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County Council



MINUTES OF ATHLONE Municipal District **HELD IN THE COUNCIL** Chamber - Áras an Chontae, **ON THURSDAY**, 26th March, 2026 **AT 9.30** am

PRESENT: Councillor Domnick Connolly **PRESIDED**

MEMBERS: Cllr V. Duffy, Cllr E. Kelly, Cllr T. Ward, Cllr J. Keogh and Cllr L. Fallon.

OFFICIALS: Caitlín Conneely, Director of Services
Susan Loughnane, Municipal District Co-Ordinator
David Carty, Executive Engineer,
Caroline Menton, Assistant Engineer
Shelia Glennon, Staff Officer

Apologies:

11.26 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST (SECTION 177 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 AS AMENDED)

No Disclosures.

12.26 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Cathaoirleach Cllr D Connolly welcomed everyone to the meeting.

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr E Kelly

Seconded by: Cllr L Fallon

It was **AGREED** by the Members to adopt the minutes of the Athlone Municipal District meeting held on 20th January, 2026.

13.26 UPDATE ON THE TADUFF SOLAR PARK BY EDF POWER SOLUTIONS

James McDermott Project Manager and David Clancy External Affairs Manager on behalf of EDF Power Solutions gave a presentation on the Taduff Solar Park. Presentation attached.

Members thanked EDF for the presentation and requested that they are kept informed on progress. Members requested details on the Community Benefit Fund and in particular criteria for applying to the fund. Member requested that, on appointment, the Independent Administrator for the Community Benefit Fund contact them regarding the fund.

14.26 DRAFT ATHLONE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT ROAD WORKS SCHEME 2026 AS PART OF THE SCHEDULE OF MUNICIPAL DISTRICT WORKS.

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr J Keogh

Seconded by: Cllr E Kelly

It was **AGREED** by all the Members to approve the Draft Athlone MD Road Works Scheme 2026 as part of the Schedule of Municipal District Works.

The Members thanked the staff of Athlone MD involved in the preparation of the Programme.

Members expressed their disappointed that a small number of roads will be postponed due to an increase in costs due to rising oil prices.

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr L Fallon

Seconded by: Cllr J Keogh

It was **AGREED** by all the Members to write to the Minister for Transport, requesting him to provide extra funding for the 2026 Road Programme, due to increased costs due to rising oil prices.

15.26 MATTERS ARISING

15.26.1 Cllr E Kelly requested that another letter be sent to the Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion Michael Moynihan, regarding a special needs class for Ballyforan national School. Correspondence Ref 6.26 refers.

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr E Kelly

Seconded by: Cllr T Ward/ Cllr V Duffy

It was **AGREED** to write to Minister Michael Moynihan clarifying that Ballyforan NS has all necessary supports in place to accommodate an extra special needs class and to appeal to Deputy Moynihan to allocate funding to resource this class to ensure the class is in place for the 2026/2027 school year.

15.26.2 Cllr L Fallon referred to correspondence from Barna Waste in relation to minutes no 10.26.2. Substantial progress has been made in relation to this issue. Barna Waste are liaising with Cllr Fallon regarding the use of a suitable turning area.

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr J Keogh

Seconded by: Cllr L Fallon

It was **AGREED** by all the Members to request a meeting with Barna Waste to discuss several locations in the Athlone Municipal District where residents have to bring their bins to a collection point some distance from their residence.

16.26 NOTICE OF MOTION

There were Two Notice of Motions for discussion

17.26 2.26 CLLR. E KELLY- REVIEW THE CONDITION OF THE ROAD SURFACE ON THE CAM TO COOLAGARRY ROAD L7542

I am calling on Roscommon County Council to review the condition of road surface on the Cam to

Coolagarry Road and provide the necessary repair works. There are numerous reports of recurrent potholes and broken surface on the road. This is causing damage to vehicles

Response:

The Cam to Coolagarry Road comprises of the L-7542-28 at the southern end, transitions to the L-7539-0 linking with the L-2015 at the northern end.

A 1.1km stretch of the L-7539-0 at Curry was resurfaced in 2025. A further 1.1 km section of the L-7539-0 is included in the 2026 Roads Programme for approval at today's meeting.

Significant pothole repair works have been undertaken on the road and necessary maintenance will continue to be undertaken as required.

Cllr E Kelly thanked the Members for their support and Athlone MD for the work done to date on the road.

18.26 3.26 CLLR. L FALLON - WATER PIPE SERVING THE CARNAGH WEST/ GLANDUFF AREA IS PASSING THROUGH PRIVATE LAND.

"The current water pipe serving the Carnagh west/Glanduff area is passing through private land most of it is covered in forestry. A detailed plan for this pipe relocation was drawn up a number of years ago by Roscommon Co. Co./Water services. Should a leak occur within this forestry area it would be impossible to fix without serious forest damage and cost. I am calling on Roscommon Co. Co. to work with Irish Water to resolve this issue as quickly as possible."

Response:

As the infrastructure in question relates to Water, Uisce Eireann are the relevant Authority to deal with this query.

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr L Fallon
Seconded by: Cllr J Keogh

It was **AGREED** by the Members to write to Uisce Eireann requesting an urgent solution, should a leak occur in the forest, there is no access to repair it at the moment.

19.26 CORRESPONDENCE

There were two correspondences which were discussed under Matters Arising.

20.26 -MINISTER OF STATE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AND INCLUSION MICHAEL MOYNIHAN TD,- (REPLY TO MINUTE ITEM 6.26) ADDITIONAL AUTISM CLASSES AT BALLYFORAN N.S.

21.26 - BARNÁ RECYCLING -(REPLY TO MINUTE ITEM 10.26.2 COLLECTION OF BINS AT KILLEENREVAGH)

22.26 EXTENSION REQUEST BY CLONOWN HERITAGE GROUP FOR ATHLONE MD FUNDING GRANT 2021

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr J Keogh
Seconded by: Cllr E Kelly

It was **AGREED** by all the Members to give an extension to MD Funding Grant of €4,500 to Clonown Heritage Group until end of September 2026.

Susan Loughnane also informed the Members that Suck Valley Way Committee has notified Athlone MD that they are not in a position to use the Grant award in 2022 for €4,500 so this money will be decommitted and returned to the Fund for 2026 allocations.

23.26 CIVIC RECEPTION REQUEST

No Civic Reception requests.

24.26 VOTES OF CONGRATULATIONS / SYMPATHY

Congratulations were extended to Cllr E Kelly on her recent appointment as Vice Chairperson for Local Community Safety Partnership.

Members extended their congratulation to pupils of the Community College, Roscommon on their recent award from Enterprise Ireland and best wishes as they Represent Roscommon in the next competition.

25.26 A.O.B

Cllr Emer Kelly raised a Motion to write to Deputy Boxer Moran regarding funding of €400,000 that has been advanced for work on the provision of sound barriers along the N6 Athlone Relief Road. TII will be involved in the delivery of noise barriers.

On the **Proposal of:** Cllr E Kelly
Seconded by: Cllr J Keogh

It was **AGREED** by all the Members to write to Deputy Moran to clarify that this funding for the noise barriers will extend to the Roscommon Side of the N6 Monksland and to request clarification on how TII intend to administer the funding.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 20th May, 2026.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The foregoing Minutes are
Confirmed and Signed:



Meetings Administrator



Cathaoirleach

Sum Layhane

Countersigned

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Taduff Solar Park

Athlone Municipal District Meeting

26 March 2026

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About us



James McDermott
Project Manager



David Clancy
External Affairs Manager

We

At EDF power solutions Ireland we're **committed to tackling climate change**. Our team of 35 talented people, supported by more than 600 colleagues in the UK, share an ambition to **create a net zero future where clean, green energy powers all of our lives**.

It's a huge ambition and time is of the essence if we are to play our full part in meeting Ireland's challenging renewable energy targets.

With our **unique mix of technologies**, including onshore and offshore wind, solar PV and battery storage, we are the UK's and Ireland's most diverse generator of renewable energy.



We

To achieve our goal of **generating over 1GW of renewable energy by 2035**, we're working with stakeholders and communities throughout Ireland to unlock the enormous potential of the low carbon energy sector.

As part of one of the world's largest low carbon electricity companies, we know we can do it. We're not only supporting the Ireland's energy security, we're creating exciting career opportunities, transforming the way we power our lives and supporting the aspirations of people living in communities close to our projects.

In 2023 we energised three of Ireland's first grid-scale solar farms and have announced plans for a further two solar farms, six onshore wind farms, and two battery storage projects across Ireland. In total we have an Irish onshore development pipeline of almost 1GW.

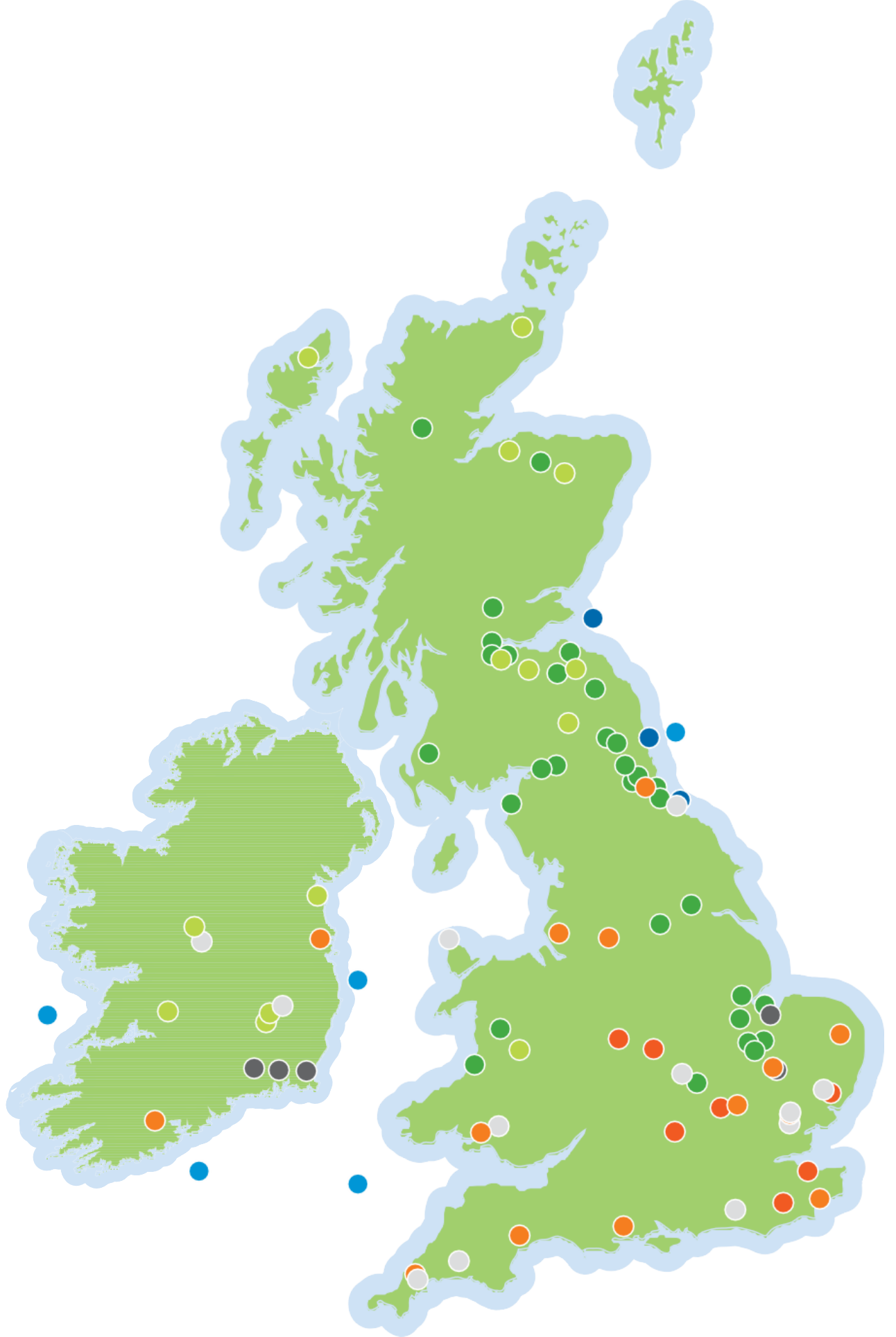
In 2020 we acquired 50% of Codling Wind Park, a major



EDF power solutions UK and Ireland has developed a diverse portfolio of operational and future assets

2GW operational
14GW pipeline

- Offshore wind – In development
- Offshore wind - Operational, under construction or post-
- FID Onshore wind – In development
- Onshore wind - Operational, under construction or post-
- FID Battery storage – In development
- Battery storage - Operational, under construction or post-FID
- Solar PV – In development
- Solar PV - Operational, under construction or post-FID





Taduff Solar Park

Located 6km southwest of Athlone



Acquired by EDF power solutions UK and Ireland

late 2020



Capacity

c.80MW



Across

130 hectares



Construction commencing

Q1 2026



Expected energisation

Spring 2028

- Initial 70 hectares project was **expanded to 130 hectares.**
- Recently granted **planning permission for a battery energy storage system** as part of the project to maximise the site's potential.
- As part of our long-term commitment to the local area a **Community Benefit Fund will be established to go towards supporting positive local initiatives and activities.**

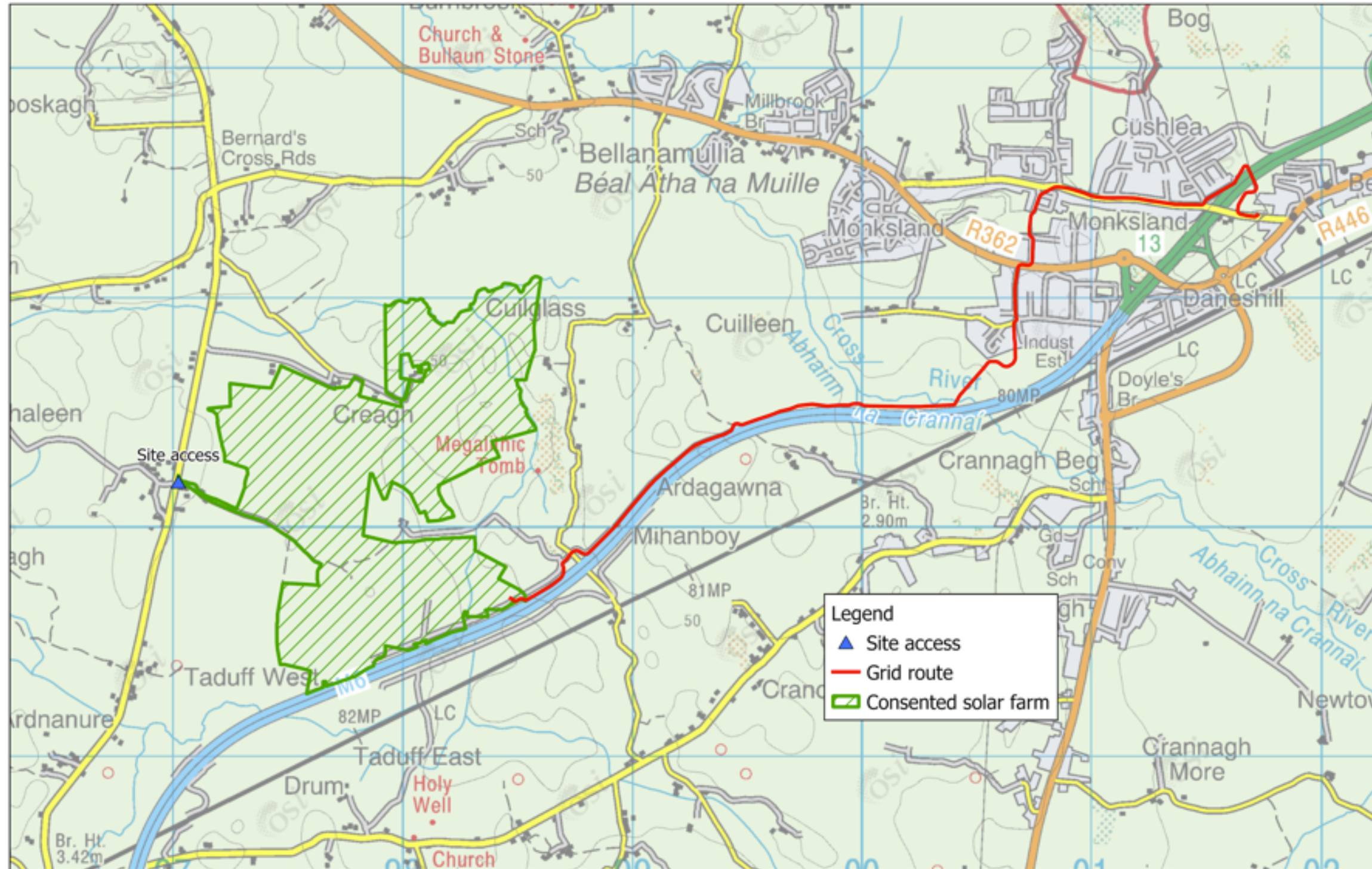
Construction and Environmental Management Plan

A Construction and Environmental Management Plan will be adopted to ensure that the construction of the project considers environmental protection measures. Existing trees and hedgerows in and around the site will be retained where possible, and mitigation screen

* latest figures as per July 2023 release Based upon the five-year rolling averages on unchanged configuration basis using Digest of UK Energy Statistics

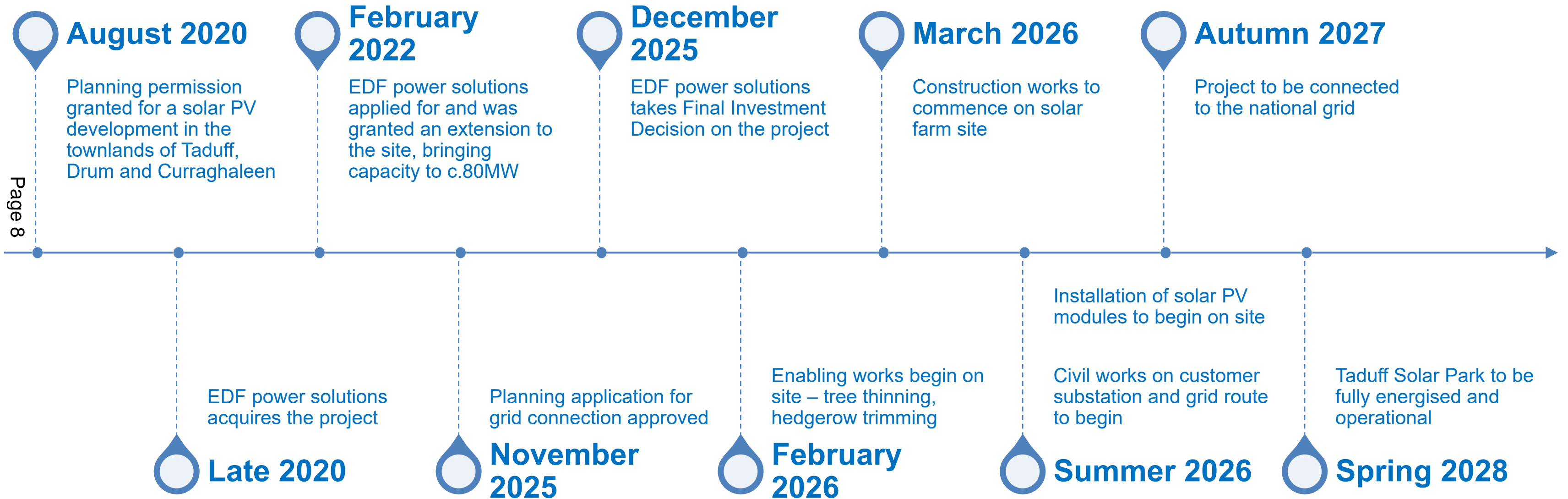


Site map





Project timeline





Community engagement

- March 2023 – Reintroduced project to local community. Established dedicated webpage and contact details for the project
- Winter 2025 – Further updates shared with residents regarding planning application for on-site substation and grid route
- Summer 2025 – Attended Athlone Agricultural Show to engage directly with residents and landowners
- February 2026 – Notice of preliminary works shared with nearby residents





Community engagement

- March 2026 – Update regarding commencement of construction shared with c.200 local homes and businesses
- March 2026 – Extensive local media coverage of the start of construction
- March 2026 – dedicated Community Liaison Officer appointed for the project and contact details shared with residents
- Summer 2026 – Further information to be shared with residents regarding start of civil works for the substation and grid route



Taduff Solar Park

Community Update - March 2026



01

Dear local resident,

We are writing to let you know that construction of Taduff Solar Park and associated works will commence later this month.

The solar park and 110kV substation will be located in the townlands of Taduff, Taduff East, Drum, Curraghaleen, Creagh and Cuilglass, and a grid connection will connect the solar farm to the national grid at the Athlone 110kV substation.

We are working closely with Roscommon County Council and our contractors Kirby Group and Belectric as this next phase of the project begins, with the aim of minimising disruption caused by the works and keeping you informed as the works progress.



Project update

Initial enabling works, such as hedge trimming and tree lopping, began in February, with construction of the solar farm to begin later this month. Construction of the grid route will commence later in the year, and we will give further updates in advance of this.

Once construction begins, there will be an increase in traffic and lorries in the area, particularly on the L-2025 and L-2026 roads, as the contractors begin early mobilisation works on the site to prepare for the installation of the PV solar panels and associated plant and materials.

Once construction commences, our team may be operating on site between the hours of 8am and 6pm Monday-Friday, and 8am-1pm on Saturdays. Please be advised that there may be an increase in noise, traffic and dirt during this time, and we apologise in advance if you are inconvenienced in any way by this.

Roads used during construction will be closely monitored and any potholes or similar issues will be repaired as a matter of course, and we will continue to keep the local community updated as construction progresses.

The solar farm is expected to be constructed and operational in Spring 2028.

Scan the QR Code to learn more about the project



Delivering low-carbon energy for Ireland

Under the Climate Action Plan 2025, the Irish Government has set a target to increase the share of renewables providing our electricity to 80% by 2030. Our aim is for the completed Taduff Solar Park to generate c.80MW of clean energy, powering c.20,000 homes across Ireland.*

Massive solar farm to begin construction

By James Fogarty

Construction work is to begin on a massive solar farm in South Roscommon in the coming weeks.

It is projected that the Taduff Solar Park could power up to 20,000 homes with renewable energy, and provide a Community Benefit Fund worth approximately €180,000 per annum.

In July 2020, the project, then

known as TDC Community Solar Park, received planning permission from Roscommon County Council for a development on an area of 70 hectares at Taduff West, Taduff East, Creagh and Curraghaleen, Athlone South, County Roscommon.

The development will see 19 single-storey inverter/transformer stations; a single-storey substation and access road; a single-storey customer substation, and a single-storey

spare parts container, as well as a boundary security fencing with access gates, CCTV security cameras, and landscaping works.

As part of the 20 planning conditions, a development contribution of €180,000 was to be paid to the council.

An Comisiún Pleanála has also granted planning permission for a new 110kV substation at the solar park and a grid connection to connect the project to the national grid at

Athlone.

A statement from EDF power solutions Ireland described the imminent works later this month as "a key milestone".

The proposed solar farm is expected to be constructed and operational by spring 2028, at which point a Community Benefit Fund worth approximately €180,000 per annum will be established.

Paul Gallagher, head of onshore technologies at EDF power solutions Ireland, said

this was "a major milestone for a project that will help improve Ireland's energy security and sovereignty, while also reducing carbon emissions and the country's over reliance on fossil fuels".

Mr Gallagher added that they were committed to working closely with local groups to ensure the benefits of the project are shared across the community. Initial details of the construction timeline have been shared with residents.



A map of the proposed solar farm area.

Work set to start on major Drum solar farm project

A key milestone in the development of a South Roscommon solar farm will be reached later this month when work commences.

The Taduff Solar Park is to be developed by EDF power solutions Ireland on land in the Drum and Bealnamulla area.

Once completed, the circa 80MW solar farm, located approximately 6km southwest of Athlone, will have the capacity to power around 20,000 homes with secure, domestically produced renewable electricity and make a significant contribution to achieving Ireland's 2030 climate targets.

Planning permission was granted in August 2020 for the scheme in townlands of Taduff, Drum and Curraghaleen. In late 2020, EDF power solutions Ireland acquired the project (previously known as TDC Community Solar Park), and it currently consists of a circa 80MW solar farm encompassing the additional townlands of Taduff East, Creagh and Cullglass, as well as a battery energy storage system.

An Comisiún Pleanála recently granted planning permission for a new 110kV substation at the solar park and a grid connection which will connect the project to the national grid at the Athlone 110kV substation.

The solar farm is expected to be constructed and operational by Spring 2028, at which point a Community Benefit Fund worth some €180,000 per annum will be established, from which allocations will be made annually for a period of 15 years to support community initiatives and activities.

Once constructed, the project will also make a significant contribution to the local economy through the payment of annual commercial rates to Roscommon County Council, the developers said,

in a statement. EDF power solutions Ireland currently operates three solar farms in Wexford and Kilkenny. Paul Gallagher, Head of Onshore Technologies at EDF power solutions Ireland, said: "We're delighted to be starting construction of Taduff Solar Park. This is a major milestone for a project that will help improve Ireland's energy security and sovereignty, while also reducing carbon emissions and the country's overreliance on fossil fuels. "Solar energy is an increasingly important part of Ireland's energy mix, and EDF power solutions has led the way in Ireland, connecting some of the country's first grid-scale solar farms back in 2023. Taduff Solar Park builds on this solar success story, and we're committed to working closely with local groups and stakeholders to ensure the benefits of the project are shared across the community."

EDF power solutions Ireland is working closely with Roscommon County Council, engineering contractors Kirby Group and Belectric, and local stakeholders to safely deliver the project and to minimise disruption during the construction phase. Initial details of the construction timeline have been shared with residents, as well as contact details for the project's Community Liaison Officer, and regular updates will continue to be provided. Members of the public who would like to receive these updates as construction of the project progresses are encouraged to sign up for text and email alerts by emailing taduffsolarpark@edf-power.com or see <https://www.edf-powersolutions.ie/our-sites/taduff> for more information.

reNEWS.BIZ

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EDF starts Taduff solar park construction

Roscommon project includes €180,000 annual community fund

18 March 2026 Solar

[Image: EDF]

Construction set to begin on south Roscommon solar farm

Mar 24, 2026 07:27

By SHANNONSIDE NEWS



The project is due to be operational by 2028.

A major solar farm is due to begin construction in South Roscommon in the coming weeks.

The project is due to be operational by 2028.

Six years after it was granted planning permission, construction will begin for a solar farm at Taduff West and East, Creagh and Curraghaleen in Co. Roscommon.



Benefits for Roscommon

- Contribution of c.80MW towards the 262MW target in the Roscommon Renewable Energy Strategy
- A Community Benefit Fund worth c.€180,000 per annum – supporting positive local initiatives and activities
- A significant contribution in annual commercial rates to Roscommon County Council, adding to the c.€1.75m it currently receives from renewable energy projects
- A number of local businesses and contractors will be involved in the construction of the solar farm



St Mary's Community Centre, Tagoat Co. Wexford



Next steps

- April 2026 – Planning amendment application to be submitted for 2ha field within RLB
- April 2026 – Commence construction of site entrance, site infrastructure and internal access track
- Summer 2026 – Delivery and installation of solar PV modules
- Summer 2026 – Further information to be shared with local residents ahead of the commencement of grid route works
- Summer 2026 – 110kV cable route work (civil) to commence
- Spring 2027 – 110kV cable route work (electrical) to commence
- Autumn 2027 – cold commissioning and then hot commissioning of solar PV modules
- September 2027 – EirGrid to connect Taduff Solar Park to the

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Blusheens Solar Farm, Co. Wexford



Thank
you

