

FAQs

Why is this wind farm extension necessary?

The Northern Ireland Assembly has declared a Climate Emergency and its Path to Net Zero strategy sets a goal of a 100% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from baseline levels by 2050. This will require at least 80% of electricity consumption to come from renewable sources by 2030.

Why was this location chosen?

The Slieveglass Extension Wind Farm site has been identified as suitable for wind energy development based on a number of factors, including:

- Proximity to the operational Slieveglass Wind Farm
- Wind speeds and proximity to existing grid infrastructure
- Location within an area identified as having 'highest underlying capacity' for wind energy (Fermanagh & Omagh District Council Local Development Plan 2030)

How big is the site?

The Slieveglass Extension Wind Farm landholding covers approximately 255 hectares. However, the footprint of the proposed Slieveglass Extension development will be much smaller. Energia will lease land for the turbine foundations, turbine hardstands, access track and control building. This allows the landowner to continue to utilise the rest of the site.

What about cumulative impact?

The Environmental Statement will assess cumulative and combined factors, including operational noise, shadow flicker and visual impacts. The Slieveglass Extension Wind Farm is directly adjacent to the operational Slieveglass Wind Farm. There are a number of other operational and consented wind farms within a 5 km radius, including:

- Castlecraig Wind Farm (2.4 km distance)
- Bin Mountain Wind Farm (2.5 km distance)
- Lough Hill Wind Farm (2.7 km distance)

Why are turbines getting taller?

Thanks to advances in technology, today's turbines generate more electricity, enabling wind farms to achieve maximum capacity with fewer turbines overall - improving efficiency while reducing land take and infrastructure requirements.

Will new overhead lines be created?

No additional overhead lines will be installed. The site will connect to the electricity network via a 400-metre underground cable from the control building, looping into the existing Drumquin-Slieveglass 33 kV overhead line which crosses the site, using two timber end masts. The control building itself has a footprint of around 120 m² and an associated 180 m² compound containing electrical equipment.

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What about noise?

Wind turbine technology has significantly improved over the last decade, resulting in lower operational noise levels. A detailed noise monitoring and assessment programme is being undertaken to ensure that noise levels will not adversely affect local residents. Noise limits are imposed as planning conditions which remain in force for the lifetime of a wind farm.

What about shadow flicker?

Shadow flicker can occur when rotating turbine blades cast intermittent, flickering shadows into buildings through narrow openings, such as windows, when the sun is low in the sky at sunrise or sunset.

A specialist shadow flicker assessment is currently underway. Planning guidelines state that shadow flicker impacts should not exceed 30 hours per year or 30 minutes per day at neighbouring properties.

What about local wildlife?

Ecologists and ornithologists have been carrying out detailed surveys of wildlife and habitats. Their findings will be included in the Environmental Statement, which will be submitted and made public as part of the planning applications.

How long will construction last?

Construction of the wind farm will take approximately 18 – 24 months. This will start with initial site preparation works for access,

followed by the construction of the control building and installation of the associated electrical equipment and turbines before the final commissioning and energisation stage.

What about construction traffic?

A traffic management plan will be put in place to manage construction traffic safely and efficiently. Our community engagement team will liaise with local residents and businesses to minimise disruption.

What benefit will this wind farm bring to the local area?

Energia will be investing around £35 million in this important new renewable energy development, which will make a significant annual business rates contribution to both Fermanagh & Omagh and Derry City & Strabane District Councils. This annual revenue will support the provision of local council services and public infrastructure.

Once operational, the Slieveglass Extension Wind Farm will operate an annual community benefit fund, which will be administered on behalf of Energia by an independent charitable trust in line with the existing Slieveglass Wind Farm community benefit fund.

If you can't find the answers you are looking for, please complete our online feedback form and include your contact details so that we can get back to you with more information. Visit www.slieveglass-extension.com.