

Páirc Ghaoithe
na Gaillimhe
Galway Wind Park



COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

Major Projects Fund Guidance Document

February 2024

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Contents

CONTENTS	1
GALWAY WIND PARK MAJOR PROJECTS FUND	2
ELIGIBILITY	2
FUND CRITERIA.....	3
HOW MUCH CAN I APPLY FOR?	4
INELIGIBLE COSTS.....	4
SCORING CRITERIA	5
HOW TO APPLY	6
GRANT OFFER.....	7
1. SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS.....	7
2. UNSUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS.....	7
CONTACT INFORMATION.....	7
APPENDIX 1	8
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED.....	8
APPENDIX 2	9
DETAILS REQUIRED IN THE BUSINESS PLAN AND FOR THE APPLICATION FORM	9

Galway Wind Park Major Projects Fund

SSE Renewables and Greencoat Renewables UK, co-owners of Galway Wind Park run the Major Projects Fund on a biennial basis. The second round of Galway Wind Park’s Major Projects Fund was awarded in 2022, with €600,000 being awarded since its establishment.

The 2024 Major Project Fund offers up to €300,000 grant support for not-for-profit entities, who are active in the local “Social Economy”, to develop strategic projects to deliver value and growth to the area we live, work and explore.

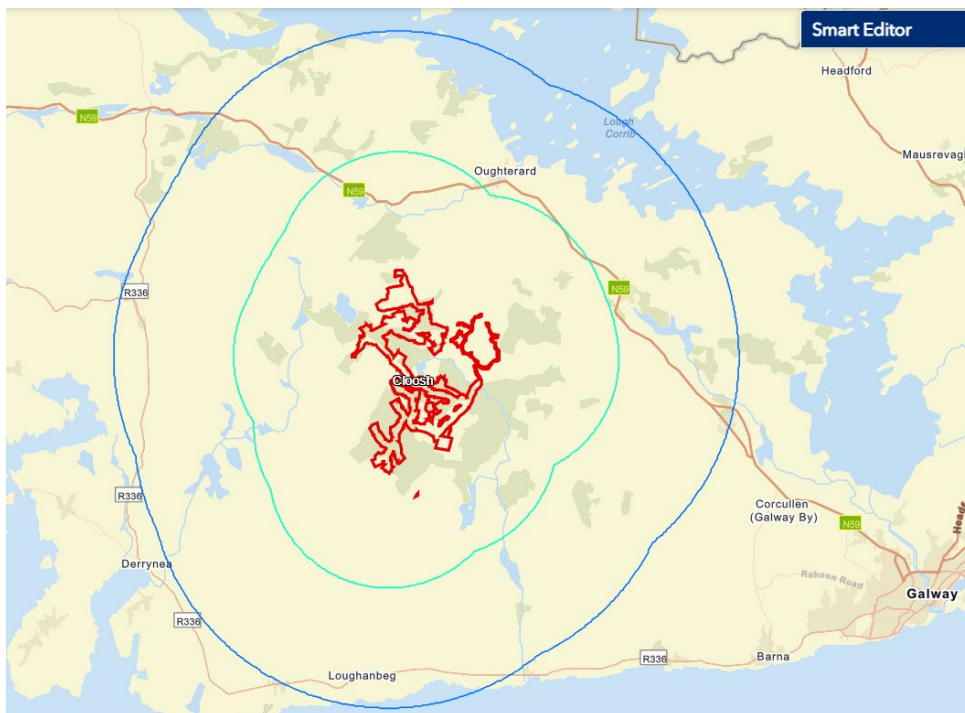
This fund seeks to empower communities to create transformational projects within 10 km of Galway Wind Park and support the transition to a sustainable community.

The fund supports projects that are deliverable within 20 months of application, to empower communities to create transformational projects within 10 km of Galway Wind Park and support the transition to a sustainable community by focusing on the following 3 UN Sustainable Development Goals;

- **UN SDG 7. Affordable & Clean Energy**
- **UN SDG 11. Sustainable Cities & Communities**
- **UN SDG 13. Climate Action**

Eligibility

The Fund is open to applications from not-for-profit entities, for example community enterprises, clubs & societies, community groups, sporting organisations, social enterprises, and similar not-for-profit groups located and / or that benefit the community living within **10 kilometres** of Galway Wind Park, with priority given to groups within **5 kilometres**.



To be eligible to apply to the Galway Wind Park Major Projects Fund you must be able to provide the documents as outlined in Appendix 1 at the time of online application.

Fund Criteria

The fund is to be used to provide support for projects in the communities in which we are investing. For a project to be deemed eligible the aims, objectives and outcomes must align with at least one of the following three UN Sustainable Development Goals;



- **UN SDG 7. Affordable & Clean Energy** - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
Sample eligible projects: energy efficiency projects or initiatives that encourage and deliver renewable electricity generation projects. Projects that will deliver long-term environmental and economic benefits.



- **UN SDG 11. Sustainable Cities & Communities** - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
Sample eligible projects: efforts to protect and enhance the cultural and natural heritage of the local community, community planning, projects that aim to improve or enhance the local infrastructure, heritage, sports and recreation, local regeneration and deliver long-term social and safety benefits.



- **UN SDG 13. Climate Action** - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
Sample eligible projects: projects that seek to improve or enhance landscape and biodiversity, that deliver long-term environmental improvements.

Applicants need to demonstrate effectively how their project meets the following criteria;

- **Value for money** – evidence that the project will have a high local impact for the amount of money requested / invested
- **Community involvement** – evidence that the community has been engaged in developing the project
- **Financial Sustainability** – evidence that the project will be maintained beyond the period of grant funding

How much can I apply for?

Grant award amounts range from €20,000 to €150,000. Large scale projects should be designed in deliverable phases that can be completed within a 20-month period. Projects must be fully complete and fully drawn down before a group can apply for further funding.

The fund will also consider applications for both capital and revenue funding.

Capital funding - can be used to purchase assets, either new or the significant refurbishment of existing assets. These are expected to have “wider community benefit” and to have an expected lifespan of at least 5 years.

Revenue funding - can be used where there is no lasting asset. Revenue funding can be used to develop local programmes and initiatives.


Ineligible Costs

The below costs will not be eligible to receive funding:

- Applications that promote religious or political activities
- Existing loans, debts, or retrospective supports – you must apply for future needs.
- Applications that only benefit an individual
- Activities which do not directly benefit the local community or align with the Fund Criteria outlined.
- Recurrent operational or running costs (e.g., annual insurances)
- The direct replacement of statutory funding

Scoring Criteria

Outlined below are the scoring criteria for all grants. The maximum score for any application is 40.5 points. For your project to be considered for funding a minimum of 21 points must be achieved. Projects under this threshold will not be progressed.

Criteria	Objective	Score
Distance from the wind farm	Projects closest to the wind farm will receive higher marks under this criterion. Within 5km – (7.5) Within 6 - 10km – (2.5)	Max points available 7.5 points
Project Criteria	Up to 5 marks will be awarded for each of the following criteria. Please demonstrate in your application how your project meets the named criteria to achieve full marks in each criterion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Primary UN SDG – (5) - Secondary UN SDG – (5) 	Max points available 10 points
Project Criteria	Up to 5 marks will be awarded for each of the following criteria. Please demonstrate in your application how your project meets the named criteria to achieve full marks in each criterion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Value for money – evidence that the project has a high local impact for the amount invested – (5) - Community involvement – evidence that the community has been engaged in developing the project – (5) - Financial Sustainability – evidence that the project will be maintained beyond the period of grant funding – (5) 	Max points available 15 points
Number of beneficiaries	Your project will be scored based on the number of people benefitting from the grant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 0 - 30 – (1) - 31 - 50 – (2) - 51 - 100 – (3) - 101 - 200 – (4) - Over 200 – (5) 	Max points available 5 points
Additional funding Co-funding from the community or other organisation	Additional points will be available to projects where additional funding has been secured. Please demonstrate in your application which of the following applies to this project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community fundraising efforts – (1) - Organisation reserves being utilised – (1) - Other grants secured – (1) 	Max points available 3 points

How to apply

If your project meets the fund criteria outlined above and you feel the project will score a minimum of 21 points, please complete and submit an online application.

To express an interest in applying for the 2024 Fund [please complete the online form here](#).

Please note you will not be able to submit an application and/or supporting information after the deadline of 5pm, Friday 12 April 2024.

Grant Offer

Applicants will be notified of the outcome within 8-10 weeks of the closing date.

1. Successful Applications

If your application is successful grant offer letters containing the terms and conditions of the offer will be emailed to the named recipient on the application. Grant offer letters must be returned within 14 days.

2. Unsuccessful Applications

Unsuccessful applications will be notified via email with a short justification behind the decision. Unsuccessful applicants will be welcome to reapply to subsequent funding rounds. There is no process of appeal on the decisions.

Contact Information

Information is contained within the community's section of the www.sserenewables.com website. If further information is required, please email GWP.communityfund@sse.com.

Appendix 1

Supporting Documentation required

For your project to be eligible for consideration you will need to ensure you have the following in place before applying to the fund.

➤ Constitution Document

Your group / organisation should be properly constituted. Your constitution should be signed and dated and should outline your group / organisation's purpose, as well as its governance and committee structure.

The constitution should include confirmation that:

- The organisation has charitable purposes.
- Is not for profit in nature; and that
- No directors or trustees are remunerated.

The Wheel have developed a governance resource for small community and voluntary organisations. A constitution template is provided on page 22.¹

➤ Bank / Credit Union Account

A bank / credit union statement header dated within last 3 months showing the name and address of the group applying for the grant, IBAN, BIC and bank branch details must be submitted at application stage.

All project expenditure must be made through this account and grant payments will be paid into this account. A minimum of 2 "Authorised Signatories" for this bank account are required.

➤ Financial Accounts

Confirmation of income and spend in the last year or a copy of annual accounts.

➤ Quotations

Quotations must be submitted with your application to verify the value of each item / service you wish to purchase. If any individual item costs €10,000 or more, you must provide three quotes from three different suppliers.

➤ Project Location Eircode (Or the location where the benefit will be delivered)

➤ Detailed Business Plan

Further details in Appendix 2

➤ Relevant Governance Documents

- Adherence to best practice in relation to the Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland / Charities Governance Code
- Child Protection/Vulnerable Adult Policy (if applicable)

Appendix 2

Details required in the Business Plan and for the Application form;

- Business proposal
 - Research to identify a need for this project within the local area
 - Financial Sustainability, how you will maintain / sustain the project after funding
 - Calculations as to how many people will benefit from the project
 - Will any jobs be supported / created directly from the project
 - Community involvement - surveys, community consultations, open days or letters of support

- Project Budget + Costings
 - Detailed costings
 - Job description / salary details (if applicable)
 - Project Financing - additional or match funding
 - Other Grants (Pending / Awarded)
 - Bridging Finance
 - Organisations Reserves
 - Community Fundraising

- Project Schedule and targets
 - Demonstrate how the proposed development is deliverable within 20 months.
 - Timelines for achieving key milestones
 - have successfully secured planning permission or letter of exemption
 - have legal control of the land / building / asset - Lease / Deeds etc.

- Details on any impact in improving energy efficiency or climate action
 - Current consumption v's the reduction in consumption.

- If a community asset is being built, developed or improved as part of the project
 - Relevant legal requirements / consents;
 - Planning permission
 - Building warrant
 - Listed buildings consent

ⁱ [TheWheel_SustainableCommunities_Governance FINAL ELECTRONIC_0.pdf](#)