Ireland
FuturEnergy

Our Approach to Project Development

futurenergyireland.ie

Introduction

FuturEnergy Ireland is a joint venture company owned on a 50:50 basis by Coillte and ESB. This exciting collaboration combines the State's strongest assets and expertise in onshore renewable energy development on behalf of the people of Ireland.

FuturEnergy Ireland's mission is to maximise the potential of our national resources and accelerate Ireland's transformation to a low carbon energy economy. Our ambition is to develop 1GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and make a significant contribution to Ireland's commitment of producing 80% of electricity from renewable sources by the end of the decade. We want to deliver a cleaner, brighter, more sustainable future for generations to come.

We are a specialist team of dedicated energy professionals who are passionate about generating clean, dependable energy to help fight climate change and create a clean, affordable electricity source.

By using our passion, knowledge and expertise, we are actively driving the development of the highest quality, locally supported wind energy projects in Ireland supported by battery storage facilities. Sustainability is inherent to our business as a renewable energy developer. It underpins our approach to development and is a key consideration at every stage of the process, from concept, planning and design, to construction and operation.

Our aim is to develop and build enduring renewable energy projects safely while respecting local communities and the surrounding environment. We recognise that we will only achieve this by setting the highest standards for ourselves and by working in collaboration with all stakeholders, including those living closest our projects and their local representatives.

Ireland's sustainable energy future lies in all our hands.

In this booklet we have outlined our common approach to developing, designing, building, operating and decommissioning our projects. We have also outlined with whom and how we engage during the different phases of a project.

Our Values

These company values shape our culture and guide us through all our business interactions.

Trusted

- We do as we say.
- We are transparent, honest and respectful.
- We are accountable for all our actions.

Resilience

- We are committed to delivering projects safely and sustainably.
- We have the determination to overcome adversity.
- We view every challenge as an opportunity to develop skills and strengths.

Teamwork

- We have a strong team ethos and inclusive culture.
- We are empowered to grow personally and professionally.
- We build strong relationships with local communities.

Energy

- We work hard together to achieve success.
- We maintain a high-performance working environment.
- We are driven to make a positive climate impact for future generations.

The importance of energy security

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in March 2022, gas prices in Europe have been extremely volatile. Ireland spends €1 million an hour importing fossil fuels (mainly gas) and is therefore vulnerable to spikes in energy prices. This reliance on expensive imported energy is having an unprecedented inflationary effect across our economy.

The good news is that in 2024, Irish wind energy saved us €748 million on gas, which would have been predominantly imported. EU and national energy policies are seeking to further increase this by rapidly ramping up renewable generation capacity.

FuturEnergy Ireland is supporting the Government and the people of Ireland by developing low-cost renewable energy projects to reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels and create a dependable, affordable Irish-based energy source that supports the green economy and lowers energy bills.

Climate change: the scale and the urgency

Our planet is warming at a dangerous rate. The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has confirmed that 2024 was the hottest year ever recorded globally, with temperatures surpassing 1.5C above pre-industrial levels.

Greenhouse gases, ocean temperature, sea levels and glacier loss reached all-time highs. The WMO report revealed that droughts, wildfires, floods and other extreme weather events caused food crises, economic upheaval, and displaced more than 800,000 people.

In January 2025, we saw close to home the devastating impacts of extreme weather events when Storm Eowyn brought widespread chaos across the country.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Ireland will fall far short of meeting its climate targets. The country is predicted to achieve only a reduction of 29% in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared with the national target of 51%.

Urgent action is needed. A key pillar of this will be an increase in renewable energy to replace the oil, gas and coal that we burn to produce electricity. Energy generation is central to the Government's energy policy, which is targeting 80% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030. More than 85% of emissions causing climate change come from energy, so without fixing the sector, we will not slow down climate change.

If we don't drastically reduce global emissions in the next 10 years, experts warn that there is a very real danger of temperatures rising well beyond 2C within our children's lifetimes, resulting in extreme and irreversible climate events that will devastate our planet.

The Government's emission targets

In a bid to address climate change, the Government is stepping up to the challenge. For example, it created the first Climate Action Plan in 2019 and subsequently enacted the Climate Action Bill. This landmark legislation marks Ireland's commitment to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 and to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. The revised Climate Action Plan 2023 saw onshore wind targets rise to 9 GW by 2030, with 6 GW to be achieved by 2025. .

The role of renewable energy

In Ireland, our natural wind resources will play a key role in cutting carbon emissions. It was the main driver in ensuring that Ireland could achieve its 2020 renewable energy targets and we expect to build on that success between now and 2050.

Significant deployment of renewable wind energy projects, both onshore and offshore, alongside other renewable energy sources such as solar and battery storage, is critical. Deploying these technologies now will radically reduce Ireland's dependence on fossil fuels and help fight climate change.

The community perspective

Every single one of us needs to take positive climate action. The Covid-19 pandemic has shown that it is possible to make fundamental changes to our behaviour — and indeed how we live and impact on our environment.

It is important to recognise that communities living in close proximity to wind farms are affected during this energy transition. Construction traffic can cause temporary disruption, for instance, and turbine structures will be an addition to the landscape. The Government has taken action to address this by mandating significant Community Benefit Funds for future wind farm projects. This represents an unparalleled opportunity for rural Ireland. Hosting a wind farm will now bring with it resources that can be a catalyst for significant community development.

As individuals, families and communities, we ask you to engage openly with us so that we can ensure your views are appropriately considered and addressed.

In 2024, wind energy provided 32% of Ireland's power and cut spending on gas by €748 million

The FuturEnergy Ireland approach

We commit to the following community engagement principles:

Proactive engagement

We take a proactive approach to engagement, with dedicated Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) assigned to each project. This ensures access to specialist expertise on the ground making us accessible and easy to contact.

User-friendly, relevant and up-to-date information

We ensure that the local community is kept updated, informed and has access to project information, as soon as it is available, in a user-friendly format.

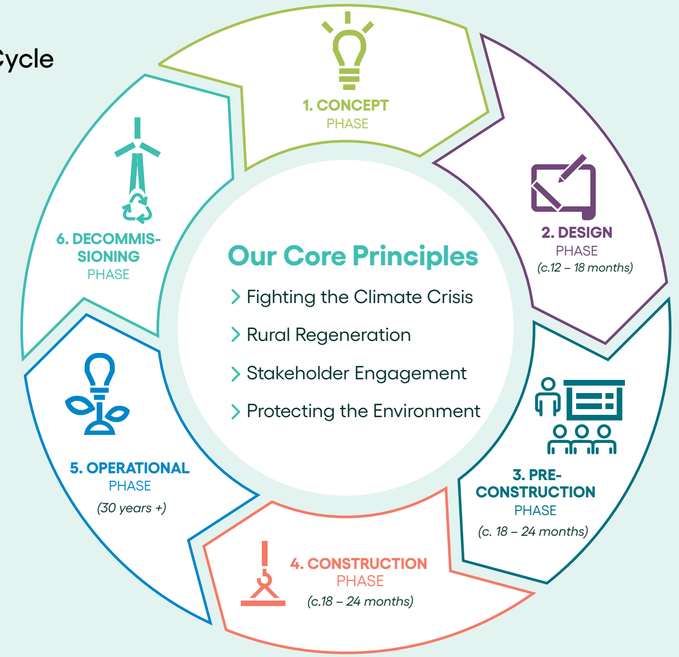
Constructive conversation

Open, honest engagement is key to our approach. We listen to feedback, seek to understand any concerns raised and address these to the extent possible during the pre-planning process. This engagement continues throughout the lifetime of the wind farm.

Building relationships

The assigned project team is committed to strengthening partnerships with local communities now and into the future.

Our Project Development Cycle



* These timelines assume a best-case scenario and no significant project delays.

1. CONCEPT PHASE

We continuously look at Coillte and third-party lands to seek opportunities for renewable energy development.

What's happening

A land screening process that considers:

- The wind resource on our lands.
- Proximity to grid infrastructure.
- Site size after applying a buffer of 750 metres or four times the tip height to dwellings.
- Undertaking specific targeted studies on high potential sites to further de-risk and to identify the very best for progression.
- Potentially increasing a site's suitability by bringing in adjacent neighbouring lands.

Who we engage with and how

This is primarily a desk-based exercise that is informed by national, regional and local climate and energy policies and targets. In this step, we may engage with policymakers, land owners and others seeking to start similar developments.

> ***FuturEnergy Ireland wind farms are designed so that all turbines are at least 750 metres or four times the tip height from residential properties***

2. PROJECT DESIGN PHASE

Following local engagement and detailed site surveys, we design the wind farm layout respecting environmental sensitivities and residents who live nearby. A dedicated Community Liaison Officer is available throughout the process to answer any queries and questions.

Project design process	Project launch	Design Version 1: Initial turbine layout	Design Version 2: Updated turbine layout	Design Version 3: Final turbine layout	Planning application preparation	Planning application submission
Stakeholder engagement process:	› Dedicated team assigned to the project, including a Project Manager and local Community Liaison Officer. › Initial project (Newsletter 1) distributed outlining project site, team, timeline and contact details. › First door-to-door consultation within 2km of site. › Project website goes live with up-to-date information and detailed Fact File. › Local political representatives updated. › Meet the Team event held locally.	› Newsletter 2, with a draft turbine layout, delivered to all dwellings within 2km and to local political representatives. › Second door-to-door consultation within the 2km zone. › Potential Recreation Plan design begins with local stakeholders (where appropriate). › Website updated with newsletter and answers to queries received. › Education progamme offered to local schools.	› Newsletter 3 delivered, which includes a second draft turbine layout informed by studies, surveys and feedback. › Community Benefit Fund introduced to local stakeholders. › Project team available to answer queries.	› Virtual Exhibition launched, which includes surveys, reports and photomontages of the turbines from different viewpoints. › Full project brochure distributed to local community and political representatives. › Briefing with the county council. › Community Engagement Clinics open to the public.	› Final consultations with interested stakeholders. › Adverts in the local newspapers flagging the pending planning application. › Planning signs erected around the site.	› Planning documentation uploaded on to project / dedicated project planning website at point of submission for public viewing.

> *It can take up to eight years for a wind farm to complete all surveys, secure planning consents and grid connection agreements before construction can begin*

3. PRE-CONSTRUCTION PHASE

We secure approval from EirGrid to connect to the national grid, secure a route to market for selling the electricity and finalise the business proposition, including the funding model. In parallel, we undertake environmental surveys and collaborate with the local community to design the benefit fund and minimise disruption.

	Design Community Benefit Fund and Recreation Amenity	Prepare local businesses for supply provision opportunities	Pre-construction engagement
Stakeholder engagement process	› Initial consultations with homeowners within 2km, local community groups and political representatives. › Establish a local committee to run the Community Benefit Fund and develop a long-term strategic plan assisted by an independent administrator. › Finalise core recreational offering on site, as appropriate.	› "Meet the buyer" events held in local venues to present service requirements of the project to local businesses.	› Regular newsletters to residents and businesses within the 2km zone, outlining the construction process. › Development of Traffic Management Plan in consultation with local authority.

Our wind farm developments repay any carbon emissions associated with their construction within the first six to 18 months of operation.

4. CONSTRUCTION PHASE

We construct the wind farm to the highest safety and sustainability standards while minimising impacts on the host community and the environment.

Activity	Site establishment	Project construction	Community benefits
	› Establish construction site compounds and offices.	› Construct access roads, crane pads, site substation, internal electrical ducting and turbine foundations. › Complete connection works to the national grid system. › Construction of turbine foundations, delivery of components to site and erection of turbines. › Commission turbines.	› - Establish Community Benefit Fund - Add recreational amenities to the site, as appropriate - Formation of a project community liaison group
Stakeholder Engagement Process	› Circulate project newsletters that set out expected construction works programme. › Share contact details for our dedicated Community Liaison Officer who will be a local point of contact.	› Secure abnormal load permits including agreement of all necessary traffic management & safety procedures. › Inform local residents of any potential traffic disruption as a result of the work.	› Continue working with the Community Benefit Fund Committee to prepare for launch of fund. › Formation of project community liaison group

5. OPERATIONAL PHASE

The wind farm produces clean, green electricity and shares the financial benefits with the host community.*

Activity	Energy production: wind farm operation, monitoring and maintenance	Community Benefit Fund
Stakeholder Engagement Process	› Periodic community liaison group meetings with the operator and Community Liaison Officer (CLO). › CLO available to respond to community queries. › Regular updates available on wind farm website.	› Local community committee runs the annual fund with the support of an administrator. › The community committee makes decisions annually regarding fund allocations for the benefit of the wider area.

* If FuturEnergy Ireland sells the wind farm, Community Benefit Fund commitments remain the same.

> ***A single, modern onshore wind turbine generates enough power to meet the needs of more than 3,000 Irish homes***

6. DECOMMISSIONING PHASE

The potential of repowering is assessed. If this is not an option, all turbines and infrastructure are removed and the land returns to its original use.

Activity	Consultation with local authority planning office	Decommissioning process
	› Assess re-powering potential of existing wind farm. › If re-powering is an option, recommence at phase 1. If not, submit decommissioning plan to local authority for approval.	› Dismantle turbines and hardstands. › All materials are re-used or recycled wherever possible. › Reinstate the site to former state.
Stakeholder engagement process		› An updated Traffic Management Plan is in place for equipment removal. › Community Liason Officer available as key point of contact for local residents during decommissioning.

> ***Up to 95% of wind turbine components can be recycled at end of life***

Our future

Wind energy is Ireland's main source of clean energy. It cuts our carbon emissions, which helps the fight against climate change.

Delivering Ireland's onshore wind energy targets will generate €2.7 billion of investment over the next ten years and there are now just over 5,000 people employed in Ireland in the wind industry. The industry has the potential to be worth €550 million per annum to the Irish economy.

It means an end to relying on expensive imported fossil fuels and the return of energy independence. In light of the destabilising effect of international conflict on oil and gas, Ireland urgently needs independent energy sources. We have these in the form of wind, solar and battery storage. As an island nation, we owe it to ourselves to plan now for an energy independent future.

Useful links:

Wind Energy Ireland - **windenergyireland.com**

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland - **seai.ie**

Environmental Protection Agency - **epa.ie**

Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment - **gov.ie/dcee**

Commission for Regulation of Utilities - **cru.ie**

FuturEnergy Ireland

A Coillte and ESB joint venture company

FuturEnergy Ireland
27/28 Herbert Place
Dublin 2
D02 DC97
info@futurenergyireland.ie

futurenergyireland.ie