# Energia Drumlins Park 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 communities benefit from the operation of its wind farms. The Drumlins Park Wind Farm in County Monaghan has set up a fund to support local communities in the Newbliss, Drum and Scotshouse area.

The fund is administered on behalf of Energia by Community Foundation Ireland, a grant-making foundation with 25 years' experience in helping donors support charities and community groups.

### About the Community Fund

The Energia Community Fund seeks to invest in the social, cultural, and environmental development of communities neighbouring the wind farm, and will run to 2039. Projects must take place within 5km of the centre of the wind farm, including Newbliss, Drum and Scotshouse. Click here to view the wind farm on Google Maps. Eligible organisations can apply through one of two strands depending on their size, as follows. Only one application per organisation will be accepted.

| Strand 1: can apply for up to €10,000 | Strand 2: can apply for up to €40,000 |
| --- | --- |
| For organisations with an annual income below €50,000 | For organisations with an annual income above €50,000 |

## Grant Round Timeline

| Grant round opens | Monday 30th March 2026 |
|---|---|
| Grant round closes | Friday 24th April at 5pm |
| Grants awarded | June 2026 |
| Work should begin | July 2026 |

## Priority Areas

The following priority areas have been selected based on community plans developed in cooperation with Monaghan County Council, as well as research and community consultation carried out on behalf of Energia and which involved local voices.

The overarching theme is Community Sustainability, with the following priorities:

- Childcare
- Basic community infrastructure (e.g. community spaces, playgrounds)
- Building community capacity (e.g. training programmes, community events)
- Culture and Heritage
- Social enterprise
- Energy efficiency
- Environmental sustainability, biodiversity and climate action

Projects within these priority areas will be given extra weight compared to other projects. However, this is a flexible fund which seeks to address local needs as presented by community organisations, and to 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.

Note that this is a competitive grant round, and that not all applicants will be successful. If your organisation received / did not receive funding last year, this is no indication that funding will be granted this year. Each application will be assessed on its merits.

## Key Information

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 5km** of the centre of the wind farm

- Have an organisational bank account

- Provide all up-to-date organisational information and governance documents. This must be submitted by the application deadline or your application will not be considered. See page 5 below.

## Guidelines

Organisations can apply for <u>one</u> of the following types of grants:

1. Programme costs for a specific project or activity you'd like to carry out, whether new or ongoing.
   - Please detail the need for your project, what activities you will carry out and what will be its outcomes
   - You may include up to 30% of overhead costs, however you must demonstrate how these are necessary for the success of the project
   - In the budget section, please outline only the expenditure related to the project or programme in question (not your entire organisation's budget)

2. You may alternatively request a "core costs" grant (i.e. a contribution towards the fixed costs of your organisation). In this case:
   - Your application must give a clear overview of your overall organisational work, including the types of services/programmes you deliver, the number of people impacted, and the outcomes achieved
   - Submit a full organisational budget. Note that funding cannot be used towards salaries

## In all cases:

- Requests must be between €1,000 and €10,000 (Strand 1 – smaller organisations) or between €10,000 and €40,000 (Strand 2 – larger organisations)

- Projects must have clear, realistic budgets, and a detailed activity timeline

- Proposed projects can be new, or they can be projects that are ongoing

- Collaborations are welcome. One organisation should complete the application

- Match funding is welcome, if you could use this grant to leverage other funds

- If applying for 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.**

- An organisation must be willing to share their project's story with Energia's media team

- Only one application per organisation will be accepted.

## 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 5km 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 for older people, community rooms for local groups)
- Environmental, biodiversity or sustainability 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.

## Community Benefit Fund Committee

A Community Benefit Fund Committee has been established to support this process. This includes two Community Advisors, a Community Foundation Ireland representative and a representative from Energia. The Community Advisors will provide their expertise and input to support the selection of successful applicants. However, decision-making will rest with Community Foundation Ireland and Energia. Please note that lobbying of committee members may result in the exclusion of your project.

## 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, it suffices to upload the following:

− 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. You may redact any transactions, as this is purely 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 submitted governance documents last year, please review your "Organisation Profile" on the portal and ensure all information is up to date (with your most recent accounts, a bank header within six months, etc.) before submitting this year's application.

If you do not submit the correct governance documents before the deadline, your application will not be considered for funding.

## How to apply

The Energia Community Fund is open for applications on Monday 30th March 2026 and will close on Friday 24th April 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. Please include "Energia Drumlins Park" in the subject line to help us direct your query to the correct place. Due to the high number of enquiries, we may not be able to respond to queries immediately.