

## Neoen Community Benefit Fund 2026

### About Neoen and Community Foundation Ireland

Neoen is a multinational solar energy company, headquartered in France and with an office in Ireland. Neoen operates three solar farms at different sites in Leinster: Hilltown, Co. Meath; Hortland, Co. Kildare; and Millvale, Co. Wicklow. To support the communities around each of these sites, Neoen has created a Community Benefit Fund. This fund will be administered in partnership with Community Foundation Ireland, which has over 25 years' experience in connecting funders with charities and community groups.

### About the Fund

The goal of the Neoen Fund is to invest in the social, cultural, and environmental development of the communities local to the solar farm sites.

Community, voluntary, and not-for-profit groups are invited to apply. Your project must take place within 10km of one of the three solar farms. Click below to view their locations on Google Maps.

Solar Farm Location	Strand Name
<a href="#">Hilltown Solar Farm, Co. Meath</a>	Neoen Hilltown
<a href="#">Hortland Solar Farm, Co. Kildare</a>	Neoen Hortland
<a href="#">Millvale Solar Farm, Co. Wicklow</a>	Neoen Millvale

**Priority area:** Please note that while projects must take place within 10km, if the grant round is over-subscribed, preference will be given to projects operating within 5km of the Neoen solar farm.

### Grant Round Timeline

Grant round opens	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
Grant round closes	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March at 5pm
Grants awarded	Late April 2026
Work should begin	May 2026
Progress Report Due	November 2026
Final Outcome Report Due	May 2027

## Key Information

Applicants can apply for a minimum of €1,000 up to a maximum of €5,000. To be eligible to apply, your organisation must:

- Be non-profit or voluntary
- Have charitable aims and a written constitution
- Propose a project **within 10km** of one of the Neoen solar farms
- Have an organisational bank account
- Provide all up-to-date organisational information and governance documents (please see list below). This must be submitted by the application deadline or your application will not be considered.

Please note that only one application per organisation will be accepted, and that this is a competitive fund – not all applicants will be successful.

## Priority Areas

The Community Benefit Fund is subject to rules laid down by the Irish Renewable Energy Support Scheme. 40% of available funds will be ringfenced for projects that align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals 4, 7, 11 and 13.

### UN Sustainable Development Goals

- Goal 4 seeks to help children receive a better education
- Goal 7 relates to clean energy – an option here might be installing solar panels on a community building, or a retrofitting project
- Goals 11 and 13 promote sustainability and climate action – projects here might be improving local green spaces or developing a biodiversity plan for your area

Additionally, in consultation with the communities, the Neoen Fund has identified social inclusion, accessibility and community development as local priorities. Below are examples of projects that could be funded. The list is by no means exhaustive, its purpose is to give applicants some direction. If you are unsure of your project's eligibility, contact us to discuss your project before submitting your application.

### Social Inclusion and Accessibility projects

- Staffing hours for projects that are targeted toward people with disabilities or other vulnerable or socially excluded groups
- Projects from not-for-profit groups partnering with sporting organisations to support participation for people with accessibility challenges and/or older people
- Equipment to allow remote participation in activities for housebound community members

- Transport initiatives that improve accessibility for older people / others without cars
- Meeting spaces to combat social isolation and promote arts, culture, and heritage
- Support for migrants and refugees

## Community Development Projects

- Activities aimed at creating intergenerational connection in the community
- Spaces or activities for younger people beyond sporting activities
- Citizen scientist projects related to local community biodiversity action plans
- Projects that enhance a community's assets, e.g. green spaces, heritage structures, roads and footpaths. Note that this type of project is eligible **only** where the applicant has 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 where relevant. **There are no exceptions to this requirement.**

Lastly, please note that this is a flexible fund which is keen to address local needs and support community initiatives. If your project is eligible, it will be considered. If you have any doubts or questions, please contact us well before the deadline.

## Eligibility

Eligible organisations must	Eligible projects must
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a registered charity <u>or</u> a local community / voluntary group</li> <li>• Be at least one year old</li> <li>• Have an annual income above €2,000 and below €100,000. Schools may apply even if their income is above this. Also note that income to pay CE workers is not included here.</li> <li>• Demonstrate the capacity to fulfil the project's proposed timeline and budget</li> <li>• Have up to date and sufficient governing documents, annual accounts, a dedicated bank account and safeguarding policies where relevant</li> <li>• Be situated or active within 10km of a Neoen solar farm</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate alignment with the key focus areas of the Neoen Fund (Social Inclusion and Accessibility, Community Development <u>and/or</u> Sustainable Development Goals 4, 7, 11, and 13)</li> <li>• Request between €1,000 and €5,000, however no more than 50% of the organisation's annual income</li> <li>• May be new <i>or</i> ongoing programmes</li> <li>• May include overhead costs where they are necessary for the success of the project</li> <li>• May be joint projects where one entity is the lead applicant</li> <li>• Have clear, realistic budgets, and a detailed activity timeline</li> </ul>

Ineligible organisations include	Ineligible projects include
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For-profit companies</li> <li>The Charities Act 2009 does not accept sport ‘for sport’s sake’ as a charitable purpose, and we cannot therefore make grants to sporting organisations unless a broader community benefit can be evidenced. <u>Please contact us</u> if in doubt about your project’s eligibility.</li> <li>Animal welfare groups</li> <li>Organisations without key governance documents (e.g. constitution, bank details)</li> <li>Organisations with an annual income <u>below</u> €2,000 or <u>above</u> €100,000</li> <li>Individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing core costs such as salaries, insurance, rent, bills, etc.</li> <li>Religious or political activities</li> <li>Projects that have already happened or any activities that will happen before the grants are awarded</li> <li>Projects outside the 10km catchment area</li> <li>Projects where the requested funds would replace existing statutory funding</li> <li>Projects with budget requests below €1,000 or above €5,000</li> </ul>

## Community Benefit Fund Committee

Neoen and Community Foundation Ireland are grateful to be supported in the development and delivery of this Fund by a committee of Community Advisors from each of the three areas:

Karl Duffy	CEO, Kildare Partnership
Colin Ludlow	CEO, Meath Partnership
Brian Carty	Cheshire Ireland (formerly CEO of Wicklow Partnership)

The Community Advisors will provide their expertise and insight to support the selection of successful applicants. However, decision-making will rest with Community Foundation Ireland and Neoen. Please note that lobbying of committee members may result in the exclusion of your project.

## Governance Requirements

When submitting your application, all organisations will be required to upload digital copies of the following governance documents to our portal:

- 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 to within six months.
- Your organisation's most recent annual accounts, signed by two committee members. A signed profit and loss account is also acceptable.

If you submitted these documents previously, please review your "Organisation Profile" on the portal and ensure all information is up to date (your most recent accounts, a bank header with 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 Fund is open for applications on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and will close on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 5pm. Applicants can apply for a minimum of €1,000 up to a maximum of €5,000. Please specify, under the "Strand" option at the start of the application, which is your nearest solar farm.

All applications must meet the criteria above. Any organisation or project that does not meet the 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 us at [info@foundation.ie](mailto:info@foundation.ie). Please include "Neoen" 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.