

NORTHERN IRELAND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT REVIEW

2020/21



INTRODUCTION TO THE SSE RENEWABLES COMMUNITY FUND

SSE Renewables is Northern Ireland’s largest generator of wind power and is the power behind leading greener energy provider and sister company SSE Airtricity. The company provides voluntary community funding from its wind farms in support of energy efficiency, safety and sustainability projects. This funding is awarded to community groups near SSE Renewables’ three wind farms in Northern Ireland: Bessy Bell, Tievenameenta, and Slieve Kirk Wind Park.

Through its annual Community Fund programme, SSE Renewables has awarded £3m so far to over 800 community projects in the communities closest to its wind farms. This funding has helped support local groups, sports organisations and schools among others to develop their facilities with energy efficiency and sustainability upgrades, as well as social and environmental projects that enable community development.

This year marks a change in the name of the funding programme. Previously promoted under the SSE Airtricity brand, the programme will now be known as the SSE Renewables Community Fund. The change is designed to better link annual funding award payments from SSE’s wind farms in Northern Ireland to SSE Renewables, which owns and operates each of the company’s wind farm sites.

CONTENTS

P2	Introduction	P7	Community
P3	Foreword	P9	Young People
P4	NI Funder’s Report	P12	Our Funds in Focus

FOREWORD

SSE Renewables is a responsible developer, committed to helping the communities we operate in when they need us most. Since March 2020, when Northern Ireland went into lockdown, every element of life has been impacted. To see how the communities in which we work reacted to the pandemic has been nothing short of remarkable. Community groups established rapid response provisions almost immediately to protect and support their most vulnerable residents.

SSE Renewables adapted and responded quickly, making funds readily available to provide the essential resources needed to support communities in their fight against coronavirus. We don’t underestimate the impact of the pandemic and it’s clear that many challenges lie ahead. Our objective is to support communities as they recover from this pandemic in the coming months and years ahead.

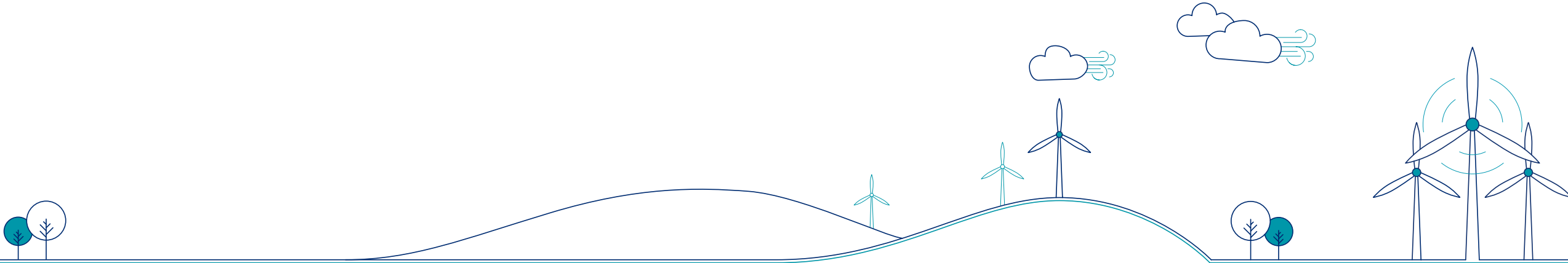
As the economy begins to slowly emerge from the pandemic there is an opportunity for us to build a green economy which meets Northern Ireland’s green goals. It is vital we focus on ambitious policies, strategic investment and focused renewable developments as the sound basis for the net zero journey. It is therefore more important than ever that all government departments, councils and other organisations are aligned in their thinking to ensure that their strategies support the upcoming Energy Strategy and Climate Change Bill for Northern Ireland.

SSE has shown how serious it is about fulfilling its purpose to build a better world of energy by being a lead sponsor of the 26 th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP 26) summit in Glasgow. The summit will provide a global stage to showcase the work we have done to provide clean energy to millions of homes. We are putting ourselves on the front line of climate change and supporting the summit as it sets a clear framework for a truly just transition to net zero.



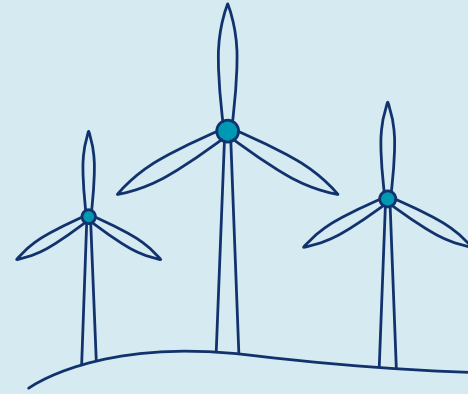
Mark Ennis

Mark Ennis
SSE Ireland Chairman

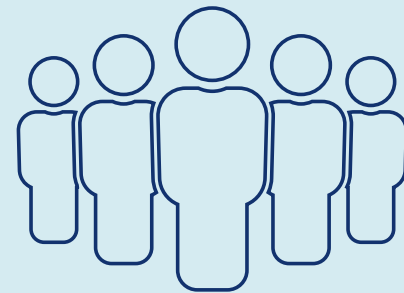


NORTHERN IRELAND FUNDER'S REPORT

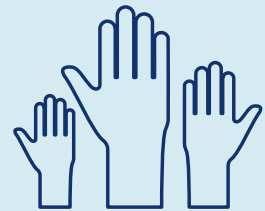
£445,000
awarded to communities
in 2020/2021



53
scholarships
awarded
in 2020/2021



£3.4m
provided to Northern Ireland
communities since 2008



139
projects supported
in 2020/2021



£182,000
worth of scholarships given
to 53 students in 2020/2021

SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The coronavirus pandemic has had a profound impact on the lives of millions of people around the world. The imposed restrictions to daily life have forced us to quickly adopt different ways of working, socialising and connecting with each other.

The communities local to our wind farms are mostly rural, with an ageing population and a reliance on local hubs such as community centres. Likewise, the ability to work from home for employees and students in many rural areas is challenging due to a lack of access to reliable broadband.

SSE Renewables recognised the immediate need for communities and brought forward the 2020/21 funding to support them from the onset of the pandemic.

In 2020/21 over £285,000 was awarded to community groups and used to support 130 projects with a focus on coronavirus rapid response or rebuilding the communities in the aftermath of the pandemic. We were inspired with the range of emergency projects in communities which included care packages for those self-isolating, enhancing volunteer capability, PPE and technology for both home working and overcoming social isolation being the common themes of support.



SUPPORTING THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SSE Renewables is committed to supporting communities to achieve a better, more sustainable future for all. To reflect the need to support the global challenges we have amended the funding themes which the local awards are classified under. This new approach is based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals and reflects the key themes we wish address with our funding. The UN Sustainable Development Goals provide a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. SSE Renewables recognises the value of these goals in measuring the impact of our community funding and helping meet the target of achieving these goals by 2030.



Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

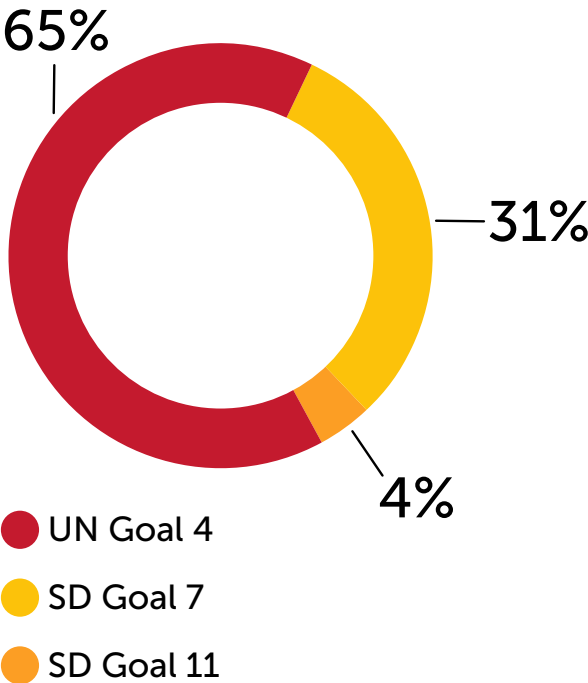


Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL



2021/22 priorities

SSE Renewables expects that 2021/22 will be a busy year for our Northern Ireland funds and we will focus on the following priorities:

Pandemic recovery – funds will continue to be made available to support communities as they recover from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

Education and skills - we will continue to provide funding to support scholarships and skills programmes. This will be particularly important in ensuring young people have the skills to access employment opportunities after the pandemic.

COP 26 – SSE is a proud to sponsor the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Glasgow. We will work to ensure our sponsorship highlights the role that community funding plays in supporting communities reach their Net Zero ambitions.

SUPPORTING THE VULNERABLE IN COMMUNITIES

Bovalley Community Association
£4,000 awarded in April 2020
Slieve Kirk Community Fund



Bovalley Community Association recognised that their local community was going to be impacted by the pandemic restrictions. They were concerned about their elderly and vulnerable residents and quickly mobilised a network of volunteers to provide support. The Association gained emergency funding from SSE Renewables to enable the volunteers to deliver care packages, food packages and activity packs to 300 local residents who were vulnerable and self-isolating. The funding supported the group's activities throughout the pandemic and they were able to

distribute 150 food packages and 153 care packages in the Bovalley Area of Limavady.

"Most of our residents are elderly and live alone so to receive these care packages meant so much more than just food and supplies, it represented a community willing to support each other during difficult and challenging time. For this, we are all so grateful to SSE Renewables." Janice McClay Chairperson, Bovalley Community Association



INVESTING IN GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Go Mental NI
£2,000 awarded in September 2020
Bessy Bell Community Fund



“At some stage in your life you will struggle mentally - and when this happens, don’t ignore it. Get the support you need.” These are the wise words from the team at Go Mental NI. Established in March 2020 in response to the coronavirus pandemic, Go Mental NI received funding from the Bessy Bell Wind Farm Community Fund towards the provision of counselling and cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) sessions to key workers located within 12 miles of the wind farm. The service recognised the impact the pandemic was having on those working on the front line and provided dedicated support to 20 local people. The participants got the resources and tools required to manage their emotions and deal with the impact of the pandemic.

“The deterioration of people’s mental health is the pandemic following the pandemic. Being able to offer support sessions to people due to the pandemic has hopefully maintained a balance in such unprecedented times.” Brian and Marcella Campbell, Directors, Go Mental NI



SUPPORTING QUALITY EDUCATION

Since its establishment in 2014, the SSE Airtricity Scholarship Fund has provided funding to over 250 students with a total investment of over £850,000. In 2021 the Scholarship will be renamed as the SSE Renewables Scholarship Fund to better link our educational support to our wind farms in Northern Ireland.



The SSE Airtricity scholarship promotes learning and skills development in the local community around Slieve Kirk Wind Park, Slieve Divena II (owned by Greencoat UK Wind) and Tievenameenta wind farms. It is targeted at full and part-time students from the counties of Derry-Londonderry, Tyrone, Fermanagh and County Donegal attending either the University of Ulster, South West College or North West Regional College and offers a wide range of eligible Foundation, Bachelor and Master’s level courses with a focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The unique circumstances of the coronavirus pandemic meant colleges and universities had to close their doors for face-to-face learning and instead implement online distance learning. We spoke to one of the recipients of the 2020 Airtricity Scholarship Annie Gibson to understand how the pandemic has impacted on her studies and student life.

Hi Annie, can you tell us what you are studying?

I am currently studying a BEng (Hons) in Renewable Energy Engineering at the University of Ulster based at the Magee campus in Derry/Londonderry.

How have you found the course so far?

I am really enjoying the course as I have a keen interest in renewables. The course is providing me with the knowledge I need to help meet my future aspirations. My goal is to contribute to tackling several long-term issues like climate change, reducing carbon footprint and global warming.

Can you tell me a bit of how the pandemic has affected you personally?

Well most importantly, thankfully I haven’t lost anyone close to me to virus. Unfortunately, however, I was working as a retail assistant before the pandemic but I was let go due to the company’s closure following the pandemic. Other than this mainly it has affected my social life as I am unable to meet up with my friends due to the ongoing restrictions. So financially it is difficult but receiving the SSE Airtricity Grant has been such a support to both myself and my family. It has eased an ever-growing financial burden.

Can you tell me a bit of how the pandemic has affected you academically?

Being a first year student in the pandemic is a new experience. With only commencing my studies in September 2020 I haven’t met any of my fellow students face to face. Instead I am trying to build up relationships virtually which to be honest isn’t ideal. I tend to get overwhelmed at having to adjust to the new working environments and online virtual teaching methods. Obviously as a young person you look forward to your university years and I can’t help but feel I am being robbed of a year of mine.

What are you hoping for in your 2nd year of University?

I really hope for some degree of normality. I want to meet my fellow students face to face and be able to go out socially to help get to know each other. I want to be able to attend lectures in a lecture theatre something everyone before us took for granted I would imagine.



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Learning for Life Fund The Prince's Trust



In April 2020, SSE began an exciting new 5-year partnership with The Prince's Trust NI to support young people in the north-west of the province from the neighbouring communities to the Tievenameenta and Slieve Kirk Wind Farms.

Working in all communities and areas of NI, The Prince's Trust help young people aged 11-30 years to develop the confidence and skills they need to succeed in education, training, employment or self-employment. Many of the young people we help face daily struggles that can seem insurmountable. They may be living in areas of high deprivation, experiencing homelessness, battling mental health problems, have been in trouble with the law, or lost hope for the future after a stretch of unemployment.

The coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated the pre-existing challenges for young people relating to their skills development, mental health, educational attainment, social isolation, and ability to secure employment.

It's clear that local young people need support now more than ever to help them to overcome current setbacks and succeed in the future.

Each year of our partnership, SSE will support The Prince's Trust to deliver two key initiatives to benefit young people within the Limavady and Derry/Londonderry areas through the Development Award Scheme and the Team Programme.



Development Award

The Prince's Trust Development Award scheme helps young people to overcome financial hurdles in their pursuit of further education, training, employment or self-employment. With support from SSE, The Princes Trust was able to award 10 young people from the Limavady and Derry/Londonderry areas with grants in the past year. Examples of what these grants funded include provision of equipment required for vocational courses in joinery and decorating.

Teams Programme

Team is a 12-week personal development programme for young people aged 16-24 years offering work experience, employability skills development, qualifications, practical skills and a community project work delivered throughout Northern Ireland via The Princes Trust Regional College and community partner network. The ethos and structure of Team covers many aspects of personal development to ensure that young people obtain practical skills, accreditation and work experience, helping to identify and support towards their next steps.

Last year, support from SSE helped provide vital match-funding towards delivery of two Team programmes – one in Derry/Londonderry, and one in Limavady.

Limavady Team

The Limavady Team programme began in September 2020 with eleven young people signing up to take part. For their Community Project focus, participants wanted to help support people in their local community by raising money to produce 'Isolation Packs' and identifying individuals who could benefit from this help. The group raised money for this idea by completing a '100-mile challenge' which saw them increase their exercise, individually walking a target number of miles. They also reached out to offer their support to the Limavady Community Development Initiative who kindly donated food items that were used for each 'Isolation Pack'.

10 participants completed the full 12 weeks and the staff team continue to work with the group to help them achieve their next steps. One participant has begun working with the Community Family support initiative; one participant is now engaging with the NOW Project; and six of the group are hoping to progress onto Essential Skills classes.



OUR FUNDS IN FOCUS 2020/21

Slieve Kirk Wind Park

Slieve Kirk Wind Park Community Fund distributes wind powered funding on behalf of the Slieve Kirk wind park cluster comprising Slieve Kirk Wind Farm, Glenconway Wind Farm and Glenconway 2 Wind Farm. The fund awards funding to community groups within 12 miles of the wind park. The fund also runs a Scholarship Programme with the University of Ulster, North West Regional College and the South West College which opens for applications annually in September.

COMMUNITY GROUP	PROJECT	AWARD
Claudy Rural Association	Covid-19 Response	£2,000
Greysteel Community Association	Covid-19 Response	£2,000
Burnfoot Community Dev Association	Covid-19 Response	£1,000
Titans Boxing Club	Covid-19 Response	£2,600
St Colms GAC	Covid-19 Response	£7,000
Kevin Lynch Hurling Club	Covid-19 Response	£5,000
Drum Mens Shed	Covid-19 Response	£5,000
St Josephs Crigbane GAC	Covid-19 Response	£4,000
Dungiven Regeneration Club	Covid-19 Response	£2,000
4RS Recycling Social Enterprise	Covid-19 Response	£2,000
Learmount Community Development Group	Covid-19 Response	£2,000
Sollus School of Highland Dance	Covid-19 Response	£1,000
Bready Cricket Club	Covid-19 Response	£5,000
St Canice GAC	Covid-19 Response	£4,000
Foreglen GAA	Covid-19 Response	£6,000
The Plum Club	Covid-19 Response	£2,000
St Marys GAC	Covid-19 Response	£2,000
Cumber Claudy Dev Association	Covid-19 Response	£4,000
Kildoag Cultural Association	Covid-19 Response	£5,500
St Matthews GAA	Covid-19 Response	£8,000
Fountain Street CDA	Covid-19 Response	£2,000
Campsie Masonic Hall	Covid-19 Response	£4,675
Eglinton Building Bridges	Covid-19 Response	£6,000
The Glens Community Association	Covid-19 Response	£2,000
Limavady Family Centre	Covid-19 Response	£2,000
Limavady Volunteer Centre	Covid-19 Response	£1,000
Donemana Cultural Association	Covid-19 Response	£2,740
Scoil Rince na Speirini	Covid-19 Response	£960
Limavady Baptist Church	Covid-19 Response	£4,000
The Churches Trust	Covid-19 Response	£4,000
Limavady Cricket Club	Covid-19 Response	£4,000

COMMUNITY GROUP	PROJECT	AWARD
Owen Roes GAC	Covid-19 Response	£1,200
Barron Cultural Society	Covid-19 Response	£5,000
Bovalley Community Association	Covid-19 Response	£4,000
Gortnaghey Community Association	Covid-19 Response	£3,550
Kinship Care NI	Covid-19 Response	£2,335
EQUAL	Covid-19 Response	£1,000
The Drummond Centre Project	Covid-19 Response	£955
St Marys Gortnaghey Primary School	Covid-19 Response	£4,000
Benedy Community Association	Covid-19 Response	£750
Faughan Rural Community Hub	Covid-19 Response	£2,000
Glenshane Care	Covid-19 Response	£1,000
John Mitchels GAA	Covid-19 Response	£7,000
Killyclooney Cricket Club	Covid-19 Response	£1,000
YMCA Londonderry	Covid-19 Response	£1,500
Roundabout Playgroup	Covid-19 Response	£1,000
Dennett Anglers	Covid-19 Response	£2,500
Dennett Valley Mens Shed	Covid-19 Response	£3,000
Burnfoot Community Dev Association	Covid-19 Response	£2,000
Hands That Talk	Covid-19 Response	£700
Ardmore Cricket Club	Covid-19 Response	£1,500
Woodlands Pre School Centre	Covid-19 Response	£480
Newbuildings Cricket Club	Covid-19 Response	£2,000
Cross & Passion College	Covid-19 Response	£1,000
Longtower PS	Covid-19 Response	£1,000
Craft Collectives	Covid-19 Response	£900
Glendermotts PS	Covid-19 Response	£1,000
St Finloughs PTA	Covid-19 Response	£1,000
Newpin NI	Covid-19 Response	£2,000
Owen Roes GAC	Covid-19 Response	£400
Dennett Interchange	Covid-19 Response	£2,000
Hummingbird	Covid-19 Response	£2,000
Newbuildings Youth	Covid-19 Response	£2,000
Foreglen Community Association	Covid-19 Response	£2,000
Dernaflaw Community Group	Covid-19 Response	£530
RAPID	Covid-19 Response	£400
Aughabrack Community Association	Covid-19 Response	£500
The Dry Arch Childrens Centre	Covid-19 Response	£1,200
Bonds Glen	Covid-19 Response	£800
Scholarships (25 scholarships awarded)	Regional Fund (Scholarships)	£95,335

Bessy Bell Wind Farm

Bessy Bell Community Fund is made up of Bessy Bell 1 and Bessy Bell 2. The wind farms are located at Baronscourt, Co Tyrone and awards funding to community groups within 12 miles of the wind farms.

COMMUNITY GROUP	PROJECT	AWARD
Mountjoy United FC	Covid-19 Response	£1000
Omagh Accies	Covid-19 Response	£1500
Omagh Forum for Rural Association	Covid-19 Response	£2000
Order of Malta	Covid-19 Response	£2000
Pushkin Trust	Covid-19 Response	£2200
Rosewood Health & Wellbeing	Covid-19 Response	£2000
Select Vestry St Columbas Church	Covid-19 Response	£1500
Strabane Rugby Club	Covid-19 Response	£1000
Youth Sport Omagh	Covid-19 Response	£1000
Newtonstewart Leisure Centre	Covid-19 Response	£849
Ardstraw & Baronscourt Youth Council	Covid-19 Response	£1500
Ardstraw Youth & Community Forum	Covid-19 Response	£2000
Ardstraw West & Castlederg R.C Church	Covid-19 Response	£1500
Derry & Raphoe Action Group	Covid-19 Response	£1500
Gillygooley Youth & Comm Dev Association	Covid-19 Response	£2000



Tievenameenta Wind Farm

Tievenameenta Wind Farm is located in Killeter, County Tyrone. The fund also runs a Scholarship Programme with the University of Ulster, North West Regional College and the South West College which opens for applications annually in September.

COMMUNITY GROUP	PROJECT	AWARD
Castlederg Credit Union	Covid 19 Response	£3,150
Killeter Dev Trust	Covid 19 Response	£3,500
St Josephs PS Ederney	Covid 19 Response	£3,000
Aghyaran LOL	Covid 19 Response	£615
Bannagh Chapel Advisory Committee	Covid 19 Response	£5,000
Ederney Community Development Trust	Covid 19 Response	£2,500
The Select Vestry of Colaghty Parish Church, Lack	Covid 19 Response	£1,700
Derg Valley Ladies Hockey Club	Covid 19 Response	£807
Omagh Fermanagh Bird Cage Society	Covid 19 Response	£1,000
Derg Valley Vintage Club	Covid 19 Response	£1,337
Kilclean Pipe Band	Covid 19 Response	£780
Aghyaran GAA	Covid 19 Response	£10,000
Culmaine Parish Together	Covid 19 Response	£2,500
Ederney Youth Club	Covid 19 Response	£1,850
Ederney Village in Bloom	Covid 19 Response	£2,000
Montiagh Chapel	Covid 19 Response	£3,500
Ederney Open Door	Covid 19 Response	£1,500
The REC Ederney	Covid 19 Response	£3,000
First Steps Killen	Covid 19 Response	£6,000
St Cairealls PS	Covid 19 Response	£5,664
Ardbarron Cultural Association	Covid 19 Response	£1,200
Aghyaran Dev Association	Covid 19 Response	£2,836
Essan Cottage	Covid 19 Response	£2,500
Kilclean LOL	Covid 19 Response	£2,250
Dergview FC	Covid 19 Response	£6,950
NFC Kesh	Covid 19 Response	£1,950
Killeter Pres Church	Covid 19 Response	£6,000
St Josephs GAA Ederney	Covid 19 Response	£5,500
Killyclogher GAA	Covid 19 Response	£1,500
Little Friends Nursery	Covid 19 Response	£500
St Josephs Ederney SVP	Covid 19 Response	£2,500
Scholarship (14 Scholarships awarded)	Regional Fund (Scholarships)	£43,250

**For further information about SSE Renewables,
please contact:**

SSE Renewables.

Registered Office:
Millennium House
25 Great Victoria Street
Belfast BT2 7AQ

Registered in Northern Ireland: NI048447

saserenewables.com

