



Bord na Móna

Cloncreen Wind Farm Educational Scholarship Scheme 2023

Guidelines for applicants



Please note the key dates for the Cloncreen Wind Farm Educational Scholarship Scheme are as follows:

Opening date for submission of application:
Wednesday 30th August 2023

Closing date for submission of application:
5pm, Friday 29th September 2023

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1. Introduction

Bord na Móna has developed a wind farm on Cloncreen bog in Co. Offaly. The wind farm is known as Cloncreen Wind Farm. The wind farm consists of 21 turbines with a blade tip height of 170 metres and generating 75 megawatts (MW) of green electricity for the national grid. The wind farm will generate a volume of electricity equivalent to the average annual electricity demand of circa 55,000 Irish homes per annum. There are 21km of trails for cycling, walking, and running open to the public, as well as a Sensory Garden, outdoor exercise equipment and interpretative signage installed around the amenity trails. A Community Benefit Fund has also been established to recognise the key role of local communities in developing new sources of renewable energy.

The development of Cloncreen Wind Farm involved an investment by Bord na Móna of over €100m in low carbon electricity generation infrastructure in Co. Offaly. The project will make a significant contribution to the achievement of Ireland's 80% renewable electricity target by 2030. It is one of the largest projects to clear in the RESS 1 auction.

Cloncreen Wind Farm forms part of Bord na Móna's accelerated development pipeline of renewable energy and other assets. It will play a significant role in the company's Brown to Green Strategy. A key objective of this strategy involves using the existing landbank to continue to underpin Ireland's energy independence by developing green, sustainable energy sources to assist with Ireland's commitment - as part of the Climate Action Plan.



2. Overview of the Cloncreen Wind Farm Educational Scholarship Scheme

As part of the Cloncreen Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, we want to ensure that people living in the vicinity of the Wind Farm benefit from the development. The cost of studies and student life can be a barrier for potential students. To help reduce this barrier Cloncreen Wind Farm DAC has created an Educational Scholarship Scheme to support local students in accessing further education. The Cloncreen Wind Farm Educational Scholarship Scheme will be funded directly from the renewable energy generated at Cloncreen Wind Farm through its Community Benefit Fund.

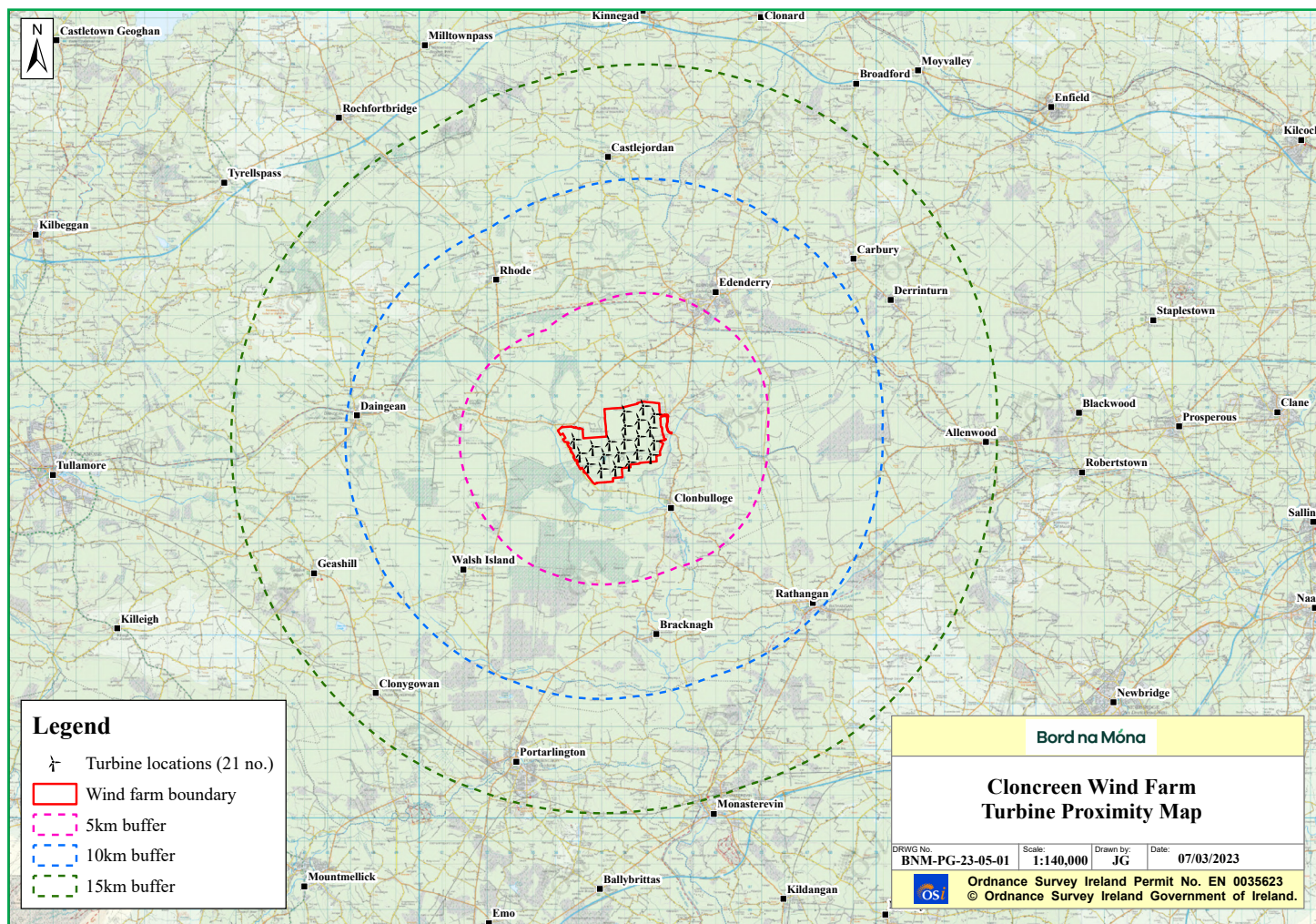
The Scholarship may be used towards course fees, accommodation, tools, transport costs etc.

The 2023 Scholarship includes a monetary grant to the value of €2,500 for each year of study, up to a maximum of 4 years, for four students living in the vicinity (up to 15km) of Cloncreen Wind Farm. The Scholarship may be used towards course fees, accommodation, tools, transport costs etc.

The RESS-1 Terms & Conditions places an emphasis on the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Put succinctly, these are the goals that have been set by the UN for all countries to deal with the challenges that are faced worldwide in order to grow sustainably over the 21st century.

The use of Funds to help address these challenges for local communities is important in developing sustainable communities in Ireland and in the

achievement of a variety of national targets such as those pertaining to energy and climate. Fulsome delivery of the SDGs will enable a fundamental change to a greener, more inclusive economy and, more resilient communities.



This map is for illustrative purposes only.

3. Scholarship Eligibility

To be considered for the Cloncreen Wind Farm Educational Scholarship Scheme applicants must:

- **Be currently studying or hold an unconditional offer of a place for entry into the next academic year.**
- **Have a principal primary residence address up to 15km from a turbine on Cloncreen Wind Farm.**
- **Submit a valid application.**

3.1 Scholarship Criteria

- The Scholarship includes a monetary grant to assist local students with further education studies, including course fees, accommodation, tools, transport costs etc.
- Points will be awarded to students against a predefined set of evaluation criteria including proximity of their principal primary residence to a turbine at Cloncreen Wind Farm.
- All programmes of third level study and further adult education will be considered, provided they are Level 6 and upwards, as per the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).
- Applications are welcomed from all courses however bonus points will be awarded to courses which are STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) related and contribute to Sustainability, in particular the UN Sustainable Development Goals 4, 7, 11 and 13.



4. Priority areas of impact

Applications will be scored against the following criteria:

- **Proximity of the Applicant's principal primary residence to the nearest turbine on Cloncreen Wind Farm**
- **Applications are welcomed from all courses however bonus points will be awarded to courses which are STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) related and contribute to Sustainability, specifically the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:**



Goal 4 - Quality Education

Such as projects which support knowledge and skills needed in communities to promote sustainable development, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, or projects which provide upskilling within communities.



Goal 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy

Such as projects which support energy efficient projects or initiatives that encourage and deliver renewable electricity generation projects.



Goal 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities

Such as projects which strengthen efforts to protect and enhance the cultural and natural heritage of the local community or which support the implementation of policies and plans for communities towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaption to climate change.



Goal 13 - Climate Action

Such as projects which aim to improve education, awareness raising and improve capacity on climate change early warning, mitigation, adaption and impact reduction.

For further information on these Goals please visit <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

5. How to Apply

Applications can be made online via www.cloncreenwindfarm.ie. All documentation for the Educational Scholarship Scheme including the Scholarship guidelines will be made available on the application portal home page. Please note only applications submitted via the online portal referenced above will be considered.

Applicants should allow approximately 30 minutes to complete their application. We recommend you take the following steps when completing your application:

1. Read this briefing document thoroughly.
2. Register an account on the online application portal via www.cloncreenwindfarm.ie to register your interest in the Educational Scholarship Scheme and to ensure you are notified of any updates or clarifications made.
3. Submit any queries you have on the Educational Scholarship Scheme by sending a message to the project team via the messaging option on the online application portal. The FAQ page on the online application portal will be updated regularly to reflect these queries.

The application portal will close on Friday 29th September at 5.00pm. Late applications will not be accepted. Please note, canvassing or lobbying of any Scholarship Panel member will result in automatic disqualification.

5.1 Application Documentation

For your application to be considered eligible for evaluation you will need to ensure you have the following in place before applying to the Educational Scholarship Scheme.

- Eircode for your principal primary residence
- Proof of address – this can include, document issued by a government department that shows your address or copy of CAO documentation showing your address. Your proof of address must be less than 6 months old (or 12 months for an insurance policy).
- Course code – in line with the National Framework of Qualifications (www.nfq-qqi.com).
- Proof or confirmation of course acceptance/ attendance – this can be a letter of registration from your academic institution.
- Personal statement – this can be in the form of a written paragraph or can be uploaded as a short video.



6. Evaluation of Applications

1. All applications will be screened for eligibility. If an application does not meet any of the below criteria, it will not proceed to the next phase of evaluation.
2. Eligible applications will be marked against the Evaluation Criteria.

The Scholarship Panel will be responsible for assessing all applications.

6.1 Evaluation Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed and scored under the following evaluation criteria:

Criteria	Description
Proximity to a turbine on the Wind Farm	As part of the Cloncreen Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, we want to ensure that people living in the area benefit from the development of the wind farm. For this reason, applicants residing closest to a turbine on Cloncreen Wind Farm will receive highest marks under the proximity criterion. Distance will be calculated based on proximity to the nearest wind turbine.
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) related course	Cloncreen Wind Farm DAC is a climate solutions company helping lead Ireland towards a climate neutral future. For this reason, applicants studying STEM-related courses will be awarded bonus points under this criterion.
Sustainability	A core goal of the Cloncreen Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund under the RESS 1 Guidelines is to fund projects which align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. A Scholarship application will receive additional marks if it demonstrates alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
Robustness of Application	The application is complete. All questions have been provided with a response and all required documentation has been submitted with application.
Personal Statement (300 words max or short video which can be attached to application)	Outlining why you think you should receive the Educational Scholarship Scheme

The decision to award the Cloncreen Wind Farm Educational Scholarship Scheme depends on the outcome of the evaluation process. Clarifications and additional information may be sought by the Scholarship Panel.

7. Scholarship Offer

Applicants can expect to be informed of the outcome of their application by the end of 2023. Please note, if we are experiencing any delays due to the volume of applications received, we will inform you of same.

7.1 If your application is successful

If your application is successful, a Letter of Offer containing the terms and conditions of the Educational Scholarship Scheme will be issued to you. Accompanying this letter will be:

- A letter of acceptance to be signed by the successful applicant and/or parent/guardian accepting the terms of the offer. This agreement must be entered into between Cloncreen Wind Farm DAC and the individual receiving the Scholarship, or their parent/guardian as applicable.
- A request for further documentation such as: Bank Account details
- Any additional documentation requested by scholarship panel.

The agreement must be signed by successful applicants and all requested documentation submitted prior to receiving the funds.

7.2 If your application is unsuccessful

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing.

As the Cloncreen Wind Farm Educational Support Scheme will open for new applications in 2024 unsuccessful applicants will be able to re-apply to subsequent Educational Scholarship Scheme funding rounds. All decisions of the Awards Panel are final.

8. Important Dates

Phase	Details	Date
Educational Scholarship Scheme opens for Applications	The Educational Scholarship Scheme opens for applications and all information is made available on the application portal: www.cloncreenwindfarm.ie	Wednesday, 30th August 2023
Educational Scholarship Scheme closes for Applications	No applications will be accepted after this time.	5.00pm, Friday, 29th September 2023,
Notification	Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application. Successful applications will be provided with a Scholarship Letter of Offer and a Scholarship agreement.	By end of 2023
Scholarship Offers	Applicants must accept the Scholarship offer and submit all documentation required.	

9. Contact information

Please get in touch with the Cloncreen Wind Farm Educational Scholarship Scheme project team if you have any questions via cloncreenwindfarm@bnm.ie. Alternatively, please contact our Community Liaison Officers Stephen on **087 3486624** or Enda on **087 0579141**.