

Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Newsletter

Autumn 2024



Welcome to the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Autumn Newsletter 2024

Welcome to our autumn edition of the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 newsletter. A significant milestone for the project was achieved in June when our planning consent application for the project's offshore infrastructure was submitted to An Bord Pleanála. This is the third and final application needed to progress our project, and our team is grateful for the widespread support.

Our commitment to local communities continued over past months with our title sponsorship of the prestigious 'SSE Renewables Round Ireland Yacht Race', attracting huge crowds to Wicklow town to watch the start of the race and enjoy the community festival at Black Castle also sponsored by SSE Renewables. Through our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund, we've continued our commitment to local communities through our support for a diverse range of initiatives and events. You can read more in the section 'Continuing our Commitment to Communities'.

As we move towards winter, our project team remains committed to the future delivery of our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project in partnership with you, our key stakeholders and valued communities.

Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 has been in development by Sure Partners Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of FTSE 100 listed company SSE Plc), under SSE Renewables since 2018. Sure Partners Ltd is the legal entity responsible for submitting the offshore infrastructure planning application to An Bord Pleanála for the project's offshore infrastructure.

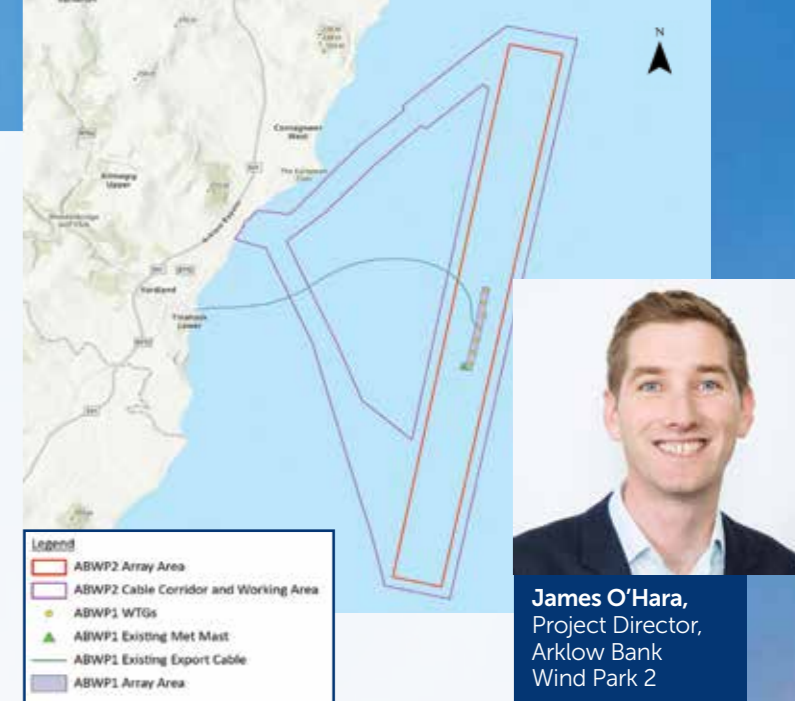
Under development since 2018, the offshore wind project is one of the most advanced projects in Ireland having already achieved planning consent for both a state-of-the-art operations facility at Arklow's South Dock (from which 60-80 full-time employees would be based), and consent for the development of onshore cabling infrastructure and a substation in Avoca River Park, connecting into Ireland's national grid. Having achieved a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) in December 2022 for the construction and operation of an offshore wind farm and associated infrastructure, this latest application marks the third and final planning consent required to enable the project to progress.

The offshore infrastructure planning application proposes the construction of up to 56 offshore wind turbines, depending on final wind farm project design, located in an array area of around 63 km² on and around the Arklow Bank off the Wicklow and Wexford coast. Two project design options were submitted as part of the application namely, option 1, 56 offshore wind turbines, or option 2, 47 offshore wind turbines. Each turbine would be installed on steel monopile foundations. The offshore application also proposes two offshore substation platforms (OSPs) as well as associated export, inter-array and interconnector sub-sea cabling, connecting with the consented onshore grid infrastructure at Johnstown North, north of Arklow town. Alongside our offshore infrastructure planning application, SSE Renewables submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and associated Appropriate Assessment (AA) documentation for our proposed development, to An Bord Pleanála. The EIAR provides an accurate description of the project, and a scientific, fact-based assessment of potential environmental impacts of the development.

An Bord Pleanála operated an eight-week public consultation period from 13th June to 7th August, where members of the public could view our planning consent documents online via www.arklowbank2offshoreplanning.ie or in person, at the Offices of An Bord Pleanála, Wicklow County Council and Wexford County Council. Our application now sits with An Bord Pleanála for a final decision on consent.

If consented and brought forward for construction, the up to 800MW Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project can play a crucial role in driving progress towards a cleaner and more secure homegrown energy system for Ireland. Once operational, the offshore wind farm would be capable of producing enough renewable energy to displace over 800,000 metric tonnes of harmful carbon emissions annually.

Subject to planning consent and a final investment decision by SSE, construction of Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 could commence as early as 2026 with first energy



generated by 2029/30, contributing to Ireland's target of at least 5GW of offshore renewable energy by 2030. Additionally, the project is expected to deliver an overall national economic benefit of up to €800m – around €400m of which will be local to the Wicklow and Wexford region – while supporting around 2,300 direct and indirect jobs throughout its delivery and operational lifetime.

In other news, we concluded offshore survey campaigns over the summer months and are grateful to contractors, marine users and fishers for their co-operation. We concluded a third year of mentoring with students from Glenart College, Arklow, and we supported new initiatives and projects under our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund including Wicklow Energy Awareness Day 2024, the Arklow Bank Offshore Race with Arklow Sailing Club, a donation to Kildare Wildlife Rescue towards the rescue and rehabilitation of the birds affected by an oil spillage presenting on beaches along the east and south east coast earlier this summer – just to name a few!

Partnering with Wicklow Sailing Club for the 'SSE Renewables Round Ireland 2024' was a highlight as 22nd June witnessed massive crowds gathering at Wicklow pier and Black Castle to watch the start of the race and fun-filled community festival sponsored by SSE Renewables.

In more recent days, we've announced another year partnering with Wicklow Town & District Chamber of Commerce and also supported Arklow Chamber with sponsorship towards its annual business awards gala event.

SSE Renewables team members were pleased to join with Wexford Chamber and Wind Energy Ireland for Wexford's first wind energy job and education fair on September 24th in the Amber Springs Hotel, Gorey, Co. Wexford. SSE Renewables was delighted to both sponsor the event and to have members of the team on hand to chat with students from participating schools across Co. Wexford and Arklow, about the wide variety of roles and opportunities that a future career in the wind industry can bring.

As a final word, we extend our sincerest appreciation to the many groups, individuals, clubs and businesses, that offer ongoing encouragement and support in sharing our vision for the realisation of Arklow Bank Wind Park 2.

Critical milestone achieved for Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project with offshore planning consent application submitted

June 6th marked a hugely significant date in the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project calendar with the latest and most significant milestone reached in the delivery of SSE Renewables' flagship Irish offshore wind park project.

Submission of the offshore infrastructure planning consent application sees the culmination of almost seven years' development work by our project team. This recent phase of development builds on the original vision for offshore wind generation at Arklow Bank.

Our offshore planning application submission follows an extensive period of public consultation with local Wicklow and Wexford communities and stakeholders which took place last year. Feedback received during that process helped refine the application submitted.



Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project team members Marc Walshe (Consent Manager) and Kaj Christiansen (Development Package Manager), pictured at the Offices of An Bord Pleanála submitting our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 offshore planning consent application on June 6th.



Work In Wind

Over 480 post-primary students attend Student Job and Education Fair. The first of its kind wind energy job and education fair for post-primary students in Co. Wexford and Arklow, took place on Tuesday, 24th September, in the Amber Springs Hotel, Gorey.



(L to R) Deirdre O'Flynn (Co. Wexford Chamber), Deirdre Keogh (SSE Renewables), Lisa-Anne Crookes (Wind Energy Ireland), Senator Malcolm Byrne and Deborah Coleman (SSE Renewables) pictured at the 'Work in Wind' student careers' fair.

Sponsored by SSE Renewables, the event was organised by Wind Energy Ireland, County Wexford Chamber of Commerce and championed by Senator Malcolm Byrne. Over 480 students from participating schools actively engaged in the event.

The student careers' fair provided the opportunity for young people to meet with professionals working across the spectrum of the wind energy sector and to find out more about the wide variety of roles and career opportunities offered by working in wind. Our own team at the event from across the consenting, engineering and corporate affairs disciplines, illustrated that working in the wind sector goes far beyond what one might think!

In addition to chatting about SSE Renewables early careers' pathways, we shared information about our flagship Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 offshore project, which if consented, will bring economic investment, employment, and career opportunities to the Wicklow and Wexford region, drive the transition towards a cleaner, more sustainable future for these and other young people. Our 3-D simulation of the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 offshore development site garnered particular interest on the day proving to be a big hit with the students who took time to visit our exhibition stand.



Students from Creagh College at 'Work In Wind'



Students from St Mary's College, Arklow, at 'Work In Wind'.

Marc Walshe and James Kehoe from our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project team chatting with students.

Summer Survey Campaigns Conclude at Arklow Bank

We recently successfully concluded the latest phase of our geophysical survey campaign. Two Irish-based companies mobilised to site in June and completed the surveys during July and August.

'Green Rebel' a company which has conducted offshore survey campaigns previously at the development site area successfully managed to acquire almost 2000km of data supported by its vessels, the 'Roman Rebel' and the 'Lady Kathleen'.

A first for Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 was the use of Xocean's uncrewed survey vessels to collect site data at Arklow Bank. Xocean's vessels gathered data which was transferred via satellite link to onshore operators and data analysts. Geophysical campaigns concluded ahead of schedule and the data captured will augment existing information to inform project refinements to the offshore site area. An additional benthic (seafloor ecology) survey takes place in October undertaken by Wicklow's Alpha Marine and Aquafact. The survey will involve the use of Drop-Down Video (DDV) to record footage of the seafloor and the lowering of a day grab to take sediment samples.



Green Rebel's 'Roman Rebel' completing survey work to collect high resolution geophysical data at the Arklow Bank 2 offshore development site.

Marine Notices published by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) advised specific details for the various campaigns undertaken. Our appreciation is extended to the contractors and other marine users, particularly members of the commercial fisheries industry, for their co-operation during recent survey campaigns.



Xocean's survey vessel returning from gathering seabed data at Arklow Bank

Fair Winds and Following Seas for Arklow Sailing Club as it partnered with SSE Renewables for a weekend of sailing events and competitions



Locally based crew 'Happy Days' back on dry land after the 'SSE Renewables Mini-Regatta Race'.



Pictured at the Arklow Sailing Club awards event are Commodore Seamus Cranmer, Club members, and local Councillors Fitzgerald, Burke and Kennedy with Deirdre from SSE Renewables.

It was fair winds and following seas for Arklow Sailing Club for its weekend of competitive and celebratory events from 27th and 28th July. Three key competitive events took place over the weekend including Saturday's 'Dun Laoghaire to Arklow Irish Sailing Offshore Racing Association's (ISORA) Race' and the locally-based 'SSE Renewables Mini-Regatta'. Sunday saw the weekend's title race - the 'SSE Renewables Arklow Bank Offshore Race' set sail from Arklow's pier head.

'Ruth' (J109) owned by the Shanahan family and based out of the National Sailing Club, Dun Laoghaire, won Saturday's 'Dun Laoghaire to Arklow ISORA Race'. The 'SSE Renewables Mini-Regatta' saw competitions across 2 classes with local vessels headlining in classes 1 and 2. 'Javelin', owned and operated by Clarke Allen & Family took the Class 1 title, with the Class 2 accolade taken by Eoin Quinn's team on the 'Niamh Cinn Óir'.

It was a fantastic spectacle to see the yachts filing down the river and gathering in preparation for the start of the 'SSE Renewables Arklow Bank Yacht Race'. The scene would have rivalled any mediterranean coastal village that morning. The winning boats from the 'SSE Renewables Arklow Bank Offshore Race' included: Welsh vessel 'Mojito', owned and operated by Peter Dunlop and Victoria Cox which took first place in the ISORA class. Local vessels took the winning spots in their respective classes with 'Javelin' again taking the Class 1 spot, and 'Showtime' - skippered and owned by father and son duo Paul and Gary Sinnott - taking the Class 2 trophy.

"This was our first time to run the weekend's events and the organising team was truly delighted with how the entire weekend went. We had local, national and UK vessels participating in all three events over the weekend. It was great to see such activity around the Club, the river, and the pier as the boats took off for each of the competitive events. We appreciate SSE Renewables support as title sponsors" said Seamus Cramer, Commodore, Arklow Sailing Club.



SSE Renewables makes a Splash in support of Wicklow Regatta Festival 2024



Members of the Wicklow Regatta Committee at Wicklow South pier marking SSE Renewables sponsorship of another year of the Wicklow Regatta Festival.

The Wicklow Regatta Festival is a voluntary, not-for-profit, community-run festival operating since 1878. The festival developed from the traditional August bank holiday sailing and rowing regatta days, into a large-scale community celebration now comprising over 20 events.

'Splash Sunday 2024' sponsored by SSE Renewables Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund, attracted a wide audience, both local and tourist alike, promoting water-based activities, clubs, and businesses in the local area, and offering a fun, free, family-orientated day featuring sailing, paddleboarding, a raft race and the all-important annual duck race.

Rounding off on a hugely successful 'Round Ireland 2024'

Thousands of people flocked to Wicklow town in June for the 'SSE Renewables Round Ireland Race' and community festival event. The 704-nautical miles premier yacht race departed at 1.00 p.m. on Saturday, June 22nd, as crowds gathered along Wicklow Harbour and the Black Castle to watch the boats set sail.

First staged by Wicklow Sailing Club in 1980 and held biennially since, the 'Round Ireland' is the second longest race in the Royal Ocean Racing Club calendar. Over 50 vessels participated in the race – ranging in size from 30 feet to over 70.

The town was a hive of activity during the week leading up to Round Ireland. East Coast FM broadcast live from Black Castle on the day, capturing the fantastic atmosphere to the occasion and keeping listeners updated with all event activities. When the boats had departed, a community festival featuring live music, entertainment, bouncy castles and a large array of different food stands from a variety of local businesses in Wicklow and beyond ensured a memorable day was enjoyed by all.

Our partners, Wicklow Sailing Club did a tremendous amount of work to prepare for the event and the support of Wicklow County Council, Wicklow Municipal District, the Gardaí, emergency services, ports' personnel and the many volunteers, collectively culminated in making the event a resounding success.

The weather was ideal for the crowds with blue skies and faint winds but somewhat more challenging for the crews trying to make headway on day one. Our appreciation is particularly extended to the political representatives – both national and county-based – who took time out of their busy schedules to attend the event.

The first vessels arrived back to shore on June 25th and the official awards ceremony took place on Friday evening, 28th June at the club.

Whilst there were many individual class winners and runner-up awardees, French entry 'Teasing Machine' skippered by Eric de Turckheim was confirmed as the overall winner of the 'SSE Renewables Round Ireland Race 2024' having returned on Tuesday evening.

Reflecting on the event, Karen Kissane, Commodore of Wicklow Sailing Club said: "It was a brilliant weekend and a wonderful buzz around Wicklow Town, the Clubhouse and the harbour. From the organising committee's perspective, the event could not have gone better. I must commend all my colleagues at Wicklow Sailing Club for their efforts in organising the event and to SSE Renewables for its title sponsorship of 'Round Ireland 2024'. The association with the Round Ireland is an ideal one as the company is an active member of the community in County Wicklow. The synergy between both the race and sponsor highlights a shared passion for wind and excellence'.

'Teams from all over Ireland, Britain, and Europe competed and it was truly a magnificent spectacle of offshore racing' said Kyran O'Grady, Race Director.

Commenting on the event, James O'Hara, Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Project Director at SSE Renewables said: 'SSE Renewables was delighted to sponsor 'Round Ireland' once again. The event highlights the special place sailing holds for people of all ages in Irish coastal communities. We believe in supporting the communities where we operate, so we couldn't be prouder to support a community-focused event and supporting a festival in the Wicklow area'.

Why not read our colleague Luke Murphy's article opposite as he reflects on his personal experience of crewing 'Aurelia' in the 'Round Ireland 2024' On behalf of everyone at SSE Renewables, we sincerely appreciate the efforts of everyone involved in making Round Ireland 2024' such a success.

SSE's Luke Murphy's reflects on competing in 'Round Ireland 2024'

In June, I competed for a second time in 'Round Ireland'. The course is somewhat straightforward in theory - leave all of Ireland and her islands to starboard as you progress through the race, which as tradition dictates starts and ends at Wicklow Sailing Club.

Encouraged by a number of spectators, the SSE Renewables project team, the Club, and competing crews, we set off sailing down the east coast, passing the development site for our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project. We made our way around the south-east coast experiencing very light and somewhat patchy wind conditions – admittedly not ideal when you're trying to beat the clock against the boats behind!

Around the south and south-west coast, the fog rolled in around the fleet clouding our rather extended view of the iconic Fastnet Rock Lighthouse off Baltimore, Co. Cork. In the hours and days that followed, we were propelled at ever increasing speed as the wind rebuilt from the south, fueling a quick and enjoyable journey northwards passing Galway Bay, the Aran Islands, and the Mayo coastline. As we neared the northwest, the wind calmed slowing our performance. Undeterred, our spirits remained high on board as we watched the resplendent colours in the skies particularly on the night we made our way across Donegal Bay.

Next morning and propelled by the now north-easterly winds, we rounded the top of Ireland sailing forward amid the infamously strong tides past the Antrim coastline and around Ratlin Island. The final sunrise brought light winds as we tightly hugged the Co. Down coast, seeking shallower waters to reduce the immense effects of the North running tide, as the body of water in the Irish sea was propelled through the tiny gap between western Scotland and Northern Ireland. Light winds gave way to a strong southerly gale with winds of up to 36 knots. Our final run down the Irish Sea was set against the challenges of a heavy sea state and gale-force winds which sustained 'Aurelia' for much of the final run. We crossed the finish line later that night in a time of 5 days and 9 hours.

Looking back, 'Round Ireland' week was an incredible experience shared by club, crews and community alike. One for the calendar in two years' time!



SSE's Luke Murphy on 'Aurelia'



Teasing Machine' skipper Eric de Turckheim (left), overall winner of the 'SSE Renewables Round Ireland Race 2024' pictured with Race Director Kyran O'Grady, Wicklow Sailing Club.

Photograph: David Branigan/Oceansport

Wicklow Sailing Club and SSE Renewables team up for 'Round Ireland 2024'

Continuing our Commitment to Communities

SSE has a long and proud history of sharing economic value from its renewable assets with local communities. Through our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund, we've already committed over €430,000 to communities along our development site. Over 80 groups have benefited under the Fund.



Our Sponsorship Fund is voluntarily offered by SSE Renewables and demonstrates our commitment to communities where we seek to develop our assets. We're here for the long-term, and our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project if consented, will attract a future community benefit fund of some €3M per annum when it becomes operational.

The summer months saw the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund support a wide variety of groups and initiatives. In May, SSE Renewables donated to the Kildare Wildlife Rescue fund to help support the rescue and recovery of sea birds affected by an oil spill far out in the Irish Sea washing up in large numbers along the east and south-east coastline.

Arklow and Wicklow Town Libraries saw the installation of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) educational resources including wall art and cube seating sponsored under our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund. This sponsorship acknowledges the work that the Council, and in particular, Co. Wicklow Library Service and Wicklow County Council's Climate Action Team, have undertaken to promote the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and raise awareness of SDGs within local communities.

Among the new initiatives/groups that the Fund has recently supported are Arklow Sailing Club, where we were the principal sponsor of the 'SSE Renewables Offshore Race' and 'Mini-Regatta' held at the Club in July. We supported both Vartry Rowing Club, Wicklow Town, and Courtown Sea Swim Club, Co. Wexford, with funding towards the purchase of equipment. Arklow Community Excellence ran its first community day with SSE Renewables sponsoring the teddy bears' picnic generating great excitement and fun for the participating children.

We were title sponsors of the very successful county-wide 'Wicklow Energy Awareness Day' in collaboration with Wicklow Sustainable Energy Community in June. We've also supported Arklow Active Retirement Association and the Arklow branch of East Coast Samaritans with charitable donations towards the provision of important services locally.

Pictured at the installation of the new Sustainable Development Goal resources sponsored by SSE Renewables were: **Mark Costello** (Climate Action Co-ordinator, Wicklow County Council), **Aideen Klauer** (Wicklow County Council), **Deirdre Keogh** (Community Engagement Manager, SSE Renewables), **Sarah Rubalcava** (Environmental Awareness Officer, Wicklow County Council), **Loretta Rose** (Branch Librarian, Wicklow County Council), **Margaret Birchall** (County Librarian, Wicklow County Council), **Catherine Costello** (Branch Librarian, Wicklow County Council), **Julie Sammiller** (Community Climate Action Officer, Wicklow County Council) and **James Callery** (Climate Action Officer, Wicklow County Council).



Eamon Kenny (SSE Airtricity), Deirdre Keogh, (SSE Renewables), Deaglan O'Meagher, (Chairperson, Wicklow Sustainable Energy Committee) pictured with Rohan and Noah at the Wicklow Energy Awareness Day 2024



Vessels making ready for the first ever 'SSE Renewables Arklow Bank Yacht Race 2024' in association with Arklow Sailing Club



Marking a donation from SSE Renewables Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund to East Coast Samaritans' Arklow Branch are Damien Byrne, Arklow Branch Director, and Paul Sutton who undertook 'The Big Cycle' fundraiser.



Pictured at the launch of SSE Renewables title sponsorship of Arklow Golf Club's Open Week 2024 were Club captains Liz Reid and John Earls with Deirdre Keogh, Community Engagement Manager, SSE Renewables.



Anita Nolan, member of the Arklow Community Excellence (ACE) volunteer committee pictured at the ACE community picnic at Coral Leisure, Arklow, in June. SSE Renewables Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund supported the event by sponsoring the children's teddy bears' picnic.



SSE Renewables supported Kildare Wildlife Rescue (KWR) with a donation towards the rescue and rehabilitation efforts of birds presenting on east and south-east coast beaches following the oil spillage far out in the Irish Sea earlier in the summer. Pictured is Dan Donohoe (KWR) administering fluids to a guillemot

The Sponsorship Fund supported several events including repeat sponsorships of: Wicklow & District Lions Club's charity fundraiser, Arklow Golf Club's Open Week 2024, and Wicklow Regatta Festival's 'Splash Sunday 2024' - the longest running festival of its kind in Ireland.

The Student Mentoring Programme has become a stalwart example of our company's commitment to youth development locally having completed three years of mentoring with sixth year students in Glenart College, Arklow. Our team has partnered again for a fourth year with Glenart and Business in the Community Ireland, to mentor a number of students in the coming academic year.

We've pledged funds to support the South Beach boardwalk, Arklow, and the Tara Hill Community Development Association's 'Fisherman's Way Trail' in North Wexford. The Fund has once again supported Arklow's Maritime Museum and volunteer group Avoca Tidy Towns & Community Courthouse which secured funding for sensory-friendly equipment in a new play area north of the Beech Road in Avoca village.

For further information about our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund, visit our website www.sserenewables.com/arklowbank2 or simply get in touch with our Community Engagement Manager Deirdre Keogh, by phone 087 1822587 or email deirdre.keogh@sse.com



Deirdre Keogh (SSE Renewables) pictured with Wicklow County Council Climate Action Officer, Jim Callery, at the 'Wicklow Energy Awareness Day 2024'

Wicklow Energy Awareness Day 2024 draws interest from across the County

Wicklow, Arklow, Greystones, and Delgany Sustainable Energy Communities collaborated to host the third Energy Awareness Day on June 15th, in the Pastoral Centre, Wicklow Town.

Sponsored by SSE Renewables, through our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund, the event sought to inform Co. Wicklow residents about what's available to assist them in making their homes, businesses, and personal transport means, more efficient and sustainable. Admission was free to the public and the day included a variety of events, exhibition stands, information sessions and fun Eco activities for children plus the chance to cycle and generate enough energy to power a smoothie!



Paul Craigie and Eamon Kenny from the 'Generation Green' team at SSE Airtricity, and Deirdre from SSE Renewables, at the Wicklow Energy Awareness Day 2024, Wicklow Town.

Representatives from our sister company SSE Airtricity were on hand to give practical advice around options to improve energy efficiency within homes and businesses.

The public perused the range of electric bikes and vehicles; availed of information about solar, heat pump and battery storage options; benefited from technical expert advice about how to reduce energy costs in homes and businesses and various grants available through SEAI. Gavin Harte in conjunction with SEAI facilitated rolling half-hour workshops themed on 'Stepping Stones to Energy Efficiency' offering tips to improve improving energy efficiency and retrofitting advice. One of the big hits of the day was Colm with his beehive.

Wicklow Energy Awareness Day 2024 was supported by Wicklow Tidy Towns, Wicklow Town Team, and Wicklow Co. Council and a special thanks is extended to the volunteers from Wicklow Town's Sustainable Energy Community.



Cllr Graham Richmond chatting with Deirdre at the SSE exhibition stand for Wicklow Energy Awareness Day



Cycling for a Smoothie! Wicklow Sustainable Energy Committee's Deaglan O'Meagher, Simon Whelan and Sylvester J. Burke pictured with Deirdre Keogh, SSE Renewables, at the county-wide Wicklow Sustainable Energy Awareness Day, Wicklow Town, June 2024.

SSE Renewables supporting local Chambers of Commerce



Servier (Ireland) Industries Ltd recipients of the 'Environment & Sustainability Award 2024' sponsored by SSE Renewables pictured at the Arklow & District Chamber Business & Awards event, September 2024.

Our team at SSE Renewables see the benefits of supporting business through our local Chambers of Commerce. We've built strong and valued relationships with the staff and Presidents Stephen Delaney and Gary McKenzie in Wicklow and Arklow Chambers.

SSE Renewables team members were delighted to join with the network of businesses involved in Arklow & District Chamber at the recent Business and Community Gala and Awards' event held in the Arklow Conference & Leisure Hotel on September 20th, and to present the Environment & Sustainability Award for 2024 to deserving recipients Servier (Ireland) Industries Ltd.

We were also very pleased to be nominated for the 'Best Use of Technology Award' for our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project and 3-D simulation tool of our development site used in our public consultation outreach.

Having announced our strategic partnership with Wicklow Town & District Chamber in September 2023, we're delighted to renew this partnership again for the coming year. We value deeply the work undertaken by both Chambers and are very appreciative of their past and ongoing support for our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project.



SSE Renewables team partners for a fourth year with Glenart College, Arklow, to deliver the Business in the Community Ireland Student Mentoring Programme

Corporate social responsibility is an important tenet of SSE Renewables' company values. We remain firmly committed to local communities close to our development sites, and our commitment to Arklow schools is evidenced through the mentoring programme, sustainability support initiatives, and a variety of other resources and supports provided to local primary and post-primary schools.

Having successfully completed a third year of the mentoring programme, our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project team is delighted to partner again for a fourth year with Glenart College and Business in the Community Ireland.

The Student Mentoring Programme is well-established across the country. In 2023/24 there were 36 partnerships involving 25 companies in Ireland mentoring to 31 schools. Our involvement with Glenart College students on the mentoring programme ran throughout the academic year 2023/24 concluding just prior to the end of the school year. We had a great mix of new and previous mentors taking part. Involving ourselves in the mentoring programme gives us a chance to give something back as a company, and most importantly, help support and contribute to talent and skills development for young people locally.

Delivered in one-to-one monthly online sessions, the programme is designed to facilitate personalised sessions covering topics such as: goal setting, career exploration, interview skills' preparation etc. Sessional content was drawn from a suite of Business in the Community Ireland approved resources and student soft skills and resilience building was encouraged throughout the year's programme.

At the close of the 2023/24 programme, **Niall Walsh, teacher and Programme Co-ordinator in Glenart College** commented: 'We at Glenart College were delighted to partner again with SSE Renewables for an other year of the Business in the Community Ireland Student Mentoring programme. The feedback from our students has been overwhelmingly positive. It has boosted their confidence and challenged them to think creatively about their future education and career options.

SSE Renewables mentors included:

Deborah Coleman, Aaron Henry, Ann Fahy, Hugh Connell, Robert Sheldon, Arthur Wright, Tom Guiney, Mairi Muir, Mulvihill, Niall, Jack Mooney and Deirdre Keogh.

Alison Norman, Business in the Community Ireland (left), Niall Walsh, Teacher and Programme Co-ordinator (centre back row), Gwen Campbell (Deputy Principal) and Deirdre Keogh (SSE Renewables) pictured with some of the students who participated in the Business in the Community Ireland Student Mentoring Programme 2023/24



Isabelle Chadwick, graduating sixth year student, Glenart College, who participated in the Business in the Community Ireland Student Mentoring Programme 2023/24 with our team from SSE Renewables.

We're very grateful to the mentors for their enthusiasm, preparation, encouragement, and integrity demonstrated throughout the mentoring sessions'.

Alison Norman, Regional Co-ordinator, Business in the Community Ireland reflected on the programme's worth to those students who participated this year saying: 'The mentoring programme encourages retention, increases self-esteem, and develops an awareness of workplace practices and expectations. The support from SSE Renewables' mentors alongside the management and staff in Glenart College, have brought tangible benefits to the students who participated. We look forward to continuing the very positive relationship with Glenart College and SSE Renewables in the next academic year'.

Our project team in SSE Renewables is looking forward to supporting students in this our fourth year of the mentoring programme.



Glenart College students on the mentoring programme 2023/24 included: Darragh Kennedy, Jack Bermingham, Donnacha Walker, Ben Burke, Jamie Byrne, Victoria Tarnogorska, Isabelle Chadwick, Paloma Palach, Emily Kavanagh and Leanna Walsh.



Guests gathering under the archway to await the launch of the 'SSE Renewables Round Ireland Yacht Race 2024'



'Work In Wind' - The first of its kind wind energy job and education fair for post-primary students in Co. Wexford and Arklow, took place on Tuesday, 24th September, in the Amber Springs Hotel, Gorey. Sponsored by SSE Renewables, the event was organised by Wind Energy Ireland, County Wexford Chamber of Commerce and championed by Senator Malcolm Byrne. Over 480 students participated. Members of our team discussed the wide variety of roles and opportunities that a future career in the wind industry can bring and the programmes on offer via SSE early careers.

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