

This table, consisting of three columns, contains our suggestions for wording in relation to the Wind Energy Section of the County Development Plan (Section 11.5 in the 2021 Edition). The first column is taken directly from this 2021 edition, with no edits. The second column is our proposed wording, that we believe encourages community engagement where it is most needed. Finally, in the third column, we outline the rationale for each point, in order to ensure the reader understands why our proposals are so vital to local communities in Kilkenny. We would like to reiterate that we encourage wind energy developments in a responsible and cohesive manner, and only wish to ensure they are developed in collaboration with the community, rather than rejected. This will ensure positive, local support for developments, reducing costs, planning objections, and project delays, and ultimately help achieve our climate targets.

Existing Policy from 2021 County Development Plan	Proposed Policy for new County Development Plan	Rationale
<p>(d) Large-Scale Wind Energy Developments (>5MW)</p> <p>Large-scale wind energy developments will, in usual circumstances, only be considered in 'Acceptable in principle' areas. The rationale behind this policy is to minimise the visual impacts of such large-scale developments, in addition to effects on the environment of County Kilkenny as a whole, as well as to facilitate appropriate grid connections. These will be assessed in accordance with the Wind Energy Development Guidelines.</p> <p>11.5.3 Development Management Guidance</p>	<p>(d) Large-Scale Wind Energy Developments (>5MW)</p> <p>Large-scale wind energy developments will, in usual circumstances, only be considered where the nearest turbine is greater than 3 km from an Urban Centre as outlined in Table 4.3.¹</p> <p>The rationale behind this policy is to minimise the impacts of such large-scale developments, in addition to effects on the environment of County Kilkenny as a whole, as well as to facilitate appropriate grid connections.</p> <p>Large-scale wind energy developments may be considered within 3 km of an urban settlement where the community of these</p>	<p>Residents believe the placement of turbines closer than 3 km from communities leads to adverse consequences to their rural development. These consequences should be identified and mitigated through engagement between the community and the developer, with sufficient steps taken so as to earn broad support from the community. This will also allow for future expansion of the urban area into space that would otherwise be filled by</p>

¹ Section 4.3 of the 2021 Kilkenny County Development Plan. However, there appears to be abnormalities in this table - some areas listed as rural nodes should be classified as rural villages (e.g. Kilmanagh and Tullaroan). A review should be conducted in this regard.

<p>All planning applications for wind energy developments shall be assessed against the DEHLG's Wind Energy Development Guidelines, 2006, (and any subsequent update of these guidelines) and the County Council's Wind Strategy.</p> <p>In accordance with the guidance, when considering an application for wind energy development, the planning authority may consider some, if not all, of the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Assessments (EIA, AA etc. See 10.5.3.1 below) including mitigation included in Construction Environment Management Plans (CEMPs); • Community engagement and participation aspects of the proposal and how its Community Benefit Fund will contribute to the wider County of Kilkenny's Energy Efficiency targets at a local level. (3CEA coordinate such proposals under the County Climate Action Plan.) • Grid connection details • Geology and ground conditions, including peat stability; and management plans to deal with any potential material impact. Reference 	<p>urban settlements show broad community support for the development. Such projects must adhere to the principles set out in the 2019 Wind Energy Development Guidelines.²</p> <p>(e) Cumulative effects of two or more Wind Energy Developments</p> <p>Special consideration shall be given to the cumulative effect caused by two or more wind energy developments. It is important that wind energy developments are never perceived to visually dominate³. Planning applications for wind energy developments shall be assessed in this context.</p> <p>11.5.3 Development Management Guidance</p> <p>All planning applications for wind energy developments shall be assessed against the DEHLG's Wind Energy Development Guidelines, 2006, (and any subsequent update of these guidelines) and the County Council's Wind Strategy.</p>	<p>wind energy developments.</p> <p>Communities also find that where two or more wind energy developments exist in close proximity, the visual dominance is greatly increased. As such, proposals near existing developments should be examined to ensure cumulative effects are minimised.</p>
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² [2019 Wind Energy Development Guidelines](#)

³ 2019 Wind Energy Development Guidelines

<p>should be made to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map to confirm ground conditions are suitably stable for project;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site drainage and hydrological effects, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o water supply and quality and watercourse crossings; o management plans to deal with any potential material impact on watercourses; o the hydrological table; o flood risk including mitigation measures; • Landscape and visual impact assessment, including the size, scale and layout and the degree to which the wind energy project is visible over certain areas and in certain views; • Visual impact of ancillary development, such as grid connection and access roads; • Potential impact of the project on natural heritage, to include direct and indirect effects on protected sites or species, on habitats of ecological sensitivity and biodiversity value and, where necessary, management plans to deal with the satisfactory co-existence of the wind energy development and the particular species/habitat identified; • Potential impact of the project on the built heritage including archaeological and architectural heritage; 	<p>Planning applications for wind energy developments within 3 km of an urban settlement shall be assessed in accordance with the 2019 Wind Energy Development Guidelines, and the County Council's Wind Strategy.</p> <p>In accordance with the guidance, when considering an application for wind energy development, the planning authority may consider some, if not all, of the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Assessments (EIA, AA etc. See 10.5.3.1 below) including mitigation included in Construction Environment Management Plans (CEMPs); • Community engagement and participation aspects of the proposal and how its Community Benefit Fund will contribute to the wider County of Kilkenny's Energy Efficiency targets at a local level. (3CEA coordinate such proposals under the County Climate Action Plan.) • Grid connection details • Geology and ground conditions, including peat stability; and management plans to deal with any potential material impact. Reference should be made to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map to confirm ground conditions are suitably stable for project; 	<p>"As well as providing for enhanced community engagement, it is envisaged that the revised guidelines will provide greater consistency of approach in planning for onshore wind energy development, as well as providing greater certainty and clarity to the planning system, to the wind industry and to local communities."</p> <p>Eoghan Murphy T.D., Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, 2019</p> <p>"These guidelines set out how we deliver on our objectives, in accordance with best practice and in partnership with people living in the local area. Large scale projects can bring benefits to everyone and it's vital that local communities are centrally involved if we are to be successful in delivering on the scale that is needed.."</p> <p>Richard Bruton T.D., Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment, 2019</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that consideration of carbon emissions balance is demonstrated when the wind energy developments requires peat extraction. • Local environmental impacts including noise, shadow flicker, electromagnetic interference, etc.; • Adequacy of local access road network to facilitate construction of the project and transportation of large machinery and turbine parts to site, including a traffic management plan; • Information on any cumulative effects due to other projects, including effects on natural heritage and visual effects; • Information on the location of quarries to be used or borrow pits proposed during the construction phase and associated remedial works thereafter; • Disposal or elimination of waste/surplus material from construction/site clearance, particularly significant for peatland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site drainage and hydrological effects, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o water supply and quality and watercourse crossings; o management plans to deal with any potential material impact on watercourses; o the hydrological table; o flood risk including mitigation measures; • Landscape and visual impact assessment, including the size, scale and layout and the degree to which the wind energy project is visible over certain areas and in certain views; • Visual impact of ancillary development, such as grid connection and access roads; • Potential impact of the project on natural heritage, to include direct and indirect effects on protected sites or species, on habitats of ecological sensitivity and biodiversity value and, where necessary, management plans to deal with the satisfactory co-existence of the wind energy development and the particular species/habitat identified; • Potential impact of the project on the built heritage including archaeological and architectural heritage; • It is recommended that consideration of carbon emissions balance is demonstrated 	
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