About Energia Group

Powering the energy transition
Energia Group is a leading, integrated Irish energy business committed to powering the energy transition. We supply almost 21% of the island of Ireland's total electricity requirements and 25% of the island's total wind power, meeting the energy needs of 800,000 homes and businesses with electricity and gas services provided through our two retail brands, Energia and Power NI.

Experts in renewable energy
We've set clear targets to halve the carbon intensity of our electricity generation and increase by a factor of three the volume of renewable electricity we generate across the island of Ireland by 2030. Our ongoing €3bn 'Positive Energy' investment programme is developing onshore and offshore wind, battery storage, green hydrogen production and solar PV installations, facilitating the achievement of Climate Action targets.

Sustainability
We have aligned our responsible business activities with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. We are a Business Supporter of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, protecting wildflower and bogland habitats and promoting pollinator-friendly land management methods on our wind farms and other renewable energy projects.

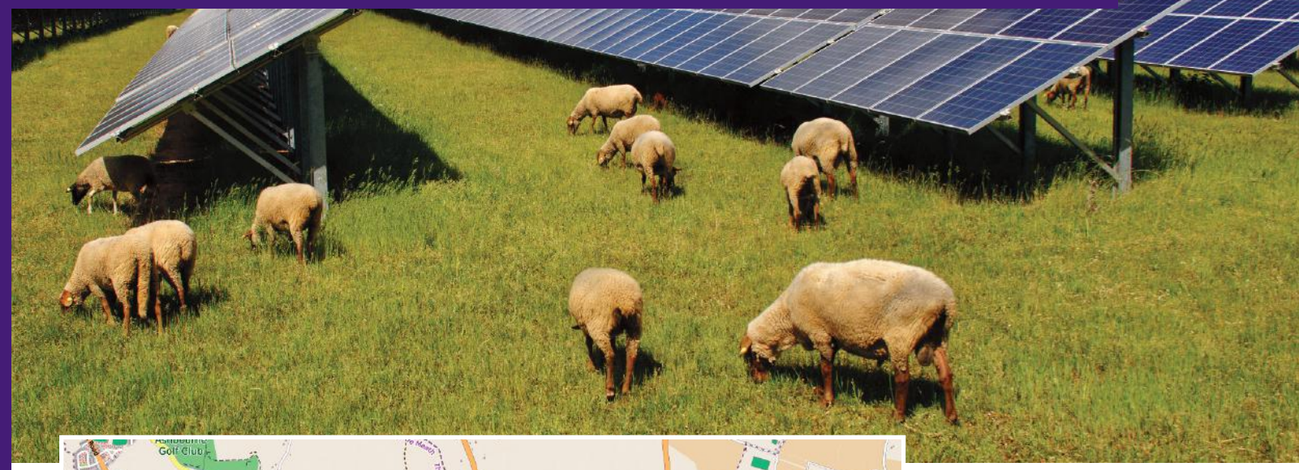
Community focus
We pride ourselves on our reputation for being a responsible developer and good neighbour in the communities where we operate. We work with local community groups and projects through our community benefit funds and are happy to facilitate school visits and classroom talks.

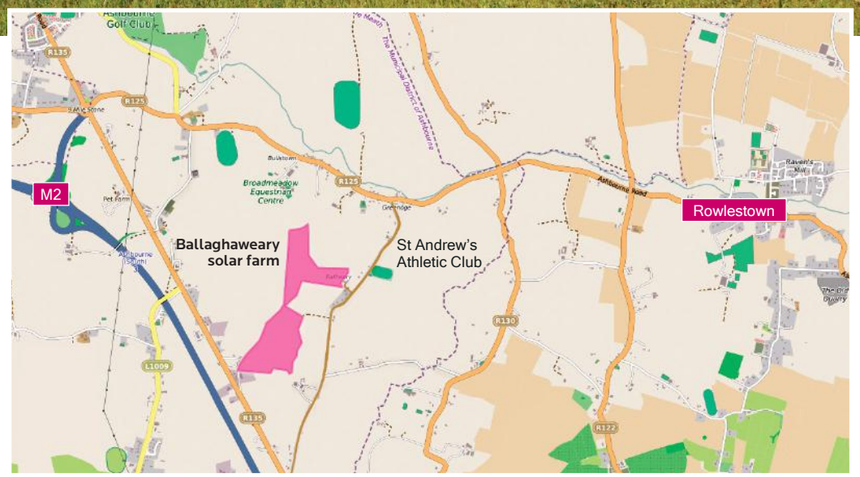
To find out more about Energia Group, our renewable energy projects and community benefit funds, visit our website: www.energiagroup.com/renewables.

energia group

Proposed amendments to consented Ballaghaweary solar PV development

Townland of Ballaghaweary near Ashbourne, Co. Meath





The Ballaghaweary solar farm project is situated in the townland of Ballaghaweary, near Ashbourne in County Meath. Planning permission was granted in January 2022 for a solar development with an export capacity of up to 18.3 MW MEC (export capacity), generating enough renewable electricity to meet the average electricity needs of approximately 4,500 Irish households.

Energia Group has continued to work on plans for the site and we are currently finalising a series of proposed minor design amendments to the original planning application. **However, the site size and boundary remain unchanged.**

Proposed amendments include changing the substation building to a storage building, adding 3 storage containers, minor panel reconfiguration and realigning the access track main site entrance.

energia group

Site layout

Proposed planning amendments

The proposed amendments to the approved Ballaghaweary solar farm include the following:

- Change the substation building to a storage building
- Insert 3 permanent 40-foot storage containers in the temporary construction compound
- Realigning the access track at main site entrance
- Extension of planning permission duration from 5 years to 10 years (period of time given for the start of construction)
- Minor panel reconfiguration

Project FAQs

Why are these amendments necessary?

The solar project of up to 18.3 MW MEC was granted planning permission in 2022. We are now preparing to submit a number of proposed minor design amendments to the original planning application within the consented site boundary, which remains unchanged. We must advertise these proposed changes before submitting a planning amendment application.

Why is this project important?

The Irish Government has declared a climate emergency and its 2030 Climate Action Plan has set ambitious targets for decarbonisation through increased levels of renewable energy generation. Solar energy will play an important role in achieving these targets.

Site statistics

The Ballaghaweary solar farm will have an export capacity of up to 18.3 MW MEC (export capacity), generating enough renewable electricity to meet the average electricity needs of approximately 4,500 Irish households every year, while saving around 5,500 tonnes of CO2 emissions. That's the equivalent of taking approximately 2,500 cars off the road.

What happens when the sun doesn't shine?

When light shines on the photovoltaic (PV) cells in a solar panel, it creates an electric field, causing electricity to flow. The more intense the light is, the greater the flow of electricity. Even cloudy days can have good visible light levels and generate solar energy – particularly during our long hours of daylight during the summer months.

What security measures will be used on site?

The solar installation will be enclosed by fencing, approx. 2m high. CCTV cameras will be in operation but will be strategically positioned to ensure they do not breach residents' privacy.

How long will construction last?

Construction will last approximately 9 months. A traffic management plan will be put in place, when the solar installation is being constructed, but disruption is expected to be minimal. Once constructed, solar installations require limited maintenance access.

Do solar farms pose a health risk?

Unlike fossil fuels, such as coal or gas, generating electricity from solar energy creates no harmful emissions. The electrical equipment we use meets international engineering and safety standards.