OWENINNY
Wind Farm

Partners in Natural Energy

Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 2 Community Benefit Fund Frequently Asked Questions

2026

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Area of Benefit (AOB)?

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 the Fund Guidelines.

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

2. Who can apply for support?

The Fund is open to:

- community and voluntary groups
- not-for-profit organisations
- charities
- social enterprises
- clubs and societies
- individuals *(you will need to clearly demonstrate how the project benefits the community).*

When applying you need to show how you would use the funds to benefit your community and the environment around the Wind Farm.

3. How much can my group apply?

We recognise that community groups may be at different stages with their projects. To ensure a range of community, organisations can benefit from the Fund and to suit a multitude of project types, 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 – 5 years	95% - at least 5% contribution of own funds is required

4. How do we make an application?

To apply for Funding please visit ***https://submit.link/4Ol*** to submit an application to the Fund. Only applications submitted through this portal will be evaluated. All applications must be made on-line.

When completing your application, each potential applicant will be required to:

1. Complete the application form.
2. Follow the guidelines and fill in all sections of the application form with relevant information.
3. Provide supporting information as applicable.
4. Submit the application form and supporting information to SECAD.

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

5. How will applications be evaluated?

The Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 2 Fund Committee will assess all applications against the evaluation criteria set out in the Fund Guidelines, subject to the terms and conditions of the Fund. The Fund Committee will be chaired by SECAD and includes 10 people from the Community and one representative from Oweninny Power 2 DAC.

6. What are the themes / areas of focus for the Funds?

Projects will also be required to demonstrate they meet at least one of the seven priority thematic areas which are outlined below. Some examples for projects are given under each of the themes which may inspire some ideas for what you could do in your community.

Biodiversity

This theme includes projects which help to protect, preserve, and enhance habitats and life in your community, particularly 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 festiv

Tourism

This 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. The benefits must be clearly outlined in the application.

7. What project costs are ineligible?

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 time-frame (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 Administrated 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*

8. What supporting documentation is needed?

The supporting documentation required for each application depends on the type of project you are seeking support for. However, at a minimum you will be asked to provide the following:
Quotations are required to verify the value of each item you wish to purchase, as follows:

- If any individual quote is less than €5,000 (i.e., Up to €4,999), a minimum of one quote is required. Individual quotes, per project item, from the one supplier will not be accepted. All itemised items from the same supplier, must be detailed on the one quotation.
- If any individual quote exceeds €5,000 you must provide three quotes from three different suppliers.

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

For works relating to renovation/construction/refurbishment:

- 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.
- Planning permission, or a letter of exemption from the relevant Local Authority.
- For expenditure more than €10,000 tax clearance must be available for both the applicant and service provider and will be requested should you receive an offer of funding.

9. **Is it sufficient to submit a priced Bill of Quantities, prioritised for the different items of work that we intend to carry out?**
   No - total amount of funding required for the project must be clearly outlined and quotes supplied to support that work. Please see Question 8 above for further details on quotation requirements.

10. **Are staff costs supported?**
    Individual staff costs are not eligible for funding.

11. **Can a feasibility study be included as part of project costs?**
    No. Feasibility studies are not covered by the Fund.

12. **When, and how will we be notified of a decision?**
    In most cases, applicants will be notified of a decision being made by the end of July 2026. Successful applicants will receive a Provisional Letter of Offer and Contract, which will outline any conditions relating to the grant offer. Please digitally sign your contract and log back into the application portal to provide your banking information and any additional requested documentation.

13. **Is it possible to receive feedback on an application?**
    All applications are assessed against criteria in a consistent and fair way. If your application is unsuccessful, you can ask SECAD Partnership for feedback. We welcome all observations and feedback on the process. Please download a feedback form or access it on our website. Once complete, please email it to info@secad.ie and we will respond to you.

14. **How to accept a grant offer?**
    To accept a grant offer all contracts must be signed and returned via an online signature platform within 15 working days of date of contract. By signing and returning, you are agreeing to a number of terms, and conditions which may be contained within the contract. Please read your contract carefully and contact SECAD if you have any questions relating to it. You will be provided with a link to log back into the application portal to provide your groups banking information and if relevant tax clearance details and any other information requested in your letter of offer.

15. **How does our group claim the grant?**
    Grants will be paid out retrospectively against receipts. Groups must fund the project costs first and then claim the grant award payment by submitting a Grant Drawdown Form with documentation such as invoices/receipts, bank statements, photos and other documentation outlined in the Guidelines for Grant Awardees document which you will receive if awarded a grant. At the discretion of the Fund Committee, for projects less than €5,000 an advance payment of maximum €2,500 (50%) may be made under limited circumstances.

    For groups receiving 50% upfront, once the contract has been agreed and signed by both parties, SECAD will transfer 50% of the contract amount to the group / organisation bank account nominated by the applicant. The final payment 50% will only be made available to an organisation upon completion of their proposed project. For the final 50% of grant aid to be paid out, you must submit a grant claim form and other necessary supporting documentation as stated within the form itself. Incomplete claims will result in delays processing your grant.

    For groups receiving 100% retrospectively payment will only be made available to an organisation upon completion of their proposed project. You must submit a grant claim form and other necessary supporting documentation as stated within the form itself. Incomplete claims will result in delays processing your grant.

16. **If I am awarded Multi Annual Funding, will I receive my grant drawdown?**
As part of the terms of your award, it will be agreed how much funding you will receive in each round of funding. For example, if you are awarded €50,000 in funding across two years, a portion can be drawn down in Year one, and the remainder drawn down in Year two, subject to the drawdown terms and conditions. The exact amounts will depend on the phasing of your project and will be outlined in the grant agreement.

17. **Is the Fund once off?**
No, this Fund will run for 15 years, from 2024 to 2039, with one funding cycle per calendar year.

18. **If not successful this time around, will it be possible to apply for funding in the future?**
Yes, unsuccessful applicants will be able to submit an application to subsequent rounds of funding, subject to the Fund Terms and Conditions.

19. **Can the Community Fund co-fund projects that is receiving other funding?**
Yes – The Community Fund can co-fund projects. However, it would be preferential to have secured other funding prior to your application to the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 2. Projects awarded in this Fund must be completed indicatively in March 2027, however the exact date will be detailed in the letter of offer (if applicable). So, any delays waiting for other funding outcomes may not be feasible for delivery of your project on time. The Fund is subject to State Aid rules on aggregated funding received from all public sources, and as such is subject to these limitations.

20. **If we are seeking co-funding from the Fund, do we have to show separate items that will be covered under this Fund?**
Yes – we will need to pay out the amount against receipts. It must be clear which elements of your project are being applied for under each fund stream, as the Fund will not allow duplicate funding. We understand this may be difficult, but we advise you to separate your project into different budget packages as best you can. For example, groundworks may be covered by one fund, and installation may be covered by the other fund.

21. **Can the co-funding come from Local Authority funding?**
Yes, this would be acceptable subject to both the Terms and Conditions applicable to the Local Authority Fund and to State Aid rules.

22. **We are a Primary School and do not see ourselves as being fully funded by the Department of Education. Can we apply under this scheme?**
This Fund is to support community services and is not intended to replace government services. If you can provide evidence that your project would not be funded by the Department of Education, then it will be considered, subject to the Fund Terms and Conditions.

23. **We are 20km from the wind farm. Can we still apply ?**
Yes. Each application is scored against eligibility criteria which includes the location of the project. 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 the Fund Guidelines.

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

    Please refer back to question one for more details.

24. **Can a group submit multiple applications for different projects?**
Groups / organisations may only submit one application per fund cycle. If you are in receipt of a Multi Annual Award please contact SECAD directly with this query.

25. **Is it possible for more than one person to access the online application form?**
There can only be one registered user per application form, however if the registered user is unable to continue with the process, please contact SECAD to arrange transfer of the application to another group member.

26. **Will there be any oral presentation or interview required to obtain funding?**
If we have queries or require clarification, we may request a meeting. This is most likely to be the case for applications under Strand 2: Grants/Multi-annual Funding. Applicants are also encouraged to upload photos, videos, designs etc. in support of their application on the application portal.

27. **Can we apply to the Fund if we are still waiting on planning permission?**
No, please wait until you have received planning permission before applying to the Fund.

28. We have not yet applied for Tax Clearance. Can I apply to the Fund?

If offered funding greater than €10,000 you will need to submit a valid Tax Clearance Certificate (dated within the last 12 months) within 15 working days of that grant offer. If you cannot meet this requirement your grant offer will be withdrawn. We would advise if you are applying for €10,000 or more, to wait until you have received tax clearance and then apply to the Fund.

29. Is it mandatory for groups to be a member of the PPN, or is it preferred?

Yes, all applicants must be registered or in the process of registering 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.

30. Who do we contact about the Oweninny Power 2 DAC Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 2 Community Benefit Fund?

SECAD Partnership CLG administers the Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 2 Community Benefit Fund on behalf of Oweninny Power 2 DAC.

Contact details for SECAD are as follows:

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*