



ARKLOW BANK WIND PARK PHASE 2 **NEWSLETTER**

SPRING 2022



WELCOME TO THE ARKLOW BANK WIND PARK PHASE 2 SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER

It's great to be back in touch with you again and to report that 2022 is already shaping up to be a busy and productive year for our project team.

There has been lots happening on Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 but the headline news is the decision taken by SSE Renewables to transfer the project into the Maritime Area Planning Act. There is lots more information on this decision and what it means for the project and indeed stakeholders within this newsletter.

Since Covid-19 restrictions have now lifted, our team has enjoyed more face to face meetings, events and engagement and we look forward to plenty more of this throughout the year.

We are also delighted to update you on our latest awards under the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Sponsorship Fund.

We hope you find these updates useful and as ever, our Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) Brendan Dillon and I would be delighted to hear from you with any suggestions for future newsletters or queries you may have in relation to the project. You can reach us via the contact information within this newsletter.

Kind regards,

Deborah Coleman
Community Engagement Manager



TRANSFER TO THE MARITIME AREA PLANNING ACT

In recent weeks SSE Renewables confirmed the transfer of Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 from the previously targeted route of delivery via the Foreshore Act (FA), into the process established by Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act recently introduced by the Government.

In December 2021, the government announced the new MAP process, which regulates the maritime area for various uses including offshore development.

Following the introduction of MAP, we took the time to assess the project and the scale of the contribution the company can make to Ireland's climate action target of at least 5GW by 2030.

Under the new legislation the Arklow Bank project can now target the delivery of 800MW of green renewable energy. This revised project will power over 834,000 homes, almost double the number of homes targeted by the initial iteration of the project and requiring an investment of up to €2.5 billion. The project is now expected to deliver in 2028. Once operational the wind farm will also deliver a multimillion-euro community fund which will grow in line with the increased level of MWs generated.

SSE Renewables had been actively engaged in developing Arklow Bank Wind Park early, via the Foreshore Act. With the introduction by Government of the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) Act in December 2021, SSE Renewables will now progress the project via the newly introduced marine planning process.

Although proceeding via the MAP process will mean delivery of the project will be later than the timescale initially envisaged under the Foreshore Act, it will unlock a substantial increase in capacity at the site and enable a more substantial contribution to climate action targets and the economy, both locally and nationally.

SSE Renewables is totally committed to Arklow, and the Arklow Bank Wind Park project. The operations and maintenance base will continue to be located at Arklow South Dock, where 80 people will be employed to support the wind farm over its operational lifetime.

The proposed location of the onshore substation at the Avoca River Business Park, landfall at Johnstown North and the underground cable route remain unchanged.

Our Community Engagement Manager and Fisheries Liaison Officer are available to meet with stakeholders to discuss this development further and answer any questions you might have.

MID-EAST REGIONAL ENTERPRISE PLAN LAUNCH

SSE Renewables was represented at the recent Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan Launch at the newly renovated Wicklow County Council Chamber and later at the Clermont Campus..

The ambitious enterprise plan sets out the economic development plans throughout the region and was launched by Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail Damien English TD.

It also provides a framework for regional co-operation at local authority level through Wicklow, Kildare and Meath County Councils and at an enterprise level between the public sector and private enterprise.

The plan contains five agreed strategic objectives for enterprise development, including acceleration to a low-carbon economy.

SSE Renewables looks forward to working with local partners to achieve this objective in the coming years.



CALLS FOR GREATER OFFSHORE AMBITION AT THE IRISH RENEWABLE ENERGY SUMMIT

We were delighted to be in attendance at the recent Irish Renewable Energy Summit in Croke Park where our Director of Development Maria Ryan called on the Irish Government to increase its 2030 offshore wind energy ambitions to help address the climate crisis and protect Ireland from the ongoing geopolitical threats to energy security in Europe.

The current target is for 5GW of installed offshore wind energy by the end of the decade.

Delivering her keynote address Maria Ryan said:

“Offshore wind will be key to addressing the climate crisis, while also protecting Ireland from the geopolitical threats that are ongoing in Europe. It will reduce dependencies on fossil fuels and help protect energy consumers from rising wholesale gas prices.”

She said 2021 was a notable year for the offshore wind sector in Ireland with the passing of the Maritime Area Planning (MAP) bill through all stages of the Oireachtas but called for momentum to be maintained to ensure Phase 1 projects, the first batch of offshore wind energy projects currently in development in the Irish Sea, can be delivered on target.



“With the MAP legislation now enacted we need to see the same level of purpose and enthusiasm ploughed into the establishment of the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) over this year and next, into the issuing of grid offers for Phase 1 projects, and into kicking off the first Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS) so we can begin getting offshore wind turbines in Irish waters. The establishment of MARA is also crucial for the delivery of the following generation of offshore wind projects as, until that body is established, Phase 2 offshore wind projects cannot secure seabed. So we must see political will and sufficiently-resourced administrative action more greatly aligned on the important goal of delivery,” Ms Ryan added.

SPONSORSHIP FUND

Since our last newsletter, we have again been delighted to support local communities through the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Sponsorship Fund.

Recent initiatives supported include:

- Wicklow Rapid Response’s vehicle upgrade campaign
- Avoca First Responders for a new lifesaving defibrillator
- Nancy Quinn’s book publication in aid of Arklow RNLI
- Arklow Active Retirement Association
- Tara Hill Community Development Group’s public space revamp
- Arklow Cancer Support’s Volunteer to Drive programme
- Arklow RNLI
- Arklow Tidy Towns

Our Community Engagement Manager Deborah Coleman also had the pleasure of visiting Wicklow Tennis Club recently to see the benefit of a recent sponsorship which was put to very good use upgrading the club’s outdoor amenities. A new table tennis table and interactive screen were purchased with the funding and are already being enjoyed by the members.

Please contact Deborah via the details at the end of the newsletter for further information about this fund and how you can apply.



FISHERIES FUND

Following consultation with the local fishing community and Wicklow County Council (WCC) it was proposed to use this fund to develop and install a new pontoon in Arklow's South Dock that will be dedicated for the berthing of fishing vessels. This initiative will increase the berthing capacity in this area of the dock, it will greatly enhance access and egress safety and also provide services such as electricity and water directly to the fishing vessels. We are currently liaising closely with WCC to understand planning and spatial requirements in order to progress the design process and we will be sharing updates and plans as we progress.

ORESS 1 COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

Earlier this year, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications via the Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS) Draft Terms and Conditions, proposed the centralisation of offshore wind community benefit funds for Phase 1 projects.

SSE Renewables holds the view that it would be preferable for offshore wind funds to mirror the onshore wind model under which the generator is responsible for the administration of the community fund, in accordance with the Good Practice Principles Handbook, including the need to ensure community participation in fund decision-making via the establishment of a local committee.

We are happy to say that following a public consultation held by the Department towards the end of last year, the overwhelming response from local communities through a significant number of submissions, was that such fund should not be fully centralised, and we understand that the Department is now planning to adhere much more closely to the governance model for onshore wind.

GROUND INVESTIGATION SURVEYS

To develop our understanding of the ground conditions on site and to support the ongoing engineering design development process there are plans to complete further ground investigation works this coming summer. Once plans are finalised for the surveys further information will be provided through;

- Ongoing engagement with the fishing community through our dedicated Fisheries Liaison Officer Brendan Dillon and regular one to one quayside briefings.
- A Notice to Mariners which will be published by Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS).

We are very conscious of the fishing interfaces that exist with the local fishing communities and we have been and will continue to work toward a model of co-existence throughout the project life cycle. Recognising the nature of the fishing activities we will once again be proposing an avoidance strategy for these site investigation campaigns. This will allow fishing practices to continue as normal.

CONSENT APPLICATIONS

Consent applications for the Onshore Grid Infrastructure (OGI) and Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) are awaiting determination from An Bord Pleanála and Wicklow County Council respectively.

We expect to be able to share updates on both later this year.



Plans are progressing well for the SSE Renewables Round Ireland 2022 event hosted by Wicklow Sailing Club on 18 June.

The club members were out in force promoting the race recently with a bright and colourful entry into the Wicklow Town St. Patrick's Day parade and came away with award for Best Float.

Congratulations to all at Wicklow Sailing Club!

Race slots are steadily filling up and Wicklow Sailing Club is hard at work making sure that the long awaited 2022 event will be an enjoyable one for both the sailing and local communities.

See roundireland.ie for updates



BENEFITS OF ARKLOW BANK WIND PARK PHASE 2



Reduce Ireland's annual carbon emissions - offsetting over 830 million kilos of harmful carbon emissions annually



Create around 80 full-time local operational jobs for the lifespan of the windfarm



Generate 800MW of electricity - enough to power over 850,000 homes with green energy



Contribute millions of euro annually in Community Benefit Funding and local commercial rates



Contribute to Ireland's Climate Action Plan target of 5GW of offshore wind by 2030



Capital investment of €2.5bn to power our green recovery

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

As we progress development of the project, we are keen to keep you updated and this newsletter is one of a number of ways through which we will endeavour to do this. We also welcome any feedback you may have on our Project.

Further information, and feedback forms, are available on our project website

www.sserenewables.com/arklowbank

If you do not wish to receive further updates please notify Community Engagement Manager Deborah Coleman at the email address or telephone number below.

OUR LIAISON TEAM



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