

Request for Tender for Research Services

Energia Crossmore and Ballylongford Wind Farms

Application deadline for submission of tenders: 5pm Monday 16th March 2026

1. Background Information

1.1 About Community Foundation Ireland

Community Foundation Ireland is a philanthropic hub that has an expert team of professional advisors, strategists, activators and facilitators. Since the year 2000 we have provided the expertise, network and knowledge that enables donors to positively impact Ireland through strategic giving. Through our activities, we have established a wide and deep network of working relationships with more than 5,000 organisations and communities across Ireland. We convene, communicate with, and connect donors, grantees and communities — uniting energy and insight to facilitate meaningful change — supporting Ireland in becoming a place where everyone is equal, and communities thrive.

1.2 Background to the tender

Energia seeks to commission Community Foundation Ireland to appoint a consultant to undertake a scoping study to separately map current unmet needs and opportunities within the areas of Crossmore, Co Clare, and Ballylongford, Co Kerry and to assess the various investment models available for the funds to deliver the most impact in the areas.

Beginning in 2026/7, the Crossmore Wind Farm for a period of 30 years, approximately €35,000 per annum will be available for social investment, specifically for charitable purposes, from proceeds of the new Crossmore Wind Farm.

Beginning in 2027, the Ballylongford Wind Farm for a period of 20 years, approximately €63,000 per annum will be available for social investment, specifically for charitable purposes, from proceeds of the new Ballylongford Wind Farm.

1.3 Research Aims

The purpose of this study is to identify opportunities, in consultation with local communities, for the strategic and impactful investment of funds resulting from the operation of the above-mentioned wind farms (in line with Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) although these are privately financed CPPA projects – not subsidised).

1.4 Scope

Due to the scale of the wind farms and the resulting funds involved, it is proposed that this study will provide a high-level overview of community organisations operating within the two regions, the characteristics of the communities and any prevailing or prevalent social issues affecting the regions.

The aim of this scoping study is to provide advice to Energia (the Developer/Generator) and Community Foundation Ireland (fund administrator and advisor) on areas where funding from the Energia Community Benefit Fund could make an impact in addressing environmental and social issues within the regions, in the short, and longer-term.

The study will provide practical insights as to where private funding (combined circa €98,000 per annum) could be most impactful, drawing on best practice. The study does not purport

to be an academic or in-depth macro-economic study, but rather a mapping of defined regions in order to discern strategic philanthropic investment opportunities.

1.5 Objectives

- Provide an oversight of key socio-economic data and relevant reports as a backdrop to considering the potential impact of the funding.
- Define reasonable catchment areas for the Funds to focus, underpinned by population data, frequency of community groups, and available funding. Including options for eligibility, potential demand, grant size, etc.
- Map unmet needs, opportunities, and local impact potential.
- Map out key stakeholders in the non-profit sector delivering on identified needs. This should include key organisations and is not limited to organisations with charitable status.
- Consult with local communities on areas of greatest need.
- Highlight any alliances or coalitions operating in the area which are particularly impactful in relation to identified needs, which can include non-profit/community development organisations providing support to the region that may benefit from participating in a call for funding. (Can include organisations based outside of aforementioned areas who work within the Crossmore / Ballylongford catchment areas. LDCDs, Family Resource Centres providing outreach etc.)
- Identify and articulate investment models/timeframes for the community benefit funds. E.g. Should funds opt for immediate spenddown of monies available per annum, or look to spend down a portion of funds throughout the first 20 / 30 years, whilst investing/protecting a portion of the funding to deliver impact post-fund onwards.
- Highlight specific/unique characteristics of the regions that should be taken into consideration in the development of fund criteria and grant assessment.
- Profiling the regions (via case study development).
- Set out options for community engagement including scope, role, and format.
- The output of this process will take the form of a report and summary slide deck which will act as a reference point for the Generator and Administrator during the development of fund criteria and the assessment of funding applications.

1.7 Methodology

The study will consist of a mixed methods approach inclusive of desk research and interviews with key stakeholders, and organisations in both regions, as well as reviewing pertinent materials produced by bodies such as the CSO, NESC, Local Councils, etc.

The consultant should draw on relevant national/international experience/research on the management of Community Benefit Funds, including through the Community Foundation Model.

Community Foundation Ireland will frame the final report for delivery to Energia.

1.8 Timeframe

- Start date for March 2026; to be completed by end of April 2026
- Submission of scoping study to Community Foundation Ireland – April/May 2026
- Review of Study by Community Foundation Ireland & Energia – May 2026
- Criteria Development (Community Foundation Ireland) – May 2026
- Prior Information Notification (PIN) of Community Benefit Fund Launch within targeted areas – June 2026
- Official Launch – Initial Fund Opens for Applications – August / September 2026

2. Instructions to Tenderers

2.1 Format of tenders

Tenderers should fully complete and submit the application form in the requested format.

2.2 Compliant tenders

Tenderers should read this document in full to better ensure compliance, and Community Foundation Ireland reserves the right to reject a tender as non-compliant. Tenderers are required to:

- Submit all documentation which this Request for Tender (RFT) requires
- Conform and comply with all instructions set out in this RFT
- Submit the tenderers statement required in the submission form
- Not alter this RFT in any way

2.3 Submission of tenders and application deadline

Completed application forms must be sent by email to giving@foundation.ie with subject line "Energia Crossmore and Ballylongford Wind Farms". Completed application forms must be received no later than 5pm Monday 16th March 2026.

Application forms for the tender can be accessed [here](#).

1. Queries and clarifications

All queries with respect to this RFT must be directed to giving@foundation.ie. Community Foundation Ireland reserves the right to update, amend or cancel the information contained in this document and/or to extend the tender deadline. Participants will be informed of any such amendment, extension or clarification by email.

2. Tender evaluation and award of contract

4.1 Award of contract criteria

A contract will be awarded out of a total of 100 marks, based on the tenderers ability to deliver the required service in accordance with the following criteria:

- Tenderer(s) experience and suitability – 20 marks
- Methodology and approach – 20 marks
- Experience in relation to the research topic or broad research area – 20 marks
- Cost – 20 marks
- Timeframe proposal – 15 marks
- Corporate, business and research promotion expertise – 5 marks

The contract will be awarded to the highest ranked tenderer based on the above criteria.

4.2 Contractual rights

This RFT does not constitute an offer or a commitment to enter into a contract. Until a formal written contract has been executed by or on behalf of Community Foundation Ireland, no contractual rights will exist. The tenderer may be required to outline and discuss the research proposal to Community Foundation Ireland staff or other stakeholders.

4.3 Payments

- All prices quoted must be quoted in euro (€)
- All prices quoted must be inclusive of VAT, with the applied VAT rate, indicated
- All prices quoted must be valid for at least three months following the tender deadline
- Payments will be made on foot of appropriate invoices submitted, with invoicing arrangements agreed after the award of contract
- Incorrect invoices will be returned for correction with subsequent effects on date of payment

4.4 Taxation

For the term of any contract issued, successful tenderers shall be in compliance with all domestic and EU tax laws. Tax clearance, reference and other tax registration numbers may be required prior to the award of any contract.

4.5 Subcontractors

Where a tenderer is relying on the capacity of other persons or entities for fulfilling any of the award criteria, if requested by Community Foundation Ireland, the tenderer must provide satisfactory proof that the persons or entities being used have the necessary expertise to fulfil the award criteria.

3. Terms and conditions

5.1 Liability and warranty

Community Foundation Ireland does not accept any liability or provide any express or implied warranty in respect of any such information contained in this RFT, and tenderers must form their own conclusions about the solution needed to meet the requirements set out.

5.2 Data protection

Applicants are required to comply with the requirements of data protection legislation and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). All data will be processed in accordance with GDPR and relevant data protection law.

5.3 Costs

All costs and expenses incurred by tenderers relating to their participation in this RFT shall be borne by the tenderers exclusively.

5.4 Confidentiality

All documentation, data, statistics and information furnished by Community Foundation Ireland to tenderers during the course of this RFT: shall be treated as confidential; are furnished for the sole purpose of replying to this RFT only; may not be used, communicated, reproduced or published for any other purpose without the prior written permission of Community Foundation Ireland; and must be returned immediately to Community Foundation Ireland upon cancellation or completion of this RFT if so requested.

5.5 Publicity

No publicity regarding this RFT or any contract pursuant to this RFT is permitted unless Community Foundation Ireland has given its prior consent to the relevant communication.

5.6 Ownership

Unless otherwise agreed, ownership of any reports, material or output produced relating to any contract awarded as a result of this RFT rests with Community Foundation Ireland.

5.7 Copyright

Copyright of any reports, material or output produced shall rest with and be assigned to Community Foundation Ireland. Community Foundation Ireland shall have the right to publish, or not as the case may be, and to disseminate any reports, material or output, without further reference to the tenderer. The tenderer will not be entitled to further payment if this occurs. The tenderer and the individual researchers will be entitled to be credited with the work that they have done on this project in any publication.

5.8 Registrable interest

Any registrable interest involving any tenderer or subcontractor must be fully disclosed in the tender or, in the event of this information only coming to the notice of the tenderer or subcontractor after the submission of a tender, must be communicated to Community Foundation Ireland.

5.9 Anti-competitive

Price collusion or any other anti-competitive behaviour is a criminal offence under the Competition Act 2002.

5.10 Freedom of information

Information provided by tenderers during this RFT may be liable to be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 and if tenderers consider that certain information is not to be disclosed because of its confidentiality or commercial sensitivity, tenderers must, when providing such information, clearly identify the specific information and specify the reasons for its confidentiality and commercial sensitivity.

5.11 Conflicts of interest

Any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest on the part of a tenderer, subcontractor or individual employee or agent of a tenderer or subcontractor must be fully disclosed to Community Foundation Ireland as soon as the conflict or potential conflict is or becomes apparent.

5.12 Insurance

The successful tenderer shall be required to hold for the term of the contract the appropriate level of insurance cover in order to carry out work associated with this project.