

SSE Renewables

About SSE

SSE plc is the broadest-based energy utility in the UK and Ireland, with interests and experience in electricity and gas production, distribution, supply and services.

SSE is the third largest wholesale energy generator by capacity in Ireland's all-island Single Electricity Market with 1,611MW of thermal and renewable energy generation in operation.

The company is also the second largest energy provider on the island of Ireland as well as in the competitive energy markets in Northern Ireland (NI) and the Republic of Ireland (ROI). It supplies electricity and gas to around 800,000 household and business customer accounts in NI and ROI under its SSE Airtricity brand. SSE is Northern Ireland's number 1 provider of cleaner, greener energy, providing more renewable energy to home electricity customers than any other supplier, and it supplies 100% green energy to all its business energy customers.

As of March 31st 2014, SSE Airtricity had a 21% share by customer numbers of the total combined gas and electricity market on the island, up from just 1% when it first entered Ireland's competitive domestic energy supply market in 2009.

Since it entered Ireland's all-island energy market in 2008 through the acquisition of renewable energy developer and commercial electricity supplier Airtricity, SSE plc has invested around £2 billion into the development of Ireland's sustainable energy infrastructure and in growing its all-island energy business. In Northern Ireland SSE plc has invested half a billion pounds in the same period in the development of Northern Ireland's greener energy infrastructure, and the company is committed to investing a further half a billion pounds over the next 5 years to meet Northern Ireland's renewable energy targets.

Across the Island of Ireland SSE operates 26 wind farms, generating over 500MW of green energy. In Northern Ireland SSE generates 88MW of renewable energy powering 75,000 homes each year. In order to meet the Stormont Executive's 2020 renewable energy targets the company has a further 166MW of new wind farm capacity in the pipeline.

Since 2008 SSE has created 98 direct and 120 indirect full time roles in NI through the growth of its business. Additionally the company has created and sustained hundreds of local jobs through the construction of its development portfolio of wind farms. The company is proud to support local enterprise including small local family-owned firms, sole-traders, specialist engineering and environmental enterprises in the development and construction of its new wind farms.



Local Community Fund



Meet Anne Reynolds
SSE Airtricity Community Development Officer

"Working with local communities since 2006 the SSE Airtricity Community Fund has supported some excellent projects around our wind farms. The results speak for themselves. We're helping to transform cold and expensive-to-run schools, clubs and halls into modern and comfortable energy-efficient centres, with a significantly lower carbon footprint and reduced running costs."

SSE is the leader in community funding from wind energy and has invested over £500,000 so far into local communities around our NI wind farms from our community funds. To date this funding has supported over 250 projects that are transforming schools, communities, and sports clubs around our wind farms.

SSE's Community Fund supports community energy efficiency and sustainability projects within a 12 mile radius of the wind farm (with priority given to those living within the first 3 miles).



Case Study

In August 2014, Glenelly St Joseph's GFC was awarded funding for phase one installation of energy efficient pitch lighting at the club's grounds in Co. Tyrone. Funding was handed out through the Slieve Kirk Wind Park Community Fund, which in 2014, awarded a record amount of £197,000 to 25 local groups, situated within twelve miles of Slieve Kirk Wind Park.

Glenelly St Joseph's GFC is a community based volunteer organisation which promotes Gaelic games, culture, and sporting activities. In a wider community context, the club also organises events which promote cross community involvement, ranging from, fashion shows, to health promotion road shows, to culture evenings. The club's football pitch is the only facility that offers and provides sporting activities and recreation in their community. However, without sufficient lighting the club is restricted to the type of facilities that it can offer its members and the wider community in the long winter evenings.

Support from the SSE Airtricity Community Fund, will enable the club to provide a better place for sporting and recreational activities for the community all year round. The energy efficient flood lighting will allow the club to provide sporting facilities in a sustainable and cost effective manner.

'It will provide a safe environment, and a place that doesn't already exist, where people will be free to exercise and socialise in a safe, organised, and fun setting.'

Ciaran Kearney, Glenelly St Joseph's GFC, Co. Tyrone.



Regional Fund



In November 2013, SSE announced that it would contribute £5,000 per MW per annum for all newly developed wind farms from that date. This payment will comprise of a £2,500 per MW per annum payment supporting community energy efficiency and sustainability projects as well as a £2,500 per MW per annum payment towards a newly instituted Regional Fund to promote learning and development opportunities for community members living in the county or counties in which the wind farm operates in.

The first round of the SSE Airtricity Scholarship from the Slieve Kirk Wind Park Regional Fund was announced in August 2014. It is open to applicants living in Co. Derry-Londonderry and Co. Tyrone where the Slieve Kirk Wind Park is located.

The Scholarship is one of the most significant bursary schemes ever launched in Northern Ireland and is open for applications for this coming academic year. Students applying to either the University of Ulster or South West College for the Scholarship are urged to apply before the September 30th deadline. More than 20 students per year from Counties Derry-Londonderry and Tyrone will receive 50% funding support from SSE Airtricity towards the cost of their Third Level student fees at the University of Ulster and South West College.

A total of 12 SSE Airtricity Scholarships for full time Degree and full and part time Masters level courses are available with the University of Ulster, while ten Foundation Degrees are available through South West College. Scholarships are available for a broad range of subjects with a particular emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) courses. In addition SSE Airtricity announced it will entirely fund two online courses at South West College offering a Level 2 Certificate qualification in Health & Safety and Microsoft Skills. There are no minimum entry requirements to these online courses and no upper limit on the number of students who can participate.

