



Phase 1 Consultation

Feedback and Response Report

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Overview

Codling Wind Park is a proposed offshore wind farm in the Irish Sea, set in an area called Codling Bank, approximately 13-22 kilometres off the County Wicklow coast, between Greystones and Wicklow Town.

It is being developed by Codling Wind Park Ltd. (CWPL), a joint venture between Fred. Olsen Renewables and EDF Renewables. Both companies are leading developers, owners and operators of renewable energy assets, with many years of global experience in the renewable energy and offshore wind sector.

Codling Wind Park represents one of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade and is set to become Ireland’s largest offshore wind farm being developed in the Irish Sea.

With the potential to generate enough locally produced renewable electricity to power the equivalent of up to 1.2 million homes annually, Codling Wind Park will support the delivery of Ireland’s Climate Action Plan targets. It will also help reduce Ireland’s reliance on imported fossil fuel-based energy and significantly improve energy security.

The project is currently in the early development stages and throughout 2021 a range of offshore and onshore environmental and technical studies and site investigations will be undertaken.

The onshore and offshore planning applications are expected to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in 2022, supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Subject to all necessary permits and consents being received, Codling could begin construction in 2024/25. Construction is expected to take two to three years to complete.

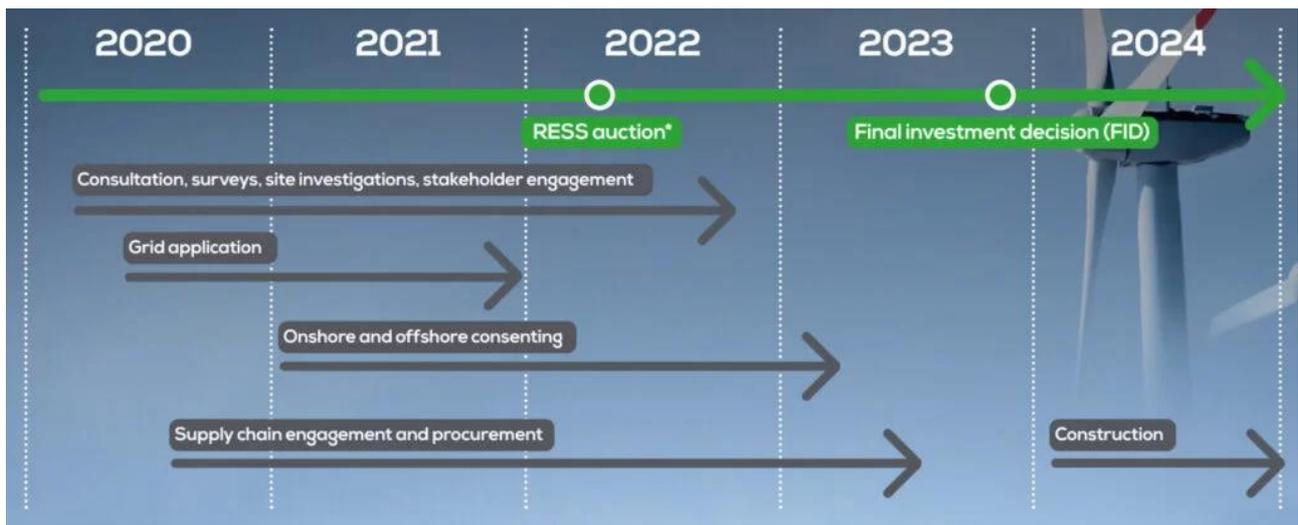


Figure 1 - Codling Wind Park - Indicative Project Timeline



2 APPROACH TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Consultation with the community, including fisheries and other marine stakeholders, forms a central component of the project development process. The project team seeks and welcomes feedback to inform the design of the Codling Wind Park project.

2.1 Consultation Phase and Objectives

The first phase of public consultation on the Codling Wind Park project ran from 1st March 2021 to 27th March 2021 inclusive. A number of briefings with key local stakeholder groups took place in advance of this, including with local elected representatives (TDs and councillors from the Greystones and Wicklow Municipal Districts).

The purpose of this first phase of public consultation was to begin a dialogue with local communities and other stakeholders, which will continue throughout the development of the project. This introductory consultation provided the opportunity to share early design plans for the project with all interested parties and to seek feedback to help shape the future design of the project.

2.2 Purpose of this Report

This report details the consultation process and records the feedback received during this first phase of non-statutory public consultation for the Codling Wind Park project.

In compliance with data protection requirements, feedback received from individuals has been anonymised. Feedback received from organisations is attributed to the respondent organisation. Data collected during this consultation has been processed in accordance with the Codling Wind Park Privacy Policy which is available at <https://codlingwindpark.ie/privacy-policy/>.

2.3 Consultation Roadmap

Two further phases of pre-application consultation will be held in late 2021 and early 2022 to share updated plans as the project progresses and to provide further opportunities for feedback.

Once applications for consent are made, a statutory submissions period will be held to provide the opportunity for interested parties to make observations and submissions on the proposed development to the planning authority.

3 PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

3.1 Overview

Phase 1 public consultation for the Codling Wind Park project consisted of three elements: a virtual public exhibition, a webinar with members of the project team, and information clinics.

Due to COVID-19 public health restrictions, the holding of public information events at local venues was not possible during this consultation. The project team sought to use all available communications channels to make the consultation as engaging and accessible as possible, to promote the consultation, encourage participation, and welcome feedback.

3.2 Project Website and LinkedIn page

A new project website was launched on 26th February to publicise the Phase 1 consultation and the associated activities.

Members of the public were encouraged to view the project information on the website and to contact the project team with any questions.

More than 111 people subscribed to project updates during the consultation. The website received 4,679 visits during the month-long consultation process.

The website includes an introductory video in which the Project Director explains the need for and benefits of Codling Wind Park and the project development process.

A “Stay in Touch” form invited people to submit their contact details and receive regular updates on the project as it develops. A facility to submit a direct question by email to the project team also sits on the site, in addition to direct contact details for the project’s Stakeholder Engagement Manager and Community Liaison Officer. A contact email address for the project’s Fisheries Liaison Officers is also included.

A Supply Chain page was also created on the website, inviting local businesses to register their interest in working on, supplying or providing services to the project.

On 27th February, the project team also launched the Codling Wind Park LinkedIn page. Five posts were made during the month of March to promote the public consultation. By the end of March, the page had over 700 followers.

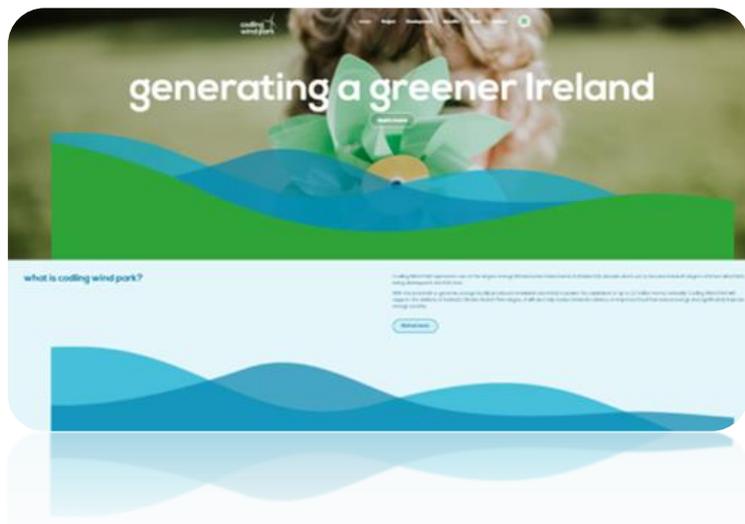


Figure 2 - Codling Wind Park Website

3.3 Virtual Public Exhibition

An online virtual exhibition was used to make information about the CWP project available to the public in an accessible and user-friendly format. The exhibition comprised a series of displays, videos, fact cards, maps and indicative photomontages showing what the turbines could look like from nine different viewing points along the east coast.

The exhibition ran online, on www.codlingwindpark.ie, for two weeks from 1st-14th March (inclusive).

There were 1,743 visitors to the virtual exhibition from 1st-14th March (inclusive).

The exhibition displays and the photomontages remain available to view on the www.codlingwindpark.ie website.



Figure 3 - Codling Wind Park Virtual Exhibition

3.4 Online Feedback Survey

The virtual exhibition included an online survey to enable participants to provide their views on climate action, offshore wind energy, and the Codling Wind Park project.

In total, 37 completed questionnaires were received by the project team during the first consultation period. A summary of the feedback received is provided in Section 4.

A copy of the online survey can be found in Appendix A.

3.5 Social Media

Several public representatives and community organisations shared details about the public consultation on their Facebook pages, including elected representatives, Wicklow Public Partnership Network (which has a membership of approximately 300 community groups), Greystones and Delgany Sustainable Energy Community, Wicklow Maritime, and the Wicklow Town Team.

3.6 Press Releases / Coverage

Press releases were issued to announce the consultation to national, local and specialist trade media in advance of commencement of the virtual exhibition.

The press release generated 14 news articles (newspaper and online) and eight radio broadcast items.

Copies of the press releases (one for national and trade media and a second for local media) are contained at Appendix B.

3.7 Newspaper Adverts

Full-page colour ads were placed in all three local newspapers as follows:

- Wicklow Times – Saturday, 27th February
- Wicklow People – Wednesday, 3rd March
- Wicklow Voice – Monday, 8th March

A copy of the newspaper advertisement is contained at Appendix C.

3.8 Radio Adverts

A series of ads on local radio were used to create awareness of the consultation process as follows:

- East Coast Radio – 10 x 30 second slots aired over 10 days (27th February to 8th March)

3.9 Webinar

The project team delivered a live webinar on 11th March 2021 from 7-8pm.

Seven members of the project team, including the Project Director, presented information on the project development process and answered questions on the project.

80 people attended the webinar.

50 questions were submitted to the project team.

A recording of the webinar and responses to any questions not answered during the webinar (due to time constraints) were made available on the project website and remain there.

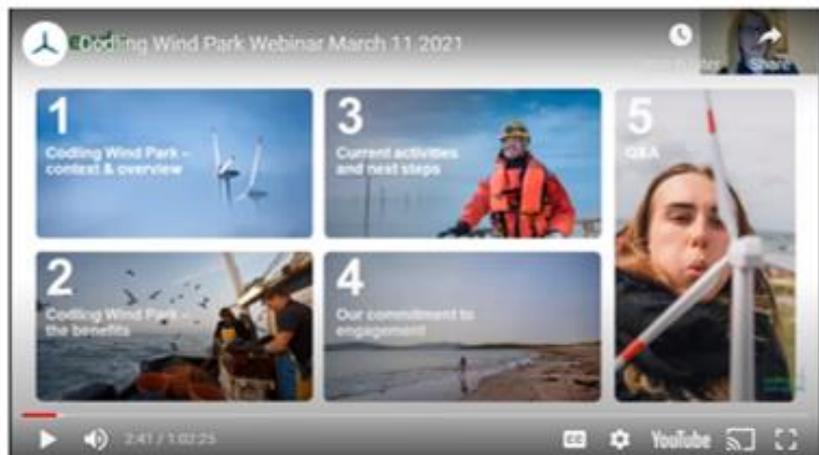


Figure 4 - Codling Wind Park Webinar 11th March 2021

3.10 Stakeholder Briefings

The project team held briefings with a number of public representatives and local groups during the consultation. These included:

- Wicklow TDs x 5
- Ireland South MEP x 1
- Elected members of Greystones Municipal District of Wicklow County Council
- Elected members of Wicklow Municipal District of Wicklow County Council
- Wicklow Town Team.

3.11 Information Clinics

The project team offered 26 information clinic slots over a two-week period (15th-27th March inclusive). These meetings provided the opportunity for all interested individuals and groups to book time with the project team members to discuss the Codling Wind Park project. The schedule provided morning, afternoon, evening and Saturday options. Meetings could be booked online or by telephoning the Community Liaison Officer.

Six individuals and groups availed of the information clinics as follows:

- 1 residents' association (Greystones)
- 2 environmental organisations
- 1 local councillor
- 2 local businesses.

3.12 Community Liaison Officer (CLO)

The Codling Wind Park Community Liaison Officer, Liz Dillon, is available throughout the project – at 087 1011 473 and liz.dillon@codlingwindpark.ie.

3.12.1 Emails / Phone Calls Direct Outreach

At the commencement of the consultation, the CLO sent an email to 105 community groups, organisations and individuals to inform them of the forthcoming public consultation opportunities.

All marine-based sports clubs from Greystones to Wicklow were contacted to inform them about the consultation and offer the opportunity of attending an information clinic.

The project team also informed all local public representatives of the public consultation.

A copy of the email sent to stakeholders can be viewed at Appendix D.

3.13 Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO)

The project's Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) team is available at 021 203 1005 and flo@codlingwindpark.ie. The main point of contact is the lead Fisheries Liaison Officer is Mark O'Reilly, who is available on 085 139 9000. He is supported by colleagues David Hyde and Trudy McIntyre, who may be contacted via the flo@codlingwindpark.ie email address.

The FLO team was available throughout the public consultation period and remains available on an ongoing basis.

4 FEEDBACK AND SUBMISSIONS

During this consultation period, stakeholders could submit questions and provide feedback through the online feedback survey, via email or phone and during the online webinar and information clinics with the project team.

Over 200 queries were logged and responded to by the project team during the four-week consultation period.

The feedback has been categorised into common 'themes' identified following a detailed review of the submissions received.

The categories are:

- Climate Change
- Energy Security
- Project Need
- Project Location
- Infrastructure (Onshore and Offshore)
 - Turbine Technology and Engineering Considerations
 - Onshore and Offshore Infrastructure
 - Irish Grid Capacity and Project Energy Output
 - Construction
 - Operation
 - Decommissioning
- Environmental Considerations
 - Marine Water Quality and Fish / Shellfish Ecology
 - Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impacts
 - Marine Geology / Coastal erosion
 - Ornithology
 - Marine Mammals
 - Commercial Fisheries
 - Marine Leisure and Commercial Shipping
- Community Benefit
- Supply Chain Opportunities
- Project Development Process
- Consultation Process

Section 4.1 of this report details the questions asked and responses received in the online survey that formed part of the virtual exhibition. Section 4.2 sets out details of all the questions that were asked (grouped as outlined above) and the responses given by the project team during the engagements.

It should be noted that feedback is not presented in order of importance and no weighting has been applied to the issues raised based on frequency or on the number of submissions received.

In compliance with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (May 2018) and the Data Protection Act (2018), all personal information has been withheld from this report but has been considered by the project team for the purpose of informing the project development process.

4.1 Online Survey Responses

The consultation questionnaire consisted of eight questions. 37 feedback forms were completed. The survey results are presented below. A copy of the survey can be found in Appendix A.

4.1.1 Question 1 – “Are you supportive of Ireland’s ambition of generating 70% of its electricity from renewables by 2030?”

Question one, a multiple-choice question, asked respondents if they were supportive of Ireland’s ambition of generating 70% of its electricity from renewables by 2030. Respondents were given five options to choose from: Very supportive, somewhat supportive, Neutral, Not very supportive, and Not at all supportive. Table 1 and Figure 2 below show the breakdown of responses.

Options	Frequency
Very supportive	30
Somewhat supportive	4
Neutral	2
Not very supportive	0
Not at all supportive	1

Table 1 - Breakdown of responses to Question 1

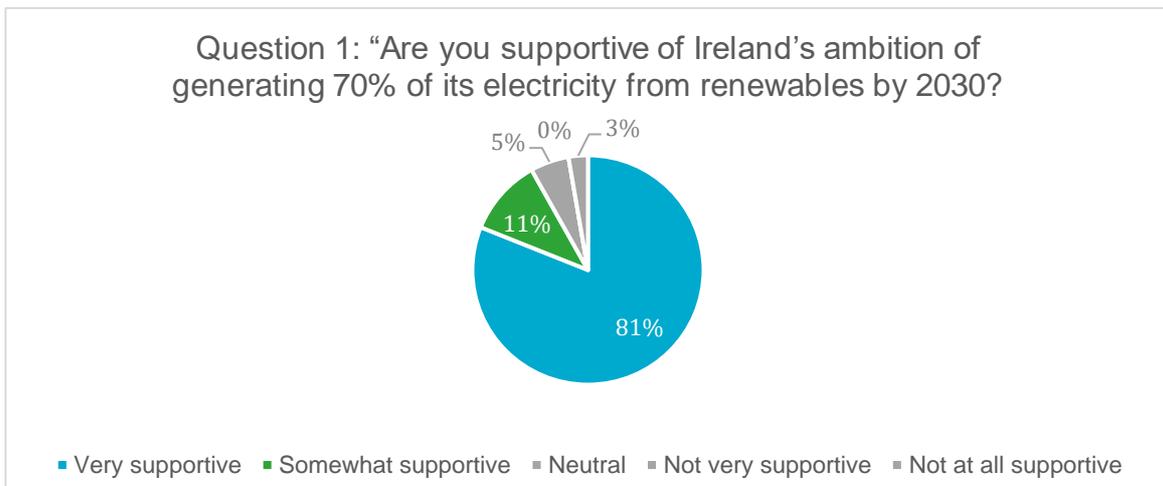


Figure 5 - Graphic representation of the breakdown of responses to Question 1

4.1.2 Question 2 – “How important, in your view, will offshore wind energy be in meeting our 2030 climate action targets?”

Question two, a multiple-choice question, asked respondents in their opinion how important offshore energy will be in Ireland meeting its 2030 climate action targets. Respondents were given six options to choose from: Extremely important, Very important, Moderately important, Slightly important, Not at all important, and No opinion. Table 2 and Figure 3 below show the breakdown of responses.

Options	Frequency
Extremely important	24
Very important	7
Moderately important	4
Slightly important	1
Not at all important	1
No opinion	0

Table 2 - Breakdown of responses to Question 2

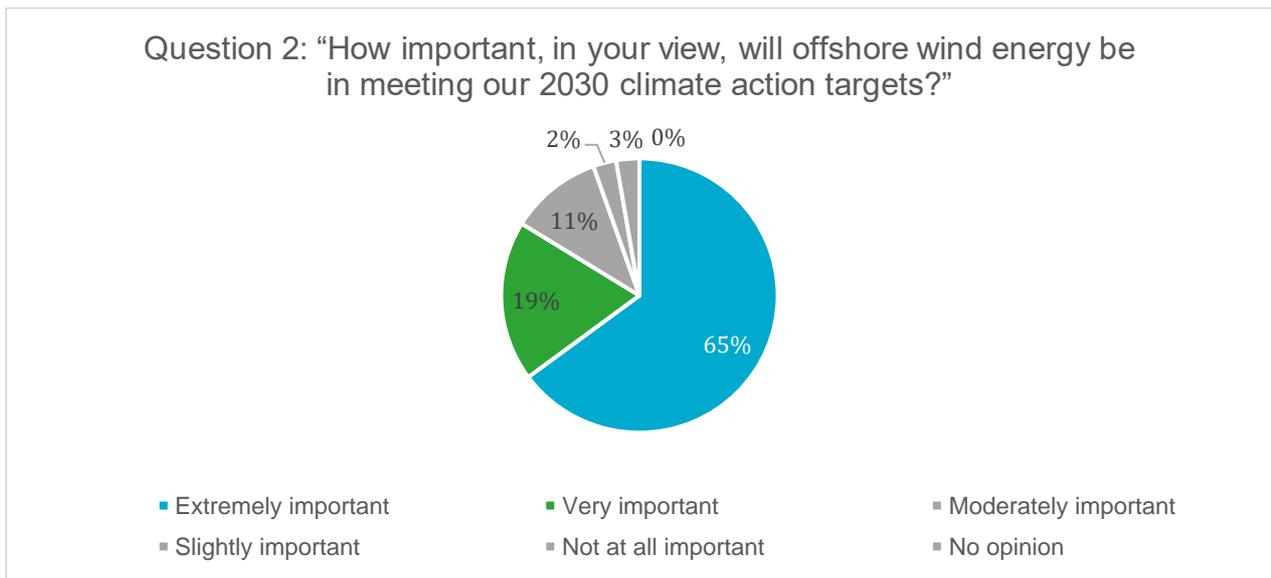


Figure 6 - Graphic representation of the breakdown of responses to Question 2

4.1.3 Question 3 – “In general, what are your views on the Codling Wind Park project?”

Question three, a multiple-choice question, asked respondents their views on the Codling Wind Park project. Respondents were given five options to choose from: Codling Wind Park is essential to help Ireland achieve its climate action targets and I support the project; I am generally in favour of the Codling Wind Park project, but I would like further information as the project develops; Currently, I am neither in favour nor opposed to the Codling Wind Park project; I am not supportive of the Codling Wind Park; and, Other (please specify). Table 3 and Figure 4 below show the breakdown of responses.

Options	Frequency
Codling Wind Park is essential to help Ireland achieve its climate action targets and I support the project	16
I am generally in favour of the Codling Wind Park project, but I would like further information as the project develops	13
Currently, I am neither in favour nor opposed to the Codling Wind Park project	2
I am not supportive of the Codling Wind Park	2
Other (please specify)	4

Table 3 - Breakdown of responses to Question 3

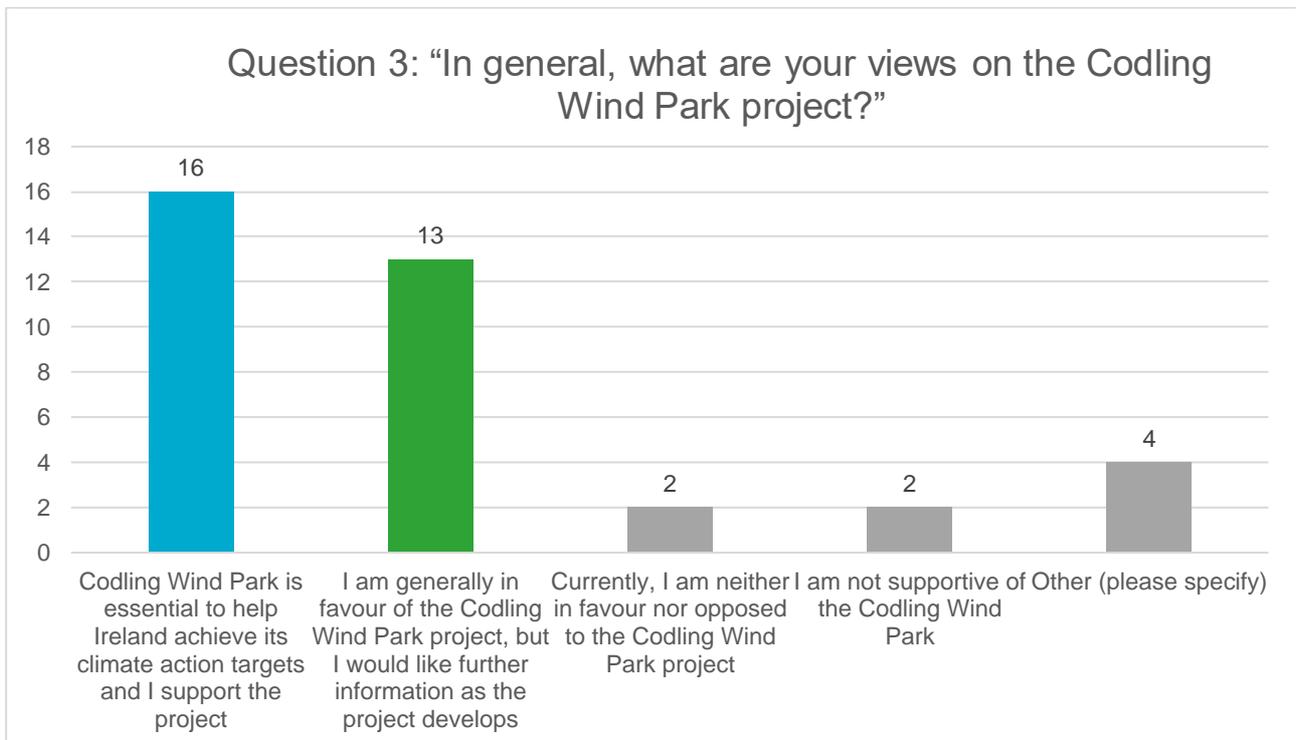


Figure 7 - Graphic representation of the breakdown of responses to Question 3

4.1.4 Question 4 – “What are the most important factors you would like us to consider as we progress the design of the Codling Wind Park project? (Please rank in order of importance to you, 1 being the most important).”

Question four asked respondents to rank the most important factors they would like the project team to consider as they progress the design of the Codling Wind Park project, from 1 – 10. The Options were as follows: Benefits for local communities; Responsible environmental management; Visual impacts; Delivering the lowest cost electricity to consumers; Development of local supply chain; Employment, training, and development opportunities; Impacts on marine users; and, Other (please specify). Figure 5 below shows the breakdown of responses.

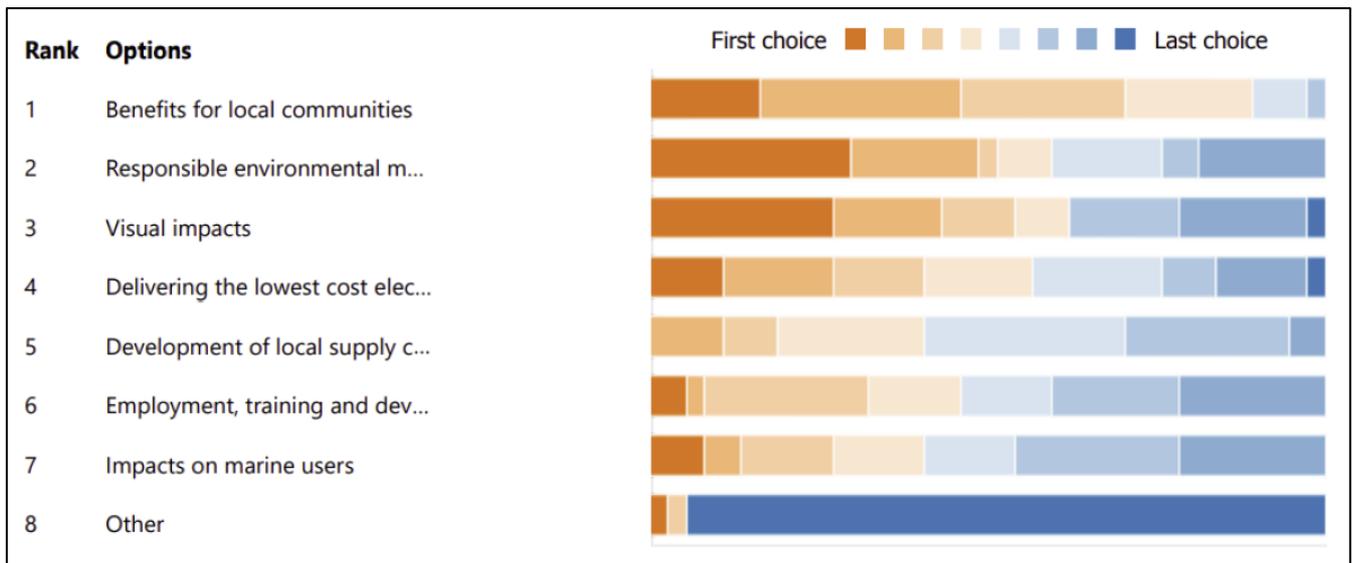


Figure 8 - Graphic representation of the breakdown of responses to Question 4

4.1.5 Question 5 – “How helpful has our exhibition been in giving you an understanding of the Codling Wind Park project?”

Question five, a multiple-choice question, asked respondents how helpful the online exhibition had been in giving them an understanding of the Codling Wind Park project. Respondents were given five options to choose from: Extremely helpful, Very helpful, Somewhat helpful, Not so helpful, and Not at all helpful. Table 4 and Figure 6 below show the breakdown of responses.

Options	Frequency
Extremely helpful	12
Very helpful	18
Somewhat helpful	6
Not so helpful	0
Not at all helpful	1

Table 4 - Breakdown of responses to Question 5

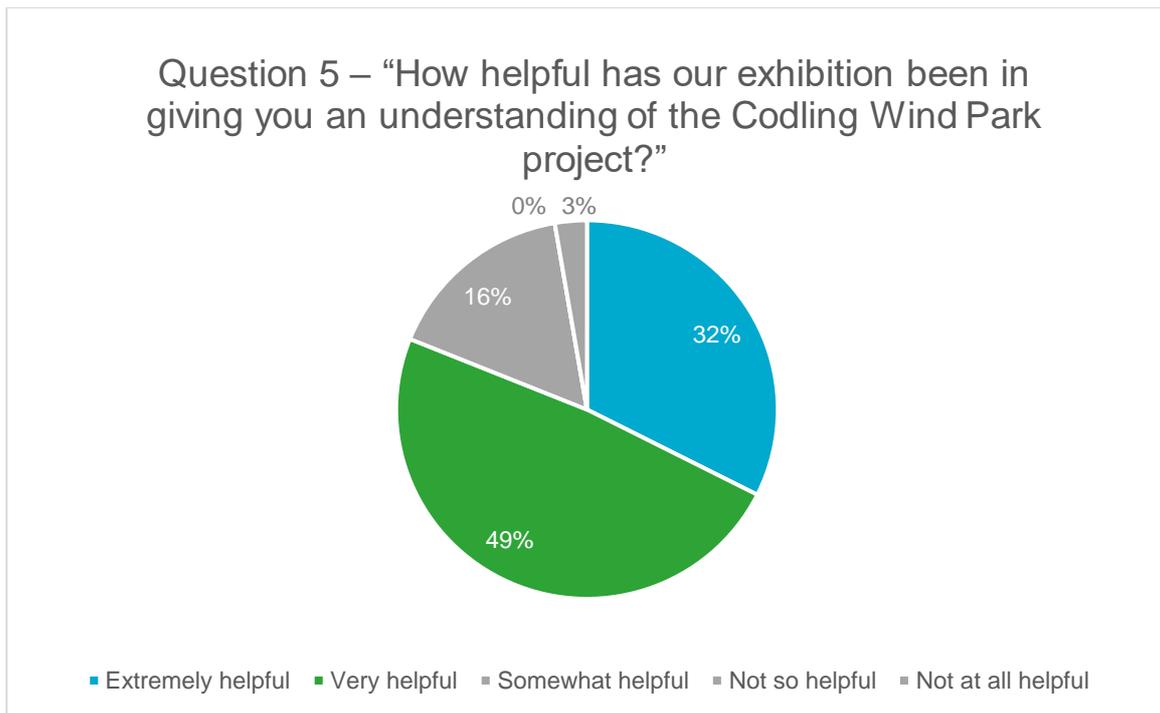


Figure 9 - Graphic representation of the breakdown of responses to Question 5

4.1.6 Question 6 – Please provide any specific feedback on the Codling Wind Park project that you would like the project team to consider.

There were 15 responses to this question. The feedback received is set out in Section 4 below in the relevant categories outlined.

4.2 Consultation Feedback and Project Team Response

This section of the report summarises the feedback received during the Phase I consultation. Where current information was available, responses to the feedback were provided by the project team. Where information was not currently available, the process for project development was outlined. Therefore, some of the queries received will be answered at later stages of the project development process.

4.2.1 Climate Change

There was broad acceptance of the need for action to address climate change. There was mostly acceptance amongst stakeholders on the need for offshore renewable energy projects in Ireland to support the decarbonisation of Ireland's energy supply. Respondents voiced support for the opportunity to make Ireland a greener and more sustainable country.

It was suggested that younger people are engaged with the topic of climate change and are very supportive of renewable energy. Consultees expressed belief that engaging with younger people would be key to the success of the project. It was also stated that the people of Greystones are very environmentally conscious and are keen to advance the green agenda.

Stakeholders asked whether sustainable development techniques would be used by the project team to develop the Wind Park. It was outlined by respondents that they expected any carbon emissions produced in the construction and daily running of the wind park to be offset, ensuring the project was carbon neutral and possibly carbon negative.

Respondents queried whether the project team was considering hydrogen as a fuel source for Codling during construction and operation.

Stakeholders asked whether the payback costs were worthwhile from a sustainability perspective, given the investment required, the impact on the environment, and the embodied energy required in production. Respondents outlined the hope that the wind park would be an adaptable project with regard to advancements in wind farm technology over the coming decades.

4.2.1.1 Project Team Response to Climate Change

We thank respondents for their feedback on the issue of climate change.

We are facing a global climate emergency. In 2019, Ireland published its Climate Action Plan (CAP), which recognises that we must significantly step up our commitments to tackle climate disruption and achieve our decarbonisation goals. Within the CAP, Ireland aims to achieve renewable electricity generation of 70% and reduce carbon emissions by 51% in the period to 2030. To help reach these goals, we will need 5GW of electricity to be generated from offshore wind by 2030. With a potential generating output of 1.5GW, Codling Wind Park will be the largest of the east coast offshore projects and will make a significant contribution to meeting Ireland's 2030 targets - putting the country on a path to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. In developing CWP, the project team will employ sustainable development processes and environmentally friendly techniques to minimise impacts during construction and operation. Such measures will be identified and included in a detailed Construction and Environmental Management Plan.

4.2.2 Energy Security

The national target of achieving 5GW of offshore wind by 2030 was queried by respondents who asked if the target was realistic given the current capacity of the Irish electricity grid. The total energy output of the Codling Wind Park was queried by respondents.

Concerns over energy security were raised by respondents with regard to the intermittent nature of wind energy. Respondents questioned how Irish consumers could trust Ireland's energy security when the wind does not blow. Anecdotes of amber alerts during no wind days in January 2021 were shared by respondents. Stakeholders outlined fears of Ireland being at the mercy of interconnectors with countries who are struggling with their own issues. Concerns with international gas supplies and recent spikes in European pricing were also outlined by respondents.

Local residents of Greystones questioned placing trust in wind energy given the predicted increase in electricity needs. They maintained that wind energy only works on stormy days and queried the project team's plan to store wind generated electricity to avoid switching to fossil fuel stations when the wind isn't blowing.

4.2.2.1 Project Team Response to Energy Security

Ireland aims to achieve renewable electricity generation of 70% and reduce carbon emissions by 51% in the period to 2030. To help achieve this, 5GW of clean electricity will need to be generated from offshore wind by 2030. The capacity of the electricity grid to accommodate renewable electricity from offshore projects is critical to meeting this target.

With a potential generating output of 1.5GW, Codling Wind Park will be the largest of the east coast offshore projects and will make a significant contribution to meeting Ireland's 2030 targets. Codling Wind Park has the potential to supply the equivalent of 70% of Irish households – 1.2 million in total – with clean, locally-produced, low-cost electricity, and save almost 2 million tonnes of carbon emissions every year.

In addition to supporting delivery of the country's climate action targets, Codling Wind Park will help reduce Ireland's reliance on imported fossil fuel-based energy and significantly improve energy security.

Excellent wind speeds in the Irish Sea and favourable foreshore conditions provide an ideal environment for generating carbon emission free and low-cost electricity offshore. When the wind is not blowing storage technology, back-up generation or interconnectors are used to ensure continuity of supply. Regardless of the type of renewable energy technology employed, back-up generation and interconnection are required to ensure security of supply.

4.2.3 Project Need

Stakeholders outlined a broadly positive and supportive attitude towards the Codling Wind Park project and its role in terms of climate action and decarbonising Ireland's energy supply. Some respondents cited broad support for the need for the project but wanted assurances it would be delivered in an environmentally sensitive way which would enhance biodiversity and not be at the expense of the environment.

Consultees expressed their support for offshore wind energy in Ireland, and their eagerness for this project to progress, as long as benefits to the local communities are delivered. Some stakeholders also outlined their interest in the wider potential for offshore wind in Ireland, including floating offshore wind in the future. Some stakeholders suggested that with the backing of government this project would seem less like a 'leap of faith' and more a positive step forward.

Respondents who described themselves as 'wind farm positive' outlined their belief that wind energy is good for society, but sought assurance on the height, scale, and location, impacts on local wildlife, and the combined visual and environmental impacts of multiple wind farm projects in the area.

Some respondents stated that the Codling project could be minimally intrusive and that the upside of the project in terms of clean energy was significant. Respondents outlined the need to protect local nature and wildlife.

4.2.3.1 Project Team Response to Project Need

We thank respondents for recognising the important role that Codling Wind Park will play in meeting Ireland's 2030 targets.

The Codling Wind Park project partners, EDF Renewables and Fred. Olsen Renewables, have a strong track record of appropriate and environmentally responsible development.

Comprehensive environmental studies and assessments are being undertaken to assess the potential impacts of the project. This will be developed in consultation with stakeholders to ensure their expertise and advice is taken on board as project proposals develop. The results from these assessments are reported in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and in the Natural Impact Statement (NIS), which form the key supportive information submitted with consent applications. Environmental surveys and studies first began on the project in 2002 and have continued over specific phases since then. More recently the focus has been on building up a good understanding of the baseline environment in relation to the receptors that will be considered in the environmental report. These receptors include, but are not limited to birds, marine mammals, onshore, intertidal and subtidal ecology, fish and shellfish ecology and marine archaeology.

The project team will ensure that the wind park is planned and delivered in the most environmentally sensitive and responsible way.

4.2.4 Project Location

The suitability of the Codling Bank site was queried by some participants who argued there would be more wind in the west of Ireland. Respondents also asked whether Ireland had other suitable locations for renewable assets in terms of tidal and wind energy.

Respondents asked the project team for information on the international best practice for the location of offshore wind parks.

The cumulative impact of this project and other wind farms was noted by respondents as a significant concern. It was stated that the cumulative impact of Codling Wind Park must be considered in the context of proximity to the proposed Dublin Array wind farm.

4.2.4.1.1. Project Team Response to Project Location

The Codling Wind Park site was first identified in 1999 when Fred. Olsen Renewables Limited initiated a search around the whole of the Irish coast for potential offshore wind development sites within Ireland's territorial waters. After careful consideration of the technical, physical and environmental criteria, the area around the Codling Bank was considered a feasible location for the development of an offshore wind project. The Codling Bank site is set in an area approximately 13-22 kilometres off the County Wicklow coast, between Greystones and Wicklow Town. With wind speeds of 9.7 m/s at 130 metres above sea level and shallow waters with depths ranging from 10 to 25 metres, the Codling Bank area is well suited to deliver a highly significant renewable energy project.

There is no international standard for distance to shore for offshore wind farms, as there are multiple technical, environmental and economic factors involved in selecting suitable locations and conditions vary in different countries. One important factor is water depth, particularly when using fixed-bottom turbines, which are connected to the seabed. Fixed-bottom turbines can typically only be deployed in water depths of 50-60 metres or less and where the seabed conditions are suitable to secure the foundations. All of the projects proposed for development to meet the Government's 2030 target of 5GW of electricity from offshore wind will use this technology (which is mature and in use all over the world) and all are therefore being developed off the east coast, as the water depths are shallower.

The cumulative impact of the CWP project and any other nearby consented or proposed projects will be examined in detail in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), in accordance with current guidance and as advised by regulators. The EIAR will include a Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) prepared by Chartered Landscape Architects, which will assess the potential visual impacts of the project in accordance with best practice and current guidance.

4.2.5 Project Components

4.2.5.1 Turbine Technology and Engineering Considerations

Respondents expressed concern about the distance of the Codling Wind Park from the shore. Submissions included questions asking how far the turbines would be from shore; why the wind farm could not be constructed further offshore to reduce the visibility of the turbines; and why floating offshore turbines were not being considered further offshore. Respondents claimed this would be in line with standard EU practice.

Some respondents suggested that turbines of this size are not located in as close proximity to the coastline in any other country, and it was argued that the marine licensing legislation that was used to permit this wind farm should be reviewed. It was suggested that there should be a 25-degree angle of view from Greystones between Dublin Array and the Codling Wind Park. Consultees also asked what direction the turbines would be facing to maximise wind from the Irish Sea.

It was queried how the size of the Codling Wind Park would compare with the largest wind farms in other European countries.

It was noted by respondents that a local campaign group is calling for offshore wind farms to be at least 22km from the shoreline.

Stakeholders queried whether or not the turbines would have navigational safety lights on them which would be lit at night-time. If so, respondents asked how visible these would be from the shore at night. Stakeholders also expressed concern over light pollution at night. Some stakeholders acknowledged the need for night-time safety lights for rescue services, helicopters, and marine navigation.

Concerns regarding the height of the turbines were expressed by stakeholders. Specific questions regarding the proposed heights of the turbines, and whether or not higher blade height meant taller turbines, were asked by respondents. With a proposed maximum height of 320m, concern was outlined by respondents about the height of the turbines above sea level and the impact of the turbines on air traffic, in particular for Dublin Airport. The proposed height ranges of the turbines were described as considerably high by respondents. It was also queried how the final heights of the turbines would be decided.

Concern regarding whether or not the turbines would be anchored to the seabed was voiced by respondents. It was also queried whether there were any modifications the project team could incorporate that would help create reefs at the base of the turbines i.e. modifying structures.

Stakeholders outlined that in the public exhibition it was noted there would be up to 140 turbines, each generating an output of 11 – 16 MW. The scale of the project was queried and how the project team would decide on the final number of turbines, the capacity of each, and their distribution on the seabed. With regard to the distribution of the turbines, it was queried how many of the turbines would be placed within the site area outlined during the consultation and what final shape the wind farm would take.

Stakeholders queried why the project team had not considered floating offshore turbines for the Codling Wind Park. It was claimed that it is standard EU practice to construct offshore turbines on floating platforms further out to sea. It was also suggested by respondents that floating turbines could be easier to dismantle and reuse for parts than fixed turbines. Consultees asked whether it would be possible for floating offshore wind farms and fixed foundation wind farms to be developed at the same time, i.e. would it be possible to explore and develop wind farms on both the east and west coasts of Ireland.

It was suggested by respondents that other wind farm projects employing floating platforms have been initiated in Scotland and Portugal, with 18 projects worldwide, and that the technology is moving quickly. Stakeholders described the floating turbine technology as a 'game changer'.

It was queried by respondents whether it would be possible and economically or logistically feasible to use a wind farm design with two types of turbine i.e. rows of 250m tall turbines close to the shore, and turbines at a maximum height of 320m further offshore.

4.2.5.1.1. Project Team Response to Turbine Technology and Engineering Considerations

We thank respondents for their considered feedback and the queries on technical and engineering considerations.

While a final output for Codling Wind Park cannot be determined at this early stage, a potential generating output of 1.5GW may be feasible. A final output is dependent upon a wide range of factors including the grid connection offer (i.e. how much power the grid can accommodate) and the results of the environmental and technical studies and investigations.

A 1.5GW project would involve between 100 and 140 turbines depending on the turbine technology type employed, with tip heights ranging from 250 metres to 320 metres.

Wind turbines rotate to face the prevailing wind. According to Met Éireann, the prevailing wind direction in the Irish Sea is between south and west.

Fixed-foundation wind farms can be developed in sea depths of 50-60 metres which influences the distance turbines can be placed from the shore. Floating technology is at an early commercial stage with a number of demonstration projects being advanced around the world. This technology cannot deliver at the scale required in time to contribute towards our 2030 targets. For this decade the most effective way to achieve large volumes of wind energy at the lowest possible cost to the consumer is through fixed-bottom offshore wind which is a proven technology. Over the longer term, both fixed-foundation and floating offshore wind energy will be required if Ireland is to become carbon neutral by 2050.

There are more than 60+ offshore wind energy projects within 22kms distance from shore in European waters. An additional 16 projects have received planning permission recently. Some countries have put in place distance-to-shore restrictions but it is important to understand that their seabeds are much shallower.

Irish and international aviation regulators require structures of certain heights to have lights to ensure the safety of passing air traffic. Turbine lighting is also required for marine navigational safety. The lighting and marking requirement for the project will be discussed with the relevant stakeholders to ensure compliance with relevant guidance.

The EIAR will include a Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) in accordance with best practice and current guidance. This will include assessment of lighting requirements including at night-time. Many offshore developments use infra-red lighting in the interests of public amenity, this being barely perceptible to the human eye. Radar technology is also being used on some developments. The project team will investigate this further as part of the project design. The EIAR will also include an assessment of the project on aviation receptors. This will provide an understanding of potential impacts and any mitigation, as required.

The prevailing weather conditions also affect the visibility of safety lighting from the shore.

For visual amenity reasons, most wind farms employ one type of turbine technology.

4.2.5.2 Onshore and Offshore Infrastructure

Respondents questioned other technical aspects of the offshore infrastructure, with particular focus on the type of foundations used in the wind farm; the cable interconnector types; the cable voltages; and the land connection points. Respondents asked how close to land the offshore substation would be located. Consultees asked the project team to provide more detail about the offshore substations and why they are needed. Some respondents claimed that up until this point they were unaware there was a need for offshore substations. It was claimed by respondents that there was a lack of information regarding the cabling routes in the public consultation. Consultees also questioned whether the onshore cabling would be part of the project and owned by the developer. Respondents also asked about the planned next steps for identifying the onshore cable routes and the location of the onshore substation.

Respondents asked the team to provide more information on some technical aspects of the project i.e. cable interconnector types, cable voltages, land connection point and foundation types. Respondents also asked the project team about the planned next steps for identifying the onshore cable routes and substation location.

Submissions included queries asking the project team to further explain the onshore infrastructure associated with the project. Stakeholders asked where the landfall locations and onshore grid connections would be located. Respondents asked what would be involved in the onshore work regarding the operations and maintenance base, and queries around where these buildings would be located were raised. Stakeholders queried what the deciding factors in selecting the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) base would be and who the key stakeholders in this decision would be. Consultees also queried when the O&M base would be selected.

Support for Wicklow port to be considered as a potential O&M base for the project was offered by some consultees. It was suggested by consultees that Wicklow port has plenty of room for assembly, has good access with the new port road and that berthing areas for smaller boats would be available in other areas. It was also noted that Wicklow harbour is open all year round.

Consultees described their eagerness to see the necessary investment and upgrade works in the area to happen. It was also stated by stakeholders that there is an empty facility in the Greystones harbour which could work for the project.

4.2.5.2.1. Project Team Response to Onshore and Offshore Infrastructure

We thank respondents for their feedback and queries on the project infrastructure.

The main components of an offshore wind farm are the wind turbines, subsea and underground cables, and the substations (offshore and onshore). Wind turbines harness the power of the wind and convert the energy into electricity. The electricity produced by the turbines is then transferred through cable arrangements to an offshore substation. Transformers housed in the offshore substation will increase the voltage for delivery of the power to shore via export submarine cables. From there, the electrical power is transferred using underground cables via an existing or new onshore substation to the grid.

An operations and maintenance facility will also be located locally to manage and service the wind farm. A number of local options are currently under consideration and further details on site identification and selection for this facility will be provided by the project team once available. The operations and maintenance facility will provide employment for approximately 70 people.

The detailed studies and site investigation currently underway for the project will help us to understand the ground conditions to inform turbine foundation design. The cable technology, the landfall points, the substation location and grid connection point are not yet known and require detailed environmental and engineering studies. Technical studies and discussions with EirGrid are underway to determine the most appropriate connection point(s), and as such, currently there are a number of different connection options and grid routes under examination. The project team will share further information when it is available as part of future consultations. It is not possible to state at this stage at what distance from shore the offshore substation would be located but it will be located within the offshore wind farm area which is located 13-22 kilometres off the County Wicklow coast.

The construction and operation of any onshore facilities will be assessed in a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) that will be prepared by environmental specialists as part of the planning application.

4.2.5.3 Irish Grid Capacity and Project Energy Output

The suitability of the Irish grid, in terms of capacity, for the power that would be generated from Codling Wind Park was queried by respondents. Consultees asked how the Irish grid would be able to remain stable and cost-effective for consumers with the extra wind energy coming into it. Respondents stated that the grid currently consumes 6GW and questioned whether the target of 5GW of energy from offshore wind by 2030 was realistic, given the capacity of the Irish electricity grid. It was also queried whether much of the energy generated by Codling Wind Park would be exported.

Respondents queried the likelihood of getting a grid connection offer from EirGrid for 1.5GW. Respondents outlined that the Irish grid could not handle this much extra capacity onto the transmission system, even if it was spread out over time on a phased basis and if multiple connection points were used.

Respondents raised questions over the total energy output of the Codling Wind Park project. It was queried by stakeholders why the original project design included a target of 2.1GW, but the new design is now only 900MW to 1500MW. Respondents also questioned whether or not this type of electricity would be expensive to consumers.

4.2.5.3.1. Project Team Response to Irish Grid Capacity and Project Energy Output

EirGrid has a number of initiatives and programmes under way to ensure that Ireland can meet its energy targets and decarbonise the economy in a cost-effective manner for all stakeholders, both customers and generators. Having sufficient grid capacity is a necessary pre-requisite to meeting the 2030 targets.

Codling Wind Park is a combination of what was initially proposed as two projects, with a total project area of approximately 125 km².

- The combined maximum total energy output of both projects was up to 2.1 GW
- The combined total number of wind turbines across both projects was up to 440

Significant advances in wind turbine generator technology, combined with considerable reductions in the cost of energy from offshore wind, means that Codling can now be developed as one project with a greatly reduced number of wind turbine generators while optimising the renewable electricity production from the site.

The current expectation and design for the offshore part of the wind farm is

- A total installed capacity of between 900 megawatts (MW) and 1,500 megawatts (MW)
- Maximum number of 140 turbines across 125 square km site.

All electricity generated by Codling Wind Park will be supplied to the Irish electricity grid.

4.2.5.4 Construction

Respondents outlined some queries with regards to the construction of the wind farm, including the types of foundations that would be used, where the turbines would be constructed and how long the construction would take.

Concern over construction marine traffic was outlined by stakeholders, as well as queries over where the site would live dock. Consultees also questioned the costs involved in the construction of Codling Wind Park.

Respondents asked the project team to outline the pollution risks associated during construction of the wind farm. Respondents highlighted the impact the development of the Greystones Harbour and Marina had on the surrounding beaches and queried the potential impact of this project on the area.

4.2.5.4.1. Project Team Response to Construction

The detailed studies and site investigations underway will help us to understand the environmental conditions which will inform turbine foundation design and the wind farm layout arrangement (i.e the array) of the wind park.

All impacts associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the project will be assessed in a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) that will be prepared by environmental specialists in support of the planning application.

Codling Wind Park represents one of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade and will have major economic benefits for the national and regional economies. These will include more than 1,000 jobs during construction, approximately 70 new, full-time local jobs during the operation, and opportunities for local ports and quayside facilities during construction and for operations and maintenance purposes. Ultimately, Codling Wind Park will deliver benefits for all Irish consumers through supplying low-cost, clean electricity.

4.2.5.5 Operation

Questions regarding when the wind farm would be operational, as well as whether Codling Wind Park was being rolled out on the same timeline as other projects in the area, were asked by respondents.

With regard to the maintenance of the offshore wind farm, respondents questioned whether these capabilities could be built up in Ireland, or whether the partners' own teams would be brought in to do this.

4.2.5.5.1. Project Team Response to Operation

The Codling Wind Park project is currently in the early development stages and throughout 2021 a range of offshore and onshore environmental and technical studies and site investigations will be undertaken, to further inform the project development process. The project aim is to submit onshore and offshore planning applications to An Bord Pleanála in 2022, and to submit a single Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) in support of these applications. Consultation and engagement will form an important part of both processes, and we will hold three phases of public consultation – of which this is the first – over the next 12 to 15 months. Subject to all necessary permits and consents being received, Codling could begin construction in 2024/25. Construction is expected to take two to three years to complete.

The project team, in undertaking its environmental assessments, will consider the timelines associated with other planned projects in the Irish Sea. The cumulative impact of our project and any other nearby consented or proposed projects will be examined in detail in our EIAR and NIS, in accordance with current guidance and as advised by regulators.

Approximately 70 full-time jobs will be provided during the operational phase of the wind park. Training, upskilling and development opportunities will be provided for the local workforce. It is hoped that many of the available positions will be filled locally which will deliver a positive economic impact to the regional economy.

4.2.5.6 Decommissioning

The decommissioning process and removal of the turbines was outlined as a concern in submissions. Stakeholders asked how long the lifespan of the turbines would be; what would happen to the wind farm and turbines in 25-30 years' time; how the project team would dispose of the turbines upon decommissioning; and whether the turbines would have to be replaced after 25-30 years.

Respondents outlined concerns around the potential for abandoned engineering and cited previous local examples. It was outlined by respondents that once the economic life of the wind farm has ended, the cost of dismantling fixed turbines and the subsequent restoration of sand banks could be seen as prohibitive. Fears surrounding the abandoning of the wind farm were raised, and it was questioned who would pay for the removal of the assets in the case the owner abandoned the site, went bankrupt or sold their assets. It was queried whether liability would be vested in any future owner of the site.

4.2.5.6.1. Project Team Response to Decommissioning

The average assumed operational lifetime of an offshore wind farm is 25 years. The planning permission will confirm the operation period and will contain conditions for the decommissioning phase. Typically, such conditions place legally binding requirements on the wind park owner, including making financial provision for the decommissioning phase. The conditions are fully transferable to any new owner.

About 85 percent of turbine component materials—such as steel, copper wire, electronics, and gearing—can be recycled or reused. The blades are made of fiberglass (a composite material) to be lightweight for efficiency yet still durable enough to withstand storms.

4.2.6 Environmental Considerations

Consultees expressed a desire for the project to be conducted in an environmentally sensitive way and in a way that enhances biodiversity. Some respondents outlined general concern about the impact of the project on the environment and the issues surrounding construction and operation of the wind farm. Stakeholders voiced concern about the possible environmental sensitivities around Codling and highlighted that the invasive construction period was of particular concern.

Questions surrounding how the team would ensure the nature conservation objectives of the project would be met and upheld during construction and operation of the wind farm, were posed by respondents. It was noted the team would need to invest in and produce a comprehensive and robust EIAR. Stakeholders asked the project team what environmental surveys had taken place to date and for more information regarding the future studies that will be undertaken. Respondents queried why the environmental assessment had not already been completed given the project has been in progress for over 15 years.

4.2.6.1.1. Project Team Response to Environmental Considerations

We thank respondents for their interest in the development of the Codling Wind Park project and their concern for the environment. The project partners, EDF Renewables and Fred. Olsen Renewables, have a strong track record of appropriate and environmentally responsible development.

Comprehensive environmental studies and assessments are being undertaken to assess the impacts of the project. The results from these assessments are reported in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which forms the main supportive information submitted with consent applications.

Environmental surveys and studies first began on the project in 2002 and have continued over specific phases since then. More recently the focus has been on building up a good understanding of the baseline environment in relation to the receptors that will be considered in the environmental report. These receptors include birds, marine mammals, fish populations and marine archaeology.

With regards to nature conservation designations, the project will also produce a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) which will consider the potential impacts of the project on protected sites and species. The NIS will also be submitted in the support of the application for development consent.

The project team will ensure that the wind park is planned and delivered in the most environmentally sensitive and responsible way in consultation with all interested stakeholders.

4.2.6.2 *Marine Water Quality and Fish / Shellfish Ecology*

Submissions included queries regarding the pollution risks of the project during construction. Respondents asked what mitigating measures the project team was taking to protect fish and shellfish habitats.

Consultees outlined interest in the potential opportunities for developing oyster beds around the turbine bases. An Irish organisation examining North Sea wind farms for oyster restoration projects outlined support for the project and highlighted the potential for collaboration between the projects. It was noted the organisation was looking to establish a research area together with a wind farm. The group outlined the need to establish long-term plans to restore Ireland's populations of oyster, kelp and mussel reefs, essential habitats that are currently depleted. The community benefits associated with restoring these populations, including cleaner water and higher fishing yields, were highlighted by the group. Stakeholders asked if there were any modifying structures that could be incorporated within the turbine infrastructure to help create reefs. Respondents expressed an understanding that oysters used to be very important off the coast of Wicklow but that they were wiped out, and that a 'nature inclusive approach' to the project would be great to see.

Respondents also outlined interest in information about the potential reefs that may be developed on the Codling Bank.

With regard to marine biodiversity, concern was raised specifically with regard to the associated noise pollution and vibrations, deterring fish from the area, as well as the magnetic effects on fish. Queries over whether the underwater electricity cables would affect sea life with regards to species with electro-magnetic sensitives and those which rely on communication systems were raised. Stakeholders also asked the project team to consider undertaking a full survey and thorough research into the wealth of elasmobranch species of fish in these areas. Due to concern about the impact of the project on sea life, respondents queried what the project team would be doing to minimise the effects on fish and the established sea-bed environment during the surveying and construction phases.

4.2.6.2.1. Project Team Response to Marine Water Quality and Fish / Shellfish Ecology

Codling Wind Park recognises the need for early engagement with a wide range of stakeholders including all maritime interest groups.

Comprehensive environmental studies and assessments are being undertaken to assess the impacts of the project. The results from these assessments are reported in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which forms the main supportive information submitted with consent applications.

The project will also produce a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) which will consider the potential impacts of the project on protected sites and species. The NIS will also be submitted in the support of the application for development consent.

Environmental surveys and studies first began on the project in 2002 and have continued over specific phases since then to build up a good understanding of the baseline environment including for birds, marine mammals, fish and shellfish populations and marine archaeology.

We will also be carrying out surveys to determine the ecology on and in the seabed across the subtidal and intertidal areas.

The potential for electromagnetic field (EMF) effects will be assessed in the EIAR by qualified specialists in order to understand and interpret the potential for interactions of these emissions with electro and magneto sensitive marine species present.

The potential effects of underwater noise on marine ecology, including fish and marine mammal species will also be assessed and detailed underwater modelling will be undertaken to inform assessments.

The project team is open to exploring all possible collaborations with environmental groups involved in research and habitat creation.

The project team will ensure that the wind park is planned and delivered in the most environmentally sensitive and responsible way, in consultation with all interested stakeholders. A fisheries liaison team has been appointed and is currently engaging with industry stakeholders and the local fishing community. Frequent engagement with the fishing community will continue through the project lifecycle, especially for the preparation and execution of marine surveys. In addition, the project's Community Liaison Officer is engaging regularly with all local coastal communities and will continue to do so throughout these activities.

4.2.6.3 Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impacts

Stakeholders highlighted concerns about the visual impact of Codling Wind Park from areas along the coast. The height of the turbines was voiced as a concern by respondents. At roughly 300m high respondents compared the maximum turbine heights to Irish landmarks to visualise the impact, e.g. the Sugarloaf Mountain. The distance from the shore was questioned by respondents who asked why the turbines could not be placed further offshore, to reduce the impact of the visibility of the turbines.

With regard to the photomontages available during the virtual exhibition, respondents outlined some issues. It was suggested that the Kilcoole / Greystones visual was not realistic, and that the visual impact from Newcastle and Kilcoole Beach was not shown in the photomontage gallery. Respondents highlighted that it would be interesting to have higher vantage points, with sea views in Wicklow, included in the photomontages to highlight the effects of the visual impact with height. As well as this, respondents queried whether a cumulative visual impact assessment with other potential offshore wind farms adjacent to the Codling Wind Park would be undertaken.

Respondents outlined some confusion about the Dublin Array and the Codling Wind Park and outlined that the combined visual impact of both projects would be detrimental to the Bray seascape.

It was queried whether photomontages in the next phase of public consultation would reflect the combined impact of Codling Wind Park, as well as other wind farms in the area. It was noted that there is some concern about the cumulative visual impact of the two projects on Bray's seascape. Stakeholders also queried if there was sufficient space between Dublin Array and Codling Wind Park, with the hope there wouldn't be a wall of turbines from Kish to Wicklow. It was suggested by stakeholders that the visual impact of the Codling Wind Park would need to be assessed in combination with the Dublin Array project. Concerns about the visual impact from Greystones was outlined in submissions and it was suggested by stakeholders that the people of Greystones would want something that 'looks good'.

Consultees expressed concern over the public's negative perception of the visual impact of the wind farm. As Ireland 'can't afford not to do renewables' it was suggested by stakeholders that this narrative was dangerous as it can lead to misinformation and scaremongering.

Respondents voiced concerns about the potential light pollution of the turbines if they are lit up at night and asked how visible they would be from shore. The importance of safety navigational lighting on the turbines for helicopters and rescue services was outlined, but stakeholders questioned having night-time, red flashing lights. It was suggested that the turbines are located in a busy transport route which could cause air-traffic problems.

The visual impact was described by some stakeholders as something that would outweigh the benefits of the wind farm in this location. Some stakeholders expressed concern that the visual impact of the wind park would be intrusive and could potentially devalue their property. Compensation for the perceived negative visual impact of the project was sought by some respondents who stated that their sea view would be impeded if the project goes ahead.

Stakeholders suggested that the sea views which are a short distance from a major European Capital City should be protected. It was suggested that other areas further down the coast should be looked at, as the negative aspects of the project would not impact on as many people.

It was noted that the proposed East Coast Greenway would likely transform the local economies of Greystones and Wicklow through increased tourism. As well as the tourism potential, the project could help regenerate important coastal habitats and boost biodiversity. If the Greenway and the wind farm were built in conjunction with one another, some respondents suggested that they could together have a positive, transformative impact on the area.

4.2.6.3.1. Project Team Response to Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impacts

Comprehensive environmental studies and assessments are being undertaken to assess the impacts of the project. The results from these assessments are reported in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which forms the main supportive information submitted with consent applications.

The EIAR will include a Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA) prepared by Chartered Landscape Architects in accordance with best practice and current guidance. This will include assessment of safety lighting requirements.

Indicative photomontages showing what the turbines could look like from nine different viewing points along the east coast were made available as part of the Phase 1 online exhibition. The photomontages remain available to view on the www.codlingwindpark.ie website. Updated photomontages, informed by the offshore surveys and assessments currently taking place as part of the EIA process, will be made available during Phase 2 of public consultation. These will reflect the anticipated configuration and height of the turbines at that stage. The same will apply during Phase 3.

The cumulative impact of the CWP project and any other nearby consented or proposed projects will be examined in detail in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), including consideration of SLVIA, in accordance with current guidance and as advised by regulators.

4.2.6.4 Marine Geology / Coastal Erosion

The importance of sand banks in protecting the coast was described by stakeholders. Respondents stated that sand banks are natural buffers against coastal erosion and that fixed offshore turbines can contribute to the disruption of sand banks.

The impacts of construction and maintenance of the wind farm on sand banks was outlined by stakeholders as a strong concern. It was argued that although climate action is important, the project could cause other negative environmental impacts on the coasts including scouring and sediment displacement, by placing turbines on these naturally formed sand banks. Consultees queried whether the proximity of the turbines to shore would have an increased negative impact on the environment and asked the project team to outline the potential impact of the turbines at this distance.

The sediment impact on beaches in the area was described by respondents as already evident, and with construction of up to 140 offshore turbines, it was likely to become even more of a concern. It was outlined there would likely be an environmental price to pay due to the project causing disruption to sand banks. Stakeholders asked the project team how they could guarantee the Codling sand bank would not be destroyed during the construction process. The scouring effects around the monopiles caused by strong tidal currents were also highlighted as a concern. Respondents highlighted specific interest in providing mitigation / scouring protection on a significant number of turbines.

Stakeholders asked for an explanation of the project process with regards to the environmental assessments indicating potential problems. It was asked at what point could decisions on the impacts be made and whether the project team would be able to react. Stakeholders also outlined interest in the evidence for the

impacts of fast currents on the wind farm. Queries over why the turbines could not be placed further offshore to protect sand banks and marine habitats were raised.

Concern for the impact of coastal and tidal erosion during construction, maintenance and running of the wind farm, as well as the impact of the wind park on the Codling Bank, were highlighted as major concerns for stakeholders. It was stated that coastal erosion is already an issue from Wicklow town north along the railway line.

4.2.6.5 Project Team Response to Marine Geology / Coastal Erosion

Given the considerable distance from shore (13-22kms), it is not anticipated that the project will have any impact on coastal erosion. However, potential impacts on coastal processes, including sediment transport, will be assessed within the EIAR, supported by detailed coastal processes modelling. As part of the EIAR, the project will also consider any mitigation and monitoring required.

Likewise, the EIA process will include surveys to understand the metocean conditions, both current and future, which will inform our understanding of the scour potential and identify any necessary mitigations. The project will be designed to minimise the risk of scour.

We will be conducting several survey campaigns over the coming years, starting in early 2021.

The first are non-intrusive geophysical surveys, the purpose of which is to describe the physical features of the seabed which includes measuring water depth, definition of seabed structures (e.g. sand waves), identifying sediment type and distribution (sand, mud, gravel, rock) both on and below the seabed.

The second are geotechnical surveys, whereby samples of the seabed are collected and returned to the vessel for analysis. These include grab / core sampling, boreholes and cone penetration testing (CPT).

Metocean surveys will also be carried out to gain an understanding of the meteorological and oceanographic conditions that exist on Codling Bank.

4.2.6.6 Ornithology

Concerns were raised with regards to local bird populations related to local bird habitats; feeding areas; foraging bird species; and the movement of birds in and out of the area. Respondents asked what mitigating measures would be implemented to protect habitats for birds, to eliminate the negative impact on local bird species.

Bird strikes, on already declining sea bird and migratory bird populations, were outlined as a major concern for stakeholders. Respondents asked what measures would be taken to protect birds from the turning turbine blades. It was noted the team should consider painting the turbines black, so the birds don't fly into them. Stakeholders queried the collision risk modelling that would be used by the project team. Respondents outlined concern for the bird displacement resulting from the wind park.

With regard to ornithological surveying, respondents referred to the importance of using a consistent methodology in all bird surveys. It was also suggested by respondents that the presentation of the results of the surveys is critical to the reports. Consultees questioned why there was a gap in surveying from January 2020 to May 2020 and, generally, what the frequency of bird surveying is presently. Stakeholders asked what methodology Codling is using for observing birds at sea and along the coast. Queries surrounding the methodologies used in boat-based and digital-based surveys were also raised by respondents. Stakeholders asked the project team what coastal migration surveys are being carried out, including in Wicklow, Bray and Kilmichael Point. The importance of continuing surveys for the full year of 2021 was suggested by stakeholders. Respondents also maintained that the behaviour of birds is as important in terms of assessment as their absence or presence. Respondents discussed the different behaviours of birds in relation to foraging and migration and it was also noted that some species fly at different heights depending on their activity, which is something that needs to be examined closely with regard to the height of the turbines.

Support for the need for renewable energy was shown by respondents, however due to the scale of the wind park, concern for the negative impacts on the movements of birds was voiced. It was queried how this could be mitigated. Respondents raised queries on how returning bird species could be assessed and monitored. It was queried how the project team would ensure important bird life, including the protected tern colony along the Wicklow coast, would be protected if this project goes head, during both construction and operation. Consultees asked the project team for details on the migration of geese on the east coast and queried the potential impact the wind farm would have on these migrating birds.

Specific concern for local tern colonies was raised by respondents. The Kilcoole Bird Sanctuary and its nesting tern populations were of considerable concern to stakeholders. Queries over why the turbines could not be placed further offshore to protect Ireland's endangered curlew populations were raised by respondents. It was also noted by respondents that a Brown Booby was first recorded in Ireland off the coast of Greystones recently. These birds and other important Irish biodiversity should be protected and observed during construction and operation of the wind farm.

4.2.6.7 *Project Team Response to Ornithology*

We thank respondents for their feedback in relation to ornithology. Comprehensive environmental studies and assessments are being undertaken to assess the impacts of the project, including on ornithological species. The results from these assessments will be reported in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The project will also produce a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) which will consider the potential impacts of the project on protected sites and species. Both the EIAR and NIS will be submitted in the support of the application for development consent.

We are currently undertaking baseline bird surveys and assessments within the study area, to inform the EIAR and NIS. Terrestrial ornithological surveys have been ongoing since Q1 2020. These surveys capture the numbers, distributions and behaviours of bird species present within the landfall survey areas. These surveys will continue into 2021, forming key baseline information to inform the EIAR. Similarly, we have completed aerial and boat-based surveys over the project site since early 2020, collecting baseline bird and marine mammal data. We will be conducting further survey campaigns over the coming years. Where potential impacts are identified, all appropriate avoidance and mitigating measures will be employed to protect habitats for birds, and to remove any negative impact on local bird species wherever possible.

4.2.6.8 *Marine Mammals*

Local residents of Greystones voiced concern on the impact of the project on Ireland's marine mammal populations, including fin whales, pilot whales, basking sharks, dolphins and porpoises. It was outlined these very rare and often deep oceanic animals are an important part of Ireland's marine biodiversity and should be protected.

4.2.6.9 *Project Team Response to Marine Mammals*

We are currently undertaking baseline marine mammal surveys within the study area, to understand the baseline environment with respect to marine mammal species.

The potential impacts of the project on marine mammal species will be assessed and reported in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The project will also produce a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) which will consider the potential impacts of the project on protected sites and species. Both documents will be prepared by environmental specialists and submitted in support of the application for development consent.

The potential impact of underwater noise generated by the construction of the offshore wind farm on marine mammals, seabirds, fish and other marine fauna will be assessed within the EIAR and NIS, supported by detailed underwater noise modelling studies.

4.2.6.10 Commercial Fisheries

Members of the local fishing industry raised concerns about any negative impact on fish catch and their business livelihood, during construction or operation of the wind park.

Local fishers expressed concern for the elasmobranch species of fish, with regard to water borne particles and sediment deterring species from the area. Respondents asked whether or not the project team could guarantee that fish and shellfish stocks would not be depleted or strongly impacted by the presence of the turbines.

Concerns about access to the water during surveying and construction; damage to established seabed environments, nurseries and pupping areas; water borne particles /sediment deterring species from the areas; noise and vibrations deterring fish from the area; and the magnetic effects on fish were outlined by respondents.

It was claimed by some stakeholders that the Irish Sea is struggling due to overfishing. Stakeholders suggested that fishers could potentially transfer to the offshore industry for a period to give the area an opportunity for replenishment of its natural stocks.

Stakeholders outlined concern over the destruction and disturbance of the seabed due to establishing undersea cables and queried how these undersea cables would be removed in the future. Members of the local boating and angling industry questioned whether their businesses would be affected by any resulting damage to established seabed environments, nurseries, and pupping areas.

4.2.6.11 Project Team Response to Commercial Fisheries

We thank respondents for their feedback in relation to fisheries. The project team understands the concerns of this important group and recognises the importance of early and ongoing engagement with the fishing community.

A team of Fisheries Liaison Officers (FLOs) has been appointed and is currently engaging with industry stakeholders and the local fishing community. We want to work with the fishing industry to minimise, wherever possible, any negative impact on fishing activity from wind farms that might result in a loss of earnings. Engagement is already under way with representatives of the fishing industry to discuss how this can best be achieved and what would be the best approach in situations where fishermen face a loss of income due to the development or operation of a wind farm.

In principle, there is no reason why fishing activity cannot co-exist with offshore wind farms. Following construction of the project there will be no exclusions in relation to fishing activity and fishing continues in the vicinity of offshore wind farms in many locations around the world. Cooperative engagement is needed to promote co-existence and we are committed to this.

A Fisheries Management and Mitigation Strategy will be prepared as part of the discharge of conditions of planning permission (if granted). This strategy will be developed and agreed with local fishing interests and will identify reasonable measures to mitigate any potential impacts.

4.2.6.12 Marine Leisure and Shipping

Queries about the impacts of the project on recreational water sports were voiced by respondents. The impact of the turbines on shipping lanes was also outlined by respondents. Some stakeholders recommended that the project team engage with all sailing clubs between Howth and Arklow during the next public consultation.

4.2.6.13 Project Team Response to Marine Leisure and Shipping

As part of our Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA), shipping and navigation will be assessed and a Navigation Risk Assessment conducted by independent specialists. This will identify any potential navigational risks associated with the construction and operation of the wind farm and set out any necessary mitigation measures.

Consultation with local marine users will also form an important part of the EIA process, with all feedback informing our EIA.

A DCCAE (2017) Guidance provides an indicative list of impacts that should be considered for marine navigation (including recreational). These include allision risk (surface), displacement and collision risk. Following the results of the baseline assessment and based on experience of other marine navigation assessments, the following impacts have also been identified:

- Reduced access to local ports; and
- Anchor interaction with subsea structures.

The potential navigation impacts have been considered and the proposed mitigation measures are summarised in the [Foreshore Licence Application – Supporting Information \(Table 4.5\)](#).

Our Fisheries Liaison Officers (FLOs) will liaise with all marine stakeholders to ensure that the surveys are carried out in full compliance with the Foreshore Licence and best practice. During site investigations and construction activities temporary exclusion or safe passage zones for vessels are likely. Following construction of the wind farm, no exclusion or safe passage zones are proposed.

4.2.7 Community Benefit

Respondents welcomed the community benefit fund, stating that it would be very beneficial.

There was significant interest from respondents with regard to local funding opportunities and potential investment in local areas. Grants for local organisations and donations to local charities were highlighted as useful benefits by respondents. Stakeholders asked how local voluntary and sporting organisations could apply to the Codling community benefit fund and when this would be open for applications. Respondents suggested that, due to the private investor element of the project, a significant percentage of company profits should be given to local environmental projects.

Submissions also outlined that it would be beneficial for Codling to be involved in a Community Sensory Project and a project to update the Greystones Dart Station with planting and visual aids. Respondents also queried how the local area and communities were being defined and which areas and communities would be eligible for the community benefit fund i.e. all communities along the east coast or just Wicklow. Stakeholders outlined their desire for the benefits of the project to be spread out for the whole district, including for the likes of Kilcoole. Other stakeholders expressed their hope that Greystones would be a hub for activity and jobs. Consultees expressed a strong interest in the potential benefits to Wicklow harbour due to the Codling Wind Park.

There was significant interest in the possibility of collaboration between the project team and some local organisations and groups.

Stakeholders and members of the local industry outlined their desire to engage with Codling on a local level and communicate with the team in order to share knowledge and experience. As members of the local community, these stakeholders highlighted their desire for an open dialogue, and to compete and bid for opportunities presented by the project.

Consultees expressed their desire to achieve benefits for the local towns and establish a connection with the wind farms in their area. Respondents expressed that it is important for people to see the benefits to their local communities. Community benefit on both a local and national scale was described as important to stakeholders. Local members of the shipping industry in Wicklow outlined their support for the project and outlined their eagerness to see the benefits coming to Wicklow.

The eco-tourism potential for the area was highlighted as a significant possible benefit. Respondents asked whether it would be possible to go out and visit the turbines. It was noted that an interpretive / visitor centre in Greystones could ensure local benefits, establish a connection between the project and the local community, and offset the visual impact. The mutual benefit of an interpretive centre was outlined by respondents and the example of the Brighton interpretive centre was used to support this point.

The proposed East Coast Greenway was outlined as another project that could transform the local economies from Greystones to Wicklow town, through tourism. Respondents highlighted that the Greenway and Codling Wind Park could together have a transformative impact on the area. There were submissions both seeking and rejecting the potential for eco-tourism in the area.

The potential for the project to create local jobs and boost the local economy was cited by respondents. The importance of providing jobs and apprenticeships, and for the project to act as a place for knowledge transfer, was expressed by respondents. Consultees outlined that the project was a great opportunity for young people going through the local education system. It was also suggested the project could create the potential for the development of a local industrial estate, linked to the project. Respondents queried the number of jobs the project estimated it would provide, as well as queries about the location of the project office.

It was highlighted by stakeholders that an apprenticeship programme for local young people could bring significant benefits to the local communities. Respondents raised questions about the potential for upskilling the local workforce so that they could work on the O&M base. It was also suggested by stakeholders that marine ecology training would be beneficial for the local industry. The social responsibilities associated with constructing a project like this was also raised by respondents. It was highlighted by respondents that the



two companies in joint venture to develop Codling Wind Park have a good track record of community gain in other projects, and that the potential for benefits to local communities due to Codling seemed promising.

Respondents asked whether or not their electricity costs would be reduced as a result of this project.

The environmental benefits associated with the construction of a project such as this, including regeneration of kelp forests, cleaner water, and higher fishing yields, were also highlighted by stakeholders as benefits to the local communities. Consultees expressed their eagerness for the project to progress as long as the local benefits would be delivered. Support and excitement were expressed by respondents who described the project as a great opportunity not only for clean, green energy but also for community gain.

4.2.7.1 Project Team Response to Community Benefit

There will be a multi-million Euro community benefit fund associated with the project and it will run for a minimum of 15 years. The fund will be established for the benefit of the communities closest to the project, including for local marine stakeholders.

Some of the details of the community benefit fund – including the overall value of it – will be set out by Government as part of the terms and conditions of the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme, or RESS, which are expected to be published later this year.

There will also be flexibility for individual projects to work with local communities to identify the best way of managing it to suit local needs. Codling intends to create opportunities for local communities to input into the shaping of the fund through an extensive consultation process.

We will work in partnership with local communities to ensure transparency, fairness, and maximum community participation in how the fund is accessed and managed. Our ambition is to create a legacy for local communities and the best way of doing this is by working in partnership.

4.2.8 Supply Chain Opportunities

Stakeholders positively responded to the potential opportunities for local businesses to supply both onshore and offshore services to the project. Respondents noted their interest in the potential business opportunities with the Codling Wind Park project, including marine surveying and drone footage opportunities. Supporting local businesses was described as a priority for stakeholders, as well as ensuring long-term relationships. It was noted by stakeholders that local businesses could act as support for the project when and if required. Respondents left details of their businesses in the hope of securing business opportunities with the project. It was asked by respondents how businesses could register as suppliers of services to the project. As it has been outlined that local businesses will be important to the project, questions over whether or not companies had to be registered in Ireland to be categorised as local were asked by stakeholders. Stakeholders outlined the desire to be contacted during the project process so they would be prepared for opportunities. The opportunity to compete and bid for roles within the project was outlined as important for stakeholders. Consultees asked about the supply chain analysis the Codling project team have already undertaken and will have to undertake over the next few phases of the project.

With regard to the local supply chain, respondents highlighted that in previous experience with other offshore wind farm projects, despite promises of supporting local supply chains, major contractors were often chosen. Queries regarding whether or not the Codling project team would take this feedback on board were raised. It was also queried by respondents whether the Codling Wind Park project team would actively support Irish suppliers ensuring them access to Tier 1 and 2 appointed contractors (including all EPCI contractors) through introductions, supplier open days and 'Meet the contractors & subcontractor' events.

4.2.8.1.1. Project Team Response to Supply Chain Opportunities

The benefits of offshore renewable energy are many: decarbonising our economy; preserving and enhancing our green image internationally; developing a significant new industry for Ireland with multiple economic benefits, including new jobs, infrastructure and the development of a local supply chain.

The local coastal areas in proximity to offshore projects will benefit economically in the short, medium and long term. Whilst we can't put figures on this yet, it is anticipated that more than 1,000 jobs will be created during the construction phase of the project, with 70 full-time, long-term jobs during operations. Other benefits that are likely to arise from Codling include the potential upgrade of an existing port facility or facilities and the development of an operations and maintenance base – and associated facilities – on the east coast.

The CWP project is committed to supporting the development of a local supply chain through all stages of the project. This will involve working in partnership with our main contractors on the various phases of the project, as well as with local training and skills agencies and education providers. Through this collaboration, we aim to provide as many opportunities as possible on the CWP project, while also helping to create a sustainable local supply chain for the offshore industry in Ireland into the future.

4.2.9 Project Development Process

Stakeholders raised questions about the overall project timeline, including when the project would be operational. Stakeholders queried the sequencing of the delivery of the east coast offshore wind energy projects and whether Codling Wind Park would be constructed first.

Consultees queried whether the project team were facing any legislative barriers in the project, including the Marine Area Planning (MAP, formerly Marine Planning and Development Management, or MPDM) bill. Respondents also asked what support from the Government would be needed to ensure the project's success. It was also queried whether the project team had had discussions with Wicklow County Council about the project requirements. Stakeholders were eager to understand any issues associated with the project and highlighted that there was no point in having high ambitions if the mechanisms for delivery were not there. Stakeholders outlined that the RESS offshore auction was likely to be another challenge.

In relation to the next steps, stakeholders asked the project team what these would be in terms of identifying onshore cable routes and substation locations.

4.2.9.1.1. Project Team Response to Project Development Process

The Codling Wind Park project is currently in the early development stages and throughout 2021 a range of offshore and onshore environmental and technical studies and site investigations will be undertaken. The project team's aim is to submit onshore and offshore planning applications to An Bord Pleanála in 2022, and to submit a single EIA report in support of these applications. Consultation and engagement will form an important part of both of these processes, and we will be holding two further phases of public consultation over the next 12 to 15 months.

In order to proceed, there are various consents that the Codling project must secure. The final consenting regime is not yet confirmed in detail, but the main permissions required are expected to be:

- Foreshore investigation licence (under the Foreshore Act 1933) – granted in February 2021
- Maritime Area Consent (under the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Bill)
- Onshore and offshore planning permission/consent(s)

Subject to all necessary permits and consents being received, Codling could begin construction in 2024/25. Construction is expected to take two to three years to complete.

4.2.10 Consultation Process

Consultees expressed their interest in ensuring meaningful engagement with the project team. Stakeholders outlined their desire to engage with the Codling project team on a local level and communicate in order to share knowledge and experience. These stakeholders highlighted their desire for an open dialogue, and the opportunity to compete and bid for opportunities within the project. The Codling Wind Park project and the work of its staff members were praised by some respondents. The information clinics, webinars and virtual consultation were described as 'comprehensive' and 'excellent'. Stakeholders gave thanks to the project team for their 'accessible' and 'informative presentations' as well as the information available on the website.

Respondents highlighted that the process had been informative. With regard to queries submitted about the decommissioning phase of the project and also the environmental impacts of the project, respondents highlighted that the project team was clearly conscious of the issues and thanked the team for their discussion. The team was also acknowledged for its use of the Irish language in the introductory video and during the consultation.

4.2.10.1.1. *Project Team Response to Consultation Process*

We thank respondents for their feedback on the consultation process. As noted previously, consultation with the community, including fisheries and other marine stakeholders, forms a central component of the project development process. The project team is committed to ongoing, open dialogue as the project progresses.

The Codling Wind Park Community Liaison Officer, Liz Dillon, is available throughout the project – at 087 1011 473 and liz.dillon@codlingwindpark.ie. Our Fisheries Liaison Officers are available at 021 203 1005 and flo@codlingwindpark.ie.

5 NEXT STAGES OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

The Codling Wind Park project team thanks all of the respondents to the Phase 1 consultation.

This consultation feedback report sets out how the public consultation process was publicised, records how participants interacted with the project, and summarises feedback received during the public consultation process. The transparency of the public consultation process is supported by the production of this consultation report, which demonstrates that the points raised in submissions were received and understood by the project team.

Each submission received has been reviewed by the project team. Responses to the queries received have been provided to stakeholders using the available information. Where information is not yet available, this has been acknowledged and the feedback and opinions expressed will be taken into consideration as the design of the wind park develops and progresses, in advance of the project's submission to the planning authority.

The Codling Wind Park project is currently in the early stages of development. Throughout 2021, a range of offshore and onshore environmental studies and site investigations will be undertaken to ensure that a comprehensive environmental impact assessment report (EiAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) can be produced for submission as part of the planning application.

Throughout the EIA process, the Codling team will continue its engagement with all stakeholders including government, public representatives, local communities, the fishing industry, and maritime interest stakeholders. Two further phases of public consultation will take place to share project progress and seek feedback on the project design.

Key project development phases over the next two years will include: assessment of onshore landfall locations, designing the wind farm layout, turbine technology decision, identifying cable routes and selecting a suitable location for the operations and maintenance base.

The project team aims to submit a planning application to An Bord Pleanála in 2022.

Information and updates will be posted to the project website at <https://codlingwindpark.ie/>.

Appendix A: Online Feedback Survey

The following questions were asked in the online questionnaire:

- 1) Are you supportive of Ireland's ambition of generating 70% of its electricity from renewables by 2030?
 - Very supportive
 - Somewhat supportive
 - Neutral
 - Not very supportive
 - Not at all supportive
- 2) How important, in your view, will offshore wind energy be in meeting our 2030 climate action targets?
 - Extremely important
 - Very important
 - Moderately important
 - Slightly important
 - Not at all important
 - No opinion
- 3) In general, what are your views on the Codling Wind Park project?
 - Codling Wind Park is essential to help Ireland achieve its climate action targets and I support the project
 - I am generally in favour of the Codling Wind Park project, but I would like further information as the project develops
 - Currently, I am neither in favour nor opposed to the Codling Wind Park project
 - I am not supportive of the Codling Wind Park
 - Other (please specify)
- 4) What are the most important factors you would like us to consider as we progress the design of the Codling Wind Park project? (Please rank in order of importance to you, 1 being the most important).
 - Benefits for local communities
 - Responsible environmental management
 - Visual impacts
 - Delivering the lowest cost electricity to consumers
 - Development of local supply chain
 - Employment, training, and development opportunities
 - Impacts on marine users



- Other (please specify)
- 5) How helpful has our exhibition been in giving you an understanding of the Codling Wind Park project?
- Extremely helpful
 - Very helpful
 - Somewhat helpful
 - Not so helpful
 - Not at all helpful
- 6) Please provide any specific feedback on the Codling Wind Park project that you would like the project team to consider.
- 7) Would you like to be kept updated, as Codling Wind Park progresses?
- Yes
 - No
- 8) Please enter your email address in the box below.



Appendix B: Press Release

PRESS RELEASE – LOCAL MEDIA

Public Consultation on Codling Wind Park Opens March 1

- **Two-week online exhibition on flagship offshore wind project**
- **Webinars and virtual information clinics**
- **Latest project plans and information on display**
- **Opportunity to provide feedback and help shape the future design of the project**

The first phase of public consultation on the Codling Wind Park project – a proposed offshore wind farm approximately 13 kilometres off the Wicklow coast between Greystones and Wicklow Town – will begin on Monday (March 1).

With an expected capacity of up to 1,500 megawatts (MW), Codling Wind Park has the potential to supply the equivalent of up to 1.2 million^[1] Irish homes – 70%^[2] of all Irish households – with low-carbon, locally-produced, low-cost electricity, and to save almost 2 million^[3] tonnes of carbon emissions every year.

Representing one of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade, the project will deliver substantial benefits to the regional and national economy, including more than 1,000 construction jobs and 70 long-term, locally-based jobs.

Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, face-to-face engagements are not possible and so a series of online consultation activities will take place from March 1 to March 27. In addition to a two-week virtual exhibition, there will also be two webinars and a series of virtual information clinics to facilitate individual and small group meetings between community members and project representatives.

Further phases of consultation are planned for the summer and autumn, to share updated plans as the project progresses and provide further opportunities for feedback.

The virtual exhibition will display project plans as they currently stand, including indicative photomontages from a number of viewing points along the coast. It will showcase the important role Codling will play in

^[1] Calculation as follows: 1,500MW (installed capacity) x 0.3886 (offshore wind load factor, Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy UK, 2015 to 2019) x 8,760 (hours in a year) / 4.2MWh (average household Irish annual electricity consumption) = 1,215,762

^[2] Calculation as follows: According to the Census of Ireland 2016, there are 1,697,665 permanent occupied dwellings, or households, in the State. 1,215,762/1,697,665 = 71.6%

^[3] Based on the SEAI 2018 carbon intensity figure of 385gCO₂/kWh. Calculation for Codling: 1,500MW x 0.3886 (load factor: BEIS July 2020) x 8,760 (hours in the year) x 385 / 1,000 = 1,965,888 tonnes of CO₂ per year



helping Ireland to achieve its Climate Action Plan targets and set out the wide range of benefits that will arise from the project, including for local communities, as well as the wider benefits for the regional and national economy.

Codling Wind Park Project Director, Arno Verbeek said: “We are in the early stages of planning our project and this is the first of many opportunities people will have to see our progress and provide their feedback. Listening to and engaging with the public is an important part of our journey. We want to deliver this project in partnership with the local communities and want them to feel involved in it at every stage.

“Feedback is an incredibly important part of this, and we hope that many people will take the time to view our initial plans and share their thoughts with us. This input will help us to shape and design the project in the months ahead.”

The Codling Wind Park virtual exhibition can be accessed via the project website at www.codlingwindpark.ie. Details of the webinars and information clinics, and how to register for them, are also available on the website. Information can also be obtained by contacting the project’s Community Liaison Officer, Liz Dillon, on 087 1011473.

Codling Wind Park is a 50:50 joint venture between EDF Renewables and Fred. Olsen Renewables.

With an expected total installed capacity of up to 1,500MW, the project is currently in the early development stages and throughout 2021 a range of offshore and onshore environmental and technical studies and site investigations will be undertaken.

The onshore and offshore planning applications are expected to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in late 2021 or early 2022, alongside a single Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Subject to all necessary permits and consents being received, Codling could begin construction in 2024/25. Construction is expected to take two to three years to complete.

Ends

For Further Information

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Notes to Editors

About EDF Renewables

EDF Renewables UK and Ireland (EDF-R) is a joint venture between two companies, EDF Energy (EDF’s UK business) and EDF Renewables Group (EDF’s global renewables business). EDF Renewables Group has more than 25 years of experience in delivering renewable energy projects in more than 20 countries around the world. EDF-R has an operating portfolio of 36 wind farms and one of the UK’s largest battery storage units (together totalling almost 1GW). The company is providing some of the much-needed new affordable, low carbon electricity across all technologies. EDF-R has an expanding renewables portfolio with



almost 4GW of projects in planning and development across wind, battery and solar. It also has 600MW of projects currently under construction. EDF-R has offices in Edinburgh, Durham, London and Dublin.

About Fred. Olsen Renewables

Fred. Olsen Renewables AS (FOR) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bonheur ASA and is responsible for the group's renewable energy development activities within the wind sector. FOR is a leading developer, owner and operator of renewable energy assets, currently within onshore wind farms. FOR operates in all parts of the value chain, from business development and site acquisition, concept development to detailed design, construction, commissioning and operations to sale of electricity. As of 2020, FOR's portfolio consisted of 679MW of operational onshore assets and close to 4GW of onshore and offshore assets in development.



PRESS RELEASE - NATIONAL MEDIA

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With an expected capacity of up to 1,500 megawatts (MW), Codling Wind Park has the potential to supply the equivalent of up to 1.2 million¹ Irish homes – 70%² of all Irish households – with low-carbon, locally-produced, low-cost electricity, and to save almost 2 million³ tonnes of carbon emissions every year.

Representing one of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade, the project will deliver substantial benefits to the regional and national economy, including more than 1,000 construction jobs and 70 long-term, locally-based jobs.

Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, face-to-face engagements are not possible and so a series of online consultation activities will take place from March 1 to March 27. In addition to a two-week virtual exhibition, there will also be two webinars hosted by the project team and a series of virtual information clinics to facilitate individual and small group meetings with project representatives.

Further phases of consultation are planned for the summer and autumn, to share updated plans as the project progresses and provide further opportunities for feedback.

The virtual exhibition will display project plans as they currently stand and showcase the important role Codling will play in helping Ireland to achieve its Climate Action Plan targets. It will also set out the substantial range of benefits that will arise from the project, including for local communities, as well as the wider benefits for the regional and national economy.

Codling Wind Park Project Director, Arno Verbeek said: “Our ambition is to not only develop a project of which Ireland can be proud, but to help create the right conditions for the development of a strong and

¹ Calculation as follows: 1,500MW (installed capacity) x 0.3886 (offshore wind load factor, Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy UK, 2015 to 2019) x 8,760 (hours in a year) / 4.2MWh (average household Irish annual electricity consumption) = 1,215,762

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sustainable offshore wind industry in Ireland. We want to contribute to Ireland's low carbon ambitions and help generate a cleaner environment, not only for today's generation, but for generations to come.

"We are in the early stages of planning our project and this is the first of many opportunities people will have to see our progress and provide their feedback. Listening to and engaging with the public and all our stakeholders is an important part of our journey, as we want to do this in partnership. Feedback is incredibly important to us, and we hope that many people will take the time to view our initial plans and share their thoughts with us. This input will help us to shape and design the project in the months ahead."

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Ends

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An introduction to the Codling Wind Park project



Dear community members,

I would like to begin by introducing myself. My name is Arno Verbeek and I am Project Director for the Codling Wind Park project, a proposed offshore wind farm approximately 13km off the

coast of Wicklow, between Greystones and Wicklow Town.

Codling Wind Park could provide enough locally-produced, low-cost renewable electricity to power the equivalent of up to 1.2 million Irish homes. This will make a significant contribution to the Irish Government's commitment to generating 70 per cent of Ireland's electricity from renewable energy by 2030. It will also go a long way towards enhancing Ireland's energy security, by reducing our dependence on imported energy.

Together with an excellent team of 40 people with expertise across a range of technical, environmental and social disciplines, we are currently in the early stages of planning what could be Ireland's flagship offshore wind project. Throughout 2021 we will be undertaking a range of site investigation works and offshore surveys to help us prepare an environmental impact assessment of the proposed project. This will be in preparation for a planning application, which we hope to submit at the end of this year or early next year.

“It is important to us that you, the local communities, are involved in the project and help us to shape it.”

As we progress this work, we will be engaging regularly and openly with local communities and providing several opportunities for you to view our plans and provide feedback. I am writing this letter to you today to make you aware that the first of these opportunities is about to begin.

For a four-week period starting on Monday, March 1, you will be able to learn more about the

project, ask questions and provide your feedback to us, which is most important. Below you will find specific details on the timings and ways of accessing this engagement and consultation process.

Though nationally significant, Codling Wind Park will also be a local project and it is important to us that you, the local communities, are involved in it and help us to shape it.

This is the first of many opportunities you will have to see how our project is progressing and to share your feedback with us. As Covid-19 restrictions ease in the months ahead, we hope to return to face-to-face meetings and to also have physical exhibitions at a range of local venues. I look forward to meeting with many of you as part of these future engagements.

Codling Wind Park is at the start of its journey.

I hope you will be part of this journey with us so that together we can create something that benefits Wicklow and Ireland for generations to come.

Yours faithfully,

Arno Verbeek

Arno Verbeek
Project Director
Codling Wind Park

Virtual Codling Wind Park Exhibition

Accessible via the project website, www.codlingwindpark.ie, this online exhibition will contain a number of exhibition boards with information about different aspects of the project. It will also contain some useful visuals, such as a map of the project site and early stage, indicative photomontages of the wind turbines from a range of coastal locations, and information for you to download and read at a later date. Finally – and most importantly – it will contain a feedback survey, through which you can provide us with your thoughts on the project to date.

This will be live from Monday, March 1 and will run until Sunday, March 14.

Codling Wind Park Webinars

During these two webinars, senior representatives of the project will provide a live online presentation of different aspects of the project. Those who attend will be able to submit questions via the chat box in the webinar and as many of these questions as possible will be answered during the live session.

The webinars will take place on the following dates:

Tuesday March 9: 7–8pm
Thursday March 11: 7–8pm

Details on how to register are available on our website, www.codlingwindpark.ie.

Information Clinics

We realise that having viewed the virtual exhibition, you may have some questions. To discuss these, members of the project team will be available for virtual calls with individuals and organisations between March 15 and March 27.

Appointments – including some in the evening and at the weekend – can be booked using our online calendar on www.codlingwindpark.ie. To book by phone, call our Community Liaison Officer Liz Dillon on 087 101 1473.



Appendix D: Stakeholder Email

Subject: Codling Wind Park – Public Consultation

Dear [Named stakeholder],

I hope this email finds you well.

Codling Wind Park is a proposed offshore wind farm located approximately 13-22km off the Wicklow coast, between Greystones and Wicklow Town. The largest planned offshore wind project in Ireland, it could provide enough locally-produced, low-cost renewable electricity to power the equivalent of up to 1.2 million Irish homes.

Throughout 2021 we will be undertaking a range of site investigation works and offshore surveys to help us prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment of the proposed project. This will be in preparation for a planning application, which we hope to submit at the end of this year or early next year.

We intend to engage regularly and openly with the communities closest to the project as it progresses, so that locals feel involved and heard. I am writing to you today to let you know that your first opportunity to get involved is about to begin.

For a four-week period, starting on Monday next, March 1, our first phase of public consultation will be open to the public. It will consist of the following:

- **Virtual Codling Wind Park Exhibition:** this will be online from March 1 to 14 and will consist of a range of exhibition materials and visuals providing information on the project as it currently stands. It will also contain a feedback survey. It can be accessed via our project website, www.codlingwindpark.ie (live from Monday morning).
- **Codling Wind Park Webinars:** members of the Codling Wind Park team will present details of the project live during two dedicated webinars on the evenings of March 9 and March 11. You can register for one of these events – during which you will also have an opportunity to ask questions via a chat box – on our website, www.codlingwindpark.ie.
- **Information Clinics:** having viewed our virtual exhibition, you may have questions or topics that you would like to discuss with us directly. You can do this by booking a virtual appointment on our website (www.codlingwindpark.ie) or by calling me directly on 087 1011473. Appointments will be available from March 15 to 27 and each appointment will last for 30 minutes.

We are eager to spread the word about these consultation activities as much as possible, in order to maximise participation. Therefore, feel free to share the above details with any of your contacts or simply share our website address.

As the local face and voice of the project, I want to ensure you feel listened to and informed through all stages of its development. I also want to ensure, as a member of the local community, that the full benefits of what will be one of the largest energy infrastructure investments in Ireland this decade are realised at a local level. By communicating regularly with each other, I'm confident we can achieve both!

Yours faithfully,

Liz



Liz Dillon

Community Liaison Officer

+353 8710 11473

Codling Wind Park

www.codlingwindpark.ie

