

# LEADER Programme 2014-2020

## Expressions of Interest

### Targeted Call for

### **Supports for the enhancement of community facilities through Renewable Energy**

Ireland has excellent renewable energy resources, which will be a critical and growing component of Irish energy supply beyond 2020. As noted in Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-2030, the development of renewable energy, allied with energy efficiency is central to overall energy policy in Ireland. Renewable energy reduces dependence on fossil fuels, improves security of supply, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions creating environmental benefits. The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply.

In contributing to the national strategic objective in the area of Renewable Energy, as part of the Westmeath LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS), funding is now being made available to communities to make improvements in this area to their facilities. Such improvements will contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions thus creating environmental benefits.

#### **Stage 1: Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI's)**

Westmeath Community Development on behalf of the Local Action Group Westmeath Local Community Development Committee is now inviting **Expressions of Interest** from those interested in the following;

#### **Supports for the enhancement of community facilities through use of Renewable Energy**

This targeted call for Expressions of Interest is being made under the following Theme and sub-theme of the LEADER Programme 2014-2020:

#### Theme 1: Rural Environment

#### Sub-theme: 3.3 Development of Renewable Energy

The Westmeath Local Development Strategy (LDS) outlines that the overall objective for the Development of Renewable Energy sub-theme as follows:

*"To promote the efficient use of energy and to increase the use of renewable energy by community groups and individuals in County Westmeath".*

Under this targeted call, grant aid may be available to communities under the following headings:

- 1. Capital**
- 2. Feasibility Studies**

### **1. Capital**

Under the heading of Capital, funding may be available for the following;

- Installation of renewable energy technologies
- Upgrading of lighting, windows, doors and heating systems to more energy efficient systems
- Installation of Energy Monitoring Equipment
- Insulation of buildings

*Actions that promote the efficient use of energy within buildings e.g. raising awareness may also be included as part of an application.*

Funding for capital projects may be provided at up to 75% for community based projects up to a maximum of **€5,000** per successful proposal.

Applicants should provide evidence that their chosen type of capital investment would potentially provide the most energy efficient route for them by way of an Energy Audit report completed by professional.

### **2. Feasibility Studies**

Feasibility Studies can be funded to allow communities to explore the options available to them in the area of Renewable Energy.

Funding for feasibility studies may be provided up to 90% for community based projects where there is no commercial basis for the project to a maximum of **€10,000** per successful proposal.

#### **Budget Available:**

The overall LEADER budget available for this targeted call is €50,000.

#### **Closing date:**

Closing date for receipt of **Stage 1 Expression of Interest** (EOI): 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their Expression of Interest by 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

Applicants that are successful at Stage 1 will be invited to **Stage 2** of the process which will involve the completion of a Full Application. Completed Applications with all required supporting documentation are to be submitted by 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020.

Failure to submit a completed application form and supporting documentation by the deadline will result in your project not proceeding to evaluation.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their Application in **December 2020**

# **LEADER Programme 2014-2020**

## **Targeted Call for in Co. Westmeath**

### **Supports for the enhancement of community facilities through Renewable Energy**

#### **Stage 2: Full Application Stage**

#### **Applicants should be aware of the following requirements at the Full Application Stage:**

- Fully Completed and Signed **LEADER Application Form** accompanied **by the following:**
- Evidence of group formation/Groups Constitution
- Memorandum and Articles of Association (If Applicable)
- Required Number of Quotes
- Current Insurance Policy Details
- Local Area Plan or demonstration of need report
- Letter of support from other groups
- Audited Accounts for existing Community Groups if incorporated; Set of Accounts if not a limited company ( 3 years if available) or most recent treasurers report detailing income and expenditure (Voluntary Group)
- Finance (Match funds and bridging finance/overdraft). It should be noted that as the LEADER funding is paid retrospect, project promoters must show they have the capacity to complete the project showing the required match funds along with bridging finance or overdraft as appropriate.
- Current e-Tax Clearance Certificate for applicants
- VAT-Where Promoters are not VAT registered, evidence of same required from Revenue.
- Evidence of title will be required by way of title deeds/leasehold
- Evidence of planning permission (or exemption from planning) being in place from the planning section of the Local Authority where required

- Any other documentation as requested by Westmeath Community Development.

**Selection and Approvals Process:**

Projects will be selected based on the submission of fully completed application forms accompanied by all the required supporting documentation. Applications are assessed by the Independent Evaluation Committee as per the attached score sheet (*Appendix 1*) A minimum score of 65 is required and final recommendation will be made to the Local Action Group (LAG), Westmeath Local Community Development Committee. The LAG is the body responsible for making the final decision on awarding of funding to projects.

If you have any queries please contact LEADER Section in Westmeath Community Development on 044 9348571, E-mail: [leader@westcd.ie](mailto:leader@westcd.ie)

*Appendix 1.***Project Assessment Criteria:**

<b><u>Assessment Criteria</u></b>	<b><u>Objective</u></b>	<b><u>Weighting</u></b>	<b><u>Score</u></b>
Compatibility with LDS	Does the project proposals meet the criteria set out in the LDS (Theme, Sub Theme, Objective and Strategic Action)?	<b>20</b>	
Promoter Experience	Does the promoter have the Training/skills, track record or experience to deliver?	<b>20</b>	
Financial Viability	Are the project costs justifiable and is adequate funding available to co-fund the project?	<b>20</b>	
Sustainability	Is the project viable and will the service continue to be delivered?	<b>10</b>	
Requirement	Does the proposal target a specific need or address a specific gap in the market?	<b>15</b>	
Innovation	Is the project innovative in its nature or does it displace existing enterprises?	<b>15</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>	