Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 2 Community Benefit Fund Guidelines

2025

Overview of Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 2 Community Benefit Fund

Oweninny Power 2 DAC is now inviting applications to the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 2 Community Benefit Fund ("The Fund"). The Fund will provide grants to local community groups, not-for-profit organisations or social enterprises that operate or service communities near the wind farm, for projects that will create positive social and environmental impacts. The overall aim is to increase public and environmental wellbeing in the community and to ensure the communities adjacent to the wind farm receive real and tangible benefits from its development in recognition of their support.

The Fund is part of the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS-1), a key policy initiative to deliver on the Government's Climate Action Plan, and it is structured in line with the recommendations of the RESS Community Benefit Fund Good Practice Principles Handbook. The Fund runs for 15 years from 2024 – 2039 with one cycle of funding delivered each year.

Oweninny Power 2 DAC will make an annual contribution of €2/MWh (of Loss-Adjusted Metered Generation) into the Community Benefit Fund for the duration of the RESS-1 Contract (15 years). The Fund value will vary each year as it will be calculated based on the annual output of the wind farm. A portion of this Fund will be administered by Mayo County Council each year as part of their Oweninny Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund.

1.1 Fund Administrators

SECAD Partnership CLG have been appointed by Oweninny Power 2 DAC as the Administrators for the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 2 Community Benefit Fund. SECAD Partnership CLG is a local development company that works with a variety of stakeholders in rural areas including community and voluntary groups, disadvantaged target groups, job seekers, businesses (including private and social enterprise), farmers, schools, and the corporate sector. SECAD facilitates a wide range of funds and services including social investment and employment support programmes implemented on behalf of several Irish Government Departments, State Bodies, and renewable energy clients. SECAD currently delivers major programmes such as LEADER and Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) along with other smaller schemes and initiatives, including a number of community benefit funds across Ireland.
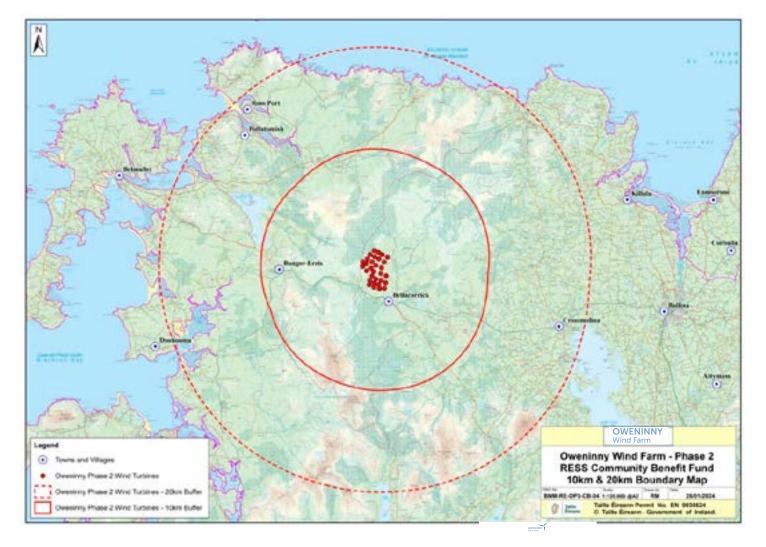

2. Eligibility

2.1 Eligible Funding Area

Oweninny Power 2 DAC wish to ensure that communities adjacent to the wind farm are the immediate beneficiaries of this Fund. In accordance with RESS-1 Guidelines, projects located within 10km of the Wind Farm will be considered first and given priority – subject to the project meeting the overall terms and conditions of the Scheme and meeting all other eligible criteria set out in this document.

If there is insufficient demand for project funding within this boundary area, then other projects up to a radius of 20km from the wind farm may be considered.

We recognise that some organisations and groups which serve communities within the 10km radius may operate out of areas that are more than 10km away from the wind farm. These applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

OWENINNY
Wind Farm

**Oweninny Wind Farm - Phase 2
RESS Community Benefit Fund
10km & 20km Boundary Map**

2.2 Eligible Groups

Applications are welcome from not-for-profit groups such as community and voluntary groups, charities, social enterprises and clubs and societies. A key criterion is that the Fund should be used to benefit the local community as a whole.

Groups / organisations applying to the Fund must be members of Mayo Public Participation Network (PPN) or can demonstrate that they are in the process of registering.

Collaborative applications between groups are eligible, however your application must have a clear lead applicant and include your organisation's structure and project management structure. If the application is from a partnership or consortium, you will need to clearly identify who will 'be in charge' of the facility or project. The lead applicant will be the sole point of contact during the grant process and contract duration (if applicable).

Individuals may apply however you will need to clearly demonstrate how the project benefits the community. We would encourage individuals with project ideas to connect with a constituted community group or organisation.

Schools are eligible to apply for funding however you will be required to demonstrate that the fund is not a substitute for government funding.

Applications will not be accepted from groups who are currently in receipt of funding from the Mayo County Council Oweninny Funds **for the same project spend.**

- Applicants will be required to indicate if they have also applied for funding for the same itemised project costs through Mayo County Council Oweninny Funds.

A maximum of one application can be submitted from each group / organisation per fund cycle. If your organisation is in receipt of a multi-annual award please contact SECAD directly.

3. Projects and Grant Values

3.1. Ineligible Costs

The below costs will not be eligible to receive funding:

- Day trips and trips abroad.
- Individual salaried positions.
- Applications that only benefit an individual.
- The direct replacement of statutory funding*.
- Applications that promote religious or political activities.
- Recurrent operational or running costs (e.g. annual insurances).
- Projects beyond the timeframe (see details in relation to funding strands).
- Existing loans, debts, or retrospective supports – you must apply for future needs.
- General sponsorship requests i.e. funds that are not associated with particular project costs.
- Activities which do not directly benefit the local community or align with any of the priority themes outlined.
- Projects that duplicate work that the sponsor or other third parties have already committed to or completed in the area.
- Projects that are receiving funding from the Mayo County Council Oweninny Community Benefit Fund for items and costs you will be listing in your application. Duplication of Funding is prohibited.

The Fund does not normally support statutory or other accountable bodies (including schools) unless they can provide evidence that the project is community-led, open, accessible and for the benefit of the community and not a statutory responsibility. If a school wishes to apply to the Fund, they must demonstrate that their project would not normally be funded by the Department of Education and Skills

3.2. Grant Values

We recognise that community groups may be at different stages in their projects and to ensure a range of community organisations can benefit from the Fund there are two strands of grant funding you can apply for:

Strand	Value	Typical Timeframe for delivery	Maximum grant available
A. Small Grants	€1,000 - €10,000	6 months	100% - however contribution of own funds viewed favourably
B. Large Grants (Also includes Multi Annual Funding)	€10,001+	6 months – 10 years	95% - at least 5% contribution of own funds is required

Small Grants: Between €1,000 - €10,000

Applications are welcome from new and established community groups for this strand. Projects must be delivered within 6 months of the signing of a Grant Agreement by the successful applicant, Oweninny Power 2 DAC and SECAD as specified by the RESS1 guidelines. The final date for project completion will indicatively be March 2026, however the exact date will be detailed in the letter of offer (if applicable).

Up to 100% funding can be granted under this strand, however, applicants who demonstrate a contribution of own funds will receive additional marks.

Large Grants €10,001+

If you are applying for a large grant in excess of 10,000, please contact SECAD to discuss your plans.

For larger grants, applicants will be required to demonstrate sustainability and lasting impact including plans for maintenance, running and upkeep if the application relates to infrastructure or large equipment. Evidence that your group is well-established with experience of delivering projects will also be required. Large-scale projects that need capital, facilities and equipment must show how they will benefit the entire community and engage more than one local user group.

Depending on the volume of eligible applications, successful applicants may not be awarded the full amount applied for and instead may be awarded a percentage of their proposed budget. Applicants will be asked what they will prioritise if they do not receive the full amount.

Depending on the value of the award, Projects under this strand must be delivered within 6 months to 10 years of the signing of a Grant Agreement by the successful applicant, Oweninny Power 2 DAC and SECAD as specified by the RESS-1 guidelines. The final date for project completion will indicatively be **March 2026**, however the exact date will be detailed in the letter of offer (if applicable). The ability of applicants to deliver their project within this timeframe will be a consideration during the evaluation phase, particularly for larger projects.

Multi-Annual Funding Explained : €10,001+

As the Fund is established for a 15-year period, until 2039, there is an opportunity for transformative projects to be delivered in the area. Support to large or phased projects can also be facilitated through a multi-annual agreement. These projects will likely have strategic or legacy benefits to the area.

A Multi Annual Fund Award occurs when the funding requested by an applicant is greater than the amount of funding available (to offer) for example if a project requests a grant of €100,000 but only €10,000 is available, a multi annual fund award of €10,000 each year for 10 years may be offered. This lump sum is a guarantee of funds over a number of years. If you require bridging finance to complete the project your group can now take this offer of a multi annual fund award to a social finance organisation* such as Clann Credo and Community Finance Ireland who can offer you an upfront loan based on this offer.

Similar supports may be available through your local credit union and banking institutions.

A part of a Multi Annual a contract is issued to the group for an overall sum, which is then paid in set **installments** on an annual basis over 2-10 years. For projects seeking high value multi-annual funding, clear and long-lasting benefit to the community at large must be demonstrated in their application. It will be important to demonstrate that satisfactory and appropriate governance is in place as well as a clear financial plan alongside the capacity to deliver a project at scale. The award must be fully drawn down before a group can apply for further funding.

3.3. Community Contribution

Under Strand B: Large Grants and: Multi-Annual Funding, applicants must show they will contribute at least 5% of the total project costs. The contribution towards the costs can come from public funding, the groups own savings, or borrowings. This demonstrates the community groups involvement and commitment to the project.   However, should the total project cost on drawdown be less than the estimated project cost (which the grant offer was based on) the value of the award would be revised on drawdown to reflect this.

3.4 Co-Funding

Projects which are seeking co-funding from the Fund are welcomed. You will be required to outline this is your proposed budget and provide proof that you have secured, or are in the process of securing, this additional funding. If the additional funding is not secured in time for the project commencement, we recommend waiting until the next round of funding from the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 2 to apply.

4. Creating Positive Impact

The overall aim of the Fund is to increase public and environmental wellbeing in the community and support projects that will improve the area and quality of life for residents.

Applications will be marked according to how well they demonstrate alignment with:
- The UN Sustainable Development Goals
- The Priority Themes of the Fund

4.1. Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice.

In 2015, Ireland was one of the 193 countries from across the world that signed up to and committed to the achievement of the SDGs by 2030. The SDG framework involves seventeen goals that are universal (applies to every country and community) and interdependent (each goal has connections and relationships to other goals).

A core goal of the Community Benefit Fund under the RESS-1 Guidelines is to fund projects which align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. A particular emphasis is on the below goals, and projects will be scored higher if they demonstrate alignment to the following:

Goal 4 - Quality Education:
Such as projects which support knowledge and skills needed in communities to promote sustainable development, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles; or projects which. provide upskilling within communities.

Goal 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy:
Such as projects which support energy efficiency projects or initiatives that encourage and deliver renewable electricity generation projects.

Goal 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities:
Such as projects which strengthen efforts to protect and enhance the cultural and natural heritage of the local community or which support the implementation of policies and plans for communities towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation, and adaptation to climate change.

Goal 13 - Climate Action:
Such as projects which aim to improve education, awareness raising and improve capacity on climate change early warning, mitigation, adaptation, and impact reduction.

You can read more about the SDGs at this website - *https://sdgs.un.org/goals.* You may find inspiration here for your project ideas. All good community developed project ideas can be aligned to at least one of the SDGs.

4.2. Priority Themes

Projects will also be required to demonstrate they meet at least one of the seven priority thematic areas which are detailed below. Some examples for projects are given under each of the themes.

Biodiversity
This theme includes projects which help to protect, preserve, and enhance habitats and life in your community, in particular those that contribute to ecosystem restoration in your area. For example:
- Wildlife ponds
- Community gardens
- Native tree planting
- Living walls and green roofs
- Pollinators friendly car parks
- Biodiversity signage and walking trails
- Pollinator plants and wildflower meadows
- Native hedgerows around sports facilities
- Initiatives for education and awareness raising
- Feeders and nest boxes for birds, bugs, and bats

Environmental Sustainability
This theme includes projects which enhance the local, natural, and built environment for the community, community energy efficiency and climate action schemes, or actions as part of a Sustainable Energy Community. For example:
- Community transport
- Water efficiency projects
- Initiatives to tackle food waste
- Sustainable energy communities
- Cycling and walking infrastructure
- Solar panels for renewable energy generation
- Community building insulation and energy upgrades
- Energy efficient lighting and appliances to reduce energy use
- Circular economy initiatives which enable "reduce, reuse and recycle"

Recreation
This theme includes projects which deliver community-based recreation and sport activities. For example:
- Playgrounds
- Leisure amenities
- Sports equipment
- Outdoor recreation space
- Art, music, and other equipment
- Developing and upgrading sports facilities
- Nature based or outdoor recreation facilities

Social Solidarity
This theme includes projects which generate greater social cohesion and/or generates health and well-being benefits at a local level. For example:
- Sensory gardens
- Community transport initiatives
- Community wellbeing initiatives
- Technology for community spaces
- Addressing dereliction in the community
- Defibrillators and other safety equipment
- Youth and active age facilities and initiatives
- Improving accessibility in community spaces
- Projects to support the integration of new communities
- Developing and enhancing community meeting space and facilities

Culture and Heritage

This theme includes projects which increase cultural awareness and preserve and promote local heritage or enhance local museums or heritage centres. For example:

- Public art and murals
- Community noticeboards
- Music and arts equipment
- Local and heritage signage
- Town and village enhancement
- Protecting/restoring local artifacts or structures
- Culture, heritage, community led tourism and festivals

Tourism

The theme includes projects which develop new, or strengthen existing, tourism initiatives, and/or which contribute to the local economy. For example:

- Signage
- Festivals
- Walking trails
- Eco-camp sites
- Water-based activities

Education

This theme includes projects which develop new and strengthen existing education initiatives and make a contribution to the local community. For example:

- Recycling initiatives
- Biodiversity awareness programmes
- Training programmes and workshops
- Sustainability awareness programmes

We would also encourage groups to consider local strategies or plans that have been developed for their area which may outline local needs or projects already identified.

5. How to Apply

Applications can be made online at *https://submit.link/3zm*

Please scan QR code to access the application portal or alternatively please visit: *www.oweninnywindfarm.ie* to access the application portal.

All documentation needed to make an application, including these fund guidelines, will be made available on the application portal home page.

Applicants should allow approximately **45-60 minutes** to complete their application. We recommend you take the following steps when developing your application:

1. Read this briefing document thoroughly.
2. Create an account at https://submit.link/1iS to register your interest in the Fund and to ensure you are notified of any updates or clarifications made.
3. Submit any queries you have on the Fund by sending a message to the Fund Administrator via the messaging option on the online portal or by email to info@secad.ie with the subject line **"Oweninny Community Benefit Fund"**. The FAQ section on the online portal will be updated regularly to reflect these queries.
4. Engage with your wider committee/community group to develop your project and application.
   A MS Word version of the application form will be made available to facilitate group working offline however only online applications made via the portal will be considered.

The application portal will close on **Wednesday 14th May 2025** at 5pm. Late applications will not be accepted.

5.1. Application Requirements and Documentation

The following lists the documentation you will need to submit when applying to the fund. If any documentation is missing, your application may be rejected and not considered for evaluation. Please note any documentation supplied at application stage or thereafter should always be in the name of the group / organisation / individual applying for the grant.

Please read this section carefully before submitting your application

Constitution Document
Please submit your groups / organisations 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. Please note, at a minimum a constitution should include confirmation that:

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

Please contact the Fund Administrator SECAD Partnership should you require a template constitution. Tel +353 (0)21 4613 432 / email *info@secad.ie* with the subject line 'Oweninny Community Benefit Fund".

PPN Registration
All applicants must be registered with Mayo Public Participation Network (PPN). This is mandatory and you will be required to submit your PPN number on application or evidence that you are in the process of registering. Evidence may include a record of correspondence with your PPN Coordinator or that an application is in progress.

In order to register with Mayo PPN please visit *www.mayoppn.ie*

Planning Permission/Landowner Permission

For all project works relating to renovation / construction / refurbishment / groundworks / installation / structural projects / civil works etc, the following is required:

1. Planning permission, or a letter of exemption / email from the relevant Local Authority or local area engineer.
2. A lease or letter of permission from the owner/landowner to undertake the proposed works is required if the applicant group is not the owner of the premises/location. The lease must be valid for the next 10 years at a minimum. The letter of permission must be dated within 3 months of the application submission date and remain valid for a minimum of 10 years.

If you do not have planning permissions or planning exemptions in place for your project, your project will not be funded. If you are in the process of getting planning permission, please wait until this has been granted and then apply for the next round of funding. If planning permission, planning application number, or a letter of exemption from the relevant Local Authority or local area engineer has not been uploaded with the application form then your project will not be evaluated for a grant award.

If you feel your project does not require planning permission/exemption, you may provide an explanation as to why you feel this is the case e.g. this may be detailing a conversation you have had with your local authority or local area engineer. It is important to note that it is the responsibility of the applicant group to provide the relevant permissions. If your project passes evaluation stage, and it is later determined that an aspect requires planning or exemption from planning the funding offer will be withdrawn.

Quotations

Quotations must be submitted with your application to verify the value of each item/ service you wish to purchase.

- If any individual item is less than €5,000 (i.e., Up to €4,999), a minimum of one quote is required.
- If any individual item costs €5,000 or more, you must provide three quotes from three different suppliers. Where a proposed project involves the contracting of work or the purchase of materials, three quotations from three different suppliers for each of these should be obtained and submitted.

All quotes must be clear and include the suppliers name and address. Quotes must be dated within 3 months of application submission.

Bank/Credit Union Account

You will need to ensure you have a bank/credit union account in the name of the group/ individual applying for the grant. All project expenditure must be made through this account and grant payments will be paid into this account. A bank/credit union statement will be requested once a grant offer has been made to your group.

Tax Clearance/Charity Status

For grant awards valued in excess of €10,000, you will need to ensure you have Tax Clearance (tax reference number and access number) in place for the duration of the grant contract. Evidence of this will be requested once grant offer has been awarded to your group. Similarly, if you are registered charity, you will need to provide proof of your CHY number (Charitable Tax Exemption) from Revenue once grant offer has been awarded.

VAT Registration Status

Please ensure you are aware of the VAT Registration Status of your group/organisation. Applicants will be asked to confirm at application stage if they are registered to claim back VAT or not from Revenue. The reason applicants are asked this, is to establish if applicants have any other way of claiming back the VAT costs related to their projects. If a group has a VAT ID and is registered to claim back VAT, then they can claim back the VAT costs on their project from Revenue. Therefore, this group is not eligible to claim the VAT costs on their project from this fund. If an applicant is not registered to claim back VAT and have no other way of claiming back the VAT costs on their project, therefore are eligible to claim the VAT costs related to their project from the fund.

Vat Registration Status	Can I claim my project VAT Costs from the Fund?
My group is registered to claim back VAT	No
My group is not registered to claim back VAT	Yes

Registration Status
Registered charities can also claim certain VAT costs through the VAT Compensation Scheme. Charities will be asked to declare whether they can claim any of the project related VAT costs through this scheme. If they can, the charity will not be eligible to claim their project related VAT costs from this fund.

When detailing your project costs, if possible, please provide a breakdown of your costs exclusive and inclusive of VAT.

6. Support for applicants

.

6.1. How to Prepare a Strong Application

The Fund Committee will judge the potential impact of your project and the capacity of your group to deliver it based on your application. In order to make sure you have put the best case forward for your project to receive funding, please make sure you:

- Have completed all questions on the application form.
- Have uploaded all supporting documentation required.
- Use photos and videos to explain your group and your project.
- Include a clear plan for how your group can deliver on the project.
- Demonstrate the positive impact this funding will have in your community.
- Refer to the priority themes and how your project will address one or more of them.
- Clearly outline who will benefit from your project, including numbers of users/participants from within the priority area.
- If you are looking for part funding, demonstrate that you have further funds in place or a clear pathway to accessing these funds.

We advise you to avoid these common errors:
- Submitting an incomplete application.
- Not reading and adhering to the guidelines.
- Project costs that do not comply with quotes.
- Poor project description or lack of information.
- Lack of clarity around ownership or planning permission.
- No appropriate governance or committee structure demonstrated.
- Missing paperwork such as quotes, evidence of planning permission or an exemption from planning permission.
- Proposing a project that is not within the area of benefit outlined or does not provide a service to a community within the area of benefit.

7. Evaluation of Applications

Once the application window has closed, all applications will be:

- Screened for eligibility. If an applicant does not meet any of the below criteria, it will not proceed to the next phase of evaluation.
- Scored against the evaluation criteria.

The Fund Committee will be responsible for assessing all applications and ensuring a fair and objective distribution of grants across the funding area. This Committee, chaired by SECAD, will include a representative from -Oweninny Power 2 DAC as well as volunteer members of the community. Please note, canvassing or lobbying of any Fund Committee member will result in automatic disqualification.

7.1. Screening for Eligibility

Eligibility Criteria	Objective
Location of Project	The project is located within the Fund Benefit Area or clearly serves communities within the Funding area.
Applicant Status	The project is proposed by a community group, not-for-profit entity, or social enterprise. If the application is made by an individual, there is a clear community gain.
Eligibility of Project	The project is eligible for Funding and not on the list of ineligible items and/or activities.
Completeness of Application	The application is complete, all questions have been provided with a response and all required documentation has been submitted with application.

7.2. Evaluation Criteria

These criteria will be given weightings in accordance with their importance for the local community. Extra weighting will be given to the project location and also proposals that have energy efficiency, sustainable energy, and climate action initiatives.

Evaluation Criteria	Objective
Project Location	Project is located within the Fund Benefit Area or provides services to the area from a Service Centre. Projects located within 10km will be scored highly in this category.
Demonstration of Community Need, Impact, and social inclusion	The project demonstrates the need and potential to make a positive local social and/or environmental impact on the people and communities who live within the surrounding area. Applications who demonstrate accessibility and benefits to a cross section of the community will be scored highly in this category.
Capacity Track Record and Governance	The applicant has a history of community involvement and experience delivering community projects. The capacity to deliver the project has been demonstrates and a clear governance structure is in place.
Feasibility of the Project including timelines and Costs	The project can be completed within the required timeframe i.e. 6 months for projects applying to Strand 1 and within the budget outlines in the application.
Assessment of Thematic Objectives and aims of the Fund	The Project supports the UN Sustainable Development Goals and thematic areas of the Fund. It will clearly benefit the broader community and will improve quality of life in the area. Applications who demonstrate a focus on UN Sustainability Goals 4: Quality Education, Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities and Goal 13: Climate Action will be scored highly in this category.
Value for Money	The project demonstrated value for money and outlines how the Fund can provide support that cannot be accessed elsewhere e.eg. through alternative funding. Applicants who can demonstrate evidence of fund raising and/or the contribution of their own community funds to the project will be scored highly in this category.
Longevity of benefits or legacy impact	There is a legacy impact of the project on the community. Projects of a capital nature will score highly in this category.
Sustainability	The project demonstrates benefits in relation to sustainability. Where the project requires the purchase of physical goods/materials, the project will source items that are environmentally and socially sustainable i.e. items made from recycled materials.

The decision to award funds depends on the outcome of the evaluation process. Clarifications and additional information may be sought for applications to Strand 2: Large Grants/Multi-Annual Grants, you may be asked for an interview (via Zoom) to further discuss the proposal.

8. Grant Offer

Applications will be evaluated in **June-July** 2025 and it is expected that applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application by **end July 2025**. Please note, if we are experiencing any delays due to application volume, we will inform you of same. All applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application through electronic communication.

8.1. If your application is successful

If your project is successful, a Grant Letter of Offer containing the terms and conditions of the offer will be issued by SECAD to you. Accompanying this letter will be:

- The Grant Agreement to be signed by the successful applicant. This agreement must be entered into between Oweninny Power 2 DAC and the group/ organisation /individual receiving the funding. A draft Grant Agreement will be made available on the application portal.
- An information document providing details in relation to (i) the grant process, (ii) how to draw down the grant and (iii) what documentation needs to be submitted.
- A Vat Registration Status Form for completion by your groups Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer.
- A request for further documentation. Similar to the application form, this documentation will be submitted via the online portal.
  - Bank Account Details with copy of Bank Statement Header
  - Applicant Tax Clearance Certificate/Charity Status - Must be valid for duration of the Grant Agreement.
  - Any additional documentation requested by evaluation committee.

The Grant Agreement must be signed by successful applicants and all requested documentation submitted online within 15 working days. Due to this deadline, project groups should ensure all documentation is ready and available in the event of a successful grant award. The provisional grant offer email may also stipulate conditions which will need to be fulfilled within the 15-day timeframe in order to finalise your grant offer.

Please note, no expenditure in relation to grant aided elements of the project should be incurred until the Grant Agreement has been signed by the applicant group, Oweninny Power 2 DAC and SECAD and a copy has been sent to the applicant.

8.2. Drawdown

In order to drawdown the grant award, each applicant group will be required to upload invoices, receipts, bank statements, testimonials, project images and additional evidence to demonstrate project expenditure was undertaken in accordance with the Grant Agreement. It is essential to note that payment cannot be made until the project is complete, the goods are in hand, and any other conditions set out in the Grant Agreement were met. If, for some reason, the project has become delayed and will not be completed by the closing date, the Fund Administrator should be notified immediately, and the Fund Committee can consider the matter. Successful applicants will be required to monitor and report progress in relation to the supported projects at agreed intervals. Evaluation reports will be made available for completion via the online portal.

In the event a group does not complete a project in full accordance with the contract, the Fund may seek reimbursement of the initial funding provided to the group/organisation. Inspections may take place or additional information requests may be made to ensure compliance with RESS-1 Fund obligations.

Acknowledgement
Please be aware that we will publicise successful grants for promotional and information purposes. Information on grant awardees will also be made public on the online register of all RESS funding programmes overseen by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland. We will also ask you to acknowledge the support of Oweninny Power 2 DAC on any materials associated with the grant. Groups will be asked to download the template and logo(s) for use in social media.

Construction and Electrical Certification Costs
You may be carrying out construction or electrical works of some kind. If so, at the drawdown stage, you may be required to supply any necessary:
- Engineer's report
- RECI certification in the case of electrical works
- Installation report
- ROSPA report in the case of playgrounds

This report should certify the value of the work undertaken and confirm that the work conforms to relevant planning, building and fire regulations and other statutory building / other regulations. You may include the costs associated with any of these reports in your application. Please make sure to provide a quotation with your application. Project groups must also ensure that works completed and or goods / vehicles purchased must be adequately insured.

Case Studies and Testimonials
The last section of the claim form asks for a testimonial from the applicant group and a picture suitable for future publication. This is for use in future reports and case studies. Project groups will be required to get the permission of everyone photographed before submitting an image. For people under 18, permission from their parent or guardian will be required.

8.3. If your application is unsuccessful

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing by SECAD. Throughout the evaluation process, care will be taken to assess all applications against criteria in a consistent and equitable way. Although decisions are final, SECAD can also provide feedback on unsuccessful applications within 20 working days, if requested, to support improved applications and project development. As the Fund will run for 15 years, unsuccessful applicants will be welcome to re-apply to subsequent funding rounds.

There is no process of appeal on the decisions of the Fund Committee.

9. Important Dates

Fund Opening Date: Wednesday 2nd April 2025 at 9:00am

Fund Closing Date: Wednesday 14th May at 5:00pm

10. Glossary to key terms

Term	Explanation
Application Portal	This is the online platform you use to complete your application.
Area of Benefit	This refers to an Area of Benefit as shown on the map under section 2.1 above. Applicants within this zone are eligible to apply to the fund or applicants who can demonstrate in their application that project has a benefit to the community living within the Area of Benefit.
Constitution	A document that provides information on your group. Contact SECAD for a template, if your group doesn't have a constitution.
Engineer's Report	A report from your engineer after civil works have been completed. It should confirm that your project complies with the rules and regulations and verify the project value.
Evaluation Criteria	These are the guidelines our evaluation team members use so they can evaluate each application or project consistently.
Drawdown	The process you will use to request payment of your awarded funding, if you are successful in your application.
RECI certification	A compliance certificate provided from an electrician after electrical works have been completed.
ROSPA Report	This only applies to playground equipment, this is a written report completed by The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, covering things like site safety and condition, equipment, and surfacing.
Grant Values	The fund is divided into two grant value sizes, depending on the amount you apply for; small and large.
The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	In the application we will ask you to select a goal or goals that your project most closely aligns with. There will be a drop-down menu to choose from.

11. Contact Information

Please get in touch with SECAD Partnership if you have any questions.

Address:
SECAD Partnership CLG
Midleton Community Enterprise Centre
Owennacurra Business Park
Knockgriffin
Midleton, Co. Cork
P25 Y893
Ireland

Phone +353 (0)21 461 3432

E-mail *info@secad.ie* with subject line *"Oweninny Community Benefit Fund"*

Website *www.secad.ie*

Best of luck with your application!