

Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm

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Innogy Renewables Ireland Limited (innogy) is the company proposing to develop Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm, in the vicinity of Lyrenacarriga townland and surrounding areas in Co. Waterford and Co. Cork. It is a joint project with Highfield Energy, with innogy taking the lead in the development.

PROJECT FACTS

Location:	5km SE of Tallow, Co. Waterford and approx. 15kms NW of Youghal, Co. Cork
Site area:	Approx. 1,900 hectares
Elevation:	Ranges between 140 – 210 metres above ordnance datum
No of turbines:	Viable area could accommodate 25 turbines; depending on EIA surveys, this could be reduced
Turbine height:	Up to 150 metres
Set back from property:	Distance of 700 metres can be achieved
Investment:	Expected to be in the region of €100 - €130 million
Timeline:	innogy intends to submit a planning application to An Bord Pleanála in 2019. Fieldwork is continuing to be undertaken in respect of the EIA and community engagement is ongoing.

How will Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm benefit the community?

Community Benefit Fund

Should Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm be consented, it has the potential to provide significant additional investment into community projects that will benefit local residents and businesses.

Following the publication of the Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) proposals in summer 2018, it is anticipated that a community fund could be in the region of €6,000 per MW of installed capacity per annum. This could mean that a wind farm producing 60-74MW output capacity could result in a fund of €360,000 - €444,000 per year for the local community subject to the final installed capacity of the wind farm. This represents a dependable source of income for the communities local to Lyrenacarriga.

innogy supports the development of a funding process that puts decision making on what funds are spent where in the hands of local people. The flexibility of the investment that could come from Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm would mean that a panel of local community representatives could decide how to invest the income in a variety of projects that will benefit residents, local businesses and the community as a whole including creating job opportunities and skills development, tourism initiatives and area regeneration projects.

Potential community shared ownership

A further potential income stream could come via innogy offering the local community the opportunity to participate in a community shared ownership scheme whereby they could invest in the wind farm in return for a share of future revenue.

Supply chain opportunities & jobs

During the construction phase of the wind farm, there will be supply chain opportunities for local businesses leading to an increase in local investment and job opportunities. Prior to construction starting, innogy will award the principle contract for Civil Balance of Plant supply and installation of the turbines, and the Electrical Balance of Plant contract. Once these main contracts have been placed, there will be potential opportunities for supply chain companies in the region to tender for subcontracts. The types of businesses that could benefit from this expenditure is wide ranging, and is likely to include: traffic management; materials supply; plant hire; fencing, fuel, security, waste management, signing and lighting, telecommunications, drainage, catering and hotel and B&B businesses.

Payment of business rates to local council

A significant wider benefit of the proposed Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm is the annual business rates contribution estimated to be between €600,000 and €800,000 for the full life of the wind farm. These business rates will be paid locally and contributions will significantly benefit the wider local economy.

Why onshore wind?

The continued deployment of onshore wind, which represents the cheapest form of new, large-scale electricity generation, will be key to meeting and facilitating decarbonisation at the cheapest cost to consumers. A January 2019 report, *Wind for a Euro: Cost-benefit analysis of wind energy in Ireland 2000-2020*, from energy and utilities consultants Baringa, reveals that the net cost of wind energy for Irish consumers amounts to less than €1 per person per year since 2000.

Ireland is going through a major energy transition. It is the Government's intention that by 2050 our homes, cars, workplaces, shops, schools and leisure centres will be powered by electricity from renewables. This transition will need every person in every community in Ireland to play their part. Communities that host a renewable energy project – onshore wind, offshore wind, biomass, battery storage, hydro or solar - are playing a very important role in this transition.

With the second highest wind resource in Europe, Ireland's onshore wind is leading the country towards the legally binding targets of 16% total renewable energy by 2020, with wind set to account for half of this target. The move away from fossil fuels could also benefit Ireland's energy security, encouraging national generation for national energy consumption. This in turn reduces spend on imported fuels. In 2017, wind energy saved Ireland 2.7 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions and prevented more than €220 million of imported foreign fossil fuels (SEAI 2018, "Energy in Ireland").

As a responsible company and developer, innogy is committed to ensuring that the communities that host our renewable energy schemes are able to share in the Ireland-wide economic and environmental benefits that these projects can deliver, as well as more specific local benefits. These include countrywide reduced reliance on fossil fuels and improved air quality and more local funding to spend on local buildings and projects along with more jobs and employment opportunities.

Why here?

The current Waterford County Development Plan 2011-2017 (as extended) was adopted with the benefit of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (Volume 4), a Habitats Directive Article 6 Appropriate Assessment (Volume 5), a Scenic Landscape Evaluation (Appendix A9) and a Wind Energy Strategy (Appendix A8). What that means is the Waterford County Development Plan drafting process, and all of these documents combined, considered it appropriate to classify the areas centred on Tallow and south of Lismore as Preferred Areas (for wind energy development) and areas Open For Consideration, respectively.

Every wind farm development that might be proposed in these areas will have to be the subject to a very detailed Environmental Impact Assessment, and will be subject to the full rigour of the planning process. The Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm proposal is being developed at this location after a detailed screening of Co. Waterford and East Cork.

About Innogy Renewables Ireland Ltd (innogy)

One of the largest energy utilities in Germany, innogy SE has a significant footprint in other European markets. With a renewable generation capacity of over 3.9GW, including over 1.9GW of onshore wind and over 1GW of offshore wind, producing over 10billion kWh per annum in total across ten European countries. We have recently also expanded into new markets in Europe, the US, Australia and Asia. For further information visit www.innogy.com

In 2016, Innogy Renewables Ireland was established with a view to growing a sustainable long-term energy company in Ireland. There are currently eight employees based in the Kilkenny City office, which is expected to grow with continued investment into the Irish economy. Current activity in Ireland relates to the development and operation of onshore and offshore wind farms to assist with the decarbonisation of the Irish energy sector in the coming decades and, as with innogy's other new markets, we are aiming to grow battery storage projects as part of our renewables portfolio.

In March 2018, innogy partnered with Irish company Saorgus Energy to continue the development of the Dublin Array Offshore Wind Farm Project, a major offshore development project, located in the Irish Sea off the coast of Dublin, contributing to Ireland's renewable energy mix.