

Dear CRU,

I thank you for giving Cool Clonakilty the opportunity to make a submission on the proposed ECP-2 decision

Cool Clonakilty is a Sustainable Energy Community based in Clonakilty in West Cork. The community is supported by members of the local community and the Clonakilty Chamber of Commerce. We have a long term goal of turning Clonakilty and the surround district into a sustainable area. One of our goals is to power Clonakilty with green electricity

As part of this goal, we are developing a 5MW Community Led solar farm project outside of the town (in partnership with Amarenco) which we intend to participate in the RESS scheme. This community led project has full planning permission and has submitted a grid connection application for connection into the Clonakilty 38kV substation

We support the addition of Community Led projects into the Non-Batch Category in the ECP process as proposed. We welcome that community projects without planning permission will be allowed to participate in the ECP 2 application process however it is our position that processing of community projects with a final grant of planning permission should be prioritised over projects without planning permission i.e. if only 15 community led projects can be processed then those who have planning permission should be processed ahead of those who do not have planning permission. It would be unfair to hold up the progress of a permitted community project by processing a non-permitted project ahead of it.

We also believe that ECP 2 projects should receive firm offers under this grid connection process.

In particular it is our concern that community projects may not have the technical skill or knowledge to deal with implications of constraint, curtailment and negative pricing when developing their projects and bidding into a RESS auction. It is also more difficult for smaller solar projects to manage these issues owing to their scale. So to minimise this risk to community projects it would be important that these projects should benefit from the full benefits and protections that Fully Firm projects receive in relation to priority and compensation for dispatch and redispatch under articles 12 and 13 of the Clean Energy Package

We also propose that the acceptance fee for the grid connection offers for community led projects should be reduced from €10,000/MW to €1,000/MW to reduce the up front development risk on communities. A similar reduction in bonding requirements is also requested. In relation to shared asset bonds we do not believe that communities should be exposed to the risk of other projects not proceeding as this is an very onerous risk for a community organisation to carry

If it is possible our community would also like to have their connection offer processed as soon as possible in order to allow our project compete in the RESS 1 competition although we appreciate timelines for this consultation may not allow this

We ask that you consider these points carefully in the CRUs final decision

I am available to discuss our project with you should you wish

Regards,

Tim Coffey