

Energia Crossmore Community Fund

Grants Criteria

About Energia and Community Foundation Ireland

Energia Group is committed to playing a leading role in powering the energy transition across the island of Ireland and promoting a sustainable future. Energia's Community Fund is designed so that local people can benefit from the operation of the wind farm. The Crossmore Wind Farm in West Clare has set up a fund to support local communities in its vicinity.

The fund is administered on behalf of Energia by Community Foundation Ireland, an organisation that works to mobilise, manage and distribute philanthropic capital for community benefit. Community Foundation Ireland has over 25 years' experience as a grant-maker, helping donors support charities and community groups around the country.

About the Community Fund

The Energia Community Fund seeks to invest in the social, cultural, and environmental development of communities neighbouring the wind farm. Grants of up to €5,000 are available. Projects must take place within 8km of the [centre of the wind farm](#), with priority given to those within 5km.. Eligible organisations can apply through one of two strands depending on their size, as follows. Only one application per organisation will be accepted.

Grant Round Timeline

Grant round opens	Monday 21st September
Grant round closes	Friday 16th October at 5pm
Grants awarded	December 2026
Work should begin	December 2026 / January 2027

Priority Areas

In spring 2026, a community consultation was carried out on behalf of Energia. This involved visits to the area around the Crossmore wind farm, face-to-face and phone interviews with community groups and volunteers, and an online survey. Some common community needs and hopes emerged, and the following will represent the priority areas for 2026:

- Contributing to community infrastructure such as centres, halls, indoor or outdoor meeting spaces or play areas; introduction of long-lasting, tangible community assets
- Projects that support families and young people to live in the area (e.g. co-working spaces, afterschool facilities, school improvements, youth groups)
- Projects reducing isolation for older people (e.g. a community car, Men's Shed)
- Renewable energy and environmental sustainability (Community Benefit Funds are designed, in part, to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals)

Initiatives within these areas will be given extra weight compared to other projects. However, this is a flexible fund which seeks to address local needs and support community initiatives. If you have a project that sits outside of these areas and are unsure of its eligibility, please contact us to discuss your project before submitting your application. The fund criteria will be reviewed year-on-year.

In establishing the fund, we have selected a catchment area using a radial distance from the [centre of the wind farm](#) of 8km as the crow flies – our catchment area will be the communities that surround the wind farm: Cranny/Coolmeen, Kilmurry McMahon and Kilmihil. In a competitive fund, priority may be given to projects within 5km. Note that this is a competitive grant round, and that not all applicants will be successful.

Key Information

- Organisations can apply for a minimum of €1,000 up to a maximum of €5,000 (though no more than 50% of your previous year's income)
- Grants will be awarded towards a project/activity, rather than general core support to your organisation. However, you may request that up to 30% of the grant monies be used for organisational costs that sustain project delivery.

- A grant can also be a contribution towards existing activity, or towards a new project/purchase
- If requesting funding for capital costs such as equipment or refurbishment, at least one quote should be included with your application
- If applying towards a capital project, the applicant **must** demonstrate they have ownership of, or written permission to use, the land/space in question. Proof of ownership/permission will be required before a grant is awarded, including planning permission and other formal approvals where relevant. **There are no exceptions to this requirement.**
- Your group must be willing to share the project's story with Energia's media team
- The work must be completed within 12 months
- Only one application per organisation will be accepted.
- All grantees will be required to submit reports after six months and 12 months

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply, your organisation must:

- Be non-profit, voluntary, or a social enterprise
- Have charitable aims and a written constitution, and be at least one year old
- Propose a project that will take place **within 8km** of the centre of the wind farm. In a competitive fund, priority may be given to projects within 5km.
- Have an organisational bank account
- Provide all up-to-date organisational information and governance documents.

Ineligible organisations and projects

The following organisations/areas are ineligible and cannot apply:

- Statutory bodies
- Profit-making enterprises
- The advancement of religion or politics
- Sporting organisations (see below)
- Animal welfare groups
- Proposals from individuals

- Work that has already taken place or that will happen before the grants are awarded
- Projects where the requested funds would replace existing statutory funding
- Projects outside the catchment area

Sporting organisations

The Charities Act 2009 expressly excludes sport, and Community Foundation Ireland cannot therefore fund sports clubs for a project that has a *sporting purpose only*. However, sporting organisations can apply if they have a project with a wider sustainability/community benefit.

The below examples are illustrative:

- Capital works to improve accessibility (disabled toilets, ramps, etc.)
- Capital works expressly targeted at the wider community (a walking track or Active Age programme for older people, community gym, rooms for local groups)
- Environmental, biodiversity, energy efficiency or renewable energy projects
- Inclusion projects or initiatives expressly bringing in the wider community (e.g. with ethnic minorities, older people, children with disabilities)

If you are a sporting organisation and wish to apply, please contact us beforehand if you are unsure about your project's eligibility.

Governance documents

Organisations must apply via the Community Foundation Ireland [online portal](#). In addition to assessing these applications, we perform due diligence checks on all applicants to ensure that we are operating within compliance and legal guidelines. To this end, and as detailed in the [Application Help Guide](#), all organisations must upload digital copies of the following governance documents before the application deadline.

For an organisation with an annual income of less than €100,000, please upload:

- A constitution or memorandum & articles of association: This must show the mission statement or main objects of the organisation, state that it is a non-profit, and include a winding-up clause. This document must be signed by two committee members.
- A list of your organisation's committee members and the dates they were first appointed.

- A bank statement header: This must clearly show the account name, BIC and IBAN. This is to verify the account. The bank statement must be dated within six months.
- Your organisation's most recent annual accounts, signed by two committee members. A signed profit and loss account is also acceptable.

For larger organisations, with an annual income above €100,000, the following additional documents are also required:

- Proof of identity of two trustees. Proof of address of one of these trustees.
- Certificate of Incorporation (if a company)
- Financial Accounts for the last two years. These must be signed by directors and, where applicable, by auditors
- A Tax Clearance Certificate (for requests over €30,000 only)
- A policy or set of procedures for recording and handling donations (for requests over €30,000 only)

If you do not submit the correct governance documents before the deadline of Friday 16th October at 5pm, your application will not be considered for funding.

Assessment process

Each application is read and scored against an assessment framework under 5 areas:

- **Eligibility:** Within catchment; meeting one or more priority areas; governance information and documents
- **Criteria fit:** Beneficiaries clearly identified; need is demonstrated and evidenced; fund objectives and priorities met
- **Capacity:** Organisational and financial ability to deliver project; clear budget & value for money; realistic timeline and plans
- **Impact:** Evident positive change for participants/beneficiaries; wider community benefit; impact is measurable; benefit will be long-lasting
- **Other factors:** We aim to support the different communities and to achieve diversity in terms of beneficiary groups and/or geographic areas – while maintaining integrity of process. We may elevate proposals that target an under-represented group.

How to apply

The Energia Community Fund is open for applications on Monday 21st September and will close on Friday 16th October at 5pm. Any organisation or project that does not meet the above criteria will not be successful in this grant round. To apply, you must first register your organisation [on the Community Foundation Ireland portal](#).

For information on how to register and log in, please read the instructions in the [Application Guide](#). If you have registered previously, simply log onto the portal [here](#). Should you have any questions or require support in submitting your application or governing documents, contact the grants team at info@foundation.ie or on 01 874 7354.

Please include “Energia Crossmore Community Fund” in the subject line to help us direct your query to the correct place. Due to the high number of enquiries we receive, we may not be able to respond to queries immediately.