



# Yellow River Wind Farm

March 2023  
Newsletter



# About Yellow River Wind Farm

Yellow River Wind Farm is a 29-turbine development, in Rhode, Co. Offaly. The project received planning permission in 2014 and in November 2022 SSE Renewables commenced construction process of the windfarm. When completed, the wind farm will produce enough clean green energy to power around 66,000 homes.

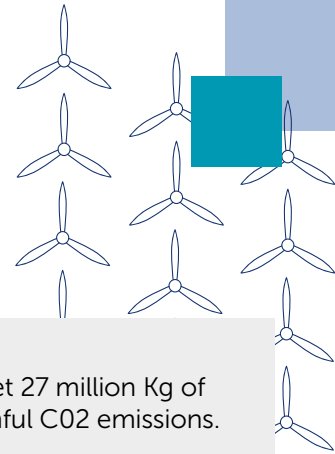


# Project Timeline



2022 → 2023 → 2024

- November construction commencement including:-
  - Construction access tracks
  - Hardstands
  - Hedge clearance & Fencing
- March - ongoing work on road works, hardstands & fencing
- March - November - construction of turbine foundations
- April - commencement of drainage, ducts & cables
- Summer- Road improvement works continue
- Autumn/Winter - Turbine deliveries
- Turbine erection
- Site landscaping & reinstating
- First commissioning
- Wind farm completion



## Benefits of the project



100MW of clean green energy



Offset 27 million Kg of harmful CO2 emissions.



66000 homes powered



Investment in local economies and communities



Contributing to Ireland's Climate Action Target of 80% renewable electricity by 2030



80 jobs created at peak of construction period.



Substantial Community Benefit fund

# Project Updates

The construction of Yellow River Wind Farm commenced in November, with lots of progress being made since then in developing the site's access tracks and hardstands. Once this work is complete, foundations will be laid and turbines delivered.

Road re-surfacing and upgrades are underway. The main delivery route for the wind farm will be the R400, which will be upgraded from the M4 roundabout to the north, down to the Coolcor Roundabout at the site offices. We have worked with Offaly County Council to upgrade the R400 this will help ensure the safety of the road for all that travel on it. Upgrade work has also been started on the Greenhill Road.

When Yellow River is completed SSE Renewables has committed to further investments in road upgrades.



## Looking Ahead - Concrete Pours

We will be commencing concrete pours for the turbine foundations in March 2023. While there will be increased traffic at this time, this will only be on one day per week and we will inform the community in advance of the day's that pours will take place where deliveries would be along public roads.

# On Site Progress

Hardstands have been completed at a number of the turbine sites. Forestry works and hedge clearing works are also underway and nearing completion.



Access Roads & Tracks



Commencement of Works

# Community Engagement & Benefit Funds

**SSE Renewables will invest €2/MWh generated, into a Community Benefit Fund. It is estimated the Community Benefit Fund will be approximately €595k over the course of 15 years (although the amount may be vary year to year, depending on the amount of electricity generated).**

A series of public consultation events will be held locally throughout the course of April 2023 to inform the local community and stakeholders about the Community Benefit Fund. The goal of these events is to achieve the following :-

- Establish a Community Fund Committee consisting of a number of volunteer community representatives and the project developer.
- Develop a Funding Strategy which defines the objectives of the Community Benefit Fund and will identify the key priorities and eligible areas to maximise impact.

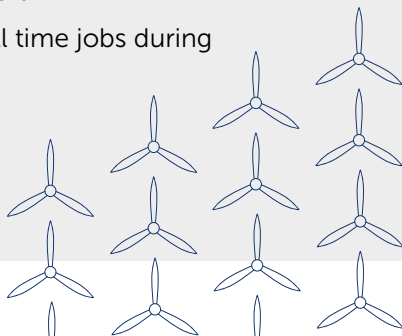
The ultimate aim is to achieve a lasting legacy for your local community. The Community Benefit Fund will open, and be available to the public once Yellow River Wind Farm is in operation.

## Powering the Local Economy

We are committed to promoting employment and enterprise in the region including investment in the local supply chain. We expect a number of local goods and services to be used during the construction phase of this project and beyond. These include:

- Supply of aggregate from local quarries
- Supply of building materials and plant hire
- Accommodation and food for workers

There will also be approximately 80 full time jobs during the construction period.



## Yellow River Construction Fund

SSE has committed funding for investment in the local community for specific projects or as sponsorship during the construction period of the wind farm.

The SSE Renewables Construction Fund has been responsible for several sponsorships already, including Christmas Lights and for local GAA clubs. We have also supported a number of projects in the area, including a Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM) project which has seen all 6 schools in the area receive dedicated teacher training in February to promote STEM within their schools.

This 12 week interactive programme uses the First Lego League and supports schools to explore and learn about energy as part of the Irish curriculum.



If your group or charitable organisation would like to apply for funding please contact our Community Liaison Officer Richard Whelan at [Richard.whelan@sse.com](mailto:Richard.whelan@sse.com) who will advise on next steps.

All applications received will be reviewed on a regular basis and the team at SSE Renewables will let you know whether your application has been successful.

# Meet the Team



**Paul Rodgers**  
Project Manager  
SSE Renewables



**Richard Whelan**  
Community Liaison  
Officer SSE Renewables



**Shane Reynolds**  
Land Liaison Officer  
SSE Renewables



**Vicky Boden**  
Onshore External  
Relations Manager

We are keen to keep in contact with all members of the community and as the project progresses we will keep you informed with key milestones as the project progresses.

In the meantime if there are any queries or concerns please contact a member of our dedicated liaison team, [richard.whelan@sse.com](mailto:richard.whelan@sse.com) or [clo@sse.com](mailto:clo@sse.com)