

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

This fund is being 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 Benefit Fund

The Community Benefit Fund will invest in the social, cultural, and environmental development of communities neighbouring the wind farm, and will run for 15 years. The guidelines for Year 1 have been developed through consultation with local community groups. The grants criteria laid out in this document apply to Year 1 only. They will be reviewed and may change for subsequent years.

For Year 1, 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

## Timeline

Opening Date for applications:	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025
Closing Date for applications:	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 5pm
Grants will be awarded:	May 2025
Work should begin:	June 2025
Progress Report due:	December 2025
Outcome Report due:	June 2026

## Priority Areas

The following priority areas have been selected based on the community plans developed in recent years in cooperation with Monaghan County Council. Their selection was also informed by research and community consultation carried out in recent months and which involved local voices.

The fund will prioritise energy efficiency and sustainability. The overarching theme for Year 1 is Community Sustainability, and applications are invited in the following areas:

- Childcare
- Basic community infrastructure (e.g. community spaces, playground)
- Building community capacity (e.g. training programmes, community events)
- Culture and Heritage
- Social enterprise
- 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.

Applicants must make clear how funding would support their organisation’s ability to deliver on its mission and/or charitable purpose. Two types of grants will be awarded: 1) Programme costs for a specific project you’d like to carry out, whether new or ongoing; 2) Core costs towards the general running costs of your organisation. Note that only one application per organisation will be accepted

1. If you are applying for a distinct project or programme, rather than general fixed costs, please detail the need for your project, what activities you will carry out and what will be its outcomes. In the budget section, please outline only the expenditure relating to the project or programme in question (not your entire organisation's budget). You can include up to 30% of overhead costs, however you must demonstrate that these are necessary for the success of the project.
  
2. If you are applying for core costs only (i.e. a contribution towards the fixed costs of your organisation), the following conditions must be met:
  - Your organisation must be a charity or community group that is clearly and primarily working in one of the above priority areas, and it must be fully eligible
  - Your application must give a clear overview of your overall organisational work including the number of people impacted and the types of services/programmes you deliver.
  - Funding cannot be used towards salaries
  - Through our six-monthly reports, you must be able to give an account of your activities and the outcomes you have achieved, and to evidence grant expenditure.
  - You must upload your full budget for the current financial year. If your organisation has an annual report, you should upload this as well.

Please note that any funding distributed is 'one-off'. If an organisation receives funding in Year 1, this is not an indication that such funding will be repeated in Year 2.

### Eligibility and Guidelines

- Organisations must be a registered charity or a formalised community/voluntary group
- Organisations must be at least one year old and have an annual income above €2,000
- Organisations must have up to date and sufficient governing documents, as detailed in the [Application Help Guide](#)
- 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 provide clear, concrete evidence demonstrating how the project will benefit communities within 5km of the [centre of the wind farm](#)
- Projects must have clear, realistic costs and timelines
- Proposed projects can be new, or they can be projects that are ongoing
- Collaborations are welcome. Only one organisation should complete the application

- Match funding is welcome, if an organisation can use a grant to leverage other funds.
- Only one application per organisation will be accepted
- 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

### 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

Under the Charities Act 2009, sport is not recognised as a charitable purpose and therefore Community Foundation Ireland is unable to fund sporting bodies or sporting activities. However, sporting organisations can apply if they have a project with a wider community benefit. If you are a sporting organisation and you wish to apply, please contact us beforehand if you are unsure about your project's eligibility. The below examples are illustrative:

- Capital works to improve accessibility (disabled toilets, ramps, etc.)
- Capital works aimed at including 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)

### 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.

### Reporting requirements

Successful grantees will be required to submit two reports: an update after six months and a final report at project-end. These dates will be detailed in your grant agreement. Failure to submit reports will result in your organisation becoming ineligible for further funding, and in some cases, may result in Community Foundation Ireland requesting the return of funds granted.

### How to apply

The Community Benefit Fund is open for applications on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March and will automatically close for applications at 5pm on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April. To apply, you must first register your organisation on the Community Foundation Ireland portal. If you have not registered before, please read the [Application Help Guide](#). You can access the portal and the application itself [here](#).

### Governance documents

Community Foundation Ireland performs checks on all applicants to ensure we operate within compliance and legal guidelines. 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. If you don't have an official constitution, a mission statement signed by two committee members is sufficient.
- A bank statement where the account name matches the organisation. We don't need to see transactions, just the "header" of the statement that shows the account name, account number, sort code and IBAN.

- Your most recent annual accounts, signed by two committee members. If you don't have annual accounts, a Profit and Loss statement for the previous year, signed by two committee members, is sufficient.
- A list of your current trustees/committee members, with dates of appointment.

Please note that the constitution or mission statement, and annual accounts, must be signed by two committee members.

For larger organisations, with an annual income above €100,000, the above documents and information are required, along with several additional documents, as follows:

- 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 auditors (where applicable).
- A Tax Clearance Certificate
- A policy or set of procedures for recording and handling donations (if applying for more than €30,000).

All governing documents must be submitted before the deadline of Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 5pm.

### Contact us

Should you have any questions or require support in submitting your application or governing documents, contact us at [info@foundation.ie](mailto: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.