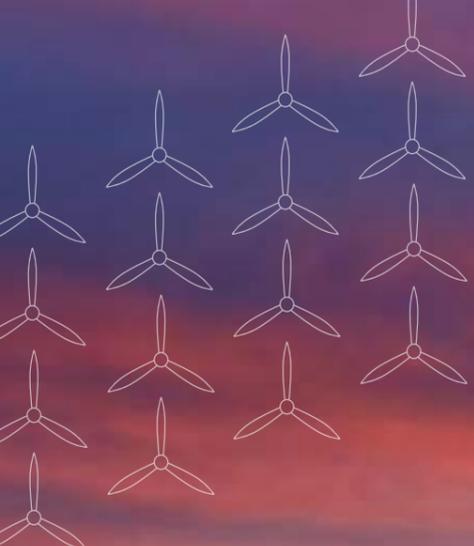


# Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Newsletter

Spring 2025





# Welcome to the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Spring Newsletter 2025

**Welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter. As we await a decision on our offshore planning application, our project team continues to work towards the future realisation of Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 – our flagship offshore wind project in Ireland.**

Our team has been out and about at business and industry events where Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 featured front and centre as an important future contributor to our national offshore wind ambition and energy security.

## Why Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 matters

Our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project is at a critical phase with a decision on our offshore consent application expected this year. The project, if consented, will support our national transition to greener energy, accounting for 16% of our national target of 5GW delivered through offshore wind by 2030 and contribute to legally binding targets for Ireland's reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

The project has the capacity to displace c. 800,000 metric tons of harmful carbon emissions annually. Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 will serve as a key driver of both national and regional economic development bringing an estimated €400 million to the Wicklow and Wexford region. It can support the strategic development of offshore wind along the east coast and provide significant employment opportunities especially during construction.



James O'Hara,  
Head of Offshore Ireland  
& Arklow Bank Wind Park  
2 Project Director

## Keeping the Project front and centre

Our team continues to highlight the strategic importance of Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 with key stakeholders at political and industry events. The Irish offshore renewable energy sector's natural home is Arklow given the long-standing presence of Arklow Bank Wind Park 1 on our coastline. In order to respond quickly to the need to combat the effects of climate change, we need to move forward with large-scale projects like Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 to accelerate our national transition to a cleaner and more sustainable reliance on renewable and home-grown energy sources. This imperative, along with other key messages about the importance of upgrading grid infrastructure were amongst key messages featuring large from SSE Renewables at the January Wind Energy Ireland Conference 2025 in Dublin.

Elsewhere, members of our Arklow project team participated in several events including the Údarás na Gaeltachta inaugural 'Mná na Mara' Conference in Galway in February, where the role and achievements of women in marine industries was celebrated.

In March, we met delegates at the 'Irish Skipper Expo 2025' in Limerick and attended various events like the annual 'NMCI Seafarers' Conference', and the International Women's Day event 'Accelerate Action – A Celebration of Women in the Marine and Maritime Sectors' hosted in Dun Laoghaire by the Commissioners of Irish Lights and the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA).

## 'Walking the Talk' with local communities

Our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund continues to support local projects and initiatives along our development site. We're particularly delighted when we can support marine focussed groups - some of which are profiled in in the section 'Continuing our Commitment to Communities'. Our back cover page features our sponsorship of Arklow Maritime Heritage CLG's new website supported by our Sponsorship Fund.

## New appointment

**John Sheehan has been appointed Senior Project Manager for our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Project.**

John has been working on the project for a number of years and brings a wealth of experience from his time in the renewables and wider offshore industry. A past pupil of Arklow Christian Brothers School, John has close family ties to Arklow and lives locally.

'I'm delighted to take on the role as the project's Senior Project Manager. I know I am taking over the project in good stead thanks to the hard work of my predecessor John O'Sullivan. I look forward to progressing the project's development given its importance not only at a national level but also to our local communities in Co. Wicklow and north Wexford.'



John Sheehan, Senior Project  
Manager, Arklow Bank Wind Park 2

## A final word

Through our newsletters, we'll continue our best efforts to keep you updated on our project's progress. Our website is accessible by scanning the QR code opposite or log onto [www.sserenewables.com/offshore-wind/projects/arklow-bank-wind-park/](http://www.sserenewables.com/offshore-wind/projects/arklow-bank-wind-park/) Until the next edition, best wishes from our team.

**Deirdre Keogh**  
Community Engagement Manager  
Arklow Bank Wind Park 2



# Championing the debate on the need to act now to tackle the effects of climate change



## SSE Renewables Managing Director addresses Wind Energy Ireland Conference 2025

**'The time for action is now, to turn small steps into big leaps to tackle the climate crisis.'**  
A message from Stephen Wheeler, Managing Director, SSE Renewables, in his keynote address to delegates at the Wind Energy Ireland Conference in Dublin (January 2025)

A native of Co. Wicklow, Stephen highlighted the steps taken by SSE Renewables to develop Ireland's onshore wind generation fleet as the backbone of our company's energy system. Despite Ireland's massive wind resource offshore, no new offshore wind projects have been developed or operated in Ireland for over 20 years since the first offshore wind farm off the Arklow coast. Referencing the need to act now to accelerate large-scale renewable infrastructure projects, he pointed to SSE Renewables Dogger Bank Wind Farm (a 3.6GW offshore wind project under construction which, when completed, will be capable of powering 6 million homes annually in the UK). Citing this example in the wider global context, he explained that the world needs 2,000 'Dogger Banks' between now and 2030 to fight the climate and nature crisis we find ourselves in.

Stephen called for the Phase 1 offshore wind projects, now in the marine planning system, to each be treated as a national priority for delivery.

He appealed to Ireland's newly elected political leaders to work with industry and stakeholders to do everything possible to stop the continuous increase in global temperatures with record carbon emissions which threaten our very existence. Reinforcing his message he concluded – 'the time for action is now, to turn small steps into big leaps if we're serious about addressing the climate crisis'.



James O'Hara (centre) featured with panelists at the Wind Energy Ireland Conference in January.

## Head of Offshore Wind Ireland and Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Project Director James O'Hara echoes the need for faster delivery of offshore wind projects like Arklow Bank Wind Park 2

James O'Hara, Head of Offshore Wind for Ireland and Project Director on Arklow Bank Wind Park 2, took part in panel discussion chaired by Kathriona Devereux and joined by industry experts at the January conference. Themed on accelerating the delivery of renewable energy, he said: 'The real question is around the pace for delivery. In the offshore sector today, over 20 years after the first offshore wind farm was built in Arklow, we still stand at 25MW installed. So, there is a concern regarding the rate of delivery. We are either on the cusp of Ireland becoming a renewable energy powerhouse or else risk losing out to markets which have moved more quickly than us.'



## SSE Renewables External Affairs Manager joins panellists at the inaugural 'Mná na Mara Conference' hosted by Údarás na Gaeltachta in Galway

SSE Renewables External Affairs Manager for Offshore Deborah Coleman (pictured second from left) joined a panel discussion celebrating the role and achievements of women in marine industries and the potential that our marine territory can unlock through collaboration and innovation. Themed on 'Building Sustainable Marine Sectors', Deborah spoke on stakeholder engagement and cross-sectoral opportunities between marine industries.



## SSE Renewables Arklow team at the Irish Skipper Expo 2025

Fisheries Liaison Officer Brendan Dillon and External Affairs Manager (Offshore) Deborah Coleman, pictured at the 'Irish Skipper Expo' in Limerick in March meeting fishing and marine groups that gathered for this annual two-day event.

## Glenart College

## National Mentoring Celebration 2025

### March 20th, International Day of Happiness 2025 proved timely for this year's National Mentoring Celebration held in Dublin.

Now in our fourth year of the Business in the Community Ireland Student Mentoring Programme, members of our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 team continue to mentor a number of sixth-year students from our partner school, Glenart College, Arklow.



Glenart College students pictured with some of the SSE Renewables Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 mentors receiving their certificates at the Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI) National Mentoring Celebration, Griffith College, Dublin. Also featured are Alison Norman, Regional Co-ordinator with BITCI, and Niall Walsh, teacher and in-school Co-ordinator, Glenart College.

We were delighted to see this year's students receive their mentoring certificates at the national event in Griffith College, Dublin, and to host them later that day for a special celebratory offsite activity at Airfield, Dundrum. Our mentors will continue to assist these students throughout the remainder of this academic year. We wish them every success in preparing for the upcoming state exams in June.

# Continuing our Commitment to Communities



Youth prize winning members of Wicklow Bay Sea Angling Club pictured with Kitt Dunne (Secretary), Jerry Dixon (Treasurer) and Deirdre Keogh of SSE Renewables receiving their awards at the annual prize-giving ceremony in January held in Wicklow Town.

## Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund - Supporting Communities

One of the key criteria considered under the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund are projects/initiatives that engage in enjoying or preserving the marine environment and its local heritage.

Our photo gallery illustrates some of the local marine and water-based clubs in Wicklow, Arklow, and Courtown, that benefited under the Fund promoting safe engagement and enjoyment with the water. These included: Wicklow Bay Sea Angling Club's Youth Coaching Programme, Arklow's Asgard Swimming Club and the Sea Swim Club Courtown, Co. Wexford.

Our Fund has similarly assisted Arklow Rowing Club with training equipment and the installation of new signage at its clubhouse at the South Dock. Separately we supported Varray Rowing Club, Wicklow, with equipment to facilitate the lift and transportation of its sustainably built rowing vessels. We've also helped Arklow Maritime Heritage CLG with funding towards the upgrade of its public information website. You can read more about this on the back page!

Separately, we supported Rathnew GAA with a contribution towards energy efficiency upgrades at the club grounds, and other initiatives to support sustainability and heritage conservation like the Castletimon Graveyard Committee project, Brittas Bay, which aims to improve planting, and heritage information about the historic 12th century graveyard.

In the coming weeks, we're looking forward to joining with some schools along our development site area to mark sustainability and biodiversity education initiatives supported by our Sponsorship Fund. We were also delighted to be invited to Arklow Active Retirement Association to witness its work in promoting social inclusion and supporting information-sharing on important issues to seniors in the local community.

Members of our project team continue to support a number of sixth-year students in Glenart College through the Business in the Community Ireland Student Mentoring Programme – now in its fourth year.

A new financial year opens on 1st April 2025 and we'd encourage groups and clubs to peruse the key criteria in our Sponsorship Fund application form to see how they can further local projects especially with a focus on projects that: (a) are engaged in enjoying or preserving the marine environment and its local heritage; (b) drive community centred environmental or social sustainability and, (c) seek to deliver reduced energy consumption through energy efficiency.

**For further details on the SSE Renewables Arklow Bank 2 Sponsorship Fund contact [deirdre.keogh@sse.com](mailto:deirdre.keogh@sse.com) or download the application form via [www.sserenewables.com/offshore-wind/projects/arklow-bank-wind-park/](http://www.sserenewables.com/offshore-wind/projects/arklow-bank-wind-park/)**



Celebrating World Water Day 2025 were members of Asgard Swimming Club, Arklow, with Deirdre from SSE Renewables. Our sponsorship supported safety and training equipment for the club's youth members.



Members of Swim Club Courtown's Masters section Aodhagán Swords, Jemma Bracken (Head Coach), Joy Redmond, Susan Dunne, Nivard Rush (Chairperson), John Whelan, pictured with Deirdre Keogh (SSE Renewables) at Courtown Harbour marking SSE Renewables sponsorship of open water sea safety equipment.



Members of Varray Rowing Club, Wicklow, Jennifer Haughton, Darragh Bradshaw, George O'Brien (Chairperson), Riona Long, Caroline Mangan and Tom Woolmington (Secretary) pictured in front of the Club's skiff 'Gracie'. First time applicants under the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund, the Club benefited from funding to facilitate its purchase of skiff transportation equipment.



Smiling faces as members of Arklow Rowing Club join with SSE Renewables at the clubhouse on South Dock to mark the installation of new signage and training equipment sponsored under the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund.



SSE Renewables Community Engagement Manager Deirdre Keogh with Dianne Richardson, Peter Dignam, Harry Murphy, and Rathnew GAA juvenile players. The club was successful in applying for support to improve energy efficiency at the Rathnew grounds.



Deirdre from the Arklow Project team joins friends from Arklow Active Retirement Association at the information coffee morning for seniors held weekly in Árus Lorcáin, Arklow. The Association benefitted from funding under the Sponsorship Fund to support the ongoing integration and active involvement of seniors in the local community.



Community Engagement Manager Deirdre Keogh pictured with James Kavanagh, Jim Rees, Eamon Bermingham (Chairperson), Niall Power, Peter Kinch and Alan Heaney from Arklow Maritime Heritage CLG marking SSE Renewables sponsorship of the newly upgraded Museum website.

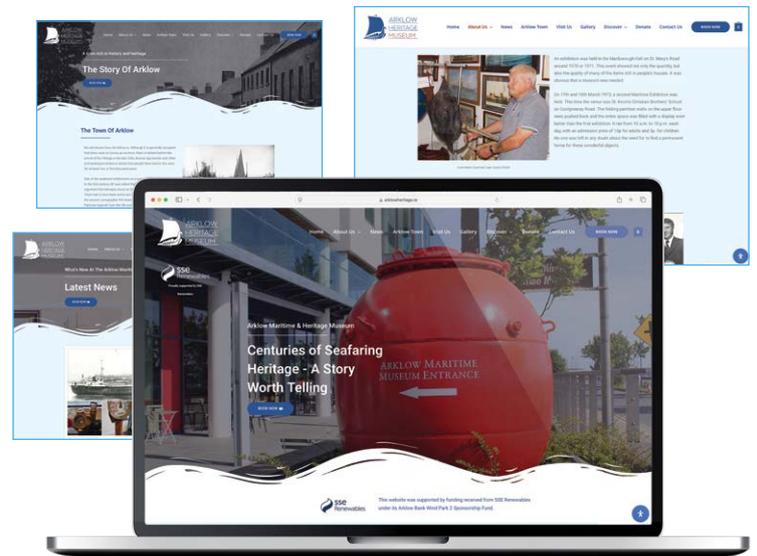
## Arklow Maritime Museum launches improved public information website [www.arklowheritage.ie](http://www.arklowheritage.ie)

**Our sponsorship of Arklow Maritime Heritage CLG toward its achievement of a new and more user-friendly website was a particular highlight.**

Launched in February, the website upgrade was an important project for the Museum and brings information to the public in a more user-friendly way.

The new landing page facilitates online bookings, simplifies user navigation and adapts better with mobile devices. It enables the Museum to focus content and run capsule features on specific stories and artefacts of interest to the public.

Allied to this, the website **www.arklowheritage.ie** is compliant with the EU Accessibility Act – which was an important consideration for future proofing the site.



## Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 will:

- Support Ireland in achieving our net zero ambitions
- Add value through national and regional capital investment and associated job opportunities
- Support communities through a multi-million Euro annual Community Benefit Fund once the project becomes operational
- Lead and support the expansion of the offshore wind sector in Ireland



## Contact Us



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