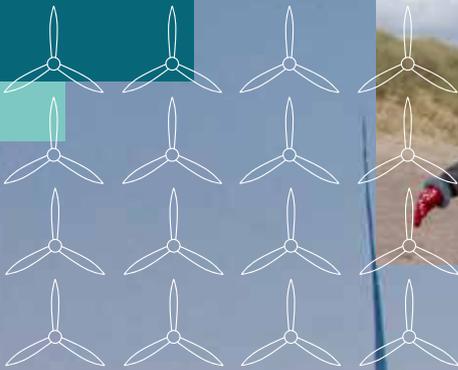


Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Newsletter

Winter 2022



Welcome to the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Winter newsletter 2022

Looking back, this year has seen significant progress in moving towards the delivery of the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 project.

In terms of project delivery, we hit a number of key milestones. In May, planning permission was granted by An Bord Pleanála for the Onshore Grid Infrastructure, which is necessary to connect the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 project to Ireland's electricity grid. SSE Renewables is the first company to secure planning permission to develop onshore transmission grid infrastructure for an Irish offshore windfarm - an historic first for Ireland's offshore wind sector! Also in June, planning consent was granted by Wicklow County Council for the proposed Operations and Maintenance Facility at South Dock, Arklow.

Most recently, SSE Renewables was awarded a draft Maritime Area Consent in September, and a Part 8 planning permission was given for our joint project with Wicklow County Council to develop a commercial fisheries pontoon at the South Dock in Arklow Harbour.

In the community, our sponsorship fund continues to help support a wide variety of projects, clubs, and initiatives, including everything from community garden upgrades in Kilcavan; to the Wicklow Regatta Festival's 'Splash Sunday'; to projects in Arklow like the Arklow Rugby Football Club's 'Walk and Talk Track'; and the sponsorship of low energy street lighting for this year's Arklow Municipal District Christmas festival.

We were also delighted to act as lead sponsor for this year's Round Ireland earlier in June and proud to be associated with Arklow & District Chamber's Gala & Awards' night in the Arklow Bay Hotel in September.

On the ground, members of the Arklow Project team rolled up their sleeves getting involved in a range of initiatives including beach clean ups, beach workshops for primary schools, and recommenced the mentoring programme in partnership with Business in the Community and sixth year students from Glenart College.

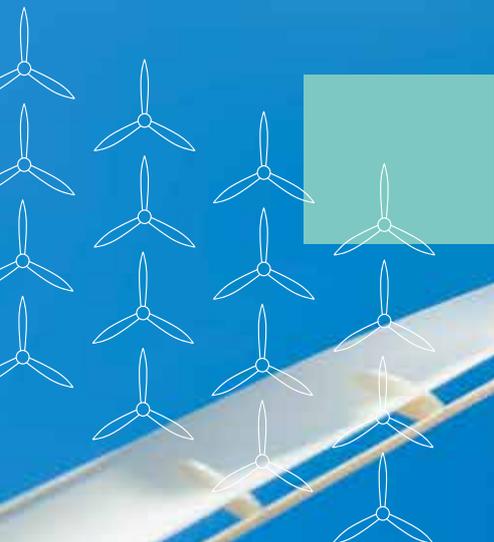
Rounding off the year, we supported Arklow Municipal District and the Christmas Festival Committee in the lighting switch-on ceremony on 26th November in St Mary's Park on Main Street. We hope that our commitment to local communities will keep us on Santa's 'Nice List'!

We look forward to sharing our plans for Offshore and listening to your views at our public consultations early in 2023. Keep watch on our website and through local media and social media for further details.

Kind regards

Deirdre Keogh

Community Engagement Manager



SSE Renewables sponsors District Christmas Festival Lighting

SSE Renewables partnered with Arklow Municipal District to bring some festive cheer to the district over the Christmas season. The partnership included sponsorship of the low energy street lighting for this year's Christmas festival. The big switch on of the Christmas tree lights took place in St Mary's Park on Main Street, Arklow, on Saturday 26th November. Despite the rain, large crowds turned out to await the arrival of Santa on the Arklow Fire Brigade's engine. Santa's guest of honour was Eva Belle Bradshaw, the overall competition winner in the SSE Renewables 'Design a Christmas decoration from recycled materials'.

Our thanks is extended to Arklow Municipal District staff, Arklow Library staff, the Arklow Festival Committee and volunteers who made the day very special for the community.



SSE Renewables launches its 'Design a Christmas Decoration Competition from Recycled Materials'

In supporting a 'Green Christmas', SSE Renewables in association with the Arklow Festival Committee and Arklow Municipal District ran a competition to design a Christmas decoration from recycled materials. The competition was divided into four age categories: 7 and under; 8-10; 11-12; and 13 years and over, with the overall winning entrant chosen to help Santa at the tree-lighting ceremony. We had an overwhelming response to the competition this year and our young people really pulled out the stops to come up with inventive and imaginative creations.

The winning entrants included:

Eva Belle Bradshaw from Carysfort National School, Arklow, won the age 7 and under category, for her angel decoration entry.

In the age 8-10 category, Hanna Kennedy from Our Lady's National School, Rathdrum, for her elf's head decoration.

Cian Murphy from Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mhóir, Arklow, won the age 10-12 category with his Christmas tree decoration and noteworthy information sheet which detailed his creation.

Joint winners in the age 13 and over category were Leah (Hayes) Keogh from St Mary's College, Arklow, for her festival wreath decoration, and Dominka Ilecko, Glenart College, for her decoration fashioned from recycled egg cartons.

Four categories of prizes were awarded and the overall winner, Eva Belle Bradshaw, helped Santa turn on the Christmas tree lights in St Mary's Park, Arklow on 26th November. Hanna Kennedy was invited to turn on the Christmas tree at Rathdrum's Christmas festival launch on 3rd December.

Our thanks to Arklow Municipal District, Arklow Library and the Festival Committees.





SSE Renewables Fisheries Fund supports new pontoon at South Dock, Arklow

The Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 project team is delighted to support Wicklow County Council on the delivery of a new, state of the art, commercial fisheries pontoon at the South Dock in Arklow Harbour.

SSE Renewables Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) Brendan Dillon engaged with the fishing industry members very early in this campaign to better understand the preferred initiative for Fisheries Fund support. A series of proposals were considered and after further consultation with Wicklow County Council and relevant stakeholders, it was agreed that the pontoon initiative would progress to the planning consultation process.

Funding for the pontoon project will be achieved through €120,000 drawn from SSE Renewables Fisheries Fund, and €200,000 from the Brexit Adjustment Local Authority Marine Infrastructure (BALAMI) Scheme provided by Wicklow County Council.

The pontoon will help improve the facilities in berthing, safety, and efficiency for fishers when accessing and egressing their vessels. Wicklow County Council will progress design and procurement activities to ensure delivery next year.

The support of Wicklow County Council, Arklow Municipal District, and the fishing community is gratefully acknowledged.

Arklow & District Chamber Gala & Awards

Arklow & District Chamber of Commerce welcomed over 200 people to this year's Chamber Ball & Business Awards which took place in the Arklow Bay Hotel in September. SSE Renewables hosted the Welcome Reception and members of the business community, local voluntary groups and others, joined in acknowledging the successes of local businesses across the seven award categories.

Maria Ryan, Director of Development at SSE Renewables, presented the 2022 SSE Renewables Environment and Sustainability Award. This year's award went to deserving recipients - The Woodenbridge Hotel. In 2021, the hotel became the first in Wicklow to complete the '50 Shades Greener' programme; an initiative that aims to reduce energy and water consumption. In 2022, the hotel installed 74 solar panels on its roof and introduced a new state-of-the-art heating control system.



Ground Investigation Campaigns Conclude

Earlier in the summer, a geotechnical campaign was completed on the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 development site to provide a clearer understanding of seabed conditions and to support the ongoing engineering design.

Further site geophysical investigation surveys commenced in late August undertaken by Irish-based company Green Rebel Marine. Survey vessels 'The Lady Kathleen' and 'The Roman Rebel' gathered information from across the development site seabed area. The data will be used to inform detailed engineering design and accurate positioning of the wind farm components and associated infrastructure including the turbines, foundations, inter-array cables and export cables.

The survey successfully concluded in early November. Our thanks to the fishing community and Harbour Office at South Dock for your engagement and support during the survey campaigns.



Arklow Municipal District Briefing

Members of the Arklow team presented an update on 12th October to elected members of Arklow Municipal District. The presentation outlined our recent progress on Maritime Area Consent and initiatives with local schools. The support received from elected representatives, management and staff in Wicklow County Council and Arklow Municipal District is most appreciated.



Introductions over a cuppa at Arklow Lifeboat Station's Open Day in July

Eirgrid Energy Citizens' Roadshows

SSE Renewables was represented at the Eirgrid Energy Citizens' Roadshow in the Arklow Bay Hotel, on 21st October 2022.

Out and About in the Community

Volunteers from our team who participated in the dune clean on Brittas Bay North Beach on 1st October as part of a biodiversity awareness programme called 'Behind the Beach' championed by the Heritage Office, Wicklow County Council. The programme of events included a series of free outdoor public workshops and activities, organised to increase appreciation of the ecology of coastal areas and to highlight the role that healthy dune systems play as a tool to address climate change.



Local ladies pictured at the SSE Renewables' stand at the Arklow & District Chamber of Commerce, Chamber Ball & Business Awards 22

SSE Renewables hosts the Wind Energy Ireland Conference 2022

SSE Renewables was proud to be the main sponsor for this year's Wind Energy Ireland Conference held in O'Reilly Hall, UCD, on 21st and 22nd September. Our Director of Development, Maria Ryan, gave a keynote address themed on 'Declaring our Energy Independence' at the panel discussion hosted by Ivan Yates.

Over 400 delegates attended with industry members from all over Europe featured in the exhibition space.

In her address, Maria warned that certainty and action are fundamental to reaching our national climate action targets. "We need laser focus on achieving energy security and independence. We can't be left behind. We can't wait until we have all the answers to start doing something about it," she said.



Maria Ryan, Director of Development, SSE Renewables



Partnering with Schools in the Community

Student Mentoring Programme 2022/23 with Glenart College, Business in the Community and SSE Renewables.

Corporate social responsibility is an important tenet of SSE Renewables' company values. Building on the success of last year's mentoring programme, members of the SSE Renewables' team have volunteered to mentor a number of sixth year students in Glenart College, Arklow. The programme is run in collaboration with Business in the Community and Glenart College, Arklow.

The mentoring programme comprises a series of structured virtual monthly one-to-one sessions undertaken over the course of the academic year between Glenart College students and SSE Renewables volunteer mentors from a range of career disciplines based both in Ireland and the UK.

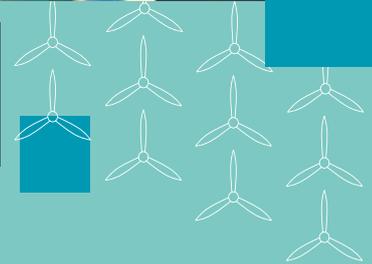
Students from sixth year were appraised about the programme at an in-person session in the school on 7th October facilitated by Ms Alison Norman, Business in the Community, and Ms Deirdre Keogh, Community Engagement Manager on the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 project. This year's programme was over-subscribed, and students were selected and matched with mentors based on a range of metrics including skills, hobbies, career interests and programme value to the individual student.



Mentors underwent training with Business in the Community on 21st October and the first virtual mentor/mentee session took place on 7th November.

With Leaving Certificate being such an important year in the lives of all young people, it's beneficial to have support from working professionals who can lend their insight, experiences and help students in preparing for challenges of the year and in the longer-term for college, training and the world of work.

SSE Renewables extends its sincere thanks to Ms Alison Norman from Business in the Community and to Glenart College's management for supporting this initiative. Our particular thanks goes to Mr Niall Walsh (teacher) who prepares the Business in the Community approved resources and acts as a liaison between mentors and students. SSE Renewables acknowledges its thanks to our mentors: Deborah Coleman, Rob Sheldon, Aoibhin Flanagan, Hugh Connell, Ann Fahy, John O'Sullivan, Richard Irving, Aaron Henry & Deirdre Keogh.



SSE Renewables hit the beach to deliver offshore wind workshops to local schools

At SSE Renewables, we seek to champion the importance of green energy and partnered with pioneering Belgian not-for-profit company OffshoreWind4Kids to deliver six educational interactive workshops on local beaches to almost 150 children from Gaelscoil an Inbhir Mhóir, Carysfort National School, Arklow; Brittas Bay National School, The Glebe National School, Wicklow Town, and Réalt na Mara, Riverchapel, Courtown, Co. Wexford.

The workshops took place in October and centered around the story of offshore renewable energy exploring the different types of technologies that can be deployed to deliver an offshore wind farm.

Students, through fun experiential learning, explored the benefits of offshore wind and enjoyed constructing their own model foundations and turbines and catching the wind.

SSE Renewables is the first renewable energy developer to bring OffshoreWind4Kids to Ireland and the workshops were delivered free to the local schools over a week-long period.

Members of the SSE Renewables' team were on hand to lend their help and expertise during the workshops which were thoroughly enjoyed by students, school staff and the SSE team.



Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Sponsorship Fund

Reflecting over the year, SSE Renewables is delighted to have supported a wide range of projects under our voluntary sponsorship fund. Community Engagement is a crucial part of the development process and since 2018, we have awarded over €350,000 to support local communities and look forward to continuing our support of local communities in the year ahead.

This year's fund has supported:

- Arklow Municipal District Christmas Festival Lighting
- Arklow & District Chamber of Commerce's Environment & Sustainability Award
- Arklow Golf Club's Open Week
- Arklow Rocks - Féile
- Arklow Town Football Club
- Barndarrig GAA Club
- Wicklow Bay Sea Angling Club
- Wicklow Lions Club
- Wicklow Regatta Festival 2022 – 'Splash Sunday'
- Wicklow Sailing Club
- Tara Hill Community Development Association – Kilcavan Community Garden



Deirdre Keogh pictured with members of the Tara Hill Community Development Association at the Kilcavan Community Garden



Festival Queen Alex Ludgate pictured with the Raft Race winning team at the Wicklow Regatta Festival's 'Splash Sunday' event sponsored by SSE Renewables

If you would like to find out more about how we can help your group or organisation, please contact Deirdre Keogh, Community Engagement Manager, on 087 1822587, or by email at deirdre.keogh@sse.com

Contact Us

Our Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) Brendan Dillon and myself, as Community Engagement Manager, would be delighted to hear from you with any suggestions for future newsletters or queries you may have in relation to the project.

Thank you for your continued support and from the Arklow Project team, we wish you and your families and friends a safe and peaceful holiday season.



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