

Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Newsletter

Winter 2024



Welcome to the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Winter Newsletter 2024

Welcome to the winter special edition of our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 newsletter. In this edition, we reflect on some of the key activities undertaken by our Project team over the year. We also shine a spotlight on some of the groups that benefited recently under our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund.



Pictured at the South-East Technological University (SETU) careers' event, Carlow campus in November, were Deborah Coleman (left), James Kehoe (right), with students on the SSE Graduate programme Eva Giblin, Ofure Durodola, and Emma Dewberry. Our team met with SETU students to discuss the wide range of careers that renewables and wind can offer.



Kaj Christiansen, Development Manager, SSE Renewables, pictured with Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise, Wicklow County Council, at the East Coast Offshore Renewable Energy Network's 'Preparing for Offshore Opportunities' event, hosted by Wicklow's Local Enterprise Office in November.



John Sheehan, Senior Project Manager, SSE Renewables, and Mark Corcoran, M.D., ASL Safety & Training, pictured at the Wind Energy Taster seminar for students in Arklow themed on 'Exploring Career Opportunities in the Renewable Wind Energy Sector', Arklow, December.

SSE Renewables Deirdre, enjoying a chat with some of Wicklow Shuttle Knit's Traveller women involved in the enterprise training initiative 'T-Inc' sponsored by SSE Renewables.



Bernie Ivers (Avoca Tidy Towns & Community Courthouse Committee), Cllr Pat Kennedy and Deborah Coleman (SSE Renewables), pictured at the official launch of the Natura Woodland Play area in Kilmagig, Avoca. SSE Renewables sponsored the installation of sensory play equipment for children with additional needs.

Winners of the 'SSE Renewables Design a Christmas Tree Decoration from Recycled Materials 2024' pictured with Santa's helpers at Arklow Library.



Alan and Carol Murphy from 'The House', recipients of the 'Youth Awareness and Inclusion Award' sponsored by SSE Renewables at the Arklow Community Excellence Awards 2024.

Arklow Tidy Towns pictured at the Arklow Community Excellence Awards 2024 receiving the 'Environmental Care and Activism Award' sponsored by SSE Renewables.



SSE Renewables Deirdre and Deborah pictured with Anna Thornton and Stephen Delaney from Wicklow Town & District Chamber marking a second year of partnership.

Recent Sponsorships

Several new applicants successfully applied for funding under our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund.

Groups including Courtown Swim Club, Rathnew GAA Club, and Asgard Swimming Club, were just some of the first-time applicants supported in very recent months.

As part of our core principles on inclusion, diversity and sustainability, the Fund supported Shuttle Knit's application for funding towards a training programme in Enterprise skills for Traveller women in Wicklow. We also supported the installation of sensory play equipment at a Natura woodland play area in Avoca, providing a welcome space for children with additional learning needs and their families to have fun and take time out.

The Sponsorship Fund continues to support schools along our development site. Our sustainable Christmas tree decoration competition for schools, run in collaboration with the volunteer Arklow Christmas Festival Committee and Arklow Municipal District, successfully concluded in November. The overall winner Annabella was selected to switch on the Christmas tree lights in Arklow at a community event on November 23rd. Members of our team continue to volunteer their time as mentors to support a number of sixth year students with our partner school, Glenart College, in this our fourth year of the Business in the Community Ireland Student Mentoring Programme.

Very recently, we were delighted to once again sponsor local groups who seek to recognise the contribution of volunteers engaged in strengthening communities. At the Arklow Community Excellence (ACE) awards' event, which celebrated the best in local community volunteerism, Arklow Tidy Towns, 'The House' and Anita Nolan from 'Little Warriors' were awarded. Anita took home the prestigious apex award - the 'SSE Renewables Spirit of the Community Award 2024' for her voluntary work with children with additional learning needs and in supporting their families.

The Year in Review

In the first half of the year, our Project team was engaged in preparing our planning submission for the project's offshore infrastructure application which was submitted to An Bord Pleanála on June 6th.

Our pre-submission, public information campaign, centered on the theme 'It's Time to Power Up Arklow'. The campaign was publicised across various media channels in the first quarter of the year. Our campaign was augmented by advertising in local newspapers in May, ahead of our planning submission, where key questions and answers about the project were publicised.

Following submission on June 6th, a statutory public consultation period operated by An Bord Pleanála took place over an eight-week period closing in August. Members of the public had the opportunity to submit observations on our application. We were grateful for the supportive submissions received from individuals, groups, and businesses, coming from communities along our development site and farther afield, who share our vision for the delivery of Arklow Bank Wind Park 2.

Members of our team participated in several engagements and speaking events ranging from local level to national and EU levels - emphasising the strategic importance of Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 to our country's renewable energy ambitions; national and regional capital investment; and employment opportunities - especially for the local Wicklow-Wexford region.

The 'SSE Renewables Round Ireland Yacht Race 2024' was a momentous event in the summer calendar with thousands turning out to watch the start of the race, soak up the sunshine, take in the entertainment, and enjoy a fun day out at the Black Castle, Wicklow town.

Our team reached out through various initiatives to highlight the wide range of roles and career opportunities that our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project can offer in the future. Following September's student careers' fair 'Work in Wind' involving over 480 students from post-primary schools across Arklow and Co. Wexford, our team met with undergraduate students at the South-East Technological University (SETU) careers' event held at the Carlow campus in November. Our team, which included graduates currently on the SSE graduate programme, answered questions about the industry, early career pathways into SSE, and the myriads of roles beyond the technical, that renewables and wind can offer.

Promoting local employment and supply chain opportunities has been, and remains, a key focus as we move through the consenting process. Our project team presented at the East Coast Offshore Renewable Energy Network's 'Preparing for Offshore Opportunities' event, hosted by Wicklow's Local Enterprise Office in November, and a Wind Industry Taster event hosted by Green Tech Skillnet at ASL Safety & Training Ltd, Arklow, in December.

Project Timeline





Arklow RNLi members join with Santa and Deirdre Keogh, SSE Renewables, to mark the donation made by SSE Renewables under our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund towards the newly arrived Shannon-class lifeboat.



Santa's guest of honour Annabella Shparuta (overall winner of the 'SSE Renewables Design a Christmas Tree Decoration from Recycled Materials Competition' pictured with Santa and Deirdre at the Big Switch-On of the Christmas tree lights in Arklow. Low energy street festival lighting was sponsored for a third year by SSE Renewables. The community event was run in partnership with the Arklow Christmas Festival and Arklow Municipal District.

In conclusion

2024 has been a busy and very important year for our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project. If consented, and subject to a final investment decision, we're anticipating first energy for the project by 2030 in line with the national 5GW renewable energy target for offshore wind delivery.

Construction on parts of the project could commence as early as 2026/27. Suppliers interested in tendering can find information on www.sse.com/potential-suppliers/ and we'd encourage them to also subscribe to our newsletter via our project website www.sserenewables.com/arklowbank2/ for updates as we move towards future 'Meet the Buyer' events.

We continue to be encouraged by the support received from both Arklow and Wicklow Town Chambers of Commerce and look forward to continuing the very positive relationships built as we move into 2025.

On behalf of our Project Director, James O'Hara, and the members of our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project team, we extend our sincerest thanks to you, our valued communities and key stakeholders, for your support during 2024. We look forward to further engagement and collaboration in the year ahead.

Wishing you a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year

Deirdre Keogh
Community Engagement Manager

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



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