Ireland FuturEnergy



Lettermore
Energy Storage

Newsletter 2

Autumn / Winter 2026

Introduction

FuturEnergy Ireland is exploring the potential for a battery energy storage project located within the townlands of Lettermore and Aughkeely, west of Drumkeen in Co. Donegal.

The technology we have chosen is an iron-air system. This multiday storage system can discharge power for up to 100 hours at a time to power homes, industries, farms, transport, devices and critical services when we need it most.

FuturEnergy Ireland is a leading Irish renewable energy developer established in 2021 as a stand-alone joint venture between Coillte and ESB. The company was formed with an aim to maximise the potential of Ireland's unique wind and land resources and accelerate Ireland's transformation to a low carbon energy economy.

Our ambition is to develop more than 1GW of renewable energy by 2030 through the advancement of high-quality, carefully considered onshore wind and battery storage projects. These projects, once delivered, would power an estimated 730,000 homes annually, make a significant contribution to Ireland's commitment to produce 80% of electricity from renewable sources by the end of this decade, and deliver material emissions reductions.

Project update

In September, Community Engagement Manager Shane Lowry delivered Newsletter 1 to local homes and political stakeholders. Since then, Shane has been answering emails and calls, and meeting community members to discuss the project. Questions that arose during this community engagement have been added to the Fact File at **www.lettermoreenergystorage.ie**

We are now issuing this newsletter with a final site layout. The team is also holding a community engagement clinic by appointment only on Thursday November 19, 2pm-8pm, and Friday November 20, 1pm-6pm, at Drumkeen Parish Hall, Drumkeen, Co. Donegal, F93 D726.
Please see page 11 for booking details.



Planning & Environmental Report

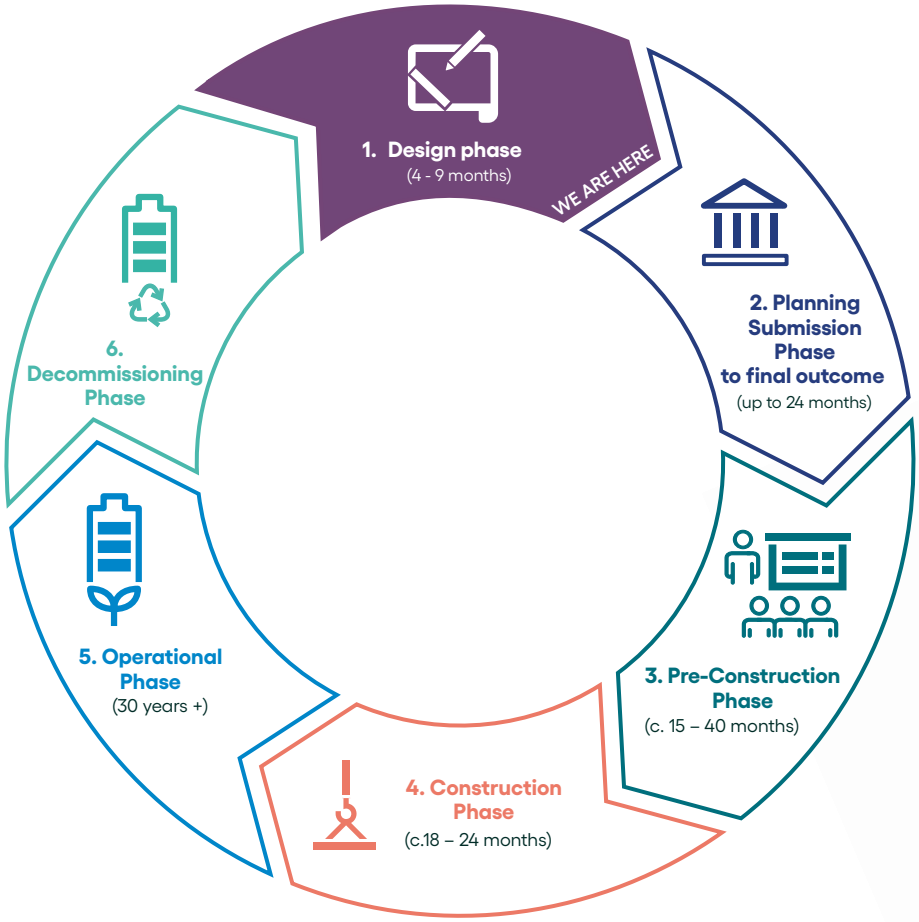
In line with industry best practice and guidelines, the consultancy Fehily Timoney is preparing a comprehensive Planning & Environmental Report and Appropriate Assessment Screening as part of the planning application. This Report will include the following chapters, which examine any potential impacts of the proposed development:

- Planning Policy
- Environmental Impact Assessment Screening
- Land, Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology
- Hydrology / Water Quality and Drainage
- Biodiversity
- Traffic and Transportation
- Construction and Environmental Management Plan
- Population and Human Health
- Noise and Vibration
- Cultural Heritage
- Landscape and Visual Impact

The development timeline

It can take six to 10 years from project initiation to operation of a typical battery storage project. This is due to the sequential process of designing a project, obtaining planning permission, securing project finance and construction.

Sometimes, for reasons beyond our control, timelines may change. If this should happen, we will keep the community informed through letter-drops and via the project website.



Lettermore Energy Storage

Energy storage

What is a battery energy storage system?

An energy storage system is a collection of batteries in container-like units that store electrical energy when it is available and release it when needed.

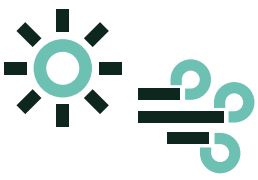
When the sun is shining or the wind is blowing, these sources generate electricity, but sometimes they produce more than we need at that moment, for example, when it is extremely windy or sunny. Ireland does not have the infrastructure to store meaningful amounts of this excess energy. It ends up being wasted and then when it's a very cloudy or calm day, we have to use fossil fuel for our energy generation.

Instead of wasting that electricity, we could store it in a battery energy storage system. Then, when we need electricity, such as at peak demand times, the battery system can release the stored energy to power our homes, industry, transport, devices, and critical services.

Batteries can play a critical role in increasing our use of renewable energy, which will make the electricity grid and our energy supply much more secure, reliable, and cost-effective.



How does it work?



Renewable Energy
Windy or sunny days can generate more energy than we need or more than the grid can take



Energy in
Excess green energy charges utility-scale batteries



Energy Storage
Batteries store excess renewable energy

The technology

Form Energy and iron-air batteries

If you search for battery storage on the internet, most of the information relates to lithium ion, which is inherently different to iron-air technology. Pease take the time to review the information below that highlights key differences and benefits of using this technology.

FuturEnergy Ireland is working in partnership with Form Energy, a US company driving innovation in energy storage technology by manufacturing batteries based an iron-air chemistry that are capable of storing energy for up to 100 hours, significantly longer than other common battery types such as lithium ion.

Iron-air chemistry is very different from lithium-ion: it is based on a chemistry using iron, air and water. Each battery module contains a stack of many smaller, individual battery cells. Each cell is filled with iron and air electrodes, as well as water-based, non-flammable electrolyte, like those used in AA batteries.

There is no pathway for thermal runaway (i.e. fire risk) with iron-air batteries, which is a failure mechanism in other battery technologies.

Roughly 95% of materials used are recyclable or salvageable.

To watch a video on how iron-air technology works, see No 6 in the Fact File at www.lettermoreenergystorage.ie or search online for Form Energy's Virtual Lab Tour.



The safety of iron-air batteries is one of this project's strongest assets



Energy out
Batteries release the stored renewable energy when it is needed

More Green Power
Released energy powers our homes, industry,transport, devices and critical services.

The site layout

The proposed site for Lettermore Energy Storage covers c. 20 hectares outlined on the map below. This rural upland setting is mainly on Coillte land with some third-party land included in the site study area. The main entrance to the site is from the west on road L-6634. The project will connect to the 110kV Drumkeen substation.

What could the Lettermore facility look like?

A design layout is now available for the Lettermore project (right). The iron-air batteries will be housed in weatherised containers, approximately 12 metres by 2.5 metres by 2.5 metres, installed on level concrete foundations.

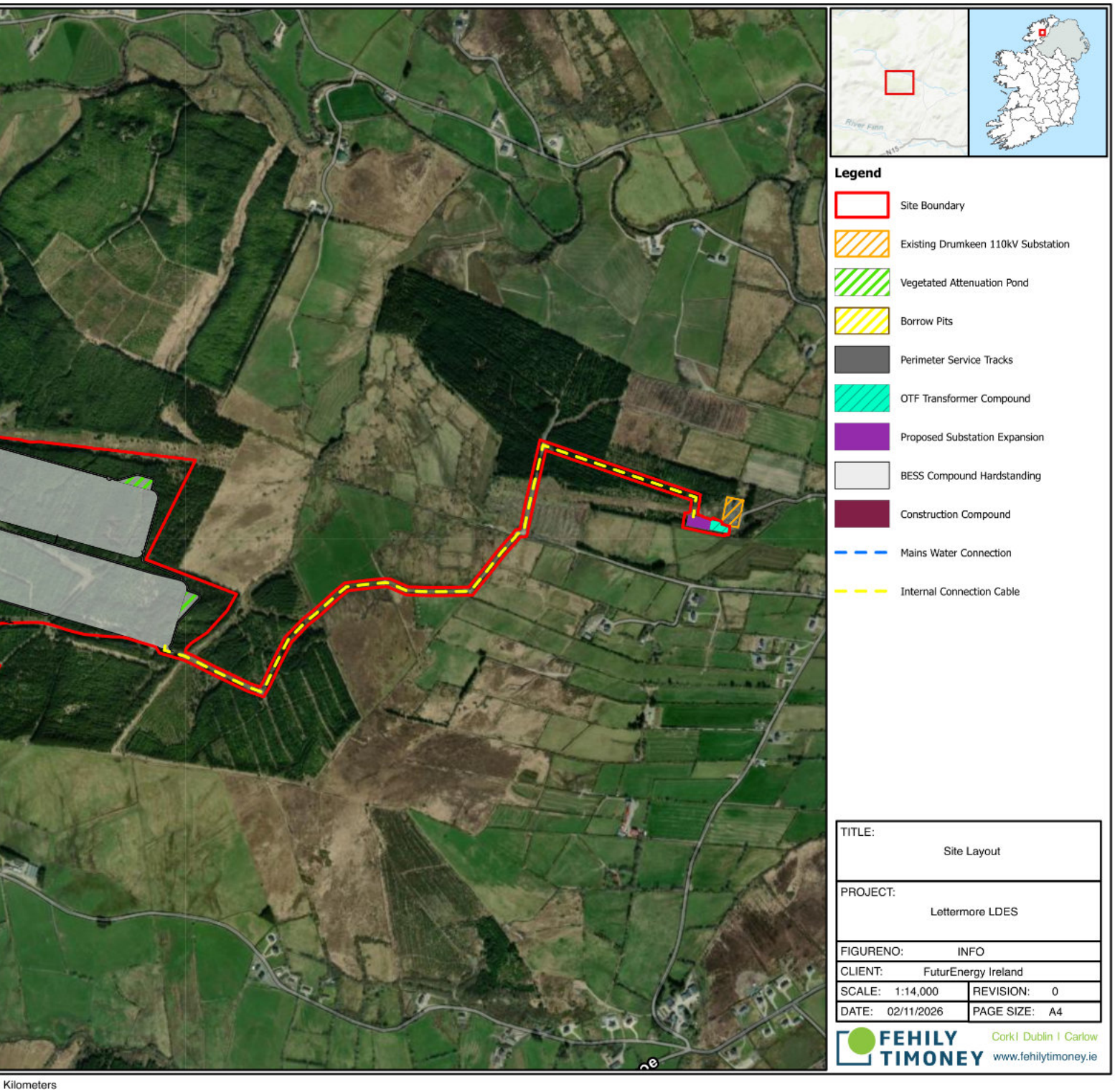
As part of the planning design, the battery compound will be surrounded by enclosed palisade fencing. The use of the existing forestry tree line will be used for screening. Suitable distances between the tree line and project will be managed and maintained.

Photomontages of the proposed project will be uploaded to www.lettermoreenergystorage.ie as soon as they are available. These photomontages will also form part of the planning application.





A computer-generated image of what a FuturEnergy Ireland project might look like



What are the benefits?

We need a reliable clean, economic source of electricity to ensure that daily life runs smoothly from the moment we wake up.

Homes, hospitals, businesses, schools, public transport and water sanitation all rely heavily on a reliable electricity supply. Battery energy storage systems have the potential to support our energy needs by providing a consistent, home-produced, secure source of renewable electricity.







Energy efficiency

Sometimes we have more wind energy available in a region than the electrical lines can carry or more than the system demand requires. Battery energy storage systems provide this energy with a place to go, which stops potential green energy going to waste.

Environmental responsibility

By reducing the country's reliance on fossil fuels, we contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. This will help the Government to reach its target of becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

Community Benefit Fund

If consented and built as designed, the project will contribute €7,500 a year over 15 years, a total of €112,500, towards local community initiatives. This unique FuturEnergy Ireland offering reflects our commitment to host communities.

Local economic boost

The construction phase creates jobs for skilled workers and contractors while supporting local suppliers and service providers.

County funding

The county council receives substantial long-term revenue through rates payments that support essential services such as road maintenance, public lighting and fire services.







Grid reliability

Storing excess energy ensures a consistent, reliable power supply. This capability helps the overall stability of our grid. This is critical to support our electrical infrastructure and Ireland's increasing energy needs.

Stable energy costs

Energy storage systems help to stabilise electricity costs by optimising energy usage and reducing our dependence on expensive fossil fuel power generation.

Energy security

Battery energy storage systems reduce our reliance on fossil fuel imports and our economy's exposure to geopolitical events such as the recent Middle East conflict, which led to energy supply challenges and significant increases in fuel bills.

Meet the team

The project team directly involved in Lettermore Battery Energy Storage includes a planning and environmental consultancy, a technology partner and a dedicated in-house team that includes specialists in areas such as grid, planning and community engagement.



Joseph Kelly
LDES Development Manager
Joseph has been working in renewables for ten years and has a keen interest in energy storage, which was the subject of his PhD. He firmly believes that battery energy storage systems are the missing part of the puzzle to achieving a reliable, decarbonised grid.



Shane Lowry
Community Engagement Manager
Shane is your point of contact for this project. As an experienced community engagement manager, he feels strongly that individuals and communities should be continually kept up to date on a local project and have ease of access in contacting the team.

Form Energy
FuturEnergy Ireland has partnered with Form Energy, a US company driving innovation in energy storage technology and manufacturing. Form Energy's multi-day energy storage solutions are designed to ensure a clean, secure and reliable electric grid, even during prolonged periods of stress on the grid. Form Energy's first commercial product is an iron-air battery system that can cost-effectively store and discharge energy for up to 100 hours. Form's battery system is a sustainable, safe, and scalable answer to the world's growing need for grid security.

Fehily Timoney
Fehily Timoney and Company (FT) is one of Ireland's largest indigenous consultancies specialising in energy and renewables, sustainable infrastructure, circular economy and environment.

Established in 1990, FT employs more than 110 professionals, including planners, scientists, engineers, geotechnicians and technical support staff in Cork, Dublin and Carlow. With the expertise and technical depth of its planning team, FT combines technical excellence with regulatory insight to provide holistic solutions, supporting Ireland's transition to a sustainable, low-carbon future

Next Steps



Autumn / Winter 2026

- Newsletter 2 and letter delivered to local homes and emailed to political representatives.
- Community engagement clinics by appointment only.
- Notice of the planning submission advertised in a local newspaper.
- Site notices are placed around the project area.
- Estimated date for planning application submission: December 2026.
- The planning application will be available in the offices of Donegal County Council at **www.donegalcoco.ie** and at **www. lettermoreenergystorage.ie**

For all project information, visit
www.lettermoreenergystorage.ie

Community Engagement Clinics

This is an opportunity to meet the team and find out more about the proposed Lettermore Energy Storage project.

Thursday November 19, 2pm-8pm, and Friday November 20, 1pm-6pm, at Drumkeen Parish Hall, Drumkeen Co. Donegal, F93 D726.

Book an appointment by calling Shane 087 2105889 or email lettermore@futurenergyireland.ie

Contact Us

We welcome your feedback.
Please email, call or text Community Engagement Manager Shane Lowry to obtain information, ask questions and request to be kept up to date. Alternatively, send us a message via the **Contact Us** form on the website

Email: lettermore@futurenergyireland.ie
Call: Shane Lowry on 087 210 5889
Address: Shane Lowry, Lettermore Energy Storage, c/o, FuturEnergy Ireland, 27/28 Herbert Place, Dublin 2. D02 DC97
www.lettermoreenergystorage.ie

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