



Co-Wind

Community Engagement in Wind Energy - Innovative approaches to achieving a social license

This project is aimed at better understanding the ways in which community engagement in wind energy can be improved through combined measures focussed on i) public participation in decision-making, ii) direct investment and co-ownership in projects by the public and iii) enhancing current practice by developers in establishing community benefits schemes.

Community benefit schemes and co-ownership are two financial structures being used by wind farm developers in Ireland to engage community groups. We will ask community groups their preferences between different project engagement / investment options. We will explore the viability and benefits of implementation of innovative financial structures in an Irish context. We will engage with the Irish financial community to see what innovative forms of low cost / tax efficient structures could be made available to Irish community groups. Rather than a one-size-fits-all methodology, the results will provide a framework for engagement in Ireland to promote the 'social licence' to build, own and operate wind energy projects from the communities in which they are located. The project is being developed from a unique partnership between leading researchers in these fields and a major wind energy developer, Coillte.

Quick Facts

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