

A young girl with long brown hair, wearing a grey sweater, holds a large blue and green globe on a wooden stick. She is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. In the background, a crowd of people is visible, some holding signs. One sign in the foreground on the left says "ACT NOW" with a small globe icon. The scene is outdoors and brightly lit.

Community Benefit

Participatory approaches for meaningful public engagement

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Who are EirGrid and what do we do?

- State owned operators of Ireland's electricity transmission grid.
- We send power from where it is generated to where it is needed.
- We operate the wholesale electricity market.
- We operate electricity interconnectors with neighbouring countries.
- We do not generate electricity and we are not the Transmission Asset Owner.



Funding Approach

Community Benefit Journey

New Public Engagement Strategy

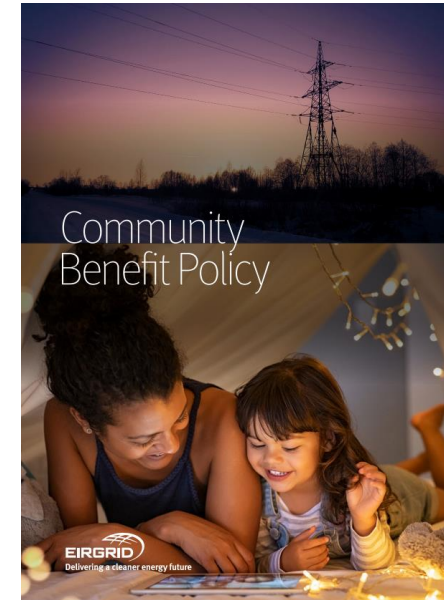
- Social acceptance / licence
- Partnerships
- Community benefit
- Capacity building
- Deliberative processes

Early Establishment of Community Forums

- At pre-concept stage
- Local community representatives
- Co-design activities
- Local Insight

Co-delivery of Community Benefit

- Local implementation strategy
- Community stream
- Biodiversity stream
- Sustainability stream
- Matched funding





How we structure community benefit

- **3 Stream** approach: Community, Sustainability and Biodiversity.
- **Value:** 3% of capital cabling costs for underground cable and upto €120,000 per kilometre of overheadline.
- Emphasis on creating and leveraging **Partnerships** and funds.
- **Participation** at the core – led by local **Community Forums**.
- Development of project specific **Community Benefit Strategy**.
- Emphasis on incorporating the **Sustainable Development Goals**.
- Objective: building a **positive legacy** in Communities.

Strategy and Vision

To leave a positive legacy in the communities hosting our infrastructure across the areas biodiversity, community and sustainability.

Objectives

Sustainability:
Transform how communities think about, generate and use energy

Community:
Reinforce community cohesion, wellbeing and education

Biodiversity:
Enhance biodiversity and ensure net positive impact

Project Examples

- Support the development of community led **energy master plan**.
- Community **retrofitting** projects.
- Seed funding for community owned **large scale renewable** projects.
- **Education** initiatives.

- Development or improvement to community **facilities and infrastructure**.
- Removing **barriers to education**.
- Community-led **cultural and social inclusion** events.

- Replant and replace initiatives.
- Biodiversity nature trails.
- Community allotments and wetlands.

Mechanisms for Implementation

- Directly employed **Community Development** specialist.
 - Independent third-party **Fund Administrator**.
 - Establishment of a **Community Forum**.
- Development of a grassroots multi-year **Community Benefit Strategy**.

Community Forums

Embed communities at the heart of decision making

Provide relevant knowledge and local input

Build trust and grow partnerships

Governance and transparency on implementing community benefit

Regular two way dialogue with project team

Key advisers to EirGrid on communication and engagement

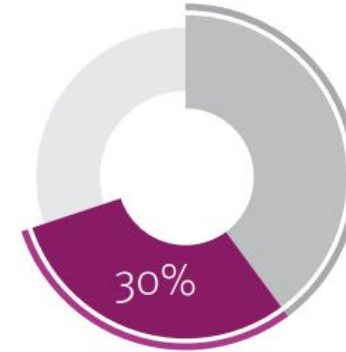


Release of funds



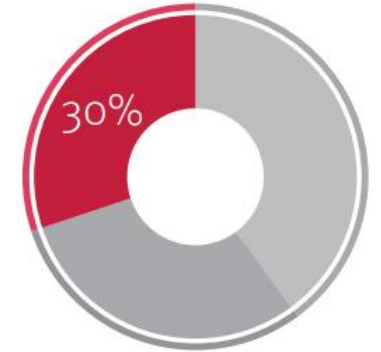
Phase 1: 40%

When we start constructing our project.



Phase 2: 30%

When we start line stringing or cable jointing.



Phase 3: 30%

When our project goes live (when the line becomes a part of the electricity grid and electricity runs through it).

Creation Outcomes

A photograph of a high-voltage power line tower in a field under a cloudy sky. The tower is a lattice structure, and several power lines run across the frame. The foreground is a field of tall, dry grasses. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with some light breaking through near the horizon. The overall mood is somber and industrial.



Clashavoon Dunmanway Community Fund

Project type	110 kV Overheadline
Fund value	€600,000
Community relations	Organised opposition. Agricultural liaison officers (land acquisition specialists) key to unlocking support from landowners. Project energisation delayed due to one landowner refusing access.
# Projects Funded	15

Funded: Electric vehicle to deliver warm meals to vulnerable clients



Funded: Matched funding for rural co-located playground



Funded: Family supports





Laois Kilkenny

- 110 kV Overheadline, substation and substation upgrade.
- €511,500 Fund (Phase 1: €205,000)
- Challenging community relations
 - Organised opposition group
 - Picket line for 700+ days
 - Independent NGO mediator
 - Recommendations implemented
- Community Forum key to driving on local support.

Funded: Solar panels to heat community owned swimming pool.





Community Appreciation Day



Kilpadogue Knockanure

Sep 16, 2022, 11:03 PM

Hey to all in eirgrid I want to leave a private message to thank u all for the special day and the events you brought to our community today it was a huge success the kids had an absolute ball you can be proud of the way you as an organisation came down and made something of us all it was so needed with all the doom and gloom that has clouded us all over with the last few years eg covid etc, to get the meet all the people from moyvane and neighbouring parishes tonight was a joy for all so well done again and thanks for everything best wishes to u all ,the people of moyvane knockanure and tarbert will be forever greatfull to u, as an organisation u came in to our parish and we had a scence of fear but as u leave u will always be remembered as true friends that will live in our thoughts for many many years so again thanks again.

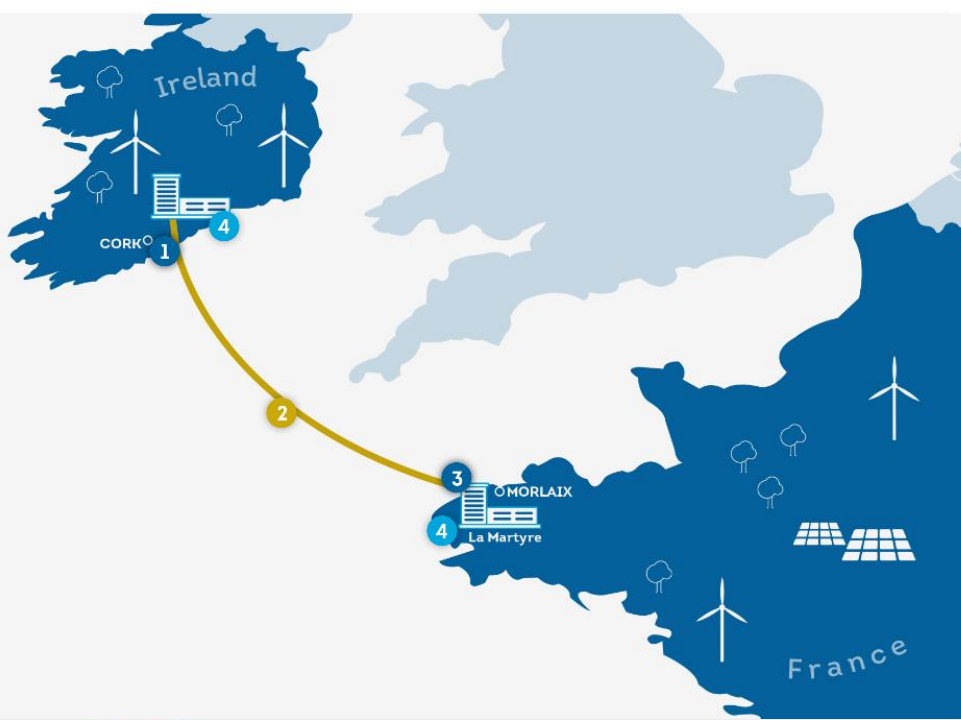




Current Case Study

Celtic Interconnector Community Fund

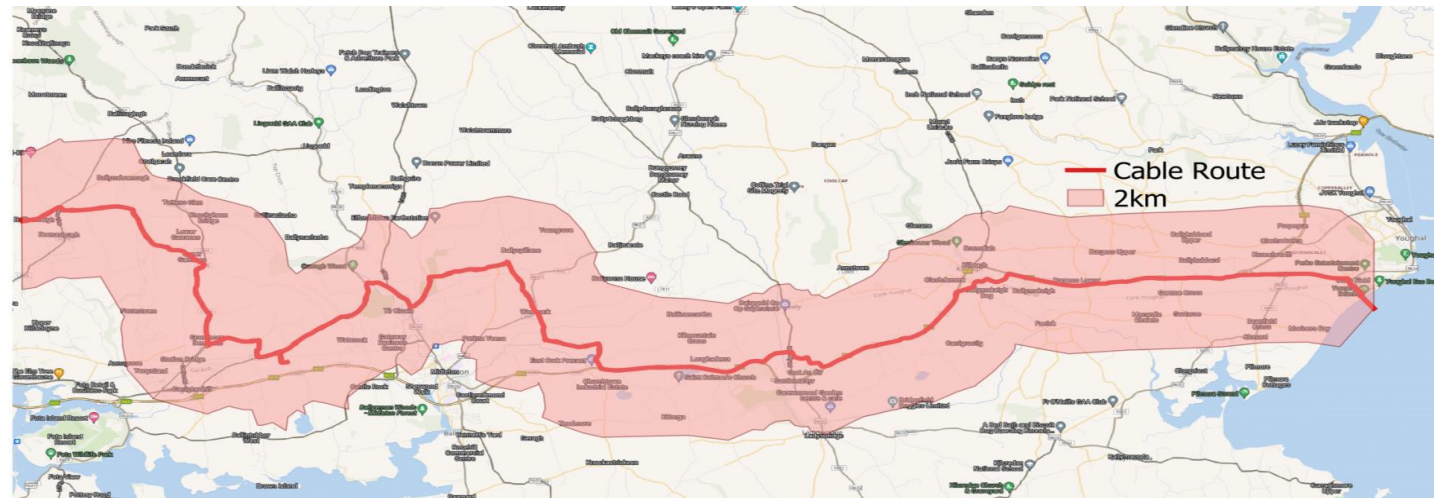
- PCI Project
- Fully consented
- Moving into community benefit stage

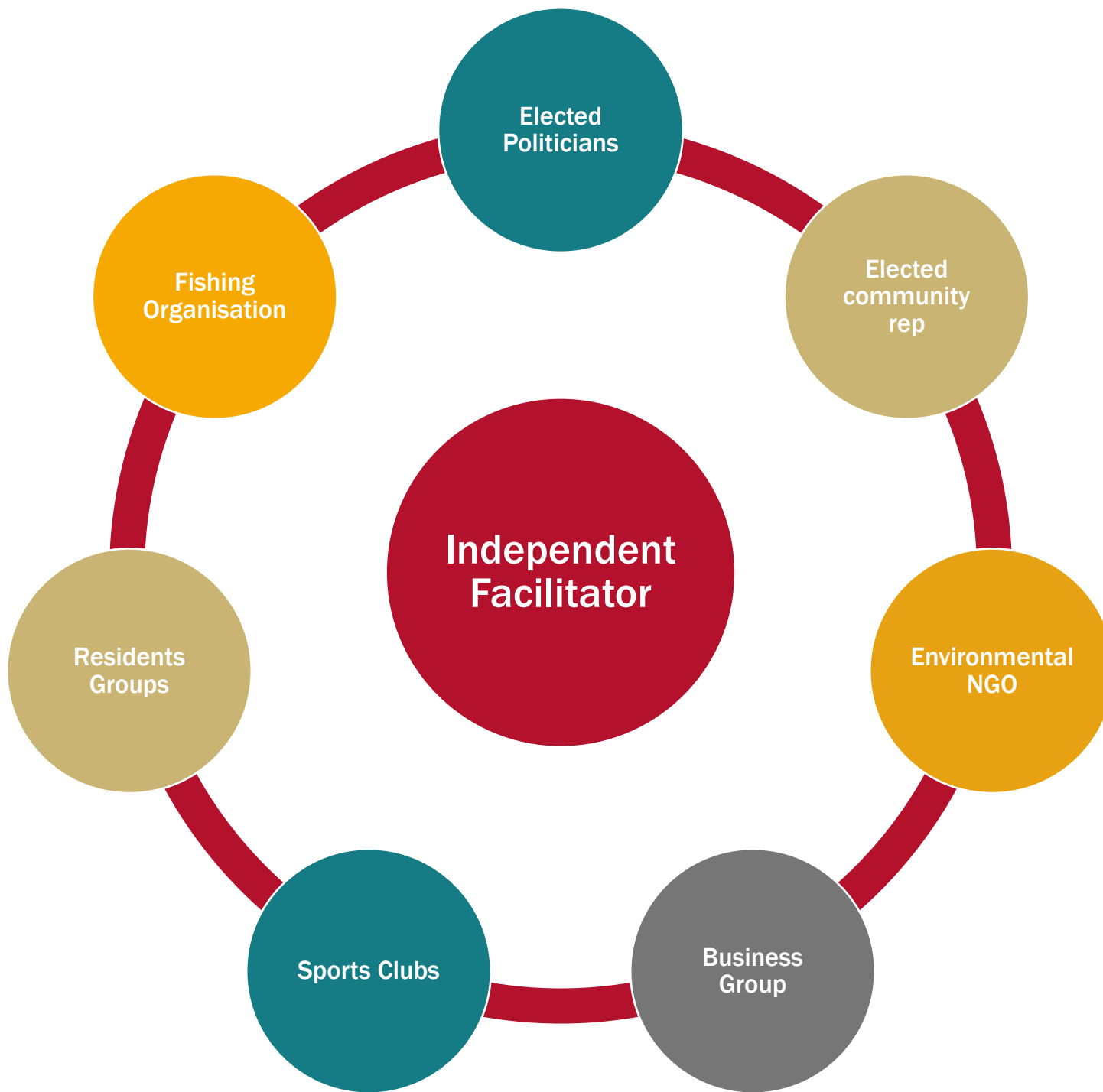


2 projects
sponsors
RTE & EirGrid

575 km
Length of Interconnector
500 km subsea

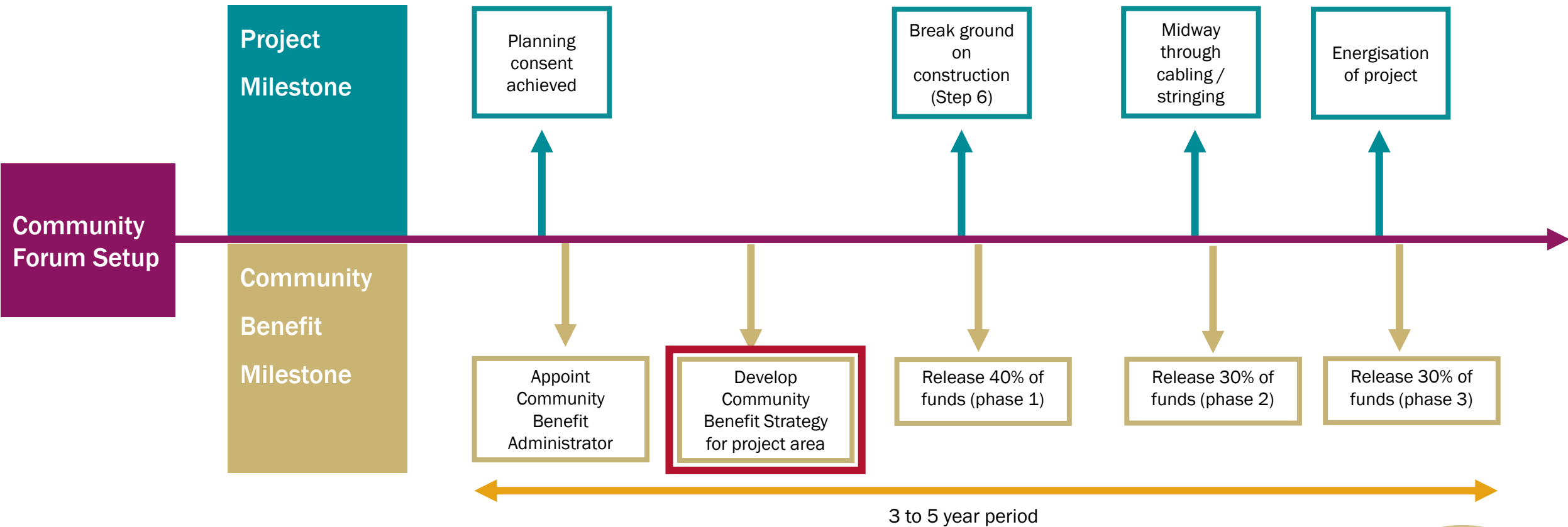
700 MW
total import/export capacity
Equal to the electricity needs
of approximately 450,00 homes



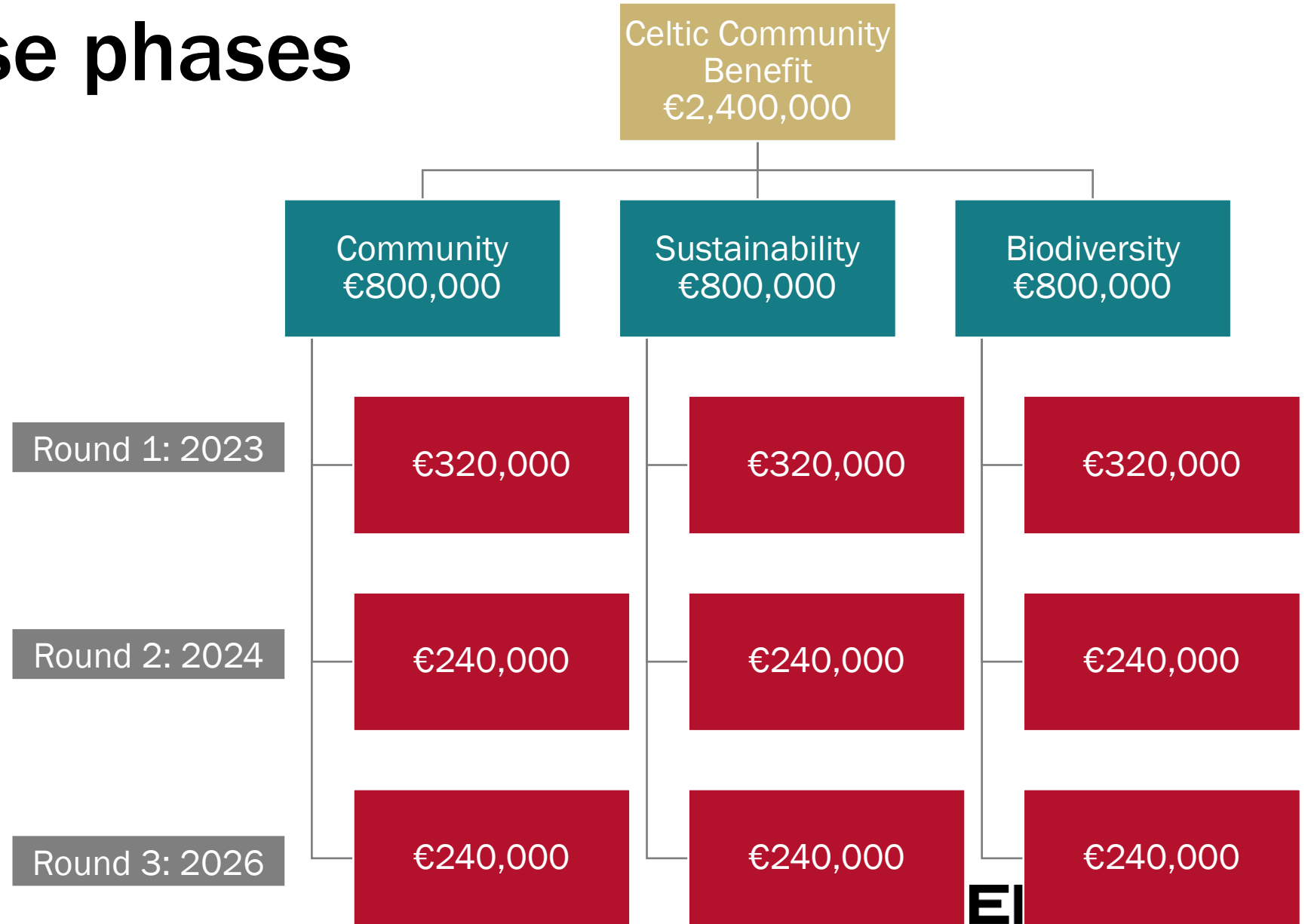


**Who sits on
the
community
forum?**

Community benefit milestones



Fund release phases





Upcoming Schemes

- 2023
 - Kildare Meath Grid Upgrade – approx. €2.4m
 - North Connaught Project – approx. €2m
- 2024+
 - East Meath North Dublin – approx. €2m
 - North South Interconnector – approx. €10m
 - Powering Up Dublin – TBC



EirGrid Energy Citizens Roadshow



Home energy grants
and upgrades



Regional and social
development



Microgeneration and
community ownership

4 May 2022

6.30pm-8pm
Clanree Hotel
Letterkenny

5 May 2022

6.30pm-8pm
The Abbey Hotel
Donegal Town

Find out how we are shaping the
future of energy in your area







Discussion

