



Gordonbush wind farm - proposed extension

Investing in the community

Community investment funds

The development, consent and construction of a wind farm brings with it opportunities for employment, local business involvement and other benefits such as improvements to local roads and infrastructure. However, we recognise that our developments should also bring more direct financial benefits to the communities that host them.

For over ten years now we have established funds to enable communities near our new renewable energy projects to develop sustainably by funding charitable and community initiatives. Since 2002 we have supported over 5,000 community projects across Great Britain, with grants totalling over £15 million.

Our current policy

We were one of the first developers to pay £5,000 per megawatt (MW) in line with the Scottish Government's current guidance on the recommended level of Community Benefit from onshore renewable projects.

Since January 2012, for all our new wind farms, we have been paying £2,500 per installed MW into a local community fund (supporting local groups, projects and initiatives) and a further £2,500 per installed MW into a regional Sustainable Development Fund (supporting more strategic regional projects) which in the case of Gordonbush wind farm covers the Highland Council local authority area.

Our community investment funds are voluntary payments made during the lifetime of new operational wind farms. You can find out more about our community funds by asking a member of our exhibition team or visiting: www.sse.com/community/communityfunds.

Gordonbush Community Fund

The Gordonbush fund provides £144,000 each year for the community council areas of Brora, Golspie, Helmsdale and Rogart. Since it was established in 2011 it has granted over £320,000 to community and charitable groups and projects in these areas.

Gordonbush wind farm is also providing additional funding which is being used to support a new apprenticeship scheme. This scheme will create local apprenticeship opportunities with businesses in the four local areas of benefit. It opened for applications in May 2015 with £36,000 of funding for the first year.

To find out more about applying for funding please contact your Community Council directly or visit our website at www.sse.com/community/communityfunds/Gordonbush.

Other local funding

SSE is proud to sponsor the Sutherland Schools Pipe Band. Graham MacKenzie, Chairman of the Pipe Band, said "The Sutherland Schools Pipe Band Committee is extremely grateful to SSE Renewables for their sponsorship. Band members are drawn from throughout the Sutherland area with members from Helmsdale, Brora, Golspie, Rogart and Lairg."

SSE's Gordonbush wind farm has also provided £160,000 of funding towards the new state-of-the-art £250,000 Golspie all weather multi-use pitch near Golspie Primary School which opened in 2014.



Brora Angling Club received £5,000 to part-fund their new boat "The Robert Brown".



The Sutherland Schools Pipe Band at Gordonbush wind farm