Your Community
Our Commitment
Your community — our commitment

Ireland is going through a major energy transition

It is the Irish Government’s intention that by 2050 our homes, cars, workplaces, shops, schools and leisure centres will be powered by electricity from a renewable source that is generated in Ireland. Every member of Irish society will play a key role in delivering this transition. Communities that host a renewable energy project – onshore wind, offshore wind, biomass, hydro or solar – are playing a very important role.

As an experienced and responsible company, Innogy Renewables Ireland (innogy) is committed to ensuring that communities which 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.

One of the largest energy utilities in Germany, innogy SE has a significant footprint in other European markets. We have 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

Benefits of renewable energy

- Lower electricity prices.
- Funding to spend on local buildings and projects.
- More jobs and employment opportunities.
- Reduced reliance on fossil fuels.
- Improved air quality.
Onshore — Our new onshore wind farms in Ireland will support our neighbours in two ways.

01 An annual fund for the local community that lasts as long as the wind farm is operational.

02 The opportunity for the local community to invest in the new onshore wind farm.

In Ireland, innogy’s onshore wind farm community funds are all about enabling local people to solve problems and make life-enhancing improvements to their local area. Every community has different needs and ambitions, so it makes sense for our funds to be flexible and accessible and we listen to community members’ thoughts on how to make the most of them.

Our bespoke approach to each new area means that we can work with local people and groups to tailor funding to meet the needs of individual communities and households living close to our sites. We aim to put decision making as to how the fund is spent into the hands of local representatives so that local people can make decisions about how their community is supported and address what is most important to them.

Your community fund could be used for a whole variety of projects that benefit the quality of life for residents, for example, community transport schemes, projects to improve broadband, community
buildings and groups, tourism initiatives and the development of job opportunities. The decisions will be made by a local community panel that the community fund administrator will help you to set up.

Local community investment in renewable electricity projects is commonplace in innogy’s home market of Germany. We are currently working with Irish industry and community project stakeholders to assist us in designing a successful community investment model that will meet the needs of Irish communities and will allow individuals or groups to share directly in the financial benefits of the Irish renewable electricity transition.

Offshore — With our offshore wind farm projects, we are also committed to supporting the local communities in which we operate. innogy has partnered with Saorgus Energy to develop Dublin Array Offshore Wind Farm. As the project progresses we will work with communities to develop our approach to supporting the local area. More information on the Dublin Array scheme is available at www.dublinarray.com
Our offer to your community

— Annual payments to our onshore wind farm community funds will be worth €2 per megawatt (MW) hour for each year over the lifetime of Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS), which we expect to be in the region of 15 years.

— innogy has elected to continue making payments after RESS. Annual payments after the lifetime of RESS will be worth €1,000 per MW installed capacity.

— Each fund needs to be administered to ensure transparency and any administration costs will be paid out of the annual fund sum.

Total funds generated from a 10 turbine site:

€3,481,950

Per year of the lifetime of RESS

€208,130

Per year for remainder of project lifetime

€36,000

10 turbine site

= 36MW
Total funds generated from a 20 turbine site:

€6,963,900

Per year of the lifetime of RESS
€416,260

Per year for remainder of project lifetime
€72,000

20 turbine site = 72MW
The funding process

01 innogy will consult with members of the community to collect local views on who should benefit from funding, who should be on the community panel and how should funding be invested.

02 innogy appoints an independent administrator with the appropriate legal structure and experience to support the community panel in administering funds.

03 Legal agreement between innogy and the administrator secures community fund for the future.

04 Community panel recruited and trained.

05 Community panel and administrator agree terms of reference for the panel.

06 Community panel decides how funding is split between “Homes” and “Community”.

07 Community panel makes decisions about fund applications.

08 Administrator advertises availability of funds, supports panel, manages application process, provides support for applicants, monitors awards.

09 Administrator shares annual report with the local community.

10 Administrator shares community fund information on the new Community Benefit Register.
The community panel

Your community panel will be a diverse group of local people recruited by the community fund administrator through a simple application process. Applications will be invited from local people who have an interest in, and passion for, making a difference in their local area. Panel members may be young or old, working, retired or unemployed. They may come from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. The more mixed and diverse the panel, the more representative of the local community it is likely to be. During the decision making process, panel members will be asked to declare if they have an interest in any of the projects being discussed.

Homes — funds can provide direct support to the wind farm’s nearest neighbours.

Community panel decides how much to invest in this scheme.

Could be available to households up to 2km from the site.

Households can select:

A Annual contribution towards energy bill
   Benefit – reduced electricity cost.

B Join the Energy Saving Scheme
   — Higher level of funding per household per year.
   — Home energy audit.
   — Annual contribution towards energy saving measures which could include insulation, solar PV, heat pumps and electric vehicle charging points.
   — Assistance in accessing other funding available.

Benefits – Reduced electricity costs, improved Building Energy Rating Value on your property (increasing property value) and reduced emissions.

Community — a flexible funding program that can provide local people with the resources, flexibility and support to realise their ambitions and plan for the future with more confidence. This is especially true if our support attracts matched funding from other sources – putting much bigger projects within easier reach of the communities where we operate.

01 Community panel decides how much to invest in this scheme.

02 Potential for wider and more flexible area of benefit – agreed following feedback from local community.

03 Community panel helps to set funding themes and guidelines.

04 Simple, open and transparent application process.

05 Can be delivered through grants and/or interest-free loans.
innogy Community Funding in action

In 2018, renewable energy projects operated by innogy invested €2,774,648.70 into their neighbouring local communities, with decisions made by local people.
Clwb yr efail is a friendship group supporting older people in Conwy, enabling them to meet, enjoy a hot meal and engage with likeminded people. The group’s mission is to fight loneliness by providing transport and a place at the club so individuals are not housebound or isolated. Clwb yr efail used a grant of just over €4,450 from the Gwynt y Môr Offshore Wind Farm to make much needed improvements to their premises. The total Gwynt y Môr Community Fund is worth over €906,000 per year.

A number of grants totalling almost €55,626 from the An Suidhe Wind Farm have helped the Furnace Amenity Association turn an ageing village hall into a vibrant modernised hub for the local community. The new welcoming environment has resulted in more local residents attending events, including many more young people. The grants have allowed them to add a small extension to the hall to accommodate a meeting room and a community-run bar so as to offset the loss of the village pub. Combined with replacement windows, new seating, a hot water cylinder and acoustic panels this much needed funding has transformed the building. The total An Suidhe Community Fund is worth over €43,000 per year.
Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex, England

Saving their local shop
Four grants totalling €25,217 from Bradwell Wind Farm Community Fund.

When the landlord of their local shop decided to sell up, villagers of Bradwell-on-Sea in Essex faced losing the much-loved community asset entirely. A grant of just €4,005 from Bradwell Wind Farm Community Fund kicked off a new project by funding a feasibility study and business plan that enabled the community to decide the retail business was most definitely viable. In addition, the grant funded preparations for the share issue – which raised nearly €50,000 from the community. The project continues to deliver an important service to the local area and, with further funding from the wind farm, has now completed a refurbishment and expanded to offer a coffee and chat area. The total Bradwell Community Fund is worth over €42,000 per year.
Brechfa Forest Wind Farm

Helped fund local sports pitch at secondary school
Rye and District Community Transport saved the 326 bus route in Rye, East Sussex when it was axed by the local authority. Little Cheyne Court Wind Farm provided four grants of €13,143 over 4 years that have contributed towards purchasing buses and covering running costs. The route now runs 6 days a week providing a vital connection between the town and other parts of the area including the hospital.

The local secondary school to Brechfa Forest Wind Farm, Camarthenshire has received €61,188 over 2 years towards a 3G Sports Pitch. This grant will make a significant contribution towards the final funding shortfall for this project meaning that it can go ahead. It will be the only all-weather pitch of its kind in the county and, at the request of the grant making panel, the school will provide free sessions to clubs and groups closest to the wind farm. The total Brechfa Forest Community Fund is worth over €520,000 per year.
SJ Noble Foundation
Promotes regeneration in rural Argyll and Bute, Scotland.

SJ Noble Foundation promotes economic regeneration in rural Argyll and Bute. By clever use of a €5,562 grant from An Suidhe Wind Farm the foundation were able to secure even more match funding. The foundation is also using the funds to provide financial assistance to new or existing small local businesses through interest-free loans or grants as well as offering business advice. Many small businesses struggle to secure funds from traditional sources, and do not meet the criteria for public funding, so would struggle to start up or develop without this kind of alternative support.
Jüchen Onshore Wind Farm, Rhein-Kreis district of Neuss, a two turbine site operated by innogy, is a role model for energy transition. Shareholders in the project are diverse, and include a local energy cooperative, BürgerEnergie eG, representing up to 400 members who invested €500,000, as well as other investors including three municipal utilities.

In Germany, innogy is experienced at working with partners that represent their local communities. Königshovener Höhe Onshore Wind Farm is a 21 turbine site which innogy operate together with the town of Bedburg.

Eschweiler Onshore Wind Farm is a 13 turbine site which innogy operate together with two municipal companies, the EWV GmbH from Stolberg and the rurenergie GmbH from Düren.
Tell us what you think
ireland@innogy.com
Phone: (056) 771 5782
Glossary

01 Building Energy Rating Value  
(page 7)
A rating on the overall energy efficiency of a building.

02 Capacity Factor  
(page 17)
A measure of the relationship between the amount of energy a generator produces and the amount it could produce if it operated as effectively as possible.

03 Match funding  
(page 14)
The stipulation set by some grant-providing bodies that the recipients of a grant raise a certain percentage of the money they require from other sources. Community funds can be used to match some grants and make even more money available to the community.

04 Megawatt (MW)  
(page 4)
A unit for measuring electrical power which is equivalent to 1 million watts.

05 Megawatt hour (MWh)  
(page 4)
A megawatt hour is 1 million watts of electrical power used for 1 hour.

06 Megawatt installed capacity  
(page 4)
Is the maximum output of electrical power that a generator can produce under ideal conditions.

07 Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS)  
(page 4)
Irish Government scheme to provide support to renewable electricity projects in Ireland.

08 Total funds generated  
(page 4-5)
— Example RESS community payment calculations are based on the assumption of a 3.6MW turbine with a capacity factor of 0.33.

— $3.6\,\text{MW} \times 1\,\text{turbine} \times 365 \,\text{days} \times 24 \,\text{hours} \times 0.33 \,\text{Capacity Factor} = 10,406 \,\text{MWh} \times €2 \approx €20,813 \,\text{per year or €5,781 per MW installed capacity.}$