

→ **What is a Community Benefit Fund?**

A key feature of projects that are developed under the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) is the requirement for a mandatory community benefit fund to be established and dispersed within the local community on an annual basis for the duration of the RESS and the Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS) contract, approximately 15 years. The fund is mandated at €2 per megawatt hour of generation produced by the project. After 12 months of electricity generation, the fund is calculated from total electricity generated from the project and is then advertised for community groups to apply. This means that quantifiable funds are made available annually to the community.

→ **Funding Cycle for Communities**



→ **What can a Community Benefit Fund support?**

The Community Benefit Fund can support not-for-profit community enterprises where the focus is aligned with UN Sustainable Development goals, further details can be found in the Good Practice Principles<sup>(1)</sup> published by The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. Additionally, and just in the case of onshore wind farms, a near-neighbour payment (those living 1km or 1–2km from the project) also to be paid through the fund. Examples of projects and initiatives that have been funded through CBFs include scholarships, community centres, energy upgrades in sports clubs and community centres, education programmes and disability access projects.

→ **Community Benefit Fund estimations\***

In the case of onshore wind projects the annual community benefit fund could be in the region of:

10MW wind farm	€60,000 fund
50MW wind farm	€300,000 fund

In the case of solar projects the annual community benefit fund could be in the region of:

5MW solar farm	€8,000
50MW solar farm	€80,000

→ **How Can I Avail of Funds?**

You can check if there is a community benefit fund near you by checking out the SEAI Community Benefit Fund National Register<sup>(2)</sup> and Community Benefit Fund Map<sup>(3)</sup>. Here you can search for local funds on a map and find their websites.

(1) [gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/140382/b5198da9-c6c7-4af2-bbb5-2b8e3c0d2468.pdf](https://assets.gov.ie/140382/b5198da9-c6c7-4af2-bbb5-2b8e3c0d2468.pdf)  
 (2) [nationalregister.seai.ie](http://nationalregister.seai.ie)  
 (3) [seai.ie/community-energy/community-benefit-funds](http://seai.ie/community-energy/community-benefit-funds)  
 \* All estimations are approximate as of 2023 and are for guidance purposes only and not to be relied upon; the direct annual monetary contribution is fixed at €2/MWh of Joss-adjusted metered quantity of electricity produced. The fund is not linked to the consumer price index

# Community Benefit Funds

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