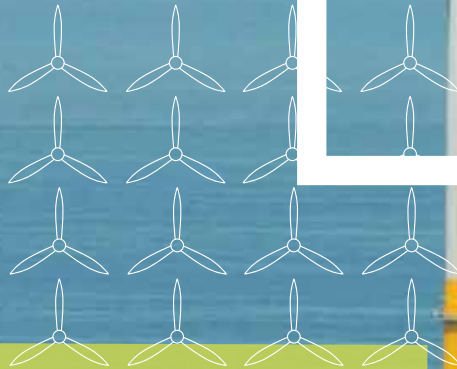


Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Newsletter

Spring 2023



Welcome to the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Spring Newsletter 2023

Spring is a time to renew!

At SSE Renewables, we are looking ahead with confidence to 2023. We're renewing our commitment to delivering the first Irish offshore wind project of scale on the Irish coastline, and renewing our ongoing commitment to engaging with you, our stakeholders and communities, on our Arklow Bank Phase 2 Project development plans.

2023 promises to be a landmark year for the industry overall, with the upcoming first ever, Irish Renewable Electricity Support Scheme Offshore (ORESS) auction opening in April. Arklow Bank Phase 2 is SSE Renewables flagship project in Ireland and our growing team is avidly working to prepare our auction bid.

SSE Renewables has already successfully secured planning permission for two of the three vital project components with planning consents achieved for both the onshore grid infrastructure and Operations and Maintenance Facility. These consents have positioned Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 as the most progressed offshore wind project in Ireland.

In December we achieved a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) for the Phase 2 Project; a requirement under the new legislative planning process set out under the Maritime Area Planning Act (2021). Having a MAC means we can move forward with a development/planning application to An Bord Pleanála and prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment Report on the offshore element of the project.

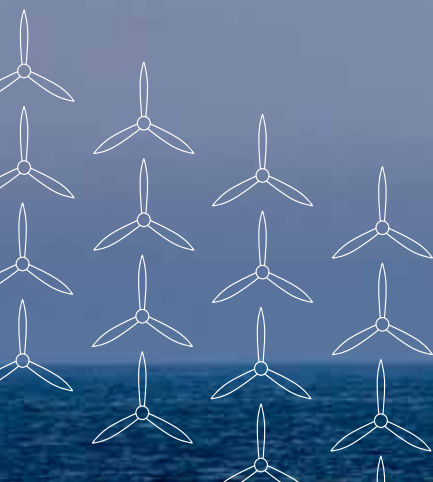
We've been engaging with stakeholders and communities since 2018 through our newsletters, website, the media, and various in-person meetings and events. Our commitment to keeping you updated on our project plans continues. We're hosting a round of public consultations in March and April on our offshore infrastructure project plans. Details on our in-person, virtual events, and how you can get in touch with our project team are available in this newsletter and on our website www.sserenewables.com/arklowbankphase2. Feedback received during this public consultation will be used to refine our offshore plans ahead of our planning application to An Bord Pleanála.

The next few months will be very significant for the project. We have already committed over 60 staff to the Arklow project and our team continues to grow. We're springing forward in 2023, renewing our commitment to the successful delivery of the Arklow Bank Phase 2 Project and championing a greener future for our communities, stakeholders and country alike.

Kind regards

Deirdre Keogh

Community Engagement Manager

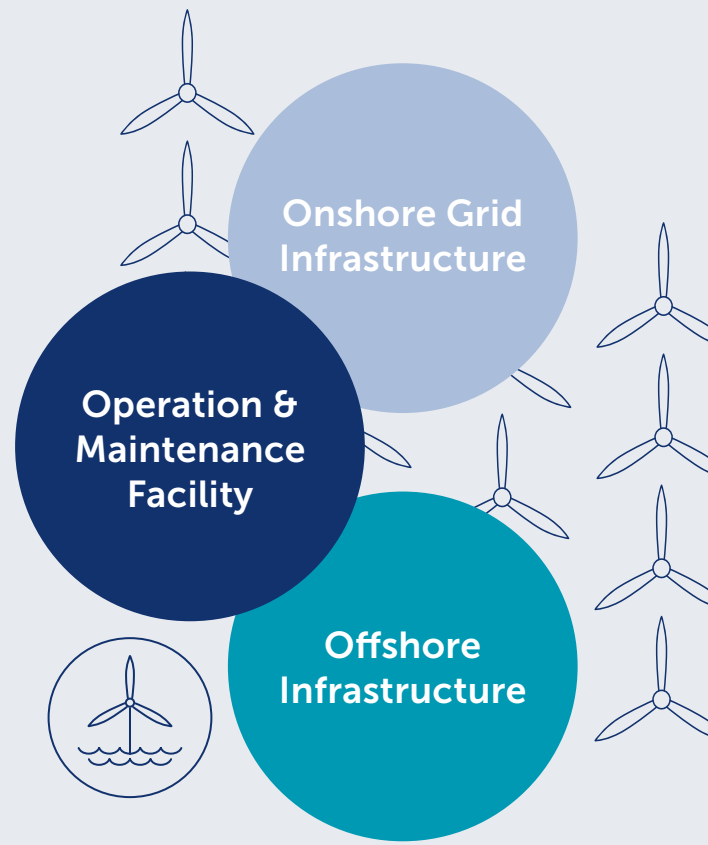


Our Project Story

The following sections provide an overview of the project story so far, which we hope will be helpful in advance of our upcoming public consultation planned to inform the ongoing planning development for the third and final aspect of the project - namely the offshore wind farm infrastructure.

Phase 1 of the Wind Park was constructed in 2003/04 consisting of seven wind turbines with a capacity of 25.2 MW. Phase 1 is owned and operated by GE Energy and remains the first and only operational offshore wind farm in Ireland.

SSE Renewables Arklow Bank Phase 2 project has been in development since 2018 and will be the next phase of wind energy development at Arklow Bank with a power output of up to 800MW of green wind energy annually over the lifetime of the wind farm. SSE acquired the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 development site when we entered the Irish energy market in 2008 through the purchase of Airtricity, now our sister company SSE Airtricity.



Previous Public Consultations

SSE Renewables' Phase 2 Project was originally progressed under the Foreshore Act. We commenced a public consultation on the overall project in October 2020. Since then, several major milestones were successfully achieved to progress the project.

Onshore Grid Infrastructure

In May 2022, SSE Renewables achieved an historic first for Ireland's offshore wind sector, when we were granted planning permission to develop the onshore grid infrastructure needed to connect our Phase 2 Project to Ireland's electricity transmission grid.

An Bord Pleanála approved the development of a 220kV substation at Avoca River Park in Arklow, with an associated connection from the new substation to the existing national transmission network. The consented development also includes an underground cable route and associated infrastructure connecting the substation to the landfall point at Johnstown North, Arklow, where it will meet the planned subsea offshore cables connecting to the wind farm.

In November 2022, EirGrid (the national body responsible for operating and planning the development of the transmission system in Ireland) confirmed our grid connection assessment.



Operations and Maintenance Facility

In June 2020, the South Dock in Arklow was selected for the Operation and Maintenance (OMF) facility. We undertook a public consultation on our OMF plans in October that year and secured planning consent in June 2022.

The OMF comprises two primary components – onshore infrastructure and nearshore infrastructure.

- **Onshore infrastructure** includes an office and meeting space for approximately 80 employees; a Sustainable Education Centre; warehousing for wind farm components; secure on-site parking for up to 60 vehicles including bike storage and electric vehicle charging facilities; a communications mast; and a new crossing to facilitate movements of crew and equipment between the OMF building and quayside.

The OMF is planned as a nearly net zero building. It will serve as the support base for the wind farm throughout its operational lifetime and will also incorporate a Sustainable Education Centre (SEC) on the top floor, intended to act as a point of connection between the offshore wind farm, the operations, and the wider community. The centre will have the capacity to accommodate large groups for exhibitions, guided tours and sustainability-themed educational events. The SEC will support Arklow's goals as a Decarbonisation Zone, the town's heritage and harbour, and become an educational destination for local communities and beyond.

- **Nearshore infrastructure** includes designated quay and quayside berth facilities for Crew Transfer Vessels (CTVs); installation of a pontoon system for safe boarding, loading and unloading of CTVs; cranes to load/unload equipment to and from CTVs; fueling and waste disposal facilities etc.

Planning permission was granted by Wicklow Co. Council in June 2022. Once operational, the facility will serve as the onshore support base used to control, operate and maintain the offshore wind farm during its operational lifetime. It will accommodate around 80 long-term direct, local jobs during the operation of the offshore wind farm including site managers, supervisors, technicians, vessel crew, control room operators and engineers. Hundreds more jobs will be created and sustained during the construction phase of the operations base and the wider wind farm project.





Offshore Investigation Campaigns

Successful geophysical and geotechnical investigation campaigns took place in 2022 enabling SSE Renewables to gain a clearer understanding of the seabed conditions to support the ongoing engineering design for our proposed offshore infrastructure.

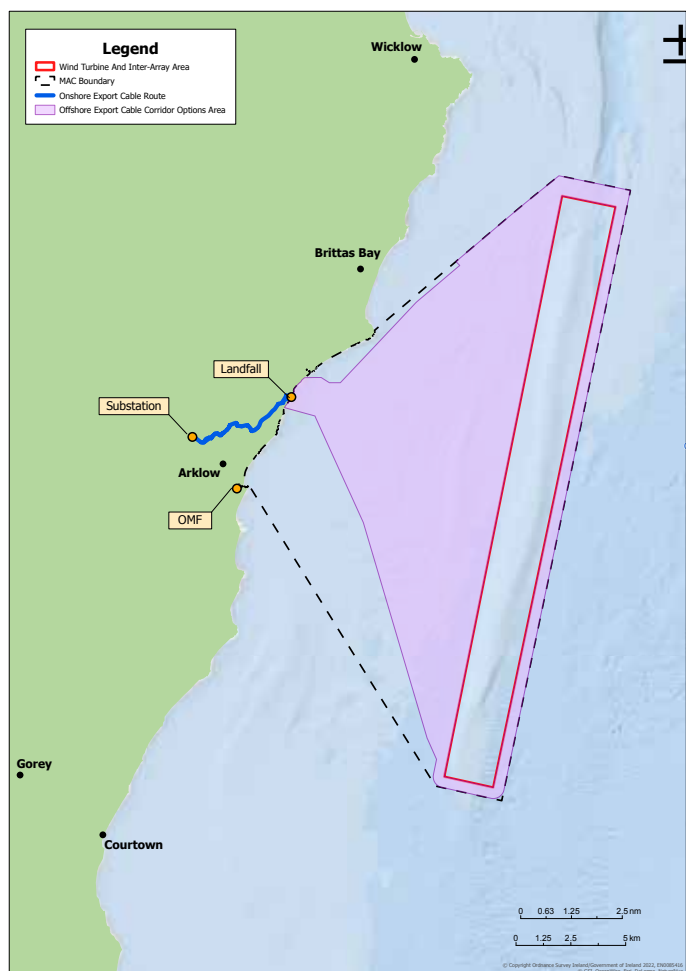
Notice to Mariners were published by Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (DTTAS) for both geotechnical and geophysical campaigns. Additionally, our locally based Fisheries Liaison Officer Brendan Dillon was, and remains available, to support our commercial fishery stakeholders and other marine users in responding to queries and/or concerns.

Our thanks to the fishing community and Harbour Office at South Dock for their engagement and understanding during these survey campaigns.

Maritime Area Consent (MAC)

Following the transfer of Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 to the MAP process in March 2022, the project was revised to substantially increase power generation output from the site from 520MW to 800MW.

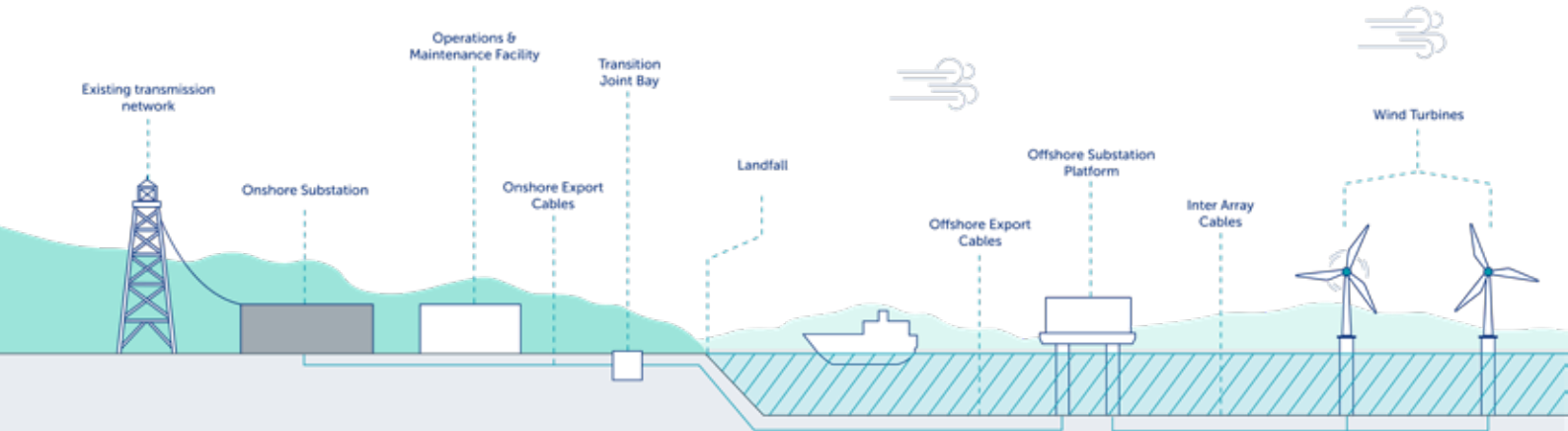
Under Maritime Area Planning (MAP) legislative requirements, SSE Renewables submitted a Maritime Area Consent (MAC) application to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications in June 2022. We achieved a MAC for our Phase 2 Project in December 2022. This is a permit allowing SSE Renewables to progress the project through the new MAP consenting process, bid into the upcoming ORESS auction in April, and subsequently submit a planning application on our offshore infrastructure proposals to An Bord Pleanála.



Offshore Phase 2 Wind Park

The offshore development site is located off the coast of Arklow, Co. Wicklow, on and around the Arklow Bank, approximately 6 to 15 km from the shore. The development area for the wind farm covers an area of seabed approximately 27 km long and 2.5 km wide along the coast from Wicklow to Courtown, Co. Wexford.

We are proposing to install a range of between 36 and 60 wind turbines, one to two offshore substation platforms, and subsea cable routes as part of the project. With advanced technology, we have significantly reduced the number of turbines down from 200 turbines, as outlined in the earliest iteration of the project.



Upcoming Public Consultation March/April 2023

To achieve planning permission for ABWP Phase 2, SSE Renewables as a developer must prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). This explains what impact our offshore project would have on the environment. If any negative impacts are identified, we must explain to the planning authority, how we are going to avoid or protect against these. If the planning authority is satisfied, then permission may be given for the offshore element of the project.

Our public consultation on the offshore project opens on 13th March where you can learn more about the details of our offshore plans and we can listen to your views and gather your feedback. With the assistance of external consultants, we are preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the offshore element of the project. This EIAR will form part of a wider planning application submission to An Bord Pleanála in 2023/2024.

Details of our public consultation schedule can be found later in this newsletter or visit our website sserenewables.com/arklowbankphase2



Looking ahead

The coming months will be busy with our public consultation events, the ORESS auction and our preparations on the EIAR and planning submission for offshore. If everything moves to plan, we hope to commence construction on the project in 2025/2026 with power generation anticipated in 2028/2029.

Project Timeline



Ongoing throughout all phases

- Stakeholder and Community Engagement
- Supply Chain Engagement

Out and About in the Community



Deirdre Keogh, Paula Kelly, Joan Mooty and Gillian Conway, some of the 'Beech Road Ladies' pictured at the Arklow Town Team's 'Nollaig na mBan' annual celebration at the Woodenbridge Hotel on 8th January in support of Arklow Community First Responders.



Deirdre Keogh and Brendan Dillon pictured at the Arklow RNLI Lifeboat fundraiser – 'Hurry to the Curry' in the Arklow Bay Hotel on 27th January.



Community Engagement Manager, Deirdre Keogh volunteering at the sea buckthorn removal at Brittas Bay South Beach on 11th February organised by Wicklow County Council's Heritage Office.

Arklow Local Volunteer Awardee, Ms Laura Coey, Arklow Sea Scouts

The annual Wicklow Volunteer Awards recognise the wonderful spirit of volunteerism in County Wicklow. A range of categories are awarded including a local volunteer award in each municipal district. Run for the first time in 2021, the board of County Wicklow Volunteer Centre (CWVC) have now make the awards an annual event where the great work being done by volunteers across the county is recognised and in so doing, encourages more people to from across Wicklow to get involved in community volunteering.

SSE Renewables was delighted to lend its support through our sponsorship fund and to present the Local Volunteer Award for Arklow Municipal District to worthy recipient Ms Laura Coey, Arklow Sea Scouts.

With a commitment described by her proposing Club as going 'beyond seven days a week' in enhancing and serving over 220 youth members, including members with additional needs, Laura's personal drive to encourage inclusion and her support for adult and youth members alike, sets her apart. Laura's personal commitment was truly evidenced when she spent her 20th anniversary putting up tents to celebrate Arklow Sea Scout's 50th anniversary! SSE Renewables extends its best wishes to Laura, Arklow Sea Scouts, and all who give to others by volunteering in Co. Wicklow.



SSE Renewables Deirdre Keogh presenting the Local Volunteer Award for Arklow Municipal District at the Co. Wicklow Volunteer Awards night, 23rd February 2023, the Parkview Hotel, Newtowntownmountkennedy. Elizabeth Condren accepted the award on behalf of Laura Coey, Arklow Sea Scouts.

Arklow RNLI lifeboat crew recognised for their roles in challenging service to yacht with three crew onboard

Article content and photo courtesy of the RNLI

Seven members of Arklow RNLI were honoured for their roles in a challenging and exhausting service, almost seven hours in duration, which saw a crew of three people onboard a nine-metre yacht rescued.

The rescue was carried out on 4 August 2020, 24 nautical miles east-southeast of Arklow. The 9-metre yacht, *Infinite Jest* was on passage from Newlyn, in England to Largs in Scotland, and was experiencing very poor weather and rough sea conditions, with the crew of three people, suffering from exhaustion and seasickness. It was a demanding service, also involving a tow from the lifeboat which lasted over three hours, in winds up to Force 8, with upwards of 5-metre swells at night. The service itself lasted nearly seven hours.

For his exceptional display of seamanship in the service, a Signed Letter of Thanks from the Chairman of the Institution was awarded to SSE Renewables Fisheries Liaison Officer and Arklow RNLI Coxswain Brendan Dillon. For their teamwork in challenging sea conditions and their part in completing a highly effective service, individual Chief Executive Commendations were awarded to 2nd Mechanic Eddie McElheron and volunteer crew members Austin Gaffney, Geoffrey Kearns, Trevor Conroy, Craig O'Reilly and Daniel Downey.



Arklow RNLI Awardees for *Infinite Jest* Callout. Front row: Geoffrey Kearns, Coxswain Brendan Dillon, Eddie McElheron. Back row: Trevor Conroy, Daniel Downey, Craig O'Reilly and Austin Gaffney

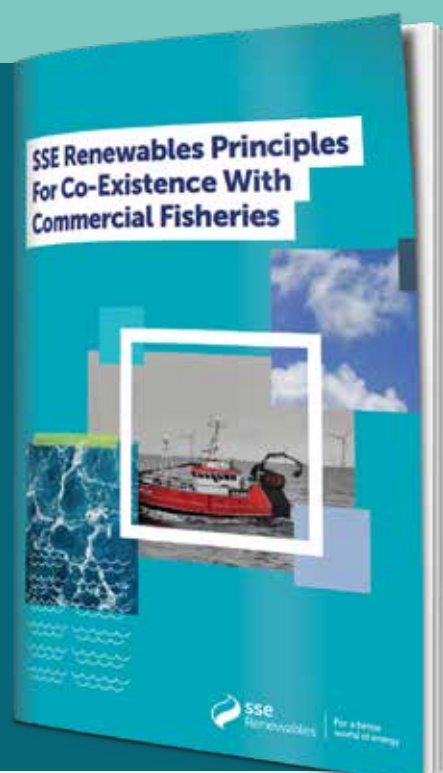
The presentations were made during Arklow RNLI's sold-out fundraising event 'Hurry to the Curry', held in the Arklow Bay Hotel. The awards were presented on the night by RNLI Trustee and Chair of the Irish Council, John Killeen, with John Bermingham from Arklow Lifeboat acting as MC.

The night was a resounding success showing how much the RNLI volunteers are valued in the community. Caps off to the organising team and the volunteers who prepared and served an amazing range of dishes on the night.

Commercial Fisheries report

SSE Renewables recently published a report that sets out the company's vision to better co-exist with fisheries when building and developing offshore wind energy. The report, which is the first of its kind produced for the offshore industry, outlines the steps taken by SSE Renewables to build upon the existing relationship within the fishing industry and how both sectors can positively co-exist in a busy marine environment. Launched in Ireland at the recent Irish Skippers Expo. event, this report shares our vision to better co-exist with fisheries when building and developing offshore wind projects. The full document is available at sserenewables.com/fisheries or in hard copy on request.

As always, our Fisheries Liaison Officer Brendan Dillon is available to meet with members of the fishing community at their request. You can contact Brendan by email brendan.dillon@sse.com or phone 087 2493817.



SSE Renewables completes Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 survey with Green Rebel

SSE Renewables, in partnership with Green Rebel, have completed a survey to collect high resolution geophysical data at our proposed 800MW Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 wind park site. Green Rebel, a Cork based offshore survey service company, was awarded the tender following a competitive process.

The completion of the survey marks a key milestone for the project and will help progress the ongoing design development of the project. The data collected from the survey will inform important engineering decisions and help to de-risk the project which will make a significant contribution to Ireland's climate action target of 7GW of offshore wind by 2030.

Green Rebel successfully managed to acquire almost 2000km of data supported by its vessels, the *Roman Rebel* and the *Lady Kathleen* (a specialist nearshore survey vessel).

John O'Sullivan, Project Manager for SSE Renewables, said: 'The completion of this phase of survey work represents another important milestone for the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 project. Green Rebel's support has allowed us to secure this important site data to progress design development and keep the project on track to support delivery of the Irish Government's target of 7GW of offshore wind by 2030. The Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 team is now focused on bidding into ORESS ahead of making a planning application to An Bord Pleanála'.

Eoin Cotter, Head of Business Development with Green Rebel said: 'We were delighted to partner with SSE Renewables on this project which will play a significant role in helping Ireland to make the transition from fossil fuels. While the Arklow Bank presents unique challenges as a site, the local experience and industry expertise of our offshore and onshore teams ensured the successful and safe completion of the survey works. Using non-invasive sensors and Green Rebel's fleet of survey vessels, our team collaborated with multiple stakeholders to ensure we acquired and processed the data to the highest international standards. This will enable SSE Renewables to progress with the environmental and engineering design of this critical project for Ireland's energy transition'.



Bureau Veritas certifies SSE Renewables Arklow Phase 2 Project

Announced in January 2023, Bureau Veritas, one of the world's leading certification bodies, will provide Project Certification for our flagship Phase 2 project.

Bureau Veritas will be responsible for providing project design certification for the wind turbine foundations and offshore substations according to international standards.

John, O'Sullivan, Project Manager, SSE Renewables said, 'We are delighted to partner with Bureau Veritas who will manage Project Certification during the development phase of the project. Safety is a core value at SSE Renewables, and it is critical that the highest standards are met and maintained in line with all regulatory requirements'.

Head of Renewable Energy at Bureau Veritas Mauricio Pereira said, 'It's an exciting time for our renewables team as we are continually working hard to grow and develop our leading division. We are thrilled to be working with SSE Renewables to help ensure the safety, quality and performance of Arklow Bank Wind Farm Phase 2 through our trusted certification process'.



Commitment to Schools in our Communities

Our commitment to corporate social responsibility continues through a number of initiatives including our voluntary sponsorship fund, supports for schools and community outreach.

In celebration of World Earth Day 2023, SSE Renewables is partnering with Welsh-based OCC action, and Wicklow-based Envirosafe Ireland Ltd, on a pilot programme for primary schools to introduce Ireland's first ever climate change virtual education programme with ongoing air quality audit and carbon capture function. We're hoping to launch the pilot in April and a number of schools have expressed interest in being involved.

Building on the success of our first mentoring programme in 2021/22, members of the SSE Renewables' team have again volunteered to mentor a number of sixth-year students in Glenart College, Arklow. The programme is run in collaboration with Business in the Community throughout this academic year. The students selected for the programme were matched with our team mentors, based on a range of metrics including skills, hobbies, career interests and programme value to the individual student. We are well into the programme and looking forward to supporting our mentee students in the challenging months ahead leading up to state exams.



Renewing our Commitment to helping communities through the SSE Renewables' Sponsorship Fund



SSE Renewables introduced a sponsorship fund in 2018 to support communities living close to the proposed development site. To date, we have paid out over €350,000 to communities in Wicklow, Arklow and Courtown to support the delivery of a range of initiatives particularly those with a marine, sustainability and energy efficiency focus.

Wicklow Bay Sea Angling Club Awards

We were delighted with the invitation to present awards at the Wicklow Bay Sea Angling Club (WBSAC) awards' night in Wicklow Town on Saturday night, 14th January. SSE Renewables has supported WBSAC's youth coaching over the past three years. Kit Dunne, Club Secretary, acknowledged the Club's appreciation to SSE Renewables for its support and said 'Angling is a sport that is accessible to all ages and abilities. It's a sport that allows young people to benefit and take time out and enjoy fun activities whilst learning an important skill. We're very grateful to SSE Renewables for its continuing support for our youth angling programme'.



Junior Angler Josh Murphy receives the 'Special Catch' award from Kit Dunne, Club Secretary, and Ray from Rod & Tackle, Wicklow, at the Wicklow Bay Sea Angling Club Awards, January 2023

Arklow Rugby Club's 'Walk and Talk Track'

Arklow Rugby Club's novel application to encourage participation, promote social sustainability and encourage Club parents and the wider community to make use of a newly proposed 'Walk and Talk Track' at the Club's facilities is starting to move ahead.

Ian Gavigan, Chairperson, Arklow Rugby Club, acknowledged the Club's appreciation to SSE Renewables for its support both on the 'Walk and Talk Track' and for previous funding to support energy efficient lighting upgrades on its training pitch. Ian said 'When this new facility is complete, it will help promote wellbeing, foster collegiality not just within the club but in encouraging the community to come out to the Club to improve their fitness and make new friends'.



Deirdre Keogh, SSE Renewables, pictured with Club members Ian Gavigan (Chairperson), Abbie Kavanagh, Danielle Kavanagh and Chris Healy (President) at Arklow Rugby Football Club



Left to Right: Jim Rees, Chairperson and Curator, Arklow Maritime Museum, Deirdre Keogh, Community Engagement Manager, SSE Renewables, William Breslin, Ann McGovern and Jimmy Tyrrell from Arklow Maritime Museum

Arklow Maritime Museum

Funding through our sponsorship fund has helped support an exhibition area in Arklow Maritime Museum featuring the figurehead recovered from locally built *Asgard II* and other artifacts and memorabilia associated with the vessel.

Jim Rees, Chairperson and Curator at the Maritime Museum, welcomed the support provided by SSE Renewables over the past three years commenting that 'SSE Renewables latest contribution has made it possible for us to present our *Asgard II* display to a standard that would otherwise not have been possible. The display is centred on the original figurehead of our former national sail training vessel *Asgard II* (purchased and gifted by Arklow Shipping Ltd). This item is of national, perhaps even international, importance and to do such an historic icon justice, professional display techniques are essential. Therefore, we are deeply grateful to SSE Renewables for lending its support'.

The *Asgard II* was designed by the internationally renowned Irish naval architect John (Jack) Tyrrell of John Tyrrell & Sons shipyard, Arklow. He presented the plans to the Irish Government who agreed to commission the vessel, which was launched in March 1981. Over the next 35 years she was Ireland's national sail training vessel, instilling in thousands of young people the values of teamwork, reaching their potential by experiencing new horizons both geographical and personal.

Although owned by the people of Ireland, *Asgard II* was Arklow designed and Arklow built. It is fitting that her figurehead is now kept in trust for the people of Arklow in their museum.

Arklow RNLI – Garden upgrade at Lifeboat Station

Through the SSE Renewables Sponsorship Fund, we have supported the RNLI at Arklow, Wicklow and Courtown.

Arklow RNLI has a proud and long history. Tony Fennell, Fundraising Treasurer, acknowledged with sincerest thanks the funding received from SSE Renewables sponsorship fund. He said, 'With SSE Renewables' help, we have been able to upgrade the garden in front of our lifeboat station, befitting our proud history'. He paid tribute to Maurice Leahy and the crew from the station for their work in preparing and planting at the garden. A commemorative photo of the lifeboat station was presented to Community Engagement Manager, Deirdre, thanking SSE Renewables for its support.



Tony Fennell, Mark Palmer, Maurice Leahy, Tommy Nolan, Declan Smullen and Jimmy Myler, Arklow RNLI pictured with Deirdre Keogh at the RNLI garden, Arklow Lifeboat Station



Owen Canavan, Dave O'Shea (Chairperson), Sean Tolan, Derek Hannigan, Sarah Duffy, Mia Canavan and Gavin Canavan of Arklow Town Football Club pictured with Deirdre Keogh, SSE Renewables

Arklow Town Football Club

Arklow Town Football Club received funding through the Sports' Capital Grant Programme to replace its 3G pitch with a FIFA approved playing surface. The new pitch is the only one of its kind in the Arklow area. With a large membership, the Club's facilities are not only used by members but by schools in the region and by affiliate bodies (e.g. FAI) for national cup finals. ATFC applied for SSE Renewables' sponsorship to erect safe and quality approved fencing to facilitate spectators at the new state of the art 3G artificial pitch.

Dave O'Shea, Club Chairperson said, 'We hadn't ever applied for funding under the SSE Renewables sponsorship fund and found the process really straightforward. We were well supported by Deirdre as Community Engagement Manager. SSE Renewables' funding helped us considerably with the new dedicated spectator viewing area which will complement our new 3G pitch. With low energy illumination, the viewing area should promote crowd safety and help everyone to enjoy our matches from a safe standpoint'.

Arklow Rowing Club

Founded in 1990, Arklow Rowing Club is a member of the East Coast Rowing Council and affiliated to Rowing Ireland, and races year-round in local, national, and international events.

SSE Renewables recently supported Arklow Rowing Club with funding to purchase an additional four indoor rowing machines, increasing the overall number of machines to 12. The additional machines will allow the Club to run indoor training sessions year-round and increase participation in rowing, especially for younger rowers and the less able bodied.

Debbie Reid, Club Secretary, said 'Our membership is made up of a variety of varying ages, experience and abilities. We train year-round but in the winter or off season, we often have to cancel on the water training for some members when conditions are too severe. Having improved indoor facilities allows us to guarantee training for all members throughout the year. Additional rowing machines allow our coaches to introduce new members to the sport in a safe and simplified manner, where they can learn the basics of technique before they take to the water for the first time. We are delighted that SSE Renewables supported our sponsorship application'.



Left to Right: Poppy Tyner, Cormac Kelly, Chairperson, and Sionna Healy, Arklow Rowing Club

Harbour to Headwaters Project

'Harbour to Headwaters' is a collaborative project between County Wicklow Partnership, Arklow Town Team, Wicklow County Council, the Local Authority Waters Programme, East Wicklow Rivers Trust and Arklow Maritime Museum. The project was funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by SSE Renewables and Coillte.

Dónal O'Keeffe from the Local Authority Waters Programme said 'This project aims to create awareness and enhance a knowledge of the biodiversity that currently exists in the Avoca River Catchment and encourage ecotourism throughout the catchment area from the harbour to the headwaters. In setting up the project, two key objectives were planned for. Firstly to create an online interactive resource, and secondly, to install information panels describing biological diversity (flora and fauna), water quality and heritage, along with the significant history of human interaction with local natural resources (i.e. forestry, fishing, mining, milling, etc.) from various locations along the river catchment area. Both objectives have now been achieved and the project is set to officially launch in March'.

Councillor Peir Leonard said 'The Harbour to Headwaters project demonstrates the success that can be achieved through collaboration. The project when launched, will show the importance of, and be an information platform for river protection, conservation and restoration, by enhancing public knowledge of the river catchments and the many ecological and tourist activities that the Avoca River supports. We want to acknowledge our thanks to SSE Renewables for its support for the project. I'm confident that the new interactive tool and display boards will help to encourage tourism and continue to foster an ongoing appreciation of the important part played by the River Avoca in the Garden County'.

Further information on the Harbour to Headwaters' Project is available from www.wicklowrivers.ie

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



EXPLORE AND PROTECT
Avoca River Catchment
 Welcome to the Avoca-Avonmore River Catchment which is the largest River Catchment in County Wicklow. Harbour to Headwaters is a collaborative river biodiversity initiative which aims to raise awareness of our local natural and built heritage. Let's work together to conserve and protect the Avoca River Catchment into the future, from the Wicklow Mountains to the Irish Sea. For more information and how you can get involved - visit WWW.WICKLOWRIVERS.IE

You Are Here!
Arklow Harbour
 There have been boats of one kind or another using the Avoca River Estuary for thousands of years, with the present harbour infrastructure being developed since the 1820's. By the 1870's, boat building was thriving in the town and over 80 trading schooners, brigs and barques and almost 200 fishing boats were moored two and three abreast.

LOCAL WATER QUALITY STATUS
 Water quality status is a measure of the health of the river.

HIGH
GOOD
MODERATE
POOR
BAD

Featured Creature
Cormorant
Did You Know?
 Over 3,500 Cormorants were shot dead in the three years prior to being protected under the Wildlife Act in 1976. Cormorants are often seen along the Avoca Estuary and regularly stand with their wings outstretched in order to dry them. They nest locally in trees by the river and along the coastline, so they are always close to water.

BECOME A WATER AND WILDLIFE WARRIOR

SCAN THE CODE

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Learn more about our local rivers! Check out East Wicklow Rivers Trust projects and news at wicklowrivers.ie
- Record and share your river adventures and wildlife discoveries on social media using #wicklowrivers
- Respect Nature, Plants and Animals - always 'leave no trace' when exploring outdoors
- Take a moment to enjoy our natural environment - What can you hear, see and smell?

RIVER STATS AND FACTS
 The Avoca River catchment is comprised of three main tributaries - Aughrim, Avonbeg and Avonmore Rivers. The catchment is the largest river in Co. Wicklow and drains a vast area of 669kms before it enters the Irish Sea at Arklow Harbour.

'Harbour to Headwaters' is a collaborative project between County Wicklow Partnership, Arklow Town Team, Wicklow County Council, Local Authority Waters Programme, East Wicklow Rivers Trust, and Arklow Maritime Museum. The project was funded by The Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by SSE Renewables and Coillte.



We're ready to power up Arklow!

Join our Public Consultation Events

Our investment in the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 project can power our green recovery and support local jobs, the economy, and the environment.

We appreciate your previous engagement on the project and as we move into our offshore public consultation, we want to share our plans and listen to your views.

Join our in-person and virtual events, including our virtual room:

Thursday, March 16

The Arklow Bay Conference
& Leisure Hotel, Sea Road,
Arklow, Co. Wicklow.
Eircode: Y14 DX02

5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Tuesday, March 21

Wicklow Sailing Club,
South Quay, Wicklow,
Co. Wicklow.
Eircode: A67 WV82

5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Wednesday, March 29

Courtown Sailing Club,
South Beach,
Courtown,
Co. Wexford.
Eircode: Y25 X9D0

5 p.m. – 8 p.m.



**IT'S TIME TO
POWER UP
ARKLOW**



You can help shape
the next generation of
Arklow Bank Wind Park.

WE POWER CHANGE



SCAN ME
TO FIND
OUT MORE

or visit sserenewables.com/ArklowBankPhase2

Wednesday, April 5

Participate in our online
webinar at 7.30 p.m. by
registering on our website
[sserenewables.com/
arklowbankphase2](https://sserenewables.com/arklowbankphase2)



Senator Pat Casey, Billy Kelleher MEP and members of the SSE Renewables Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 project team pictured at South Dock, Arklow.

Volunteers from Wicklow Tidy Towns pictured with Sean Olohan, Wicklow & District Lions Club, and Deirdre Keogh, SSE Renewables, at the tree replanting event, Wicklow Town. The purchase of new trees was co-sponsored by SSE Renewables and Wicklow Lions Club.

Contact Us

Our Fisheries Liaison Officer 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 looking forward to meeting you at our upcoming public consultation.



Deirdre Keogh

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Get in touch by post!

If you would like to send us a letter or post your public consultation feedback form to us, mark the envelope for the attention of Deirdre Keogh, Community Engagement Manager, Arklow Bank Wind Park and send it to:

SSE Renewables, South County Business Park, Red Oak South, Leopardstown, Dublin 18, D18 W688