project**
- **Distance to nearest turbine – over 700m**
- **Over 50MW of renewable energy to the Irish electricity grid**
- **Zero shadow flicker policy**
- **Height of turbine up to a maximum of 180m**
- **Total Community Benefit Fund of circa €4.5m**
- **Associated works will include access tracks, met mast, turbine foundations and hard standing areas, drainage works, temporary site compound, grid systems services, substation, underground electrical and communications cables between turbines and an underground cable to connect the proposed project to a local substation.**



■ Project proposal & design process

As with all our projects, local appropriateness is a fundamental consideration along with careful site selection. Further optimisation of this project's design is still in progress, so community feedback on the proposal is very welcome. You can find details on the final page of this brochure on how you can contact us.

The Knockanarragh location was initially identified following a review of areas that could potentially allow for the development of this type. The initial design layouts, which focused on the capacity of this area to produce renewable energy, were updated to incorporate local considerations. These included the project distance from nearby homes along with local environmental constraints, ensuring the project would be suitable and work well for the locality.

As this proposal has a wind energy output of over 50MW, submission directly to An Bord Pleanála as a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application is a requirement. Westmeath County Council will be expected to review and actively input on any submission.

WIND ENERGY CUTS THE PRICE OF WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY

The Average Wholesale price of Electricity in February:

€ 159.19
Per Megawatt Hour

In February 2023 the Average Price of Electricity on the days with:



MOST WIND ENERGY

€ 139.61
Per Megawatt Hour



LEAST WIND ENERGY

€ 196.85
Per Megawatt Hour

Source: Wind Energy Ireland





■ How this project has evolved over time

At the initial stages of consideration, designers drafted a project outline that would maximise the wind energy potential of the site. Staying in line with the guidelines, the following initial assumptions were made: The initial distance to houses was taken at 500m (subsequently increased), restricting the turbine height to 169m. Shadow flicker curtailment was taken at the maximum allowable levels.

Placing local appropriateness as a fundamental consideration, further optimisation of this design was carried out based on commonly received feedback relating to the distance to houses, number of turbines, shadow flicker and noise levels. It was found that it was possible to increase the distances to houses, reduce turbine numbers further and improve general performance levels of the proposed wind farm by increasing the tip height by 11m. The design changes are set out in the following table:

Knockanarragh Project Evolution	Concept Design	Preliminary Design	Current Design Proposal
Distance to Houses	500m	680m	720m
Number of Turbines	12	9	8
Shadow Flicker	In line with guidelines	Eliminated - no shadow flicker	Eliminated - no shadow flicker
Turbine Height	169	169	180
Potential Capacity	c. 36MW	c. 30MW	c.57MW

■ Typical configuration



■ Engagement

Understanding the local area, its people and environment form a core part of how we approach the development of renewable energy. We believe that it is critical that local communities are at the heart of consideration during all stages, and importantly, during the design and development stages of projects.

One way in which you can have your say is via the dedicated Knockanarragh website, **knockanarraghwindfarm.ie**, where you can find the consultation portal. This will help provide us with as much information as possible and allow us to bring a considered approach to the project development.

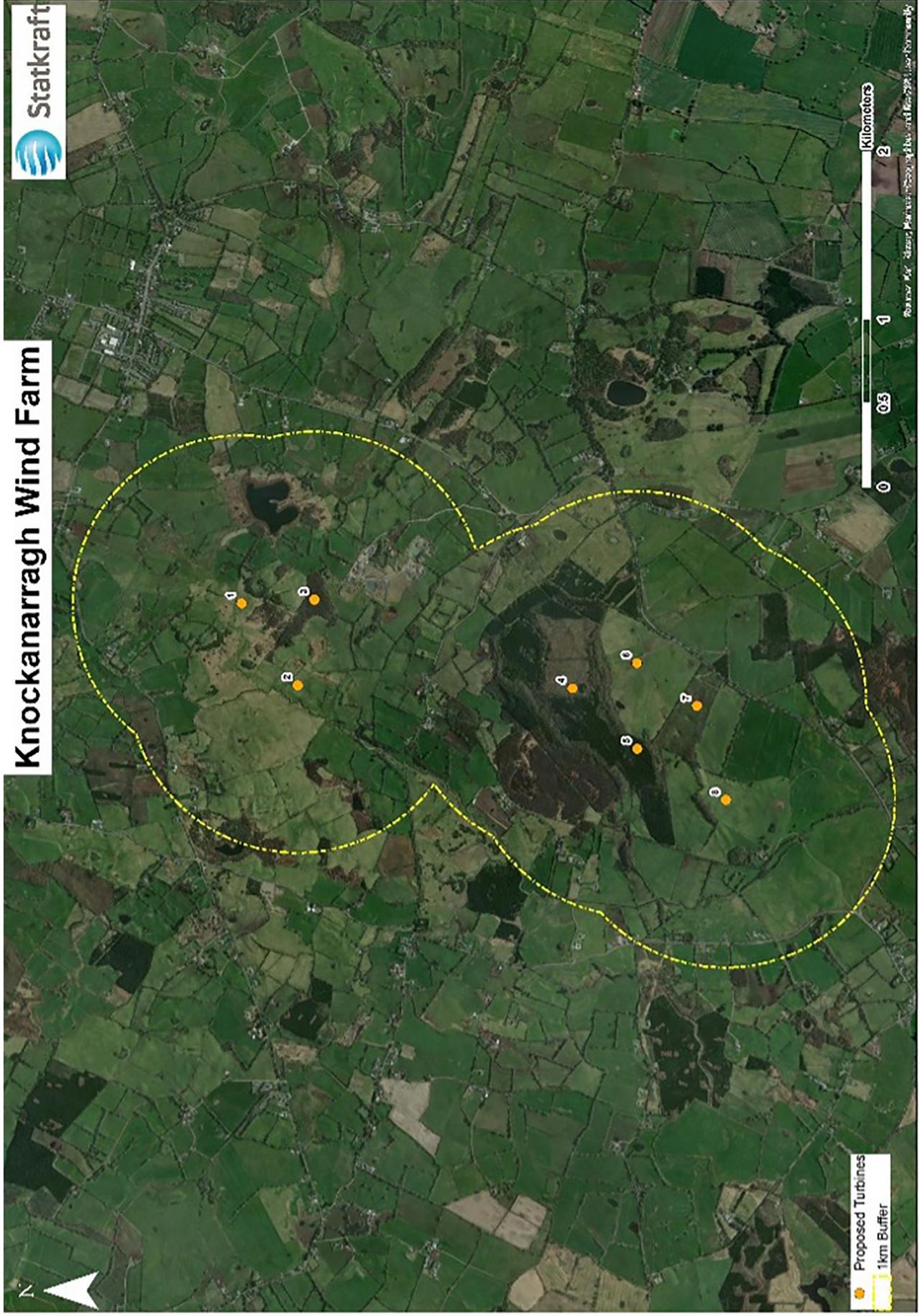
We are working to develop an understanding of the vision that your community has for the local area. There is clearly a strong voluntary ethos in the community, and people work very hard to ensure that it is an interesting and vibrant place to live with plenty of amenities on offer.



As well as that, feedback around job creation and investment in energy efficiency schemes for local houses is understood to be important.

The communities in the area around the proposed Knockanarragh Wind Farm have an opportunity to consider this renewable energy project and how, if granted planning permission, this proposal could make a real difference to the locality.

■ Site Map





■ Community Benefit Fund

A key feature of all our projects is the funding made available to benefit the local community. These funds allow for a significant sum of money to be used for the community’s economic, environmental, social and cultural wellbeing. The fundamental principle of the benefit packages we roll out is that we seek to work with local people to deliver improved sustainability to their communities.

We recognise that every community is different and that it is the local people who know the area best. Decisions on what will be funded will rest with the members of a specially formed committee, allowing them to shape the strategy to maximise the benefits for the entire community.

The Community Benefit Fund is a great opportunity to play a central role in the transition to a zero-carbon, more sustainable future, and a particular focus of the funds is to support local initiatives that align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). See below for more detail.

The Knockanarragh Wind Farm, as proposed, could bring with it funding in the region of an estimated €300,000 each year, or €4.5 million over a 15-year period.

■ What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

The Sustainable Development Goals or Global Goals are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a “blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all”. The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by 2030.



■ A sustainable future

At Statkraft, we are committed to creating a world where renewable energy powers every community, home and business. We believe sustainability is about more than operating responsibly. It’s an opportunity to support the communities we’re a part of and to make a bigger impact on the world.

We base our operations on a strong commitment to sustainability and responsible business practices, with the aforementioned Sustainable Development Goals providing direction for our work.

Statkraft regards climate, energy, biodiversity and human rights as particularly important areas to which the company is well-positioned to contribute. We take a precautionary approach to environment. This means that we conduct risk assessments and implement mitigating actions where needed. We are acutely aware of the increase in biodiversity loss and the importance of biological diversity for nature and our way of living. For every wind farm we construct, there is the potential to build environmentally sustainable measures into the project design. For example, Statkraft is an active business supporter of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. Also, for

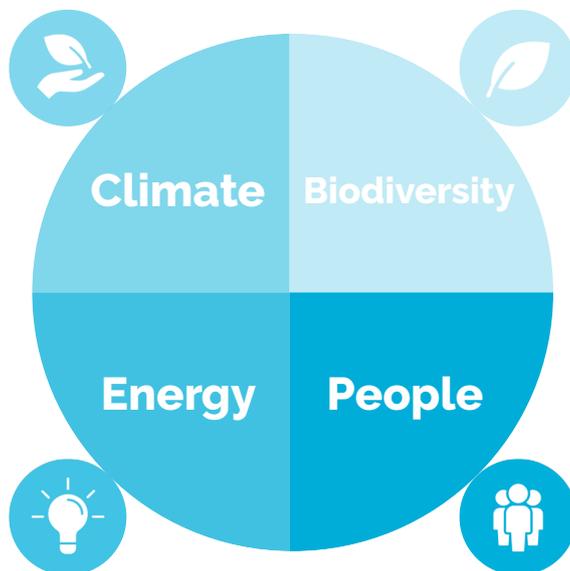
the Knockanarragh Wind Farm, a Biodiversity Management Plan will be provided as part of the planning submission. Wind farms can make a positive contribution to the habitat types and diversity of an area through several measures including planting wildflower meadows, providing sections of species-rich grass, improving hedgerows, tree planting, and providing bird nesting.

Sustainability is also supported by engaging in essential and meaningful stakeholder engagement. It provides opportunities for Statkraft to align practices and actions with environmental issues that matter most to the local community helping to drive long-term sustainability. This dialogue provides us with valuable input and helps us to continuously improve and strengthen our relationships and business practices.

What does sustainability mean to us? And what does that mean to you?

Replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy is the only way to avoid harmful global warming. Statkraft is involved in the development of onshore wind energy, battery storage and grid services which are aimed at facilitating a grid system that can run entirely on renewable energy. All of these technologies will support Ireland's ambitious decarbonisation plans, eliminating our reliance on polluting fossil fuels. Climate change is a challenge for us all.

A core part of Statkraft's business is the commitment to delivering affordable renewable energy. We see this not only as a way of protecting people against energy price inflation but also as a key element in combatting climate change and supporting households and businesses.



We are in the midst of a biodiversity crisis and at Statkraft we are committed to capturing opportunities that will serve our environment well. Examples of these types of initiatives include planting wildflower meadows, providing sections of species-rich grass and improving hedgerows. Protecting and enhancing our biodiversity will make our local environment more resilient.

Sustainability encompasses more than simply protecting the environment or delivering climate action it also includes people, communities and delivering for society as a whole. This includes the communities where we operate and the people who work with us.

■ Our obligations and responsibilities

As a developer of renewable energy, and as a society in general, we have a responsibility to not only do what is right, but to do it in the right way.

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 warrant nothing less.

Should this proposal come to fruition, it goes without saying that there will be an onus on us to operate the wind farm in a responsible way. This is a responsibility that we take very seriously.

During consultation, our objective is not to seek support for the proposal but rather to provide information which will 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 make sure that this wind farm delivers, not only effective climate action, but positive benefits for the local area.

If you have thoughts or ideas on this proposal, please reach out to us and let us know.





For more information, 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.westmeathcoco.ie Westmeath County Council

Talk to our Community Liaison Team

The Community Liaison Team have many years' experience in both wind energy 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. Please do have a look at the information provided.

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



www.knockanarraghwindfarm.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

Phone: +353 579 379 032

www.knockanarraghwindfarm.ie



Knockanarragh Wind Farm

Q1 2024

■ Thank you for your engagement

Understanding the local area, its people, environment and history form a core part of how we approach the design and development of renewable energy projects.

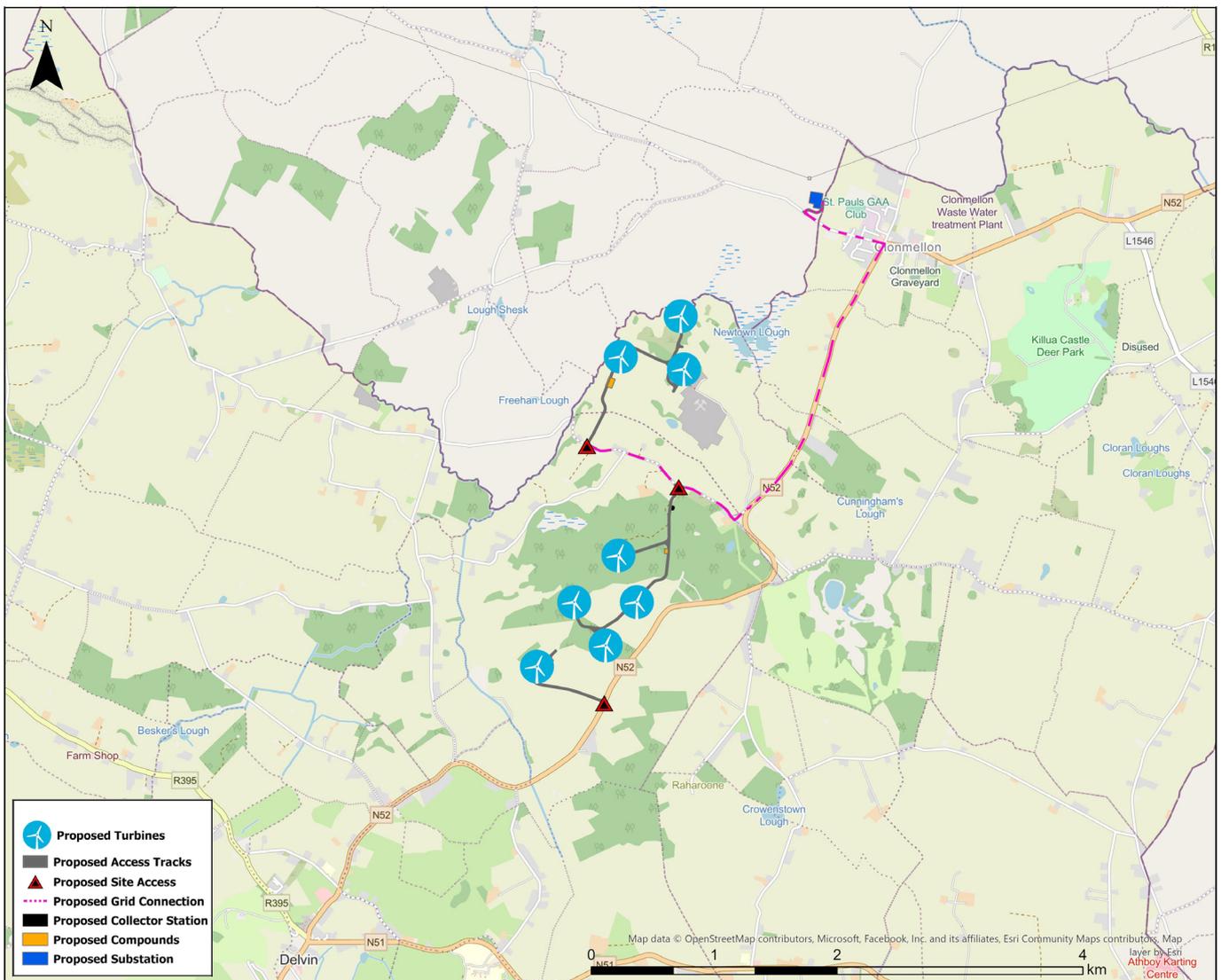
We would like to thank you for taking the time to share feedback and speak with our Community Engagement Team over the past number of months. We have endeavoured to meet with as many members of the community as possible.

We also created a dedicated Knockanarragh Virtual Consultation Room which provided more information including the Environmental Impact assessment process along with the benefits to the local community that the project could provide under the current RESS guidelines. The VCR has also given the community the opportunity to share their thoughts and feedback.

Consultation is ongoing and the Community Liaison team can be contacted on the contact details provided, should you have any further queries.

■ This proposal at a glance

- **8-turbine project**
- **Height of turbine up to a maximum of 180m**
- **Project will displace c. 66,000 tonnes of CO2 annually or approx. 1 million tonnes over a 15 year period**
- **Over 50MW of renewable energy to the Irish electricity grid**
- **Distance to nearest turbine – over 700m**
- **Zero shadow flicker policy**
- **Annual Community Benefit Fund of circa €300,000**
- **Associated works will include access tracks, turbine foundations and hard standing areas, drainage works, temporary site compounds, substation, underground electrical and communications cables between turbines, and an underground cable to connect the proposed project to the proposed substation**





■ Strategic Infrastructure Development

As this proposal has a wind energy output of over 50MW, a direct submission to An Bord Pleanála as a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application is a requirement. Both Westmeath and Meath County Council will be expected to review and actively input on any submission. As required, we will also submit an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) with this application.

SID is a development which is of strategic economic or social importance to Ireland, the region or local areas.

■ Next steps

Planning permission for the Knockanarragh Wind Farm will be submitted in the coming weeks directly to An Bord Pleanála. Should planning permission be granted for this project, next steps will be published on the dedicated Knockanarragh website and our Community Liaison Team will also endeavour to engage directly with residents locally.

■ Contact us

You can continue to access the dedicated Knockanarragh Virtual Consultation room at www.knockanarraghwindfarm.ie, where all information and updates relevant to the Knockanarragh Wind Farm project will be posted.

The Community Liaison Team has years of experience in both wind energy and working with communities. While the team members are very knowledgeable about renewable energy projects, they also appreciate the fact that individuals and communities have different thoughts on what works in their respective areas. The team is 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.

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Contact us

Knockanarragh Community Liaison Team

Phone: +353 579 379 032

Email: enquiries@knockanarraghwindfarm.ie

Please visit
www.knockanarraghwindfarm.ie
for regular updates or scan the
QR code here:



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-- Ireland
-- T12 D23C

INTERNET:
-- www.statkraft.com

E-MAIL:
-- info@statkraft.com

VAT REG.NO.:
-- IE9757801M

Date: 6th July 2023

Dear Deputy,

Statkraft Ireland are a renewable energy company proposing a development in the Clonmellon/Delvin area. We are writing to inform you of our intention to submit a planning application for the proposed Knockanarragh Wind Farm development in the coming months. This proposal would consist of eight turbines in the local area, which once operational, would provide renewable energy to the local electricity grid system.

Statkraft appointed a dedicated Community Liaison Team and has recently completed the first phase of community engagement on the proposed project, during which the community engaged with us in an open manner – providing valuable feedback and challenging the design and evolution of the project.

Challenges around the cost of energy and the overall need for energy security in this country, coupled with strong views on the environment, were at the forefront of people’s minds when we engaged with them. They were also aware of the need to tackle climate change in an open and responsible way, so that every community is seen to be contributing.

For a project of this size and nature, if successful in the planning process it would be expected that a Community Benefit Fund in the region of €300,000 per year would be available to community groups and organisations for the duration of the scheme. The project will also involve the payment of significant development contributions and rates to Westmeath County Council.

We have attached a copy of our project brochure. However, in addition to this, and as the project evolves, updated information will be added to our dedicated website www.knockanarraghwindfarm.ie. Our Community Liaison Team, which can be contacted at enquiries@knockanarraghwindfarm.ie, will also be more than happy to discuss all aspects of the project.

Best regards,

George O'Connor
Knockanarragh Liaison Team
Statkraft Ireland Limited

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Knockanarragh Wind Farm Proposal

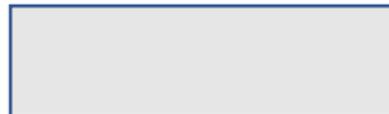
Sorry We Missed You

Please find our booklet on the proposed Knockanarragh wind farm. This booklet will give an overview of the project which is currently going through our design processes.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or queries regarding this proposal.

Kind Regards

SK House ID

A rectangular box with a blue border and a light gray fill, used to redact information, likely the SK House ID.

Community Liaison Team

e-mail; enquiries@knockanarraghwindfarm.ie or telephone: 057 9379032



Knockanarragh Community Survey

Knockanarragh Wind Farm Proposal

Sorry We Missed You

Please find our booklet on the proposed Knockanarragh wind farm. This booklet will give an overview of the project which is currently in Design Freeze and a planning application is currently being considered.

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Kind Regards

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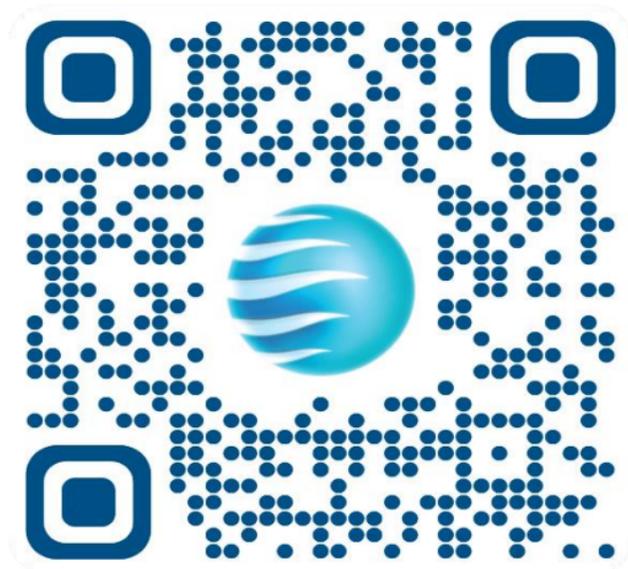
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Community Liaison Team

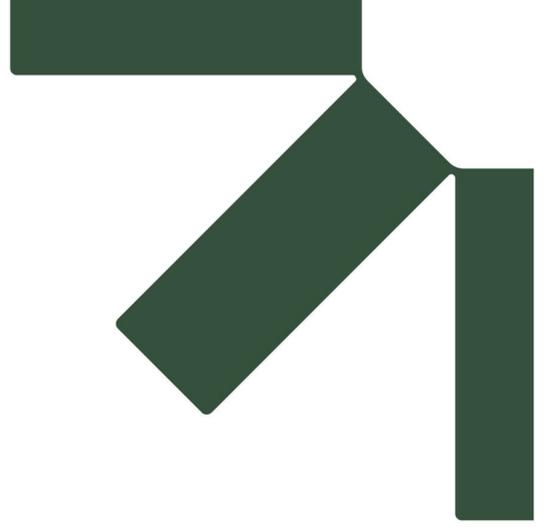
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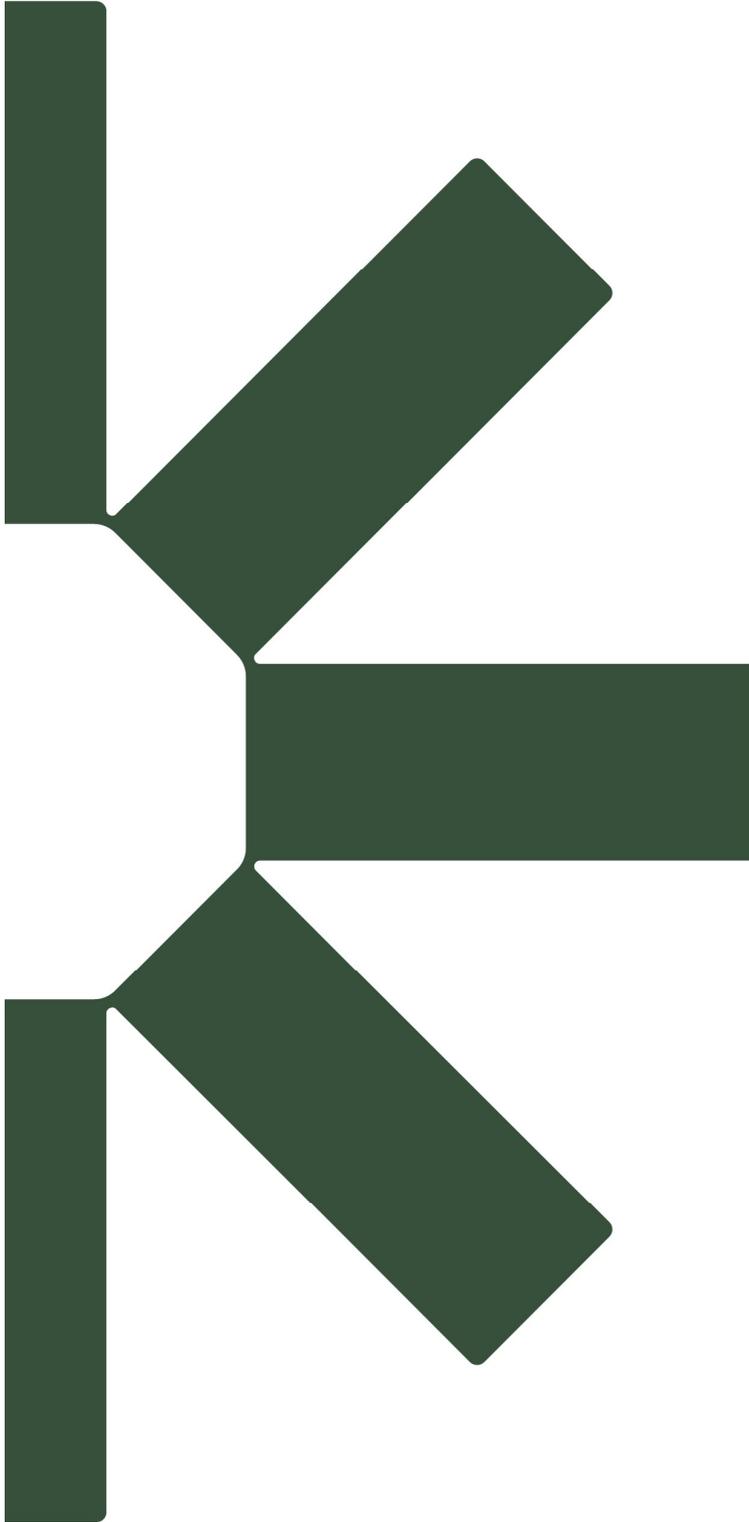


Knockanarragh Community Survey



Knockanarragh VCR





Making Sustainability Happen