



**EirGrid
Clashavoon-Dunmanway
Community Benefit Fund**

Guidelines for Applicants
What it is and how to apply



The current. The future.

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Introduction

EirGrid is now inviting applications to a €600,000 fund for communities along the Clashavoon-Dunmanway electricity line. This fund has been established in recognition of the support of local communities throughout the development of the Clashavoon-Dunmanway development - a 110 kV electricity line connecting two substations in Co. Cork. This new line runs approximately 40 km from Clashavoon, northeast of Macroom Co. Cork, to the outskirts of Dunmanway and was completed and energized in September 2020.

The fund will provide grants to local community groups, not-for-profit organisations or social enterprises that operate or service communities near this new electricity line, for projects that will create positive social and environmental impacts. The overall aim is to increase public and environmental wellbeing in the community and leave a positive legacy in the communities hosting EirGrid infrastructure.

The fund will open for applications on Monday July 19th and close at 5pm on Friday September 10th 2021.

Applications can be made at eirgridcommunityfund.submit.com. Please read this document carefully before beginning your application.

About EirGrid

EirGrid plans for the future of Ireland's electricity grid and operates it every minute of every day. EirGrid does not generate electricity - they bring it from generators across the grid to safely supply every home, farm, community and business in Ireland. The grid also brings power directly to large energy users like high-tech manufacturing and data centres.

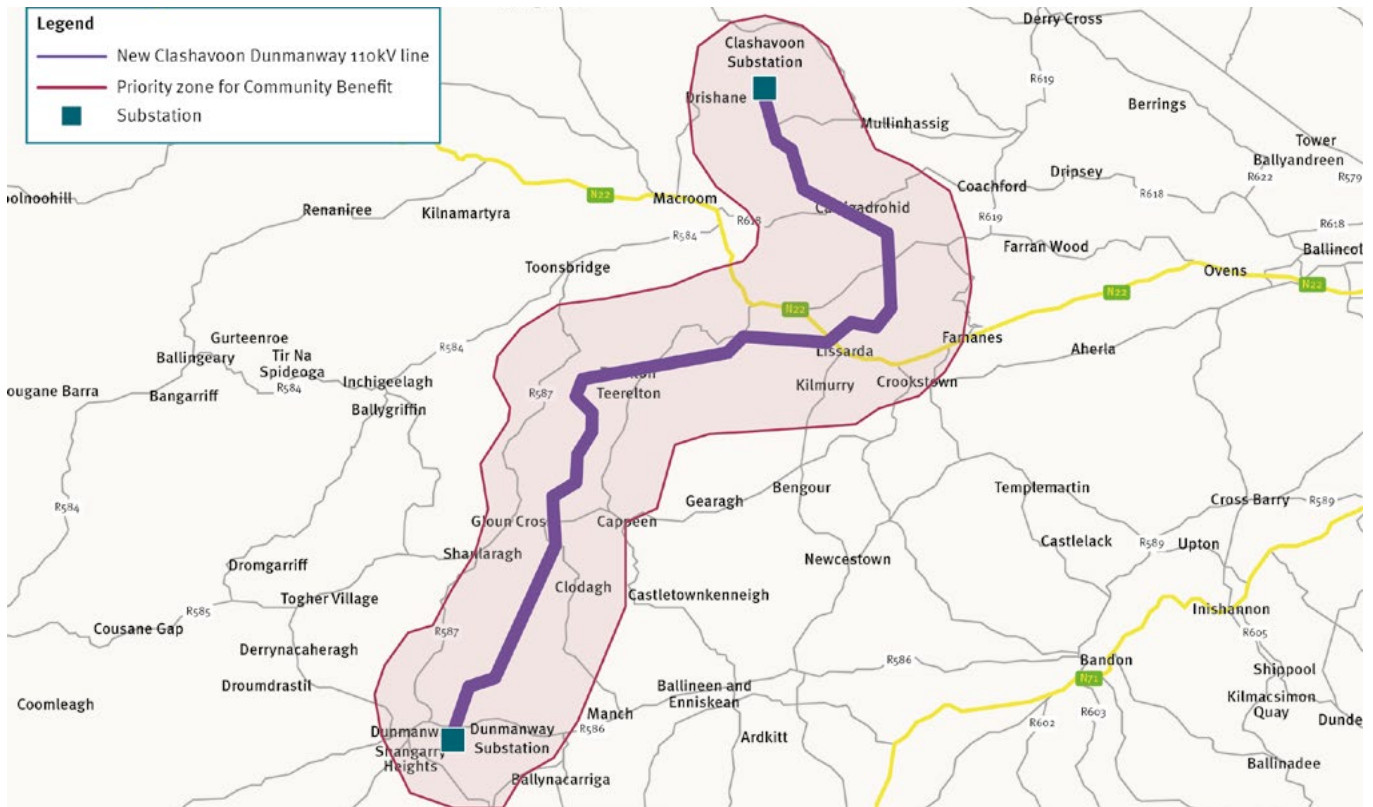
As a regulated utility owned by the Irish Government, EirGrid operates solely for the benefit of the electricity user. This includes interconnecting to neighbouring grids and running the wholesale electricity market to ensure that everyone has power when they need it at the most economic price possible.

What is the Community Fund?

EirGrid operates thousands of kilometres of power lines across the island of Ireland. When upgrading or adding new transmission infrastructure to help make the grid more efficient, economic and sustainable, many factors are considered. These include the need to protect the interests of individuals, households, businesses and communities whilst ensuring long lasting benefits of safe, secure and sustainable energy. EirGrid aims to create as little disturbance as possible, but at times this work can involve some disruption to communities.

For this reason, a dedicated fund for each grid improvement project is made available to provide direct benefits to communities who are closest to new transmission infrastructure. These funds, which are proportional to the scale of the project, support local good causes, help communities transform their area, and provide the opportunity to each community to become or remain a 'sustainable energy community'. The overall aim is to increase public wellbeing in the community and leave a positive legacy in the communities hosting our infrastructure.

To date, €455,500 in community benefit and sponsorship funds has been given to communities across Ireland and supported projects from community gardens, sports facilities and community hall improvements, to afterschool club equipment, generators and defibrillators.



The Clashavoon-Dunmanway Community Fund

The €600,000 Community Fund is being established as a result of the new 110 kV electricity line connecting two substations in Co. Cork. This new line runs approximately 40km from Clashavoon, northeast of Macroom, to the outskirts of Dunmanway. The development was completed and energized in September 2020 to meet the required standards for a safe and secure electricity system and to resolve two transmission network problems in Southwest Cork.

The line goes near to areas including:

- Dunmanway
- Aghinagh
- Carrigadrohid
- Clashavoon
- Cappeen
- Rusheen
- Canovee
- Shanlaragha
- Kilmichael

EirGrid has appointed an independent body, M-CO (www.mco.ie), to administer the Fund on its behalf. M-CO is a strategic design and project management consultancy which specialises in supporting public sector partners to make change for the better.

The Community Fund is also supported by a Community Forum which was set up in June 2021 following an open call for registrations of interest. The forum will provide advice and guidance on the Fund to ensure it aligns with local needs. It is comprised of local representatives from communities adjacent to the line and is chaired by M-CO.

A Google Maps of the line with the 3km boundary [is available here](#).



Who can apply?

The Fund is open to community groups, not-for-profit organisations and social enterprises who can demonstrate the provision of benefits to communities and the environment adjacent to the new line.

In order to ensure that the Fund reaches communities closest to the new infrastructure, a key criteria that will be used when making a grant is the location of the project. The map above shows the areas located within 3 km from the electricity line, and priority will be given to communities within this boundary which have been most affected by the development.

However, we recognise that some organisations and groups which serve communities adjacent to the line may operate out of areas that are more than 3km from the line and we will assess each application on a case-by-case basis.

Example of projects which may be funded include (but are not limited to):

- Activity / programme / initiative costs
- Pilot projects

- Equipment
- Facilities / infrastructure
- Training / capacity building
- External expertise
- Co-funded projects

We will not be able to fund:

- Projects proposed by individuals
- General sponsorship requests
- Individual salaried positions
- Trips abroad
- Political activities
- Religious activities
- Projects beyond the timeframe (see details below in relation to funding strands)
- Existing loans, debts, or retrospective supports - you must apply for future needs
- Organisations that are fully state funded i.e. the Fund cannot replace funding that is, or has been, in the remit of any statutory bodies.

How much can we apply for?

In order to ensure a range of community organisations can apply to and benefit from this Fund, there are three levels of grant you can apply for. Please note that each organisation can submit only one application.

Strand 1: Micro Funding

Organisations and groups can apply for grants between **€1,000 and €10,000** under this strand.

Applications are welcome from new and grassroots community groups and residents' associations for this strand. Groups applying under this strand are not required to be registered with Cork County PPN however they are encouraged to make contact with their PPN and evidence of the group's community work is required. For smaller groups it is recommended that they look at partnering with other or larger organisations to develop an idea which may have the potential to impact at a larger scale.

This strand may also be suitable as seed funding to make the case for alternative funds in the future, or for smaller pilot projects.

Funding will be allocated as a once off grant with projects implemented within **12 months**.

Strand 2: Small-Medium initiatives

Organisations and groups can apply for grants between **€10,000 and €50,000** under this strand. Priority will be given to projects which address the themes outlined in this brief with an emphasis on real and lasting benefit to the community and environment.

Applicants must be registered with Cork County Public Participation Network (PPN) - <http://www.corkcountypn.com/> or able to show that registration is in progress.

Organisations applying for €10,000 or higher will

be required to show tax clearance. Funding will be allocated as a once off grant with projects implemented within **12 months**.

Strand 3: Large Initiatives

Organisations and groups can apply for grants between **€50,000 and €200,000** under this strand. For these amounts, the Fund will look for evidence of sustainability and lasting impact including plans for maintenance, running and upkeep if the application relates to infrastructure.

Applicants must be registered with the Cork County PPN - Public Participation Network - <http://www.corkcountypn.com/>.

Evidence that the group is well established with experience of delivering significant projects will be required. Collaborative applications are encouraged and priority will be given to projects where community and voluntary groups work together to serve a wider area or a larger number of people. In the case of a partnership/consortium the group who will 'be in charge' of the facility/project will need to be clearly identified.

As only a small number grants with the maximum value will be given to projects, applicants are asked to consider what would be possible to deliver with a smaller value if you are applying for the upper amounts.

Organisations applying for €10,000 or higher will be required to show tax clearance. Funding will be allocated as a once off grant with projects implemented within **24 months**.



Funding Themes

A scoping study into the areas impacted by the development of the new electricity line identified four key issues that need particular support. To ensure that the funds available are used in the most effective and transparent way priority will be given to projects which address one or more of these issues along the themes outlined below, however the Fund is open to all applications that can demonstrate capacity to deliver broad community benefit.

- 1. Community Infrastructure** We would like to see this Fund used to help provide or improve long-term facilities, amenities and activities for the community. If you have a proposal to renovate or enhance an existing facility, or to develop a new one, we want to hear from you.
- 2. Children and young people** We are especially interested in applicants that provide facilities and supports for children and young people. This may include sporting facilities, but we particularly welcome non-sporting extracurricular activities.
- 3. Community development** We want to build capacity for local communities to work together and take collective action to generate solutions to shared problems in the community. This may include training and capacity development, or the continuation or development of community initiatives and activities.
- 4. Older people** We welcome applications from organisations that deliver social supports to older people, or that work to improve quality of life for older people in the area in some way.
- 5. Environment, biodiversity, and heritage.** As the operator of the electricity grid, EirGrid has a particular interest in climate action and the environment; Our 2020 - 25 strategy is shaped by climate change and the transition of the electricity sector to low-carbon, renewable energy. We have a unique role to play in leading the radical transformation that is required. We want to fund projects or initiatives that promote positive climate action, support biodiversity or enhance the environment in the area. This could include investments in public or community amenities or could also be used to fund an initiative

or development from existing groups. We recognise that heritage is an integral part of the local environment and welcome projects along this theme where they can show community benefit.

How will the applications be evaluated?

An independent evaluation panel will be responsible for assessing all applications and ensuring a fair and objective distribution of grants across the project area. This evaluation panel will be chaired by M-CO and will include representatives from EirGrid as well as independent evaluators.

When selecting who benefits, we aim to choose organisations that will gain most from these grants. Applications will be evaluated under the following criteria:

- 1. Location:** The benefits of the successfully funded projects will ideally be delivered within 3km of the line.
- 2. Community benefit and impact:** Successful applications will have the potential to deliver significant positive community or environmental benefit and this will be clearly outlined in the application. Priority will be given to projects which address the themes outlined in this document.
- 3. Clear target group and need:** There will be a clear case made for why the project/ service is needed, and who will benefit from it. We will prioritise organisations whose plans will help groups of people and which cannot easily find alternative ways to fund their plans.
- 4. Financial viability and sustainability:** The project and benefits have potential for longevity and can be managed accordingly. For larger or infrastructural projects, the

application will need to outline how the project will be maintained and run into the future.

5. Track record of community engagement:

The organisation(s) applying can demonstrate a history of community involvement, and/or experience delivering community projects. Organisations applying for larger grant amounts will need to be registered with the PPN.

For applications to **Strand 3: Large Initiatives** we may invite applicants for an interview to discuss or clarify aspects of their proposal. The final decision will be made by majority vote, with the independent Chair having the casting vote.



How do we apply?

Applications can be made online at eirgridcommunityfund.submit.com. The application portal will open for applications on Monday July 19th. The deadline for applications is Friday September 10th at 5.00pm.

Before making your application, we recommend that you:

1. Read this briefing document thoroughly
2. **Register your interest** in applying for the Fund and **submit any queries** you have on the Fund by emailing Marion Weymes at mweymes@mco.ie. This will ensure you receive the responses to queries and any updates in relation to the Fund. Please note that all queries and responses will be circulated to all who have expressed interest in the Fund.
3. **An online information session** will take place on Wednesday August 4th from 6 – 7pm where you will have the opportunity to ask questions on the Fund and the application process. Where possible we ask that you submit your queries in advance of this session. The meeting link will be circulated to all who have registered interest in the Fund.
4. Applicants who require additional support to develop and complete their application can also contact Marion to arrange an **online support session**.
5. **Complete the application form** available at eirgridcommunityfund.submit.com before Friday September 10th at 5.00pm. Please ensure you are applying for the correct strand of funding.

Clarification / additional information may be sought as required by M-CO.

Terms and Conditions

Before completing your application, please also note that:

- The project must benefit the local community /environment and should relate to at least one key target theme.
- The application must be signed by the Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer of the organisation/group making the submission and one other member of the organisation/group.
- The information supplied by the applicant must be accurate and complete.
- Misinformation may lead to disqualification and/or the repayment of any grant made.
- All information provided in respect of the application for a grant will be held electronically and The Freedom of Information Act applies to all records held by EirGrid.
- All proposals should provide quotes for activities as far as possible. If these are not provided at the proposal stage they will be requested prior to the grant offer being made. One quote will be required for items or activities under €5,000. Three quotes will be required for items or activities above €5,000.
- The organisation must have a bank account or access to one. All grants will be awarded by bank transfer and will be paid directly to the organisation.
- If relevant to the project, you will be required to provide with your application form evidence of landowner consent/permission and/or planning permission/exemption.
- It is the responsibility of each organisation to ensure that it has proper procedures and policies in place, including appropriate insurance where relevant prior to the drawdown of funding.
- Successful applicants are expected to have a policy in place and proper procedures regarding working with children, young people and vulnerable adults where relevant to the project prior to the drawdown of funding.
- Applicants awarded in excess of €10,000 will be required to indicate that their tax affairs are in order and submit their tax reference number on the claim form before the grant offer is finalised.
- Evidence of expenditure, receipts /invoices must be retained and provided if requested.
- Applicants are encouraged to sign up to the Governance Code, A Code of Practice for Good Governance of Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations in Ireland.
- EirGrid contributions must be publicly acknowledged in all materials associated with the purpose of the grant.
- Applicants should be aware that the Fund may be oversubscribed. Some applications fulfilling the conditions may not be successful or may be approved for a reduced amount.
- Late applications will not be considered.



What happens after the grants are awarded?

- Applications will be evaluated in September and grant offers made in October. All applications will be advised of the outcome of their application and an independent external appeals panel will be put in place.
 - For successful applicants we will ask that you acknowledge receipt of the grant in writing or by email. You will also need to confirm that the grant will be used for the purpose it was applied for, and to agree to our Terms and Conditions. Please be aware that we will publicise these grants for promotional and information purposes.
 - A legally binding contract must be entered into between M-CO and the group/organisation receiving the funding, which will detail the Terms and Conditions of the Fund. Please note, no expenditure in relation to grant-aided elements of the project should be incurred until the signed contract has been received by the applicant group/organisation and signed by both the applicant and M-CO.
- Payment schedules will be tailored to each project however we expect that:
 - Projects funded under the Strand 1 will receive all grant payment in advance.
 - Projects funded under Strand 2 will receive 50% of the funding in advance and final payment on completion of works and receipt of invoice.
 - In the case of an application for capital funding under Strands 2 and 3 grant aid may be paid in stages as decided by the evaluation committee, based on the confirmed sign off by the relevant project manager/architect/ engineer on the project.
 - Successful applicants must confirm that the tax affairs of all contractors/suppliers are in order and that they are registered for VAT.
 - For larger projects, the fund administrators can facilitate meetings with community finance providers such to discuss bridging finance options.
 - Upon awarding the funds, there will be a period of 12 months for projects funded under Strands 1 and 2 and 24 months for

projects funded under Strand 3 to submit a claim for final payment. All successful applications will be reviewed after 6 months and if no satisfactory progress has been made, a grant or part thereof may be revoked.

- On completion of the approved project, each applicant group will be required to upload invoices, receipts, bank statements and additional evidence to demonstrate project expenditure was undertaken in accordance with the contract. In the event a group does not complete a project in full accordance with the contract, reimbursement of the initial funding may be sought.
- Each project/event/activity should ensure the relevant health and safety regulations are complied with. It is expected that groups have insurance cover taken out on a project's grant aided assets, including public liability. M-CO and EirGrid are not liable for any claims relating to funding allocated for projects under this Fund.
- Successful applicants will be required to monitor and report progress in relation to the supported projects at agreed intervals. This will entail an Interim Report after six months and a Final Outcome and Financial Monitoring Report when complete. This report will confirm how the grant has been spent and the impacts of the project. M-CO will supply guidelines for completion of such reports.
- In addition, successful applicants may be asked to submit a short report two to three years after completing the project. This is to measure the long-term impact where relevant.
- We will ask you to acknowledge the support of EirGrid Community Fund on any materials associated with the grant.
- EirGrid may choose your project for a site visit - selected projects will be notified in advance.

Questions in the Application Form

The full application form is available on the application portal eirgridcommunityfund.submit.com and we encourage you to look through the form fully before planning your application. You are welcome to support your application by attaching videos, photos, documents and weblinks to your online application. We encourage you to consider these options.

All applicants will be required to provide the following information:

Applicant Details

- Name of lead Community Group / Organisation
- Address of lead Community Group / Organisation
- When was the group established?
- Please provide a summary of your goals and activities to date (300 words)

Contact details of the person dealing with the application

- Name
- Address
- Phone
- Email

Details of proposed project i.e. what the funds will be used for

- Title of project
- Are you partnering with any other organisation to deliver this project / benefit from this funding?
 - If yes – please detail what role each of the organisations will play in the delivery of the project for which funding is applied.
- Provide a brief description of the project (300 words max)
- Describe the main objectives of the project and how the project fits the priority themes

identified in this brief (600 words max)

- What are the main milestones or phases from now to project completion? (600 words max)
- Provide details of the applicant's previous experience /capacity in undertaking similar community projects (600 words max)

Cost of Project

- Amount sought from the EirGrid Community Benefit Fund
- Itemised Proposed Project Cost. You may upload this as a separate excel is preferred
 - All proposals should provide quotes for activities as far as possible. If these are not provided at the proposal stage they will be requested prior to the grant offer being made. One quote will be required for items or activities under €5,000. Three quotes will be required for items or activities above €5,000.

Additional information will be sought for projects applying under Strands 2 and 3:

- Cork Public Participation Network Registration Number
 - Proof that you are in the process of registering will be sufficient for Strand 2
- How will the project be sustained and managed post completion?
 - Please detail the ongoing roles of each organisation if there are multiple partners involved in this application.
- Have you received or applied for other sources of public funding? Yes / No
 - If yes, please state the source and amount of funding sought or received.
- Offers of funding may be of a lesser amount than is sought by the applicant. Please describe what you would prioritise for delivery if a small amount was offered.
- How do you propose to acknowledge EirGrid's contribution to this project?



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