



View of the site from an internal road

Keerglen Wind Farm Project Newsletter No.1

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Introduction

ABO Wind Ireland Limited are at an early stage of developing a wind farm proposal in your local area within the townland of Keerglen, Co. Mayo.

We want to ensure there is open, transparent and two-way communication with the closest neighbours of the project from the outset. We are therefore calling to all houses in the immediate vicinity (circa 1.5km) of the wind farm site to introduce ourselves and answer any initial questions or concerns that people may have about the project.

Throughout the development process you will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback to the ABO Wind Ireland Community Liaison Officer. This will help shape the proposals and allow us to explore ways in which the project could bring benefits to the local community.

Who are ABO Wind?

ABO Wind Ireland are based in Cornelscourt Co. Dublin. We develop, construct and operate wind farms in the Republic of Ireland. We currently have a number of wind farms in development across the country, one wind farm in construction in Co. Donegal, and four operational wind farms in counties Tipperary, Wexford and Laois.

We are part of the larger ABO Wind Group based in Germany who develop wind, solar and bioenergy projects in 16 countries across four continents.

Why wind energy?

It is widely acknowledged that climate change is a very real threat to our society and that we must take immediate action to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. One of the key ways to do this, as identified by the Government's Climate Action Plan 2021, is to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels such as coal, peat and gas and increase the share of renewables providing us with our electricity from 40% in 2020 to 80% by 2030. In order to reach this target, the Climate Action Plan states that we require approximately 8GW of onshore wind to be installed. There is approximately 4GW of installed onshore wind capacity in Ireland.

Therefore, a significant increase in the amount of onshore wind is required to meet our climate change objectives. As Ireland's largest renewable electricity resource, onshore wind further brings the added benefit of being the cheapest form of electricity for consumers across the island.

Site Selection

The proposed wind farm site falls within the 'Tier 2 – Open for Consideration', and 'Priority Areas' categories in the Mayo Wind Energy Strategy (2011-2020) as set out in the Mayo County Development Plan 2014-2020 (as varied). Wind farm developments are preferred in 'Priority Areas' while 'Tier 2 – Open for Consideration' identifies areas which may be considered for wind farms but where the visual impact on sensitive or vulnerable landscapes, listed highly scenic routes, scenic routes, scenic viewing points and scenic routes will be the principal consideration for the Council.

Over the past months, we have carried out some early stage feasibility and constraints studies in order to establish whether the Keerglen site would be a suitable location for a wind farm. These studies included a landscape and visual assessment, ornithology and ecology surveys. Following a detailed review of the preliminary findings, no problematic sensitivities were revealed and we believe that the site has the capacity to accommodate approximately 14 wind turbines.

