

# The Seagull & the Storm – Floating Offshore Wind Education Pack






## 1 Introduction

The Seagull and the Storm is a gorgeous, animated video, designed to educate primary level students about the impacts of climate change and on what can be done to help. The animation, brought to life by the talented Cork animator Jane Lee, follows Roisín Renewables and her friend the Seagull as they learn about fossil fuels and their impacts on climate around the world (view here: <https://youtu.be/vTm7hmBUswQ>). They also learn about efforts being made to reduce these impacts but realise that more must be done to help keep fossil fuels in the ground. Roisín, an aspiring engineer, designs a plan to build wind farms further out to sea on floating structures, opening up previously inaccessible marine areas to renewable energy production and in the process calming the angry elements. The animation is being promoted as a community engagement initiative by Simply Blue Energy Kinsale (SBEK). SBEK is a joint venture partnership between Simply Blue Energy and Shell to develop the Emerald floating wind project off the south coast of Cork in the vicinity of the Kinsale gas field, which is currently being decommissioned.

## 2 Objectives

A key learning objective is to help primary school children to understand the issue of climate change and to empower them with the knowledge that no one is too small to make a difference. It is intended to stimulate a child’s interest and promote enquiry around what children can do to help preserve the planet that they will soon inherit. This content fits within the Social, Environmental and Scientific Education (SESE) curricula across the various age groups from junior to senior primary cycles.

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Lesson materials (power point slide deck) have been developed to accompany the 4.5 minute animation designed to help guide this discussion. In addition, two separate competitions will be run for schools along the coast in the area of our project site, based around a colouring competition and a poster making competition. Prizes include Lego Wind Turbines as well as monetary prizes for schools to go towards environmental initiatives!

Our project goal is to help the government realise its carbon reduction targets while being a part of the global effort to reduce fossil fuel emissions and the impacts of climate change. We endeavour to achieve this in a sustainable and collaborative way, forging lasting relationships with communities and helping to build local supply chains by focusing on investment in local people and infrastructure. We are presenting this learning opportunity & competition to schools along the south coast as part of our community engagement efforts.

### 3 Materials & Module Outline

A short PowerPoint presentation has been developed for teachers to accompany the video. This presentation introduces fossil fuels and sources of renewable energy and how they can affect our climate and environment. It describes floating offshore wind, a cutting-edge technology that will help Ireland to become a world leader in renewable energy production by giving access to deeper waters off the south and west coasts. Roisín Renewables and her friend the Seagull are then introduced.

After watching the animation, students are encouraged to brainstorm around the issues raised by the video and to have a discussion around what they have learned and what they can do to combat climate change. We would also like to present the option for one of our team of engineers or scientists to join the class, for example, via zoom, for a question-and-answer session.




Finally, participation in the Competition outlined below provides an opportunity to reinforce the learning in a fun way.

## 4 Inter-School Competition Specifics

### 4.1 Junior to Second Class Competition

Junior infants to second class students will be invited to draw and colour a picture of any aspect of the video. Some suggestions are given below:

- Roisín Renewables
- The Seagull
- The Sun, Sea or Wind
- A floating wind turbine or farm

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## 4.2 Third to Sixth Class Competition

Students in third to sixth class will be asked to create a poster containing some of the information that they have learned from the video and the discussion, with drawings/pictures illustrating that information. Some suggestions for this are given below:

- Examples of renewable energy sources vs. fossil fuel energy sources
- Examples of effects of climate change
- How a floating offshore wind farm might look/work

## 4.3 Entering and Prizes

More information about entering the competitions, along with adjudication and prizes is given below:

- A separate competition will be held for the junior infants to second class group entries (colouring) and for the third to sixth class entries (poster)
- All entries should have the student's name, class and school clearly labelled on it and submitted in the form of a digital photograph.
- All photographs should be uploaded by the school/teacher to a cloud-based folder using the link provided in the email and separated by colouring competition and poster competition in the folders provided.
- The closing date for entries will be the Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May.
- Adjudication will be carried out by a three-person panel, including:
  - Fiona Devoy-McAuliffe, Senior Offshore Renewable Energy Researcher with UCC and MaREI
  - Gary Tyrrell, Climate Actions Officer in the Environmental Education Unit, An Taisce
  - a representative from the Emerald project
- Prizes awarded will be as follows:
  - Lego wind turbine set – awarded to class of winning entry and first runner-up entry
  - €500 to be put towards school environmental initiative – awarded to schools with the best over-all entries
  - Above prizes to be awarded for each of the junior (colouring) and senior (poster) competitions
- Judging and notification of awards to be completed by the end of term.



## 5 Who We Are?

Simply Blue Energy, headquartered in Cork, together with Shell New Energies, are currently developing a floating offshore wind farm located in the Celtic Sea, off the south coast of Cork. The Emerald project ([www.emeraldfloatingwind.com/](http://www.emeraldfloatingwind.com/)) will utilise cutting edge Floating Offshore Wind (FOW) technology to construct a wind farm which, upon completion, will have a total capacity of up to 1 GW, generating enough electricity to power the equivalent of 803,000 Irish homes. FOW technology enables the project to be developed further offshore than more traditional bottom-fixed alternatives and our site will be c. 35-60km from the coast. This site is in the vicinity of the Kinsale gas platform and envisions the transformation of the maritime landscape from fossil fuel production to a clean renewable energy source.

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