Ireland

FuturEnergy

Our Approach to Project Development

www.futurenergyireland.ie

Proudly powering the nation

Who is FuturEnergy Ireland?

FuturEnergy Ireland is a joint venture company owned on a 50:50 basis by Coillte and ESB. This exciting collaboration combines the State's strongest assets and expertise in onshore renewable energy development on behalf of the people of Ireland.

FuturEnergy Ireland's mission is to maximise the potential of our national resources and accelerate Ireland's transformation to a low carbon energy economy. In doing this, we can deliver a cleaner, brighter, more sustainable future for our children, our nation and our world. We are a specialist team of dedicated energy professionals who are passionate about harnessing the renewable resource of our wind and using it to make a positive, long-lasting difference in the fight against climate change while improving Ireland's energy security and reducing energy costs.

By using our passion, knowledge and expertise, we aim to actively drive the development of the highest quality, locally supported renewable energy projects in Ireland. We want to do this in a way that is good both for society and local communities, and to share the economic benefits. We recognise that we will only achieve this by setting the highest standards for ourselves and by working in collaboration with all stakeholders, including those living closest to our projects, those in the surrounding communities and their local representatives.

Ireland's sustainable energy future lies in all our hands.

In this booklet we have outlined our common approach to developing, designing, building, operating and decommissioning our projects.
We have also outlined with whom and how we engage during the different phases of a project.

Our Values

These company values shape our culture and guide us through all our business interactions. Here's what we strive to be:

T — Trusted

- We are consistently open, honest, respectful and genuine.
- We keep our word.

R — Resourceful

- We have the agility, determination and expertise to meet challenges with creativity and resilience.
- We engage, we evaluate, we act.

U — United

- We are one team, driven by unity of purpose, and understand that success is dependent on our collective energy and contribution.
- We care deeply about local communities and the environment, promoting a win-win approach in all commercial and community collaborations.

E — Energised

- We are empowered to deliver so we set ourselves high standards, accept accountability for results and are motivated by our achievements.
- We care profoundly about FuturEnergy Ireland's contribution to delivering a low carbon future with resultant benefits for our children, our nation and our world.

The energy crisis

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in March 2022, gas prices in Europe have risen at an alarming rate. The Commission for Regulation of Utilities is warning that this trend is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. Ireland imports most of its gas requirements and is therefore vulnerable to global gas price volatility. This reliance on expensive imported energy, and gas in particular, is having an unprecedented inflationary effect across our economy.

A main focus of national and EU strategy, to protect our economies and energy security within the bloc, is to ramp up our domestic renewable energy capacity. FuturEnergy Ireland is supporting the Government and the people of Ireland by developing low-cost renewable energy projects to help reduce both our reliance on fossil fuel imports and our economy's exposure to geopolitical events.

Climate change: the scale and the urgency

"We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator." This was the stark message from António Guterres, UN Secretary-General, when he spoke at COP27 in November 2022. Climate change requires urgent action. A key pillar of this will be the deployment of more renewable energy projects to replace oil, gas and coal. Once we decarbonise our electrical system, we can use renewable energy to decarbonise large parts of the heat and transport sectors through technology such as heat pumps and electric vehicles.

We have already seen global temperatures rise more than 1C above pre-industrial levels. Last year saw record-breaking extreme weather around the world. According to Met Éireann, 2022 was provisionally the warmest year

on record in Ireland while July and August saw the highest maximum temperatures ever recorded. Scientific consensus is that we need to keep this global temperature rise ideally at 1.5C if we are to stave off the worst effects of climate change.

If we don't drastically reduce global emissions in the next 10 years, experts warn that there is a very real danger of temperatures rising well beyond 2C within our children's lifetimes, resulting in extreme and irreversible climate events that will devastate our planet.

The Government's emission targets

In a bid to address climate change, the Government is continuously stepping up to the challenge. For example, it created the first Climate Action Plan in 2019 and subsequently enacted the Climate Action Bill. This landmark legislation marks Ireland's commitment to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 and to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. The revised Climate Action Plan 2023 saw onshore wind targets rise to 9 GW by 2030, with 6 GW to be achieved by 2025.

The role of onshore wind

In Ireland, our natural wind resource will play a key role in cutting carbon emissions. While onshore wind is not the only answer, it was the main driver in ensuring that Ireland could achieve its 2020 renewable energy targets and we expect to build on that success between now and 2030, and beyond. Significant deployment of renewable projects, both onshore and offshore, is urgently needed. Deploying these technologies now will help fight climate change, radically reduce Ireland's dependence on fossil fuels and support the country's efforts to decarbonise domestic heat and transport.

The community perspective

Every single one of us needs to take positive climate action. The Covid-19 pandemic has shown that it is possible to make fundamental changes to our behaviour — and indeed how we live and impact on our environment.

It is important to recognise, however, that communities living in close proximity to wind farms are affected during this energy transition. Construction traffic can cause temporary disruption, for instance, and turbine structures will be a new addition to the landscape. The Government has taken action to address this by mandating significant Community Benefit Funds for all future wind farm projects. This represents an unparalleled opportunity for rural Ireland. Hosting a wind farm will now bring with it resources that can be a catalyst for significant community development and local rural regeneration.

FuturEnergy Ireland is helping to fight global warming by building the renewable energy projects needed to support the Government's Climate Action Plan. As individuals, families and communities, we ask you to engage openly with us so that we can ensure your views are appropriately considered and addressed.

> ***By 2030 Ireland aims to meet 80% of annual electricity needs from renewable energy***


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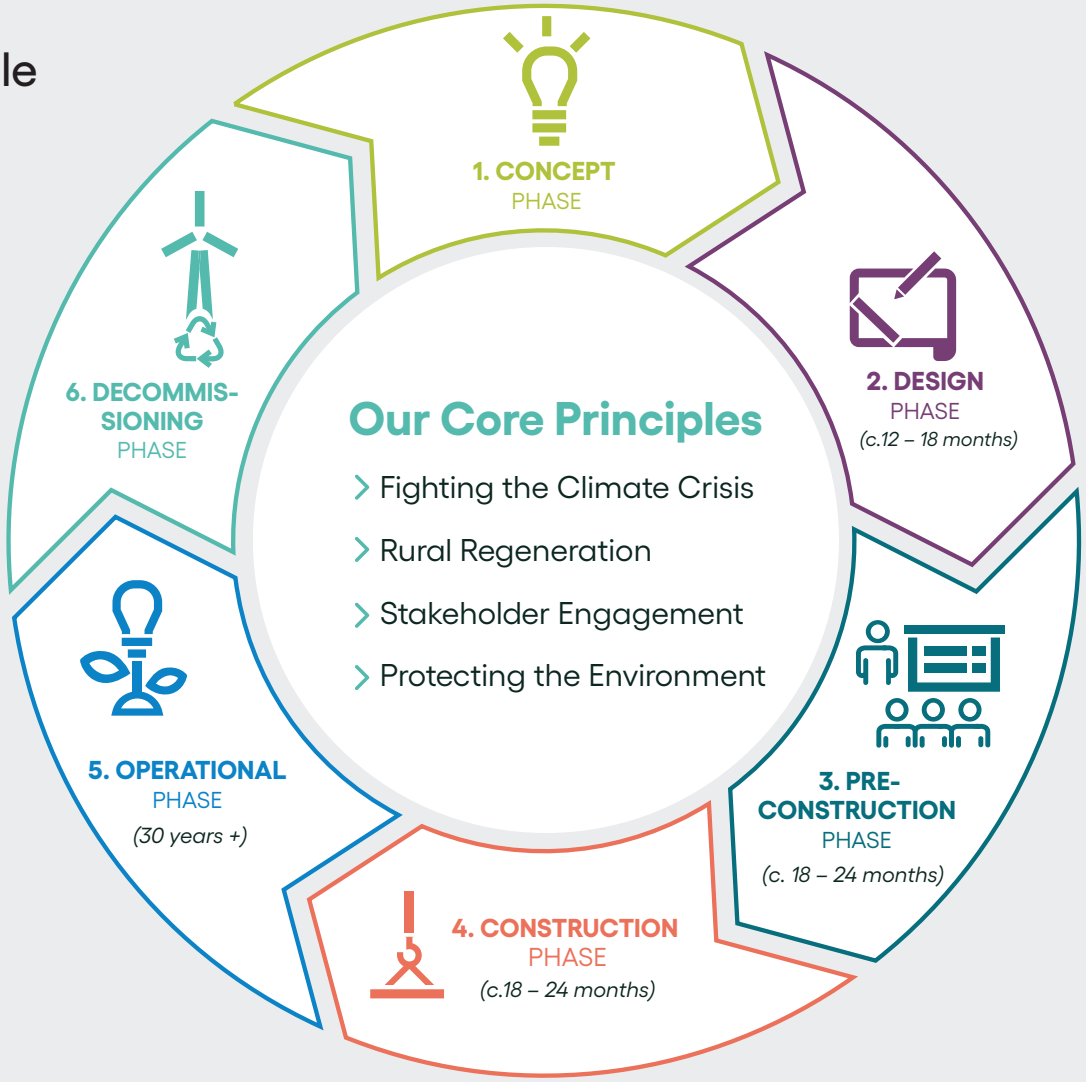
In 2022, wind provided 34% of Ireland’s power and cut spending on gas by €2 billion

Our Project Development Cycle



* These timelines assume a best-case scenario and no significant project delays.

1. CONCEPT PHASE

We continuously look at Coillte lands and seek opportunities for renewable energy development.

What's happening

A land screening process that considers:

- The wind resource on our lands.
- County Development Plan designation.
- Proximity to grid infrastructure.
- Site size after applying a buffer of 750 metres or four times the tip height to dwellings.
- Undertaking specific targeted studies on high potential sites to further de-risk and to identify the very best for progression.
- Potentially increasing a site's suitability by bringing in adjacent neighbouring lands.

Who we engage with and how

This is primarily a desk-based exercise that is informed by national, regional and local climate and energy policies and targets. In this step, we may engage with policymakers, land owners and others seeking to start similar developments.

> ***FuturEnergy Ireland wind farms are designed so that all turbines are at least 750 metres or four times the tip height from residential properties***

Project assessment and design process	Introduction of the project
Stakeholder engagement process: what happens when and how it affects you.	› Initial project newsletter distributed to wider area outlining project site, team, timeline and contact details. › First door-to-door consultation within 2km of site. › Dedicated team assigned to the project, including a Project Manager and local Community Liaison Officer.

2. PROJECT DESIGN PHASE

Following local engagement and detailed site surveys, we design the wind farm layout respecting environmental sensitivities and residents who live nearby.

Design Version 1: Initial turbine layout

- Website goes live.
- Newsletter to all dwellings within 2km plus to local councillors.
- Second door-to-door consultation within the 2km zone.
- Begin potential Recreation Plan conceptual design with local stakeholders.

Design Version 2: Updated turbine layout

- Studies, surveys and feedback inform a second turbine layout design that is shared along with all project updates in a newsletter delivered to the wider area and posted on the website.
- Introduce Community Benefit Fund to local stakeholders.

Design Version 3: Final turbine layout

- Virtual Exhibition launched, which includes surveys, reports and photomontages of the turbines from different viewpoints.
- Brochure delivered to the wider area and uploaded on website.
- Briefing with the county council.
- Community Engagement Clinics/ Webinars take place.

Planning application preparation

- Final consultations with interested stakeholders.

Planning application submission

- Planning documentation uploaded on to project / dedicated project planning website at point of submission for public viewing.

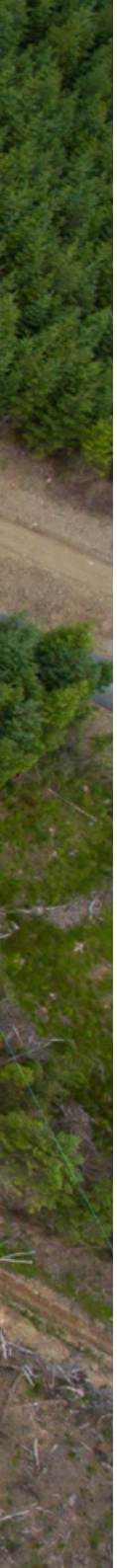
> ***A lot of planning goes into a wind farm. It can take up to five years to complete all survey works, secure planning consents and grid connection agreements before it is ready to be constructed***

3. PRE-CONSTRUCTION PHASE

We secure approval from EirGrid to connect to the national grid, secure a route to market for selling the electricity generated and finalise the business proposition, including relevant funding model. In parallel, we undertake pre-construction environmental surveys and work in collaboration with the local community to design the benefit fund and minimise disruption.

	Design Community Benefit Fund and Recreational Amenity	Prepare the local business community for potential service provision opportunities	Pre-construction engagement
Stakeholder engagement process	› Initial consultations with home owners within 2km, local community groups and political representatives. › Establish a local committee to run the Community Benefit Fund (CBF) and develop a long-term strategic plan assisted by a facilitator. › Skills training and mentorship provided to the CBF committee. › Finalise core recreational offering on site, as appropriate.	› "Meet the buyer" events held in local venues to present service requirements of the project to local businesses.	› Regular newsletter to residents and businesses within the 2km zone, along the transport delivery route and the grid route, outlining the construction process. › Development of Traffic Management Plan in consultation with local authority. › Formation of project community liaison group.

> *Our wind farm developments repay any carbon emissions associated with their construction within the first six to 18 months of operation.*



4. CONSTRUCTION PHASE

We construct the wind farm to the highest standards while minimising impacts on the host community and the environment.

Activity	Site establishment	Project construction	Establish Community Benefit Fund and Recreational Amenity
	› Establish construction site compounds and offices.	› Construct access roads, crane pads, site substation, internal electrical ducting and turbine foundations. › Complete connection works to the national grid system. › Construction of turbine foundations, delivery of components to site and erection of turbines. › Commission turbines.	
Stakeholder Engagement Process	› Circulate project newsletter that sets out expected construction works programme. › Share contact details for our dedicated Community Liaison Officer who will be a local point of contact for questions and queries.	› Secure abnormal load permits including agreement of all necessary traffic management & safety procedures. › Inform local residents of any potential traffic disruption as a result of the work.	› Continue working with the Community Benefit Fund Committee to prepare for launch of fund. › Core recreational amenities are added to the site, as appropriate.

5. OPERATIONAL PHASE

The wind farm produces clean, green electricity and shares the financial benefits with the host community.*

Activity	Energy production: wind farm operation, monitoring and maintenance	Community Benefit Fund
Stakeholder Engagement Process	› Periodic community liaison group meetings with the operator and Community Liaison Officer (CLO). › CLO available to respond to community queries. › Regular updates available on wind farm website.	› Local community committee runs the annual fund with the support of a trusted intermediary. › The community committee makes decisions annually regarding fund allocations for the benefit of the wider area.

* If FuturEnergy Ireland sells the wind farm, all commitments to the community remain the same.

> ***A single, modern onshore wind turbine generates enough power to meet the needs of more than 3,000 Irish homes***

6. DECOMMISSIONING PHASE

We remove installed turbines and infrastructure.

Activity	Consultation with local authority planning office	Decommissioning process
	› Assess re-powering potential of existing wind farm. › If re-powering is an option, recommence at phase 1. If not, submit decommissioning plan to local authority for approval.	› Dismantle turbines and hardstands. › All materials are re-used or recycled wherever possible. › Reinstate the site to former state.
Stakeholder engagement process		› An updated Traffic Management Plan is in place for equipment removal. › Community Liason Officer available as key point of contact for local residents during decommissioning.

> ***Up to 90% of wind turbine components can be recycled at end of life***

Our future

Wind energy is Ireland's main source of clean energy. It cuts our carbon emissions, which helps to lead our fight against climate change.

Delivering Ireland's onshore wind energy targets will generate €2.7 billion of investment over the next ten years and create thousands of jobs. The industry has the potential to be worth €550 million per annum to the Irish economy.

It means an end to relying on burning imported fossil fuels and the return of energy independence. That means more jobs at home and more investment in rural Ireland.

Useful links:

Wind Energy Ireland - **www.windenergyireland.com**

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland - **www.seai.ie**

Environmental Protection Agency - **www.epa.ie**

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications - **www.gov.ie/decc**

Commission for Regulation of Utilities - **www.cru.ie**

Our vision

FuturEnergy Ireland combines the State's strongest assets and expertise in renewable energy development, on behalf of the people of Ireland. We aim to maximise the potential of our natural resources and accelerate Ireland's transformation to a low carbon energy economy to deliver a cleaner, brighter, more sustainable future for our children, our nation and our world.

We are a dedicated team of professionals with specialist skills including project management, engineering, Geographical Information Systems mapping, wind analysis, planning, grid infrastructure development and community engagement.

Our ambition is to develop more than 1GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and make a significant contribution to Ireland's commitment of producing 80% of electricity from renewable sources by the end of the decade.

FuturEnergy Ireland

A Coillte and ESB joint venture company

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