

Cullenagh Wind Farm Project

RESS Community Benefit Fund Breakdown

The following high-level principles have been published by the Department of Environment, Climate & Communications (DECC) under the Terms and Conditions of RESS, setting out how funds must be divided (section 7.2.6 of RESS Terms and conditions)

link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/36d8d2-renewable-electricity-support-scheme/> :

The Generator or its agent will administer the funds contained in the Community Benefit Fund and shall distribute such funds for the duration of the relevant RESS 1 Project's RESS 1 Support as follows on an annual basis:

a) in respect of Onshore Wind RESS-1 Projects, a minimum of €1,000 shall be paid to each household located within a distance of a 1 kilometre radius from the RESS 1 Project;

b) a minimum of 40% of the funds shall be paid to not-for-profit community enterprises whose primary focus or aim is the promotion of initiatives towards the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 4, 7, 11 and 13, including education, energy efficiency, sustainable energy and climate action initiatives;

c) a maximum of 10% of the funds may be spent on administration. This is to ensure successful outcomes and good governance of the Community Benefit Fund. The Generator may supplement this spend on administration from its own funds should it be deemed necessary to do so; and

d) the balance of the funds shall be spent on initiatives successful in the annual application process, as proposed by clubs and societies and similar not-for-profit entities, and in respect of Onshore Wind RESS 1 Projects, on "near neighbour payments" for households located outside a distance of 1 kilometre from the RESS 1 Project but within a distance of 2 kilometres from such RESS 1 Project.

The Department have indicated that applications for funding will broadly cover the following themes which are based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Biodiversity, Environmental Sustainability, Recreation, Social Solidarity, Culture and Heritage and Tourism. Support will also be available for not-for-profit initiatives from local clubs and societies in addition to strategic projects such as community renewable energy where the wider community would benefit.

More detail on how the fund will be administered and operated is provided in the “Good Practice Principles Handbook for Community Benefit Funds” and can be downloaded from the following link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/5f12f-community-projects-and-benefit-funds-ress/#>