

Energia Meenadreen 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 Energia Meenadreen Community Fund in south Donegal aims 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 €10,000 are available. Projects must take place within 14km of the [Meenadreen wind farm](#). Please note that projects **within 10km will be prioritised**, and that projects based in the immediate vicinity of the windfarm are particularly encouraged to apply. Projects over 14km from the windfarm will not be considered.

Grant Round Timeline

Grant round opens	Monday 31 st August
Grant round closes	Friday 2 nd October at 5pm
Grants awarded	November 2026
Work should begin	December 2026 / January 2027

Priority Areas

Grants of **up to €10,000** are available to encourage local initiatives, such as projects that:

- Promote community engagement and wellbeing, for example through training programmes, community events or social enterprise initiatives
- Foster a shared sense of community identity and connectedness, such as through heritage or arts projects
- Work with potentially vulnerable groups, such as older adults, lone parents, people with disabilities, those in rural isolation
- Support children and young people
- Support families to live in the area
- Support members of new communities, or of Traveller communities

The fund is also keen to see applications for environmental projects that:

- Support climate action
- Contribute to biodiversity
- Enhance the local environment
- Provide clean and sustainable energy

Key Information

- Organisations can apply for up to a maximum of €10,000 (though no more than 50% of your previous year's income)
- Project activity must take place within 14km of the Meenadreen windfarm (**priority will be given to those within 10km**)
- 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 be 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 (you do not need to be a charity)
- Have charitable aims and a written constitution, and be at least one year old
- Propose a project that will take place **within 14km** of the [Meenadreen wind farm](#). In a competitive fund, priority will be given to projects within 10km.
- Have an organisational bank account
- Provide all up-to-date organisational information and governance documents
- Have a Safeguarding Policy (if working with under-18s)

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 of over €100,000, further documents are required. Please read the instructions in the [FAQ](#) (section 3). If you do not submit the correct governance documents before the deadline of Friday 2nd October at 5pm, your application will not be considered for funding.

Assessment process

1. Each application is read and scored against an assessment framework under 4 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

How to apply

The Energia Meenadreen Community Fund is open for applications on Monday 31st August and will close on Friday 2nd October at 5pm. To apply, you must first register your organisation [on the Community Foundation Ireland portal](#).

For information on how to register, 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 Meenadreen 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.