

# Welcome to the Umma More Renewable Energy Project Exhibition

## The Purpose of Today's Public Information Session

- Provide an update on the Umma More Renewable Energy Development;
- Outline a brief description of the renewable energy infrastructure that is proposed;
- Describe the technical and environmental studies which have been completed to-date;
- Enable all interested members of the local community to view the current proposal;
- Describe the potential benefits of the Umma More Renewable Energy Development and how the project may help local projects and initiatives;
- Provide you with the opportunity to ask the project team any questions you might have about the Proposed Development and to give us feedback on the proposal;

## The Design Team

Umma More Ltd. is a company affiliated with Enerco Energy Ltd., which is an Irish-owned company based in Lissarda, Co. Cork. The applicant company has extensive experience in the design, construction and operation of wind energy developments throughout Ireland, responsible for projects currently operating in Counties Kerry, Cork, Limerick, Clare, Galway and Mayo.

MKO is a Galway-based Planning and Environmental consultancy with significant expertise and experience as lead planning and environmental consultant, over the last 20 years, on projects in the renewable energy industry and public infrastructure projects. MKO have led the environmental assessments throughout all project stages and is preparing the planning permission applications and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the Proposed Development on behalf of Umma More Ltd.

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## The Proposed Development

### Wind Farm Site

- 9 No. wind turbines and meteorological mast.
- Upgrade of existing tracks/roads and provision of new site access roads and hardstand areas;
- Temporary construction compounds;
- All associated site development works and apparatus.

### Grid Connection

- 1 no. onsite 110kV electrical substation including associated infrastructure;
- Access road to substation from public road to the south;
- c.30 km of 110kV underground electricity cabling to facilitate the connection to the national grid;
- Proposed grid connection point is Thornsberry 110kV substation near Tullamore Co. Offaly;

# The Planning Process

## Scoping and Consultation

### Statutory Consultation

Scoping is the process of identifying the significant issues which should be addressed by the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

MKO prepared a Scoping Document, which was circulated to statutory and non-statutory consultees, in August 2021 and February 2022, to provide them with an opportunity to comment and to inform the development design and assessment process.

### Community Consultation

Initial consultation commenced in April 2021 and involved door-to-door correspondence with local residents, within approximately 2 kilometres of the Proposed Development, this correspondence was expanded in May 2022 to include properties along the proposed grid connection route. In July 2022 public information sessions were held in Rosemount & Tullamore to inform the wider community about the proposal and allow an opportunity to provide feedback and comments on the project. Feedback received from these information sessions led to further sessions being organised for Ballymore and Moyvoughly in August.

The feedback received from scoping consultees and throughout the public consultation process has informed the Proposed Development design and assessments undertaken during the EIAR preparation which is ongoing.

## Planning Application

The planning application for the Proposed Development requires 2 No. separate planning applications.

### Wind Farm Site:

The proposed Wind Farm Site will comprise of 9 no. wind turbines with a total anticipated capacity in excess of 50MW. Under Section 37A of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended, planning applications for a wind farm with total power output that exceeds 50MW must be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) as a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID), where appropriate. A query in this regard was lodged with ABP under case reference number: ABP-313351-22, on the 12th of August the Board determined that the proposed Wind Farm Site constitutes Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID), and therefore the planning application for the proposed Wind Farm Site will be submitted directly to ABP.

### Grid Connection:

The proposed electrical substation and underground grid connection cabling to Thornsberry Substation will be installed at 110kV. Under Section 182A of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended, planning applications for 110kV infrastructure must be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) where appropriate. A query in this regard was lodged with ABP under case reference number: ABP-313352-22, on the 12th of August the Board determined that the proposed 110kV infrastructure constitutes Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID), and therefore the planning application for the 110kV infrastructure will be submitted directly to ABP.

# Site Constraints & EIAR

## Site Constraints

The constraints map for the site has been produced following a desk study of all site constraints. The constraints study encompasses the following constraints and associated buffers specifically in relation to the wind turbines:

- Natura 2000 and Designated sites plus 200-metre buffer;
- Third-party dwellings plus 740-metre buffer;
- Telecommunication Links plus operator-specific buffer;
- Watercourses plus 50-metre buffer;
- Lakes plus 100-metre buffer;
- Archaeological Sites or Monuments plus 50-metre buffer.

## Development Design

A turbine layout was then developed to take account of all the constraints mentioned above and their associated buffer zones and the separation distance required between the turbines.

In addition to the above, the locations of the proposed wind turbines, and all other proposed infrastructure locations have been informed by rigorous site investigations and assessments carried out over a two-year period including:

- Ecological Surveys
- Ornithological Surveys
- Hydrological and Geological Site Investigations, including site-specific flood modelling
- Archaeological Surveys
- Shadow Flicker Modelling
- Noise Modelling
- Landscape and Visual Assessment

## Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

The planning application for the Proposed Development will be accompanied by an EIAR. This will be publicly accessible and will address the following headings:

1. Introduction
2. Background to the Proposed Development
3. Consideration of Reasonable Alternatives
4. Description of the Proposed Development
5. Population & Human Beings
6. Biodiversity
7. Birds
8. Land, Soils and Geology
9. Water
10. Air and Climate
11. Noise and Vibration
12. Landscape and Visual
13. Cultural Heritage
14. Material Assets (includes Traffic and Transportation, Telecommunications, and Aviation)
15. Interaction of the Foregoing
16. Major Accidents and Natural Disasters
17. Schedule of Mitigation

MKO are compiling the EIAR with the input of several other specialist consultants:

- Hydro-Environmental Services
- Tobar Archaeological Services
- TNEI Ireland Ltd. (Noise & Vibration)
- Alan Lipscombe Traffic and Transport Consultants

# Benefits of the proposed Development

## National & EU Targets

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (amendment) Act 2021 commits Ireland to reach a legally binding target of net-zero emissions no later than 2050, and a cut of 51% by 2030, transitioning Ireland to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy. The Climate Action Plan 2021 (CAP) identified the need to increase the share of electricity demand generated from renewable sources by up to 80% where achievable and cost effective, without compromising security of electricity supply, identifying a need for 8.2GW of onshore wind generation in order for Ireland to meet its 2030 targets. As of September 2021, EirGrid estimate that 4.5 – 6.5 GW on-shore wind capacity would be required to meet the 2030 RES-E targets for Ireland.

The production of renewable energy from the Umma More Renewable Energy Development will assist in achieving the Government's and EU's stated goals.

## Environmental Benefits

The Proposed Development will generate approximately 54 MW of renewable, carbon-neutral electricity, which is enough to supply over 39,000 homes per annum, based on average household use (Source: CRU Typical Consumption Figure 2017).

Neither wind turbines, nor underground cables, emit toxic substances or air pollutants, unlike coal or gas power stations. In addition to a reduced dependence on oil and other imported fuels, the generation of electricity from the Umma More Renewable Energy Development will displace approximately 72,000 tonnes of carbon emissions per annum from the largely carbon-based traditional energy mix.

## Community Benefit

Renewable energy projects which are developed under the current RESS will have a significantly increased community benefit fund associated with them and for wind energy, this contribution is currently set at €2/MWhr.

Should the Proposed Development be developed under RESS, it would attract a community contribution in the region of approx. €330,000/year for the local community. The value of this fund would be directly proportional to the electricity generated by the wind farm. Under current T&C's of RESS, the following would be required for Umma More Wind Farm:

- **Direct payments** – to those living closest to the wind farm. A minimum €1,000 payment per annum for houses within 1km of the proposed development;
- **Energy Efficiency** – Up to €130,000/year would be available for the development of energy initiatives to benefit people living in the local area. This is to be provided to not for profit community enterprises.
- **Support for local groups** –Up to €130,000/year would be available for local groups, clubs and not for profit organisations that provide services in the local area. This would include services for the elderly, local community buildings, and the development of sporting facilities such as all weather playing pitches etc.
- **Administration costs** - a maximum of 10% of this fund to be made available for the administration and governance costs of the fund.

The Community Benefit Fund belongs to the local community. The premise of the fund is that it should be used to bring about significant, positive change in the local area. To make this happen, our first task will be to form a benefit fund development working group that clearly represents both the close neighbours to the project as well as nearby communities. This group will then work on designing the governance and structure of a community entity that would administer the Community Benefit Fund.

## Next Steps & Comments

### Project Development: Next Steps

Upon completion of the EIAR, Umma More Ltd. intends to submit the planning application to An Bord Pleanála in the coming weeks. The planning applications will include:

- Application Forms and Public Notices
- Planning Drawings
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report
- Natura Impact Statement

Notification of the intention to lodge these applications will be placed in relevant newspapers. Once submitted, all planning application documents and drawings will be available for viewing in the offices of ABP. The information will also be available to view on website portals, this usually takes a few days for the information to be uploaded.

Umma More Ltd. will also continue to update all residents closest to the development on the project progress and will notify them of the lodgement date. The project website will also be updated with links to the relevant application files, to inform the wider community.

Following lodgement of the applications, members of the community can make submissions to the relevant Authority during the assigned public consultation period. Umma More Ltd. will continue to be available to discuss any individual queries in relation to the application.

### Please Let Us Know What You Think

We value your feedback during the design process, and we appreciate your consideration of the information provided up to now. Consultation is ongoing and we continue to seek your views in the following ways:

- At this exhibition by providing comments to exhibition staff;
- Complete a comment card, available at the exhibition today;
- Email: [ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com](mailto:ummamoreclo@turnkeydev.com);
- Phone: 086-3979248.
- Use the “Contact” portal on the project website, [www.ummamoreinfo.com](http://www.ummamoreinfo.com).
- By post to James Crowley, Umma More Ltd., Lissarda Business Park, Lissarda, Co. Cork, P14 YN56.



[www.ummamoreinfo.com](http://www.ummamoreinfo.com)

**Thank you for attending this Public Information Session!!**