

Gordonbush community funds

The Gordonbush fund provides approx £200K each year for the community council areas of Brora, Golspie, Helmsdale and Rogart. Since 2011 it has granted over £514,000 to community and charitable groups and projects in these areas.



In addition, Gordonbush Wind Farm has also provided £160,000 of funding towards a new state of the art all-weather multi-use sports pitch in Golspie.

£200K average annual fund

£514K total funds awarded since 2011

136 projects funded since 2011

25 year project lifespan

£5.5M+ total funding 2011-2036

Brora Angling Club
Received £5,000 to purchase a new boat

Local infrastructure

SSE has also committed almost £3 million investment in local infrastructure:

£1M refurbishment of the Old Schoolhouse in Brora

£1.9M re-surfacing of Strath Brora road and building of a new bridge

Sponsorship

SSE is proud to sponsor the Sutherland Schools Pipe Band (£15,000)



Volunteering in the community

SSE gives every employee the opportunity to volunteer a day of their time to help a local charity or community project.

Members of the Gordonbush Wind Farm construction team volunteered a day of their time to help restore local footpaths which run past Brora's historic Ice House.

Kathleen Cunningham, Secretary for 'A Brighter Brora' said "We're delighted with the excellent job that the Gordonbush team has done..."



Brora Ice House
Footpath repaired

About the proposed Gordonbush extension

An application has been submitted to the Scottish Government for a proposed 16 turbine extension to the south-west of the existing Gordonbush Wind Farm site.

The proposed extension has been carefully designed to minimise visibility from the surrounding landscape, particularly Strath Brora, and also maximise the existing infrastructure on site.

SSE held two public exhibitions in 2013 and 2015 to gain feedback on the proposal from the community before submitting it's application. Should the project gain consent SSE's community investment fund policy for new onshore wind farms of £5,000 per megawatt (MW) of installed capacity would apply. Half of this would feed into a local fund to support community groups and organisations, and the other half would feed into a regional Sustainable Development Fund which aims to support groups and organisations within The Highland Council local authority area.

Working for a fairer Scotland

SSE is also working hard to help make a fairer Scotland. It does this by helping local communities to realise opportunities for growth at the local level and by supporting national initiatives to encourage sustainable economic growth across Scotland.

As a responsible UK company, SSE wants to be as transparent as possible about the contribution it is making to society. In 2014 SSE was the first FTSE 100 company to be awarded the fair tax mark.



In 2013 SSE became one of the biggest living wage employers in the UK ensuring that all staff are paid an hourly rate above the minimum wage. This guarantee is extended to all contracted employees.



Gordonbush Wind Farm



June 2015

Providing the energy people need in a reliable and sustainable way



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Gordonbush Wind Farm

Investing over £100 million into the local economy

SSE is headquartered in Scotland and supports 1,800 jobs (staff and contractor) in the Highlands and Islands making SSE one of the largest private sector employers in the region.

Gordonbush is a 35 turbine wind farm located approximately 12km north-west of Brora, in Sutherland and has an installed capacity of 71.75MW.

The site has been operational since June 2012 and since then has already generated enough electricity each year to power over 60,000 homes*.

SSE aims to ensure that the lasting legacy of our developments is a positive one for the communities within which we live and work. Our objectives are to deliver green energy, local economic benefits, jobs, training, community development and social and environmental responsibility.

Local investment during construction

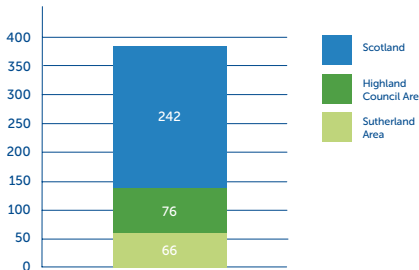
SSE Renewables invested over £100M in the construction of Gordonbush Wind Farm.

Around £20M of this was invested directly in the Highland region from the procurement of goods and services from Highland companies.

£100M invested in Gordonbush Wind Farm
344 estimated construction job years* in Scotland, including:

- **142** construction job years* in the Highlands and
- **66** construction job years* in the local Sutherland area

Construction jobs



Local investment during operations

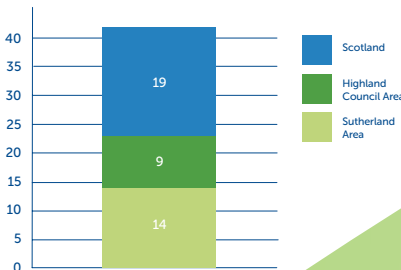
Employment is supported directly and indirectly during the operational phase of the wind farm.

SSE will continue to employ ornithological surveyors, deer and forestry management services throughout the 25-year life of the project. These services are all provided by suppliers based in Aboyne, Brora and Inverness respectively.

It is estimated that Gordonbush Wind Farm has continued to support **42** operational jobs in Scotland, including:

- **23** jobs in the Highlands and
- **14** jobs in the local Sutherland area

Operational jobs



The numbers behind Gordonbush Wind Farm



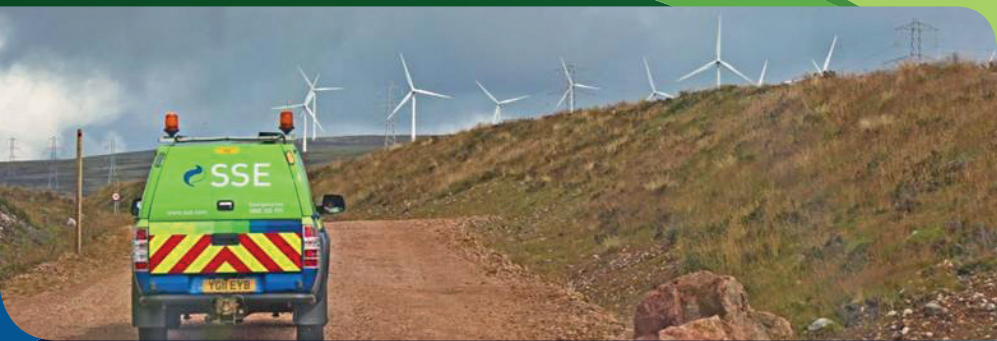
£20M
Investment
in Highland
economy



26
Number
of local
suppliers used



60,000
Number
of homes
powered*



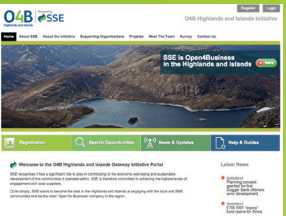
Gordonbush Wind Farm

SSE Open4Business initiative

SSE has launched a web portal (Open4Business) for the Highlands supply chain to maximise the opportunity and input of local businesses to our projects. Since the launch in June 2012:

£25M awarded in Highlands and Islands contracts
£111K average contract award value
70% SMEs**
1,473 businesses registered

In addition, we normally hold engagement events for local businesses in advance of construction works.



Involving the local supply chain

Our approach is to ensure that as many local businesses and contractors as possible benefit from the opportunities our local projects bring with them. From development to operation we seek to utilise local services, skills and supplies to ensure that our projects have a lasting positive effect in the local area.

Local suppliers of materials included:

- Fuels from Highland Fuels;
- Drainage supplies from Alpha Drainage in Dingwall, Keyline in Tain and WT Burden in Muir of Ord;
- Traffic signs from Anso Signs in Muir of Ord;
- Aggregates from Dornoch Quarry and Edward MacKay Ltd in Brora;

- Concrete from Pat Munro in Alness and Achley Concrete in Dornoch;
- General site supplies from MacGregor Industrial Supplies in Inverness;
- Office supplies from Grants Office Supplies in Alness;
- Timber products from G & R Sutherland in Brora;
- Grass seed from WA Geddes in Brora; and
- Building stone from Sutherland Estates.

All of these suppliers are located within 65 miles of the Gordonbush site and several are within 12 miles.

Sustainable tourism

During the construction of the Gordonbush Wind Farm the workforce made a significant contribution to the local tourist sector – often outwith the main tourist season.

Staff regularly purchased lunch from Harry Gows in Brora's main street and groceries from the Co-op and Spar shops in Brora and Golspie. Around 12 self-catering properties were rented in the area for staff working on the project for periods of up to two years. Staff also used local hotels, including the Marine Hotel in Brora and the Trentham Hotel in Dornoch.

Education and training

SSE has committed to delivering a pilot training initiative for young people with the University of Highlands and Islands (Inverness College) with a view to significantly scaling up recruitment and training between now and 2020.

Since 2007 SSE has employed 800 apprentices and trainees which represents an investment of £64M – about £80,000 for every person.

Our accredited apprenticeship programme offers the opportunity to gain new skills and qualifications and will set the path to a long-term rewarding career and the opportunity to make a difference.

As part of this programme, for school leavers living in Rogart, Golspie, Brora and Helmsdale, the Gordonbush apprenticeship scheme has been set up to support young people aged 16 to 24.

*based on Ofgem's typical annual domestic consumption of 3,200kWh a year

*a job year is the equivalent of one full time job over a year
** SME – Small or Medium Enterprise