

Community Benefit Funding - How should we spend the €800 million?

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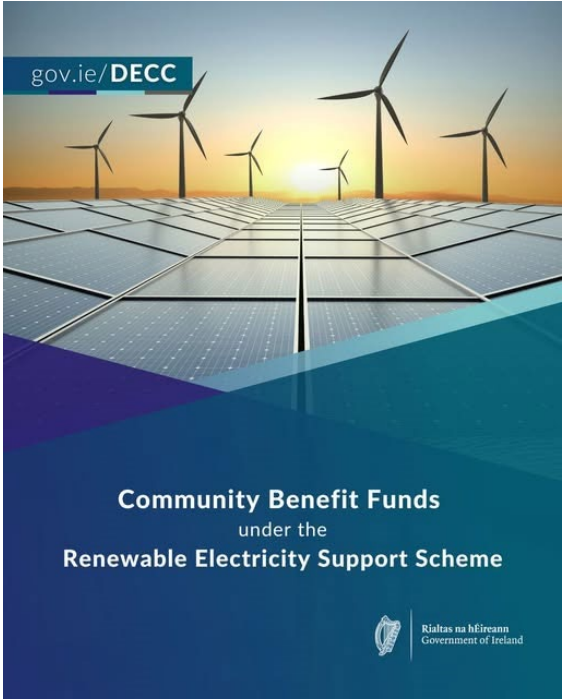
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ACCELERATING CLIMATE ACTION



Flood *et al.* (2023)

“shallow agreement masks deep disagreement”.

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Imagining climate resilient futures: A layered Delphi panel approach

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ARTICLE INFO <i>Keywords:</i> Delphi panel Community visioning Societal transitions Transdisciplinary Governance and dialogues	ABSTRACT This paper in using a novel application of the Delphi panel method, explores and consolidates the future visions of a low carbon and climate resilient future in Ireland through community based visioning processes that emerged through co-created, deliberative approaches at local level. It enhances a visioning process that applies a transdisciplinary approach, which aims to match different visions and stakeholder needs, combining bottom-up and top-down perspectives. Community visions were articulated by means of a series of deliberative future workshops facilitated by the transdisciplinary project research team. Through iterations of the Delphi feedback loop, the notion of deep and shallow agreement is explored to examine the spectrum of consensus to dissent around the co-developed future visions and pathways of climate action, articulated by the Irish community one study. This approach exemplifies a critical exploration of the conventional science-policy-practice nexus through the use of innovative creative communication and engagement methods. Findings suggest that more deliberative formats which bring together a diverse range of stakeholders are needed to develop a shared vision for the future; the importance of language use and the creation of a shared vocabulary of climate action; and the power of civic imaginaries in helping to create useful future narratives.
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- Rationales for engagement can be **instrumental** and, therefore, assist in the attainment of acceptance of infrastructural changes. They could be **substantive**, where citizen knowledge can improve the quality of decision-making within a project. Finally, they can be **normative**, driven by values, and relate to moral obligations
- A few **different financial models of compensation and benefit provision** are outlined within the literature, including sovereign wealth funds , or on a more individual/ local level one-off lump sum payments, a stream of payments, part ownership, direct investment in the community, tax reductions, and reduced energy prices. Community payments or benefits can also be a mechanism for engagement, but they tend to be largely transactional. **Unclear evidence on the most favourable mechanisms.**
- Benefit community payments have been suggested as an instrumental tool to address distributional asymmetries related to the impacts of infrastructural developments.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT SCHEMES IN EUROPE

Case studies outlined in France, Italy, UK and Germany



DELIVERY, ADMINISTRATION & MONITORING

Different stakeholders accept the case for community benefit, but the mechanisms for doing it remain complex.



PROCEDURAL & DISTRIBUTIONAL JUSTICE

How benefit is spread across society, and who is involved in the process are two different measures of justice





EIRGRID'S CBF: PROCESS TRACING AND WORKING PRINCIPLES



Delphi Panel with 17 experts developing recommendations on the design, implementation and monitoring of Community Benefit Funds.

Three Case studies: Clashavoon-Dunmanway, Laois-Kilkenny, and the Celtic Interconnector. The study used a mixed methods approach (i.e. fund-route mapping, interviews, surveys and focus groups with multiple stakeholders). Showcasing the evolution of CBF strategy, community sentiment, and perceptions of CBF funding.

To Expedite or Engage?

- “The number of projects to be delivered means things are moving fast. This fast pace of project development within the organisation can sometimes be in tension with the time requirements needed to follow the necessary engagement protocols”

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Research article

Levers and obstacles for implementing public engagement practices in electricity grid development

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Check for updates

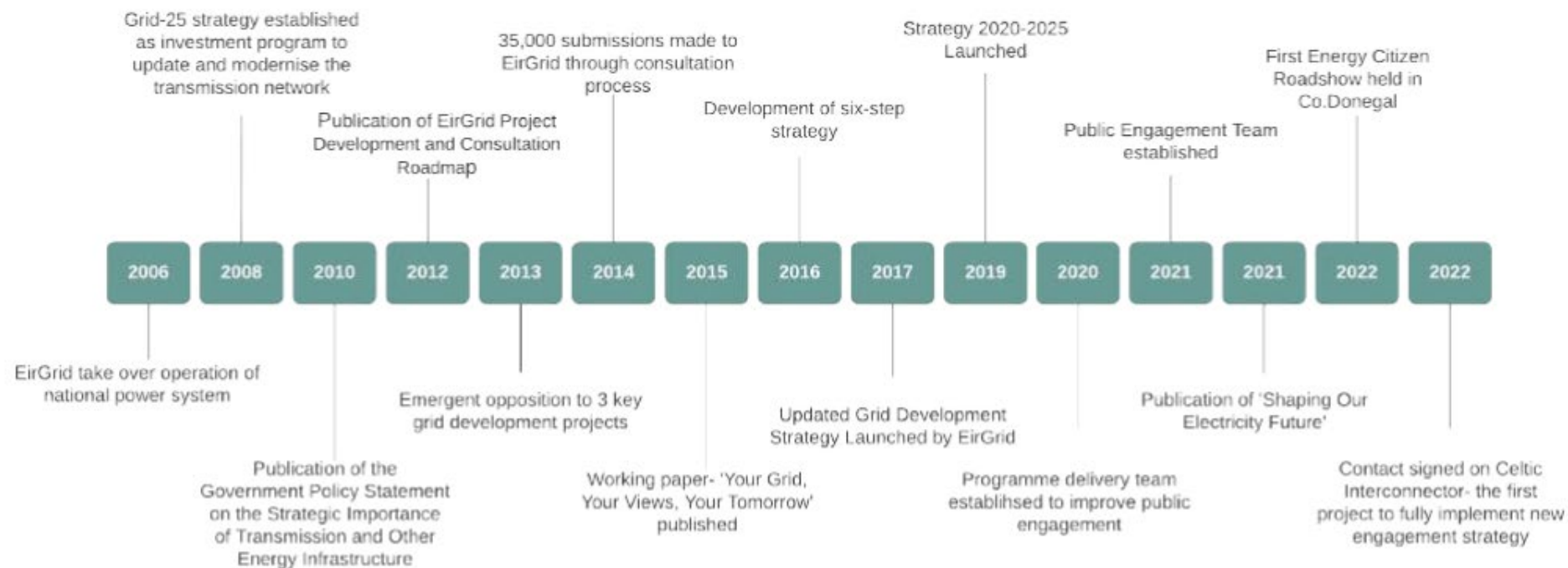
ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:
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Infrastructure development
Citizen participation

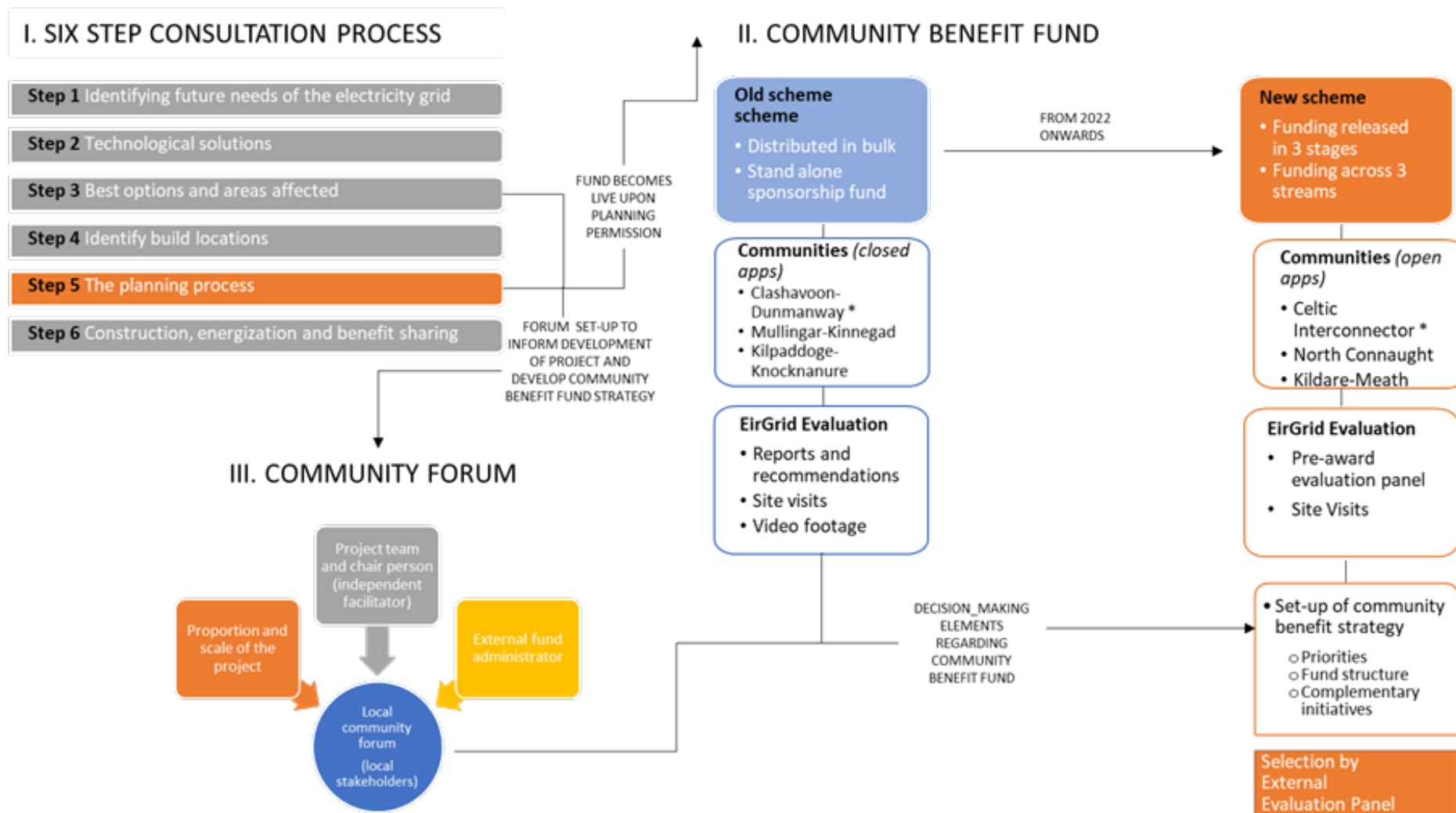
ABSTRACT

The scale of change required through the development of new energy infrastructure throughout Europe is vast. The societal dimensions of the energy transition are increasingly recognised as centrally important and approaches to infrastructure development which seek to incorporate such considerations are warranted. EirGrid - Ireland's national electricity transmission operator - through their own historical context, have undergone a journey to develop new strategies for





↑ Fig1. Timeline of Eirgrid's evolving public engagement



↑ Fig2. CBF Process Tracing pre and post 2022 policy

CBF CASE-STUDY OVERVIEW



PROFILE

	Case 1- CD	Case 2- LK	Case 3- CI
Technology	110kV electricity line	400/110kV substation. 110/38kV substation. New 110kV line. Further upgrades to lines and substations	700 MW high-voltage direct current (HVDC) submarine power cable to France
Geography	West Co. Cork	Co. Kilkenny and Co. Laois	East Co. Cork
Fund approach	One round of funding, no thematic focus	Three rounds of funding, no thematic focus	Three rounds of funding, three thematic categories
Fund amount available during phase of study	€600,000	€204,600 (of €511,500)	€960,000 (of €2.4 million)
Projects funded during phase of study	36	??	29



LOCAL ENGAGEMENTS

	Case 1- CD	Case 2- LK	Case 3- CI
EirGrid Interviews	Community Liaison Officer Interview (I1)	Community Liaison Officer Interview (I3)	Community Liaison Officer Interview (I6)
Forum Chairs	n/a	Irish Rural Link Interview (I4)	Irish Rural Link Interview (I7)
Fund Administrators	M-CO Interview (I2)	M-CO Interview (I5)	SECAD Interview (I8)
Community	Survey, Fund- Route Mapping	Survey and Focus Group, Fund- Route Mapping	Survey and Focus Group, Fund- Route Mapping



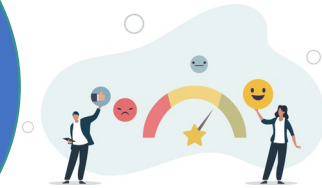
EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS

Local, National & International Expertise	
Delphi Panel	17 experts representing public and private developers, fund administrators, and academic participants

WHAT DID WE FIND?

CASE-STUDY INSIGHTS

In the 3 cases
communities were largely optimistic and positive about their perceptions of the fund and its impact locally



Mixed opinions

concerning the introduction of the SDGs and ringfencing funds for biodiversity and sustainability projects locally

6-Step Process

and the value of early engagement allow for richness in the CBF process

Match

funding and links to other funding streams

DELPHI INSIGHTS

Just 53%

of experts display certainty over monitoring and impact evaluation mechanisms

76%

agree that community capacity building is required



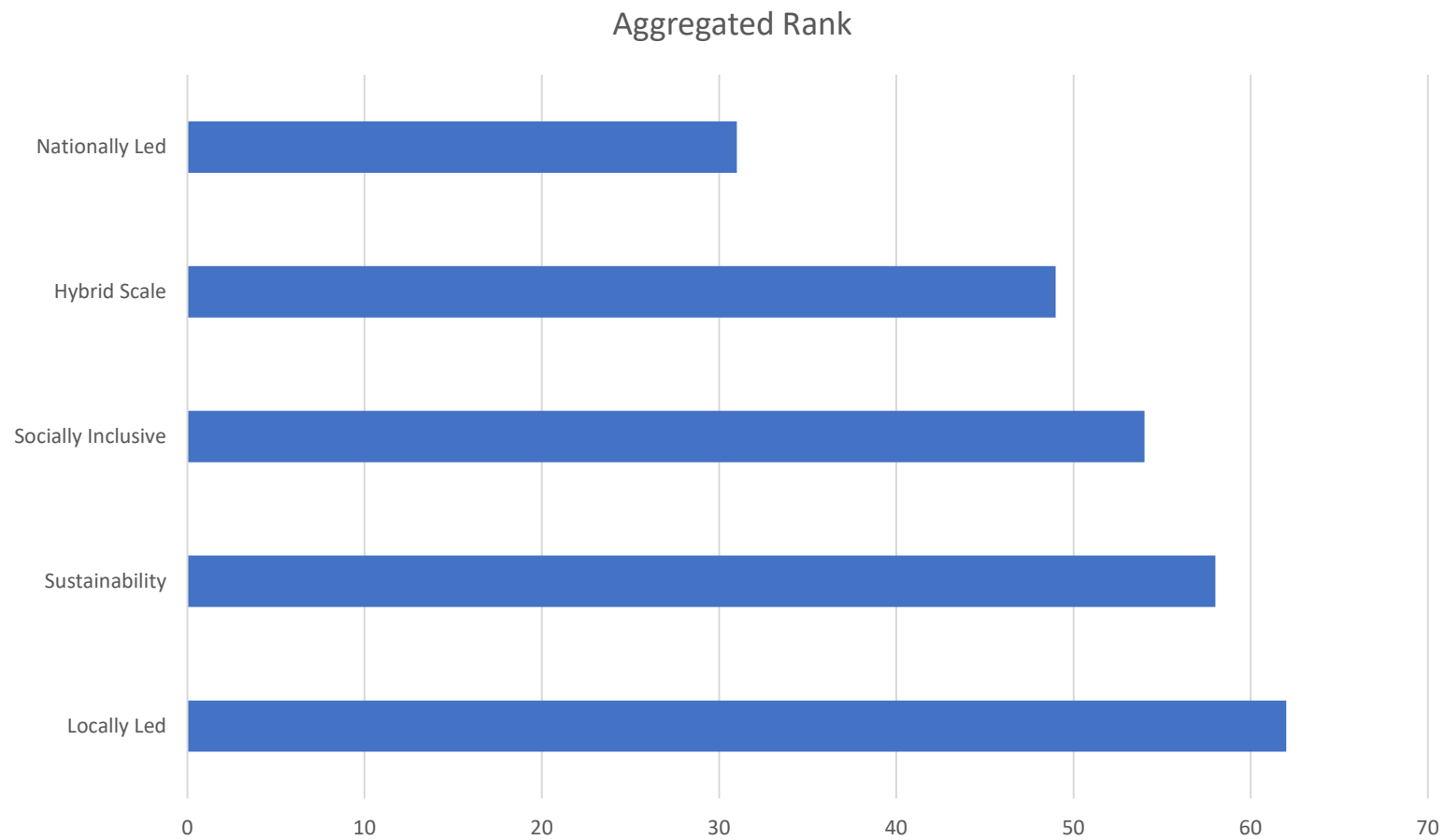
64%

agree that there is a need for flexibility to fund smaller projects

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Developer-Led and Local-led Capacity Building
- Long-Term Needs Analysis and Sustainability
- CBF Network Development
- CBF Guidance and Monitoring
- Flexibility and Scale of Funding

WHERE SHOULD WE SPEND THE €800 MILLION ?



↑ Fig3. Aggregated results from Delphi Survey on future design and implementation of CBFs

Thank you

Further information:

 <https://www.marei.ie/project/public-engagement-with-energy-transitions-in-an-era-of-climate-crisis/>