

Welcome to our April 2015 Ballynagran Basin Residents newsletter. The Basin area is defined as householders who are most impacted by the Ballynagran Landfill Facility - those who can see, hear and smell the Landfill. This area was demarcated by WCC and Liaison Committee. **Breaking News: See below for information on the latest 2015 Small Grant Scheme for Householders in the Ballynagran Basin.**

What are the objectives of Ballynagran Energy Plus+ Committee?

Ballynagran Energy Plus+ is a voluntary group of householders from the Ballynagran Basin who devote significant own time and effort to ensure that homeowners in the Basin, most impacted by the landfill, benefit from the landfill fund. To date most of the Ballynagran Grant Fund has been allocated to projects outside the Ballynagran Basin Area.

Among the steps taken by Ballynagran Energy Plus+ are:

- Provide support, assistance and guidance to householders to maximise the uptake and advantages obtained by Ballynagran Basin Residents from the Small Grant Scheme.
- Devise community projects within the Ballynagran Basin Area and apply for Community Grant Scheme funds to support these projects.
- Influence the Liaison Committee to ensure that the maximum grant funds go to householders and projects within the Ballynagran Basin.

Small Community Wind Energy Feasibility Project

A grant of €75,600 was secured in June 2014 from the Ballynagran Community Fund to finance the feasibility study of a **small single wind turbine** that would be owned and managed by the Ballynagran Community with the benefits going to the Ballynagran Basin homeowners for the next 15-20 years. Over the past 9 months much progress has been achieved on this project.

How was Kilnamanagh More site selected?

- The site selection was carried out over a number months with the support of an external wind energy consultant. The committee included a community member who was not in favour of the turbine so that the process up to planning was open to scrutiny.
- SEAI wind speed data
- Ease and short distance to access ESB electricity grid
- Land ownership
- Visibility and the requirement to be 500 metres from any residence.
- Option Agreement now signed with Coillte and gives up to 3 years to develop the project.
- Project can then enter a lease agreement for 27 years. *It should be noted that the committee insisted on a clause being inserted into the Coillte lease agreement which stipulates that only one turbine can be erected in the area.*

How big is a Small Single Turbine?

- Proposed single turbine is restricted to 500KW (Kilowatts) output
- Arklow Bank (off Brittas Bay) are 3000KW or 3 Megawatts.



How does the Community Benefit?

- A plan is currently being worked on with external advisors to establish a Community Cooperative. This community cooperative will seek finance for the turbine, manage the running of it and distribute the profits generated to the Ballynagran basin homeowners.
- The objective is to ensure that funds generated by the sale of electricity to the grid will be distributed to coop members (householders in the Ballynagran Basin) in a transparent way.
- An initial business case calculates that approximately €400 per annum (€8,000 at current values over 20 years) will be distributed to each homeowner in the Ballynagran Basin - the readings from the met mast will be used to confirm the distribution amount.
- This is, of course, dependent on planning permission being granted.
- It should be noted that the purpose of this project is to use short term landfill community funding for long term gain to householders in the Ballynagran Basin.
- We are very interested if you have suggestions for other community cooperative projects which could achieve similar objectives for those of us living close to the landfill.

The Meteorological Mast

- The Met Mast was erected 30th January 2015 by the wind energy consultant that is employed to give expert advice to the community.
- The mast is 30 meters high and takes wind data at 20 meters & 30 meters. This will be analysed by the consultant
- This will be in place for up to 12 months.
- It was put in place to measure the wind speed and will assist the community to refine the calculation as to how much energy a wind turbine will produce and feed into the ESB Networks grid.
- This will allow the community further develop the business case to confirm the potential revenue and payback to the community, and will assist in accessing financial support.

Surveys and Assessments of interest to the community were completed

- Environmental assessment.
- Photo Montages showing the proposed wind turbine from various locations.
- Noise study – noise monitoring equipment placed at nearest house for 2 weeks.
- Shadow flicker assessments.

Planning Permission

- Planning permission documents have been finalised and the application for a single community wind turbine was submitted to Wicklow County Council planning office on 11/03/15.
- For technical reasons the application was resubmitted in early April.

Coming Soon - The 2015 Small Grant Scheme

Ballynagran Landfill Liaison Committee intend to run a Small Grants Scheme, for individual homeowners, this will be advertised circa. End of June 2015.

Individual homeowners that may have suggestions for areas to be included in the Small Grant Scheme should contact their Local Representatives on the Liaison Committee – Ms Joanne Verdes or Mr. David Ryan. The scheme is currently being reviewed and put together so any suggestions should reach above in writing not later than 17th April 2015.

Alternatively, you can provide this feedback to Ballynagran Energy Plus+ at ballynagran.energyplus@gmail.com and we will coordinate the feedback and input it to the Liaison Committee.

We have a team of people on Ballynagran Energy Plus+ who will be happy to discuss project with you and, share our experience of such projects and introduce you to residents who have already undertaken similar projects. The list of works included in the 2013/14 Small Grant Scheme included:

- Wood burning stoves (with 75% efficiency or above which conform to EN 303-5 standard) and wood heating systems and boilers (Timber or wood chip or wood pellet)
- Double/triple glazing window replacement
- Heat Recovery Ventilation System with or without odour control/demand controlled ventilation/building draft proofing
- Solar Photovoltaic (PV) panels
- Planting of Trees and Shrubs for environmental screening and odour minimisation
- BER Certificates (see scheme details)
- Attic Insulation
- Wall Insulation – Cavity/External/Dry Lining
- Boiler upgrade including zoning and controls
- Heating controls upgrade
- Solar panels for water heating

We suggest you review the above list and start your planning now for this next Small Grant Scheme based on the previous scheme. You can start selecting projects and obtaining quotes for the work so that you are ready when the grant scheme becomes available. **DO NOT** start any works or spend any money until you receive your grant approval from the Ballynagran Liaison Committee.

Please note that the Small Grant Scheme is limited to homeowners in the Ballynagran Basin area.

For more information

If you are interested in more detail about the single small community turbine project, including the above surveys and assessments, please contact

ballynagran.energyplus@gmail.com At a later date we will arrange a community wind turbine meeting for Ballynagran Basin homeowners.

Want to help us make a difference?

We welcome any suggestions you may have or policies you would like to see adopted. We are also seeking volunteers and new members for the energy and retrofit teams. Please send email to ballynagran.energyplus@gmail.com or contact any of the below members.

Energy sub-committee: Ger Delahunt, Thomas Oldfield, Pat King, Christian Osthoff, Con Hogan, Val Cosgrave, J Zeig