

IWEA

Irish Wind Energy Association

WIND ENERGY

Delivering for Ireland



FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

Wind energy is Ireland's most valuable weapon in the fight against climate change.

Already, wind is providing more than a quarter of our electricity every year.

The more clean, renewable, energy we use to power our homes, farms, schools and businesses the less we rely on the fossil fuels that are putting our planet in danger and our future at risk.

Last year renewable electricity saved Ireland three million tonnes of carbon emissions – the equivalent of taking more than 600,000 cars off the road.¹

Ireland has a legally binding EU target to get 16 per cent of our total energy – electricity, heat and transport – from renewables by 2020.

Wind energy alone is on track to get us around half way there.

More wind means fewer carbon emissions and will help Ireland lead the fight against climate change.

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>

KATE RUDDOCK

Deputy Director with Friends of the Earth



"We face a planetary emergency. Communities all over the world, and here at home, are already suffering from the impacts of climate change. We in Ireland must do our fair share to reduce climate pollution. For the energy sector, this means leaving fossil fuels behind, and powering our future with the abundant renewable energy resources on and around our island."



WIND PROVIDES MORE THAN A QUARTER OF IRELAND'S ELECTRICITY.

IN 2017 WIND ENERGY CUT CARBON EMISSIONS BY THREE MILLION TONNES.

SAVING YOU MONEY

Wind is the cheapest renewable energy source in Ireland.¹

Last year it reduced energy imports by €250 million which means your money stays at home, supporting Irish jobs and Irish businesses.

Wind energy also helps to lower electricity prices. While wind farms do get financial support to help with high upfront costs studies consistently show this is balanced out because wind reduces the price of electricity.²

A comprehensive analysis of the Irish electricity market by independent energy experts Baringa estimates wind energy reduced power prices by a total of €2.4 billion since 2000.³

The more wind we use, the smaller your energy bills.

And wind energy is going to save us even more money. If Ireland misses the 2020 renewable energy targets set by the EU we could face up to €600 million in fines every single year.⁴ The more wind on the system, the smaller the fines from Europe.

¹ www.seai.ie/sustainable-solutions/renewable-energy/wind-energy/

² Studies by the ESRI, SEAI and the EU Commission.

³ Baringa Historical Costs and Benefits, 2018

⁴ Dáil Public Accounts Committee, March 2018

WIND DRIVES DOWN THE COST OF ELECTRICITY.

LAST YEAR WIND SAVED IRELAND €250 MILLION IN ENERGY IMPORTS.



**PROFESSOR
JOHN FITZGERALD**

**Economic and Social
Research Institute**

"The increased production of electricity from renewables also puts downward pressure on the wholesale price of electricity...Wind, when it is available, squeezes out more expensive electricity generated from gas or coal."



SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

Right across Ireland wind energy is building community halls, sponsoring local sports teams and building new parks and walking trails.

Local communities deserve to benefit from the construction and operation of wind farms.

That's why wind energy companies operate community benefit schemes that have invested millions of euro in supporting cancer patients in Wicklow, building cycleways in Offaly, supplying road signs in Cork and providing an astro-turf pitch for a Roscommon primary school.

Without the support of local wind farms many fantastic local projects across our country would struggle to find funding.

In addition, wind farms contribute around €30 million in rates to local councils every year, which enables them to fund roads, programmes and services across rural Ireland.



EDEL MCCABE

**Keadue Sportsfield
Committee**

"Our community is based in a rural area and fundraising is a momentous challenge. Your contribution has given us an enormous boost. We completed our Multi Use Games Area this year, which would have taken years to achieve without the Tullynahaw & Garvagh Glebe Wind Farm Community Funds. These facilities are widely used by both the local and extended communities. During July we held a children's Summer camp for over 90 children."

**WIND FARMS PAY €30 MILLION TO
LOCAL COUNCILS EVERY YEAR.**

**MANY COMMUNITY
PROJECTS RELY ON FUNDING
FROM WIND FARMS.**

CREATING JOBS

Wind is an Irish energy, powering Irish homes and creating Irish jobs. More than four thousand people are employed in construction, engineering, operation and planning.

Most wind farms are in rural Ireland which means the money invested in wind energy in Ireland is creating good jobs in counties struggling to attract investment.

Instead of creating jobs abroad by importing fossil fuels, we're creating jobs at home.

And wind energy plays a role in attracting other major investors like data centres, pharmaceutical and technology companies.

Last year the IDA even warned that lack of investment in wind energy could cause problems trying to attract companies which only want to use renewable energy.¹

Put simply, the more wind energy in Ireland, the more jobs at home and the more attractive Ireland is for foreign direct investment.



MORE THAN 4,000 JOBS DEPEND ON THE WIND INDUSTRY.

MORE WIND ENERGY MEANS MORE JOBS AT HOME.



NEIL MCKENNA

Site Supervisor with Energia

"Having worked in Australia for the past six and a half years I kept a close eye on developments at home and in particular the wind industry as there seemed to be more sites getting constructed in my area. With this in mind I started to look into jobs and was lucky an opportunity came up with Energia that enabled me to return to Ireland with my family."

¹ <https://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/business/ida-worry-over-lack-of-renewable-power-spend-816417.html>

THE FUTURE

Wind is Ireland's best source of clean, renewable energy.

It is creating jobs and keeping money in Ireland.

Opinion polls regularly show support for wind energy at between 70 and 84 per cent.¹

But we can do more.

We have a vision for Ireland in 2030, one where 70 per cent of our electricity comes from a range of different renewable energy sources with wind at its heart.

This is ambitious. It is challenging. But it is achievable.

Find out more about our vision for a cleaner, greener, 2030 at www.iwea.com

¹ Research Now for ESRI 2016; Ipsos MRBI 2016; Interactions 2017.

