

Scart Mountain Wind Farm

Newsletter 3
Summer 2023



FuturEnergy Ireland is exploring the potential for a renewable energy project in the area known as Scart Mountain, 4km northeast of Cappoquin in Co. Waterford.

Our third newsletter on the proposed Scart Mountain Wind Farm provides more details on how this project could benefit you, as a community and individuals, and what you can expect from us in the coming months.

If you have any questions or want to discuss the project in more detail, please get in touch with your local Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) Liam Cleary and John O'Halloran, whose contact details are on the back of this newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Community Benefits

Scart Mountain Wind Farm has the potential to bring positive benefits to local communities. These include a significant Community Benefit Fund, local authority rates contributions and an opportunity to potentially enhance existing recreation in the area.

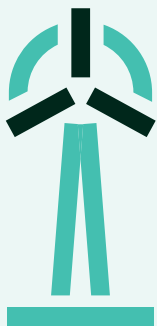
A Community Benefit Fund

The Department of Environment, Climate and Communication (DECC) established the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) in 2021. Under this scheme all participating developers must set up a mandatory Community Benefit Fund for successful projects.

An important cornerstone of the RESS fund is that the local community participates in all decisions regarding how the funding should be used. This places the community at the heart of the decision-making process and will be key to the success of the fund. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland has a support, oversight and compliance role across all RESS funds.

How much is the fund?

The size of the fund is determined by the amount of electricity generated by the wind farm. This ensures the community will see tangible benefits from hosting a wind farm.



16

turbines



270,000

megawatt hour (MWh)
green electricity



€540k*

estimated
Community Benefit Fund

**This estimate is based on the preliminary 16 turbine layout, which is subject to change, and gives annual figures for the first 15 years of operation*

Scart Mountain Wind Farm

In practice, the fund value is calculated whereby for each megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity produced, the project owner contributes €2 into a community fund for the RESS contract period i.e., the first 15 years of operation. In addition, FuturEnergy Ireland commits to a further €1/MWh for the remaining lifetime of the wind farm. If the project does not qualify for RESS, FuturEnergy Ireland pledges to match these contributions.

If Scart Mountain Wind Farm is consented and constructed based on the current draft design, the project has the potential to generate approximately 270,000 MWh of green electricity per year. This means that the project could contribute a minimum of €540,000 annually to the Community Benefit Fund for the first 15 years of operation. For the remaining lifetime of the wind farm, FuturEnergy Ireland commits to contributing around €270,000 per year. Therefore, over the expected 30-year lifetime of the wind farm, the Community Benefit Fund will be in the order of €12 million.

What can the fund be used for?

Government guidelines stipulate that some of the fund should go towards those who live in close proximity to the project, which is why a proportion is designated for “near neighbour” payments.

It is also important that broader community benefits apply as well, as set out in the RESS guidelines. These will include projects in the wider area that meet the UN Sustainable Goals such as education, climate action, energy efficiency, biodiversity, recreation, culture and heritage. There are also provisions made for sports clubs and societies.

For the residents around Scart Mountain and the adjacent hinterland, these funds will offer huge opportunities for strategic projects such as building local community facilities, deep retrofit schemes for homes or tourism upgrades and attractions. The scope for a community vision backed by reliable funding can help make rural regeneration a reality. For more details on RESS funds, please



A Community Benefit Fund supports local clubs



Home retrofit schemes fall under the remit



The Fund could help to build a playground

refer to the Government's 'Good Practice Principles Handbook for Community Benefit Funds', which can be downloaded from www.scartmountainwindfarm.ie/community.

Annual rates contributions

The proposed renewable energy project would contribute between €896,000 to

€1.056 million in annual rates payments to Waterford County Council.

This would have a positive impact on the development of local infrastructure and amenities such as roads, public lighting, street cleaning, libraries, fire services and public amenities and employment.

What does your community need?

Should the project receive a positive planning grant, the project team will carry out public consultation to establish a Community Benefit Fund Committee. This committee will be made up of local people with the assistance of an administrator, workshops and information sessions to ensure you get the most out of your fund.



Project Update

The project team has been refining the draft turbine layout, informed by ongoing site survey work. These studies have resulted in a reduction in turbines from 17 to 16 and slight changes to some turbine locations. More work has yet to be carried out before the layout is finalised. Based on the work completed to date, the second draft design layout is shown in Figure 1 overleaf.

Studies Update

- Noise monitoring is complete and acoustics experts are assessing the data.
- Bird surveys are continuing on site and habitat surveys have been completed.
- Landscape and visual assessments are underway which will inform a series of photomontages.

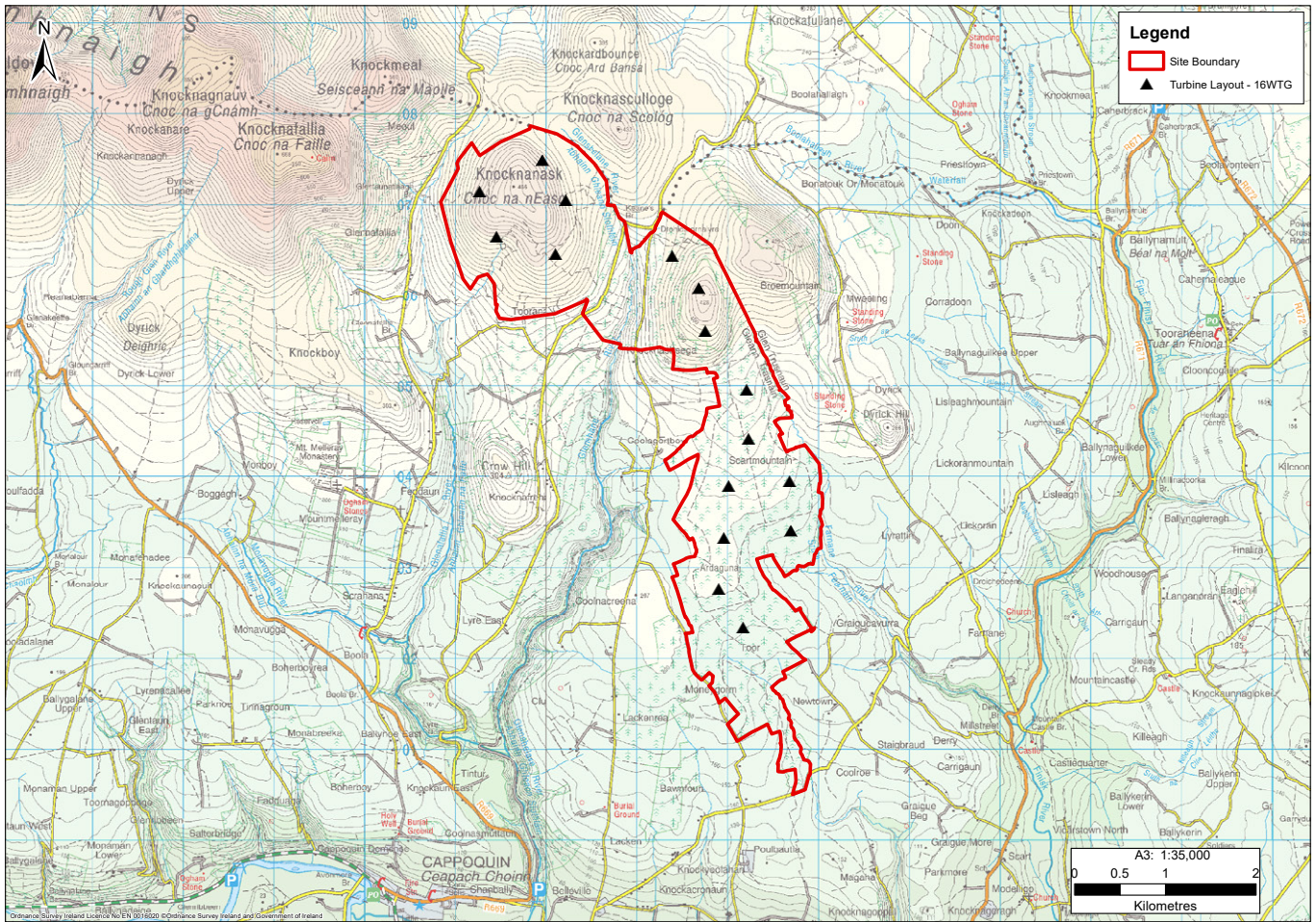


Figure 1 Second draft design layout for Scart Mountain Wind Farm

Next Steps

Summer 2023

- Continue site investigations; focus on environmental surveys and studies.
- Finalise the draft turbine layout design.
- Continue community engagement with CLOs available to discuss the project.
- An information webinar involving a presentation and a Q&A session.

Autumn/Winter 2023

- A detailed project brochure will be issued and delivered to homes within 4km of the project site. This will also be available on the project website and accompanied by a virtual tour. Both the brochure and virtual tour will contain survey and study results and include a full set of photomontages and a final turbine layout map.
- A community clinic will be held locally to give stakeholders the opportunity to meet the Scart Mountain team and discuss any aspect of the project.
- Following the above consultation process, FuturEnergy Scart Mountain DAC expects to submit a planning application to An Bord Pleanála by the end of 2023.

Contact Us

We welcome your comments and feedback on any aspect of this project. Please call or email if you would like to be added to our mailing list.

Community Liaison Officers

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