



Ballywater Wind Farm **Extension of Life -** **Planning Application**

Planning permission is being sought from Wexford County Council by Ballywater Windfarm Ltd to extend the operational period of the existing Ballywater Wind Farm for an additional 10 years to 2035, upon the expiry of its current planning permission in June 2025.

This application for an Extension of Life is being sought as per condition no. 3 of the existing grant of permission (Pl. Ref. 2001/ 0458), which states that the use of the site shall cease at the end of the current 20-year grant of permission unless permission for its retention for a further period has been granted by the planning authorities.

The application for an Extension of Life is being brought forward in response to local, national, regional and European policy regarding Ireland's transition to a low-carbon economy and associated climate change policy objectives. Extension of life is common in Ireland and many of the earliest-built windfarms across the country have successfully extended their planning permission.

The existing Ballywater Wind Farm became operational in 2005 and comprises 21 Enercon E70 model wind turbines (99m tip-height, 70m rotor diameter, 64m hub height) and associated hardstands, as well as a 110kV substation.

The turbines at the Ballywater Wind Farm are currently grouped into two clusters, with the smaller of these clusters located to the northeast of the site and comprising 4 turbines. The larger cluster in the southwest comprises 17 turbines. The connection to the national grid is via the underground cable which runs from the wind farm substation to the ESNB substation at Crane.

The planning permission for these turbines expires in June 2025. By 2025, the turbines will have been in operation for 20 years. Enercon turbines of the type installed in Ballywater have an operational lifespan of over 30 years. For this reason, Ballywater Windfarm Ltd intends to apply for planning permission to extend the operational period of Ballywater Wind Farm by 10 years.

The application for an Extension of Life does not comprise any alterations or modifications to the existing operational wind farm.

All elements of the existing wind farm are pre-existing, and it is not proposed to make any alterations to the current site layout, wind turbines or associated infrastructure as part of this application.



The Benefits of the Ballywater Wind Farm Community

The operators of the Ballywater Wind Farm are committing to beginning a Community Benefit Fund that will start in 2025 and run annually for the remainder of the operational lifespan of the wind farm. This fund will be available to the local community for projects and/or developments of social benefit.

The operators have partnered with Community Foundation Ireland (CFI) regarding these community funds. Community Foundation Ireland is an expert team of professional advisors, strategists, activators, and facilitators with twenty years of experience in providing the expertise, network and knowledge that enable donors to positively impact Ireland through strategic giving.

The Community Benefit Fund will be administered and controlled entirely by CFI in partnership with the local community. Ballywater Windfarm Ltd will have no say or involvement in how the funds are used.

**Community
Foundation
Ireland**

Community Foundation Ireland are engaged with a network of 5,000 non-profit organisations across Ireland, offering them expertise and advice, and enabling them to achieve their goals.

Economic

The Ballywater Wind Farm is playing an important role in Ireland's drive towards energy independence. The State is seeking to reduce its dependence on imported fossil fuels for energy generation and to instead generate our own electricity through renewable sources such as wind and solar.

The 128,772 MWh/r of electricity produced by the Ballywater Wind Farm is sufficient to supply approximately 30,660 Irish households with electricity per year (based on the average Irish household using 4.2MWh of electricity). This is the equivalent of just over half (51.6%) of all households in Co Wexford.

Environmental

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 legally binds Ireland to achieve net-zero emissions no later than 2050, and to a 51% reduction in emissions by the year 2030.

The Ballywater Wind Farm has been playing an important role in striving towards those ambitious targets since it was commissioned, and the Extension of Life application will enable it to continue doing so.

Ballywater is a nationally important wind energy generator, contributing to the 51% reduction in emissions being sought. These reductions in emissions are helping to reduce Ireland's carbon footprint, leading to cleaner air, cleaner water, less pollution and fewer harmful effects on the environment.

The Community Engagement Process

Ballywater Windfarm Ltd is currently undertaking a programme of community engagement activities to ensure the members of the local community are kept fully informed of developments regarding the application for an Extension of Life, and to afford residents the opportunity to ask any questions or raise any concerns they may have.

If you have any feedback, questions or comments on the application, please feel encouraged to seek out more information at www.ballywaterwindfarm.com or by contacting: info@ballywaterwindfarm.com

