



Northern Ireland Community Investment Review

2023/24





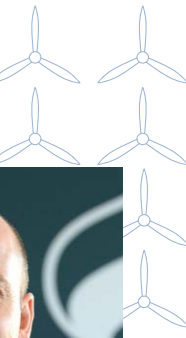
Foreword

SSE Renewables has built a long standing relationship with Northern Ireland communities and for over a generation we have ensured communities are at the centre of renewable energy. Our commitment to ensuring communities are strengthened now and for the future is exemplified by the 10th anniversary of the SSE Renewables Scholarship Fund.

We have supported 452 scholars to date to ensure students have the best possible start to their careers and that the local economy benefits from a skilled workforce. It is powerful to reflect on how fundamental this support has been in helping local citizens to progress into key employment sectors from science, engineering and medicine .

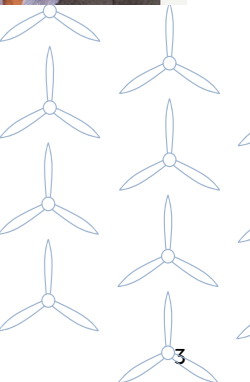
As we celebrate this important milestone in Northern Ireland, we also look ahead to the coming decade, and continue to work closely with the Northern Ireland Executive to deliver the renewable electricity we need for 2030. We are committed to enhancing investment in renewable energy and ensuring that communities remain at the foundation of the renewable sector.

Stephen Wheeler
Managing Director,
SSE Renewables



I am proud to know that local communities continue to focus on providing local action on the climate emergency. 22% of the community investments in the past year have focused on community energy transition and it demonstrates how vital communities are to enabling our green future.

Mark Ennis
SSE Ireland Chairman



Funder's review

2023/24



£456,548

invested in local communities



99 community groups

supported in 2023/2024



51 scholarships awarded

in 2023/2024

Supporting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals



7%
Good Health and Well-being



32%
Sustainable Cities and Communities



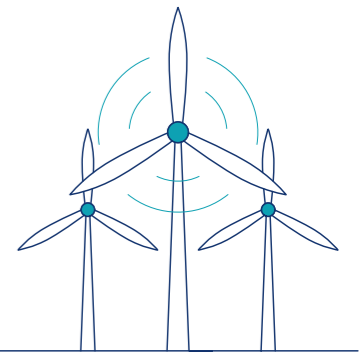
39%
Quality Education



22%
Climate Action



Achieving our priorities



The past year has marked a significant milestone for our community delivery in Northern Ireland. For a decade we have been supporting young people to reach their full potential through the SSE Renewables Scholarship Programme. Helping the next generation is one of the bedrocks of the community funds and it provides a clear legacy (p7). In addition to celebrating key achievements, we have strengthened our Northern Irish Community Investment team to achieve the following priorities:

New funding strategy - following consultation with grant holders in 2023 we have successfully introduced a new funding strategy that focuses on long-term impact by prioritising projects which will leave a lasting legacy and have a transformational impact on communities and we have done this by introducing multi-year funding awards (p9).

Data management - We have implemented a new grant management system (p5). We have worked closely with the developers, Bluewave, and software provider, Salesforce, to introduce a robust and community focused grant management system which enables all data to be captured safely and securely.

In 2024/25 we look forward to focusing on the following priorities

Skills provision - 2024/25 marks the fifth year of the skills fund and we will complete an evaluation of the programme to capture the impact and learning. We will work with stakeholders to determine the future of the fund.

Executive policy - We are committed to working with the Executive on the development of a new policy to increase investment in renewable energy and will collaborate to ensure local communities are at the centre of new commitments.

Enhancing the grant management experience

SSE Renewables recognises our responsibility to look after the data shared by applicants. To ensure we meet the highest standards of data protection and to enhance the user experience of applicants we have implemented a new online Community Investment Portal.

How to create an account

To create an account and log in to the Community Investment Portal, please visit <https://ssecommunity.my.site.com/s/login/> and click on 'not registered?'. You will then be asked to enter your name and e-mail address. Once you have done this, click 'sign up'. You will then be sent an e-mail to the e-mail address that you entered. Please check for the e-mail and follow the instructions within it. The username will be the e-mail address plus '.sse' at the end.

How to apply for a grant

You can find information on the funding SSE Renewables make available to communities at <https://www.sserenewables.com/communities>. Once you have found the fund you wish to apply to click on the button 'Apply' on the webpage for the fund. You will be taken to SSE's Community Investment Portal and presented with a set of pre-application eligibility questions. If you are eligible to

apply you will be taken to the application form for the fund. You will be able to work through the application process and will be able to save your version if you do not want to submit it straight away.

You can return to a draft application or check the status of a submitted application by logging into the Community Investment Portal and clicking on 'my applications'.

How to manage a successful grant award

You can view information on your grant award(s) by logging into the Community Investment Portal and clicking on the 'my grants' section. You will also be able to view any outstanding conditions against your grant and any reports that we require in relation to your grant.

You can access the Community Investment Portal from the QR code.



As part of the Climate Action Plan, the government has introduced the Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS). All projects supported by RESS must establish a Community Benefit which is mandated at €2/MWh of generation and paid annually for a duration of 15 years to support projects with a focus on the following UN Sustainable Development Goals. To find out more about how community benefit funds can help you meet these goals, visit <https://www.sserenewables.com/communities>.



Enhancing community spaces



£9,000
awarded in
June 2023

**Slieve Kirk
Community Fund**

"This project is very important to us as it helps us maintain a safe environment for our users. This is evident by the daily flow of users to our small rural village."

Carmel Hogan,
Chairperson, Gortnaghey
Community Association

Gortnaghey Community Association

Gortnaghey hosts one of most utilised parks in County Derry/Londonderry. The rural community space receives up to 1,000 visits a week.

After a decade of constant use by the residents and visitors from across the county, it required substantial upgrades to ensure it meets the needs of future residents. Support from the Slieve Kirk Community Fund safeguarded the facility by replacing the safety surfaces, removing trip hazard, and introducing new design and landscaping to ensure the space is welcoming and inclusive to residents of all ages and abilities. The enhanced site will benefit the community for at least a decade and has already been utilised for a range of community events and fun days.

A decade of supporting students



**452 scholarships
awarded since 2014**

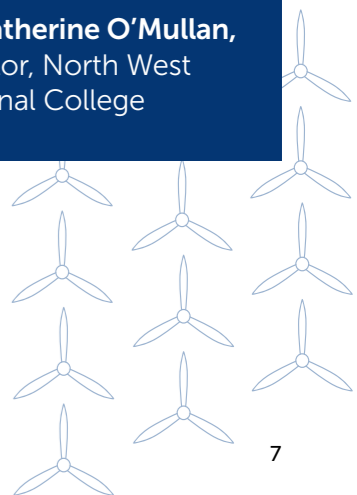
One of the first stages of developing a community fund is consulting with residents on their key priorities in the local community. One of the priorities which is raised by every community is providing opportunities for young people. Residents recognise young people are the future of their community and want to ensure they have the best start possible.

A key method to support the next generation is to ensure they receive the training and education required to enter highly skilled jobs. For the past decade the community funds have provided scholarships to local students to help them benefit from further education. The Scholarship Fund is delivered in partnership with Ulster University, South West College and North West Regional College. The fund provides up to 50% of third-level fees up to a maximum of three years to students living in Co. Derry/Londonderry, Co. Tyrone, Co. Fermanagh, and Co. Donegal.

Over the past decade over 452 scholars have been supported by the fund in courses as diverse as science, engineering and medicine. Once they have graduated the scholars have been the doctors, nurses, and engineers at the heart of Northern Ireland's communities, who are vital to our economy

"I'd like to thank SSE Renewables for their continued commitment to our students as we grow the STEM workforce of the future."

Dr. Catherine O'Mullan,
Director, North West
Regional College



Investing in young people

Aghyaran St Davogs GFC

Many rural communities must think creatively to maintain services in their local area. When the community of Aghyaran in County Tyrone were faced with the closure of their pre-school they came together to identify how the services can continue.

The local Gaelic Football Club recognised that their space provided an ideal venue to provide services for young people of all ages.

Thanks to a three-year grant from the Tievenameenta Community Fund they have been able to renovate their bottom floor meeting room and

kitchen so that it can be utilised by the pre-school during the day with children under five able to participate in play-based learning, crafts, and explorative play. Once the pre-school finishes the space is transformed into an extracurricular base for local primary and secondary pupils who benefit from a homework club, arts and crafts club and a sports club.

The new provision will be vital to ensuring young families remain and join the rural community and will benefit up to 300 young residents and carers over the coming years.

£18,000

awarded in October 2023

Tievenameenta Community Fund

“We are working in partnership with the pre-school to provide a safe facility for the pre-school children of our parish to attend during the day and a recreational facility for children up to the age of 14 to attend in the evenings as an after school/homework club. SSE Renewables award to our project will enable us to provide this essential facility for young people.”

Patrick MacSorley
Chairman, Aghyaran St. Davogs GFC



Creating community hubs



£30,000

awarded in October 2023

Tievenameenta Community Fund

“SSE Renewables are an integral fabric of our community. They have been supporting the communities of our area for almost 20 years and without them, we would not be in the position we are in now. The community has come together now for our biggest project to date, to build the Community Hub”

Martin Monaghan

Ederney Community Development Trust

To support more transformational projects the community funds have begun awarding multi-year funding to key anchor projects. This approach helps communities to provide larger projects which will support communities for years to come like the new hub in Ederney.

The community of Ederney had been called to action to tackle a development in the centre of their community. The community development trust had the vision to change and restore the premises into the local community by providing a community hub as part of a scheme to tackle rural poverty and social isolation. The hub has a thriving tearoom which will provide a valuable income stream for the community. The building will also host mental health workshops as well as social events to connect people who feel isolated.

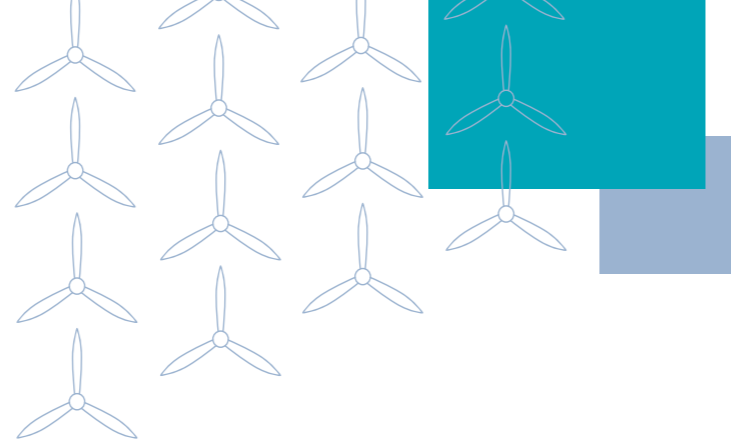


Funding Awards 2023/24

Bessy Bell Wind Farm

Bessy Bell Community Fund is made up of Bessy Bell 1 and Bessy Bell 2. The wind farms are located at Baronscourt, Co Tyrone and awards c.£25,000 annually to community groups within 12 miles of the wind farms.

COMMUNITY GROUP	PROJECT	AWARD
Mourne Valley Cultural Association	Support to replace windows and doors.	£4,000
Newtownstewart Leisure Complex Ltd	Support to upgrade the existing 234 lights and emergency lights to LED units.	£4,000
Derry & Raphoe Action Limited	Support to install LED lighting.	£2,340
Drumlegagh Community Group	To transform an unused public space into a community garden.	£2,022
Newtownstewart Golf Club	Support to install a CCTV system.	£2,000
Strawletterdallon Orange Lodge	To purchase and install a defibrillator.	£1,523
Friends of the Model P S	Support to purchase 54 stackable chairs for community events.	£1,200
Ardstraw & Baronscourt Youth Council	Support to upgrade the existing 16 lights to LED units.	£1,200
The Pushkin Prizes T/A The Pushkin Trust	Support to deliver a 'Baronscourt Day' project.	£1,050
Strabane and District Young Farmers Club	Support to replace windows and doors.	£1,000
Sinclair Memorial Pipe Band	Support to purchase musical equipment for a pipe band.	£1,000
Omagh Men's Shed	To create community assets e.g. raised beds.	£1,000
Mountjoy United Football Club	Support to purchase essential cleaning and maintenance equipment.	£1,000
NTS Flute Band	Support towards a family fun day to promote positive mental health and well-being.	£1,000
Wolfetones GFC	Support to supply and fit four Nuaire Drimaster systems in four changing rooms, hall and kitchen areas.	£1,000
Select Vestry Drumragh Parish Church	Support to upgrade 11 exterior security lights to LED units.	£1,000
K.V.C. Creativity C.I.C.	Support to provide cookery workshops.	£1,000
Gillygooley 2nd Youth	Support to install a boiler.	£1,000
Two Castles Community and Dev Association ABC	Support towards club activities.	£1,000
Ardstraw Football Club	To install a solar powered streetlight.	£846
Johnston's Purple Heroes LOL 205	Support for maintenance work.	£500
Youth Sport Omagh Limited	Support to install LED lighting.	£500
Drumquin Methodist Church	Support to run a Harvest Vintage Day.	£500
Kirlish Ulster Scots Association	Support towards enhancement works in the community facility.	£500
Dregish Community Group	Support to install a heating system.	£350

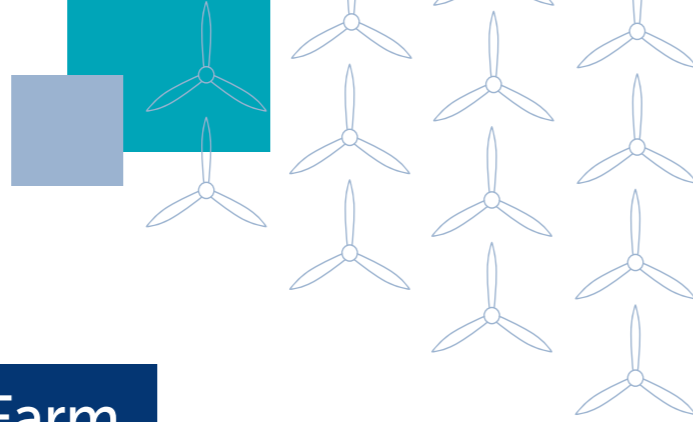


Slieve Kirk Wind Park

Slieve Kirk Wind Park Community Fund distributes funding on behalf of the Slieve Kirk wind park cluster comprising of Slieve Kirk wind farm, Glenconway wind farm and Glenconway 2 wind farm. The fund awards c.£170,000 per annum to community groups within 12 miles of the wind park. The fund also runs a Scholarship Programme with the University of Ulster, North West Regional College and the South West College which opens for applications in September each year.

COMMUNITY GROUP	PROJECT	AWARD
Scholarship Fund	To provide 31 scholarships.	£99,000
St Matthews GAC Drumsumn	Support towards clubhouse extension to the current community hall to facilitate a well being centre for the community.	£25,000
Gortnaghey Community Association	Support towards refurbish works.	£9,000
Drum GAC	Support towards LED lighting.	£8,000
John Mitchel's GAC, Claudy	Support towards installing 7.2KW solar panel system and 5kw battery storage.	£8,000
Barron Cultural Association	Support towards installation of a 5.8kw solar panel system.	£8,000
Bovalley Community Association	Support towards delivering a KAST Project (Kids are stronger together).	£8,000
Bonds Glen Cricket Club	Support towards upgrading the existing roof.	£4,200
Christ Church Strabane	Support towards installation of a 7.8KW solar system.	£4,000
Drummond Cricket Club	Support towards the refurbishment of the clubhouse.	£4,000
Glór Dhún Geimhin	Support towards installation of 5 EV charging points.	£3,900
Limavady Cricket & Rugby Football Club	Support towards LED lighting.	£3,500
Donemana Cultural Association	Support towards the replacement of doors.	£3,500
Ballyspallen Cricket Club	Support towards installing a 5.2KW solar panel system.	£3,000
St. Finlough's Community Centre	Support towards upgrading the toilets to accommodate wheelchair users and parent and baby facilities.	£3,000
Dennett Interchange Ltd	Support towards meals on wheels services.	£3,000
Limavady Wolfhounds GAC	Support towards energy efficient lighting.	£3,000
O'Briens GAC Foreglen	Support towards LED lighting.	£3,000
Friends of Rossmar School	Support towards a memorial garden in memory of children and past pupils of the school.	£3,000
Faughanvale GAC	Support towards the installation of a safety crossing within the sports facilities.	£3,000
Kildoag Clay Target Club	Support towards the purchase of two clay target traps.	£3,000
St Joseph's Craigbane GAC	Support towards LED lighting.	£3,000
Clann na nGael	Support towards upgrading pitch floodlights.	£3,000
Hands That Talk	Support towards purchasing a defibrillator.	£3,000
Benbradagh Community Support	Support towards running a connecting local women programme.	£3,000
Ardmore Cricket Club	Support towards installation of 2.4KW electrical battery storage units.	£2,540
Cumber Claudy Community Association	Support towards insulation works to the loft in the hall to improve health and safety and energy efficiency.	£2,500
Cumber Claudy Primary School	Support towards an outdoor learning space, garden area and sensory area.	£2,500
St. Michael's Parent Support Group	Support towards new laptops.	£2,500

COMMUNITY GROUP	PROJECT	AWARD
Kildoag Cultural Society	Support towards insulation.	£2,500
Dennett Anglers Association	Support towards the delivery of Dennett Valley River School programme.	£2,500
Burnfoot Community Development Association	Support towards upgrading of lighting to LED.	£2,500
St.Mary's Gortnaghey PS	Support towards formation of an Eco Committee to monitor the school's energy use and cost of energy.	£2,000
Eglinton Building Bridges	Support towards delivery of a 'warm spaces & energy efficiency' programme.	£2,000
Campsie Masonic Social Club (Campsie Community Hall)	Support towards insulation to the hall.	£2,000
Benedy Community Association	Support towards repair costs to the roof at the Centre.	£2,000
Dennett Health Valley Network	Support towards the replacement of doors.	£2,000
The Plum Club	Support towards a weekly social club in Plumbridge.	£2,000
Claudy Rural Development Ltd	Support towards upgrading lighting to LED lighting.	£2,000
SALT Community Association	Support towards installing a defibrillator.	£2,000
City of Derry Rugby Football Club	Support towards upgrading lighting to LED lighting.	£2,000
Drum Mens Shed	Support towards outdoor LED lighting for safety.	£2,000
Glenelly Development Trust	Support towards Christmas dinner for 80 people.	£1,500
St. Canice's GAC	Support towards running a health and wellbeing project.	£1,500
Glenshane Care Association	Support towards first aid equipment.	£1,400
Bready & District Ulster Scots Development Association	Support towards the purchase of equipment to create a sollus hub.	£1,234
St Marys Gaelic Athletic Club (GAC) Ardmore	Support towards improving the soil and promoting growth over the autumn and spring months.	£1,200
The Drummond Centre Project Ltd	Support towards the purchase of a smart screen to allow members to interact in group activities/workshops.	£1,000
Butterlope Farm CIC	Support towards visits to local tourism and sustainability projects.	£1,000
Kildoag Pipe Band	Support towards tuition for pipers and drummers.	£1,000
Churchill United Football Club	Support to run a summer cup with 12 teams.	£1,000
Good Shepherd Primary School	Support towards outdoor equipment.	£1,000
Bonds Glen Community Association	Support towards purchasing catering equipment.	£1,000
Killyclooney Cricket Club	Support towards upgrading LED lighting.	£1,000
Donemana Cricket Club	Support towards purchasing 2 water hogs.	£1,000
Bready Cricket Club	Support towards a community wellbeing programme to encourage healthy living.	£1,000
Donagheady Parish	Support towards improving drainage.	£1,000
Derry City F.C. Women	Support towards running a health and wellbeing project.	£1,000
St Mary's Banagher GAC	Support towards maintenance.	£1,000
Sollus School of Dance	To purchase equipment.	£800
Craft Collective	Support towards crafting classes for local rural residents.	£750
Strabane Academy Parents Teachers and Friends Association	Support towards a community orchard project.	£550



Tievenameenta Wind Farm

Tievenameenta Wind Farm is in Killeter, County Tyrone. The Wind Farm awards c.£94,000 annually in community benefit. The fund also runs a Scholarship Programme with the University of Ulster, North West Regional College and the South West College which opens for applications in September each year.

COMMUNITY GROUP	PROJECT	AWARD
Scholarship Fund	To provide 20 scholarships.	£60,000
Ederney Community Development Trust	Support to build a new community centre.	£30,000
Forge Family Resource Centre Pettigo CLG	Community development project to enhance the environment through sustainability projects within a community garden.	£9,560
Scraghey & District Community Development Association	Contribution towards the energy efficiency of the hub.	£7,000
Aghyaran St Davogs GFC	To create a facility for preschool children and a recreational facility for children up to 14 years old.	£6,000
Aghyaran Development Association	To install lighting to the disabled parking area at the centre.	£6,000
Culmaine Parish Covenant Account	Contribution towards a damp proofing treatment.	£5,000
Killeter District Development Trust	To complete repair work to a key historical landmark site in the local community at Mellon's Glen Mass Alter.	£4,455
Royal British Legion - Castleterg Branch	To complete a feasibility study for the building.	£3,000
North Fermanagh Cricket & Association Football Club	To replace wooden external doors with insulated PVC doors.	£2,610
NFC Kesh	To install LED lighting.	£2,022
The Gemma Mc Hale Foundation	Support to continue the bereavement support group.	£2,000
Drumquin Wolfetones GAC	Contribution to upgrade existing floodlighting to a match standard 300 Lux LED system.	£2,000
Derg Valley Arts & Leisure Group	Contribution towards refurbishment of a barn. Some of the priorities include handrail for safety and, heating, insulation and decoration.	£1,790



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