

YELLOW RIVER WIND FARM

Welcome to the latest newsletter about Yellow River Wind Farm this has been created to provide you with an update on the project.

As you may know SSE Renewables is developing Yellow River wind farm, this a 29 turbine development in Rhode Co. Offaly with the potential to power 66,000 homes with clean green renewable energy.

ABOUT SSE RENEWABLES

SSE Renewables is Ireland's leading developer, owner and operator of onshore wind farms, with a vision to make renewable energy the foundation of a zero-carbon world. The renewable electricity generated at wind farms operated by SSE Renewables across Ireland powers SSE Airtricity, Ireland's largest provider of 100% green energy. The company's onshore wind portfolio includes the 86MW Meentycat Wind Farm in Donegal and Ireland's largest wind farm, the 174MW Galway Wind Park.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SSE Renewables understands the importance of community engagement at all of our windfarm projects, and as such we are keen to keep channels of communication open at all times and are available for you. We are only acutely aware that we have been unable to host any information events due to the recent pandemic and subsequent restrictions that we have had to live by. However, now that restrictions are starting to lift we will be hosting an information event for the communities around the Yellow River wind farm. This event will hopefully take place in Q3 of 2022, it will be advertised extensively through the local newspapers and radio stations. Information will also be hosted on our website, alternatively we can be contacted through the following channels:

Richard.whelan@sse.com or CLO@sse.com

www.sserenewables.com/onshore-wind/in-development/yellow-river/

MEET THE TEAM



Louise Glennon
Head of External Affairs,
SSE Renewables
louise.glennon@sse.com



Richard Whelan
Landowner and Community
Liason Manager,
SSE Renewables
richard.whelan@sse.com



William Dwyer
Project Manager,
SSE Renewables
william.dwyer@sse.com



Shane Reynolds
Land Liason Officer,
SSE Renewables
shanereynolds@srconsulting.ie

YELLOW RIVER WIND FARM

SPRING 2022

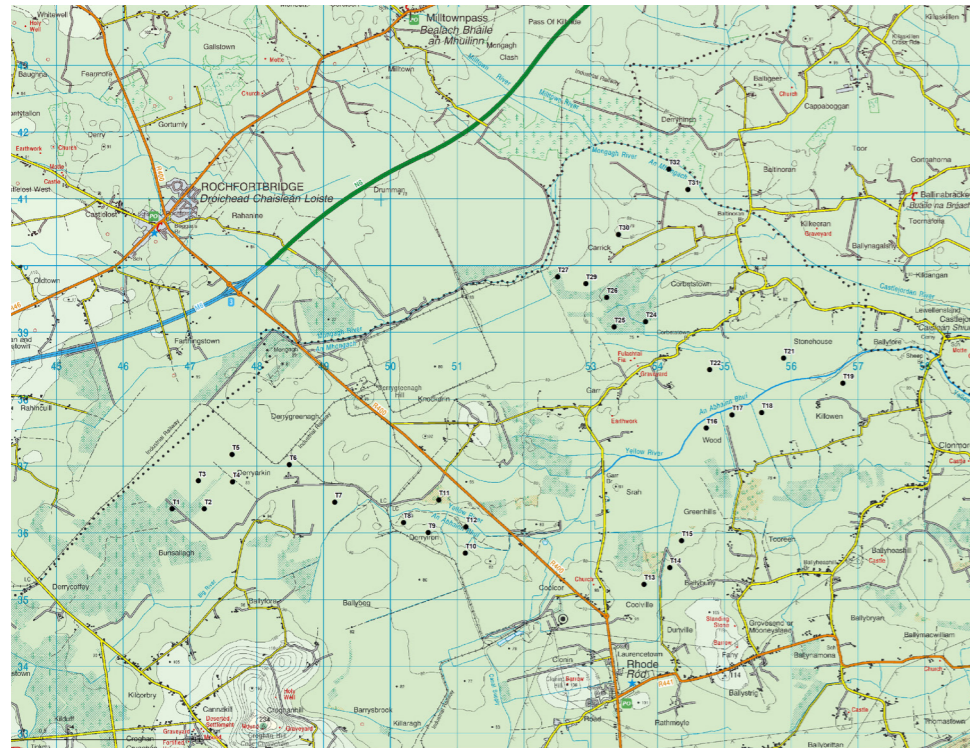
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ABOUT YELLOW RIVER WIND FARM

Yellow River wind Farm is a 29-turbine development, in Rhode, Co. Offaly. It has the potential to power 66,000 homes with green, renewable energy. The project received planning permission in 2014 and SSE Renewables (SSER) bought it from Green Wind Energy (Wexford) Ltd in 2019, and will now progress it to construction.

SSER has over the past year been carrying out some further environmental studies to ensure all relevant permits are in place before moving towards the construction phase of the project. Since we acquired the project we've been refining the design, construction and environmental details. We have installed LiDAR, a wind measuring device, which carried out additional analysis of the wind speeds and regime on site. In addition, environmental studies have continued to ensure a robust understanding of the existing environment. By doing this we can be most respectful of the area. We have also re-assessed the background baseline noise levels, through an updated noise survey. This is to ensure that we can demonstrate that the wind farm is compliant with planning requirements, once it is operational.



PROJECT TIMELINE



PROJECT UPDATES

Bats:

Wildlife consultants have been engaged to carry out surveys on the bat population. Bat detectors were used to identify the main species and to give an indication of the population density. Three seasons were surveyed Spring, Summer and Autumn, as hibernation takes place in winter. The aim of the survey is to identify if there will be any danger to the bats with the development and to build in mitigation measures to ensure they are protected.

Water monitoring:

Water has been monitored and sampled to understand any naturally occurring specific physico-chemical qualities within watercourses close to the proposed Yellow River Wind Farm prior to construction. The monitoring took place over many months in 11 different locations to capture seasonal variations in water quality within the watercourses. Water quality results will be assessed against key specific limits outlined in legislation.

Whooper Swans:

Each winter, a flock of Whooper Swans can be found in the Derryarkin area. These birds, which breed in Iceland, arrive in November, and stay until March. They can be seen feeding on the large grassland fields, and sometimes on the Bord na Móna cutaway bogs, during the daytime. At night, the swans roost safely on the local quarry ponds. Numbers vary between winters but are usually in the region of 150 birds.

The Yellow River project team have been monitoring the swan population each winter since 2012/13. Wind farm construction works will avoid this area during the winter period to minimise disturbance to the swans. Also, some of the turbines will be fitted with hazard warning lights to make them visible to the swans in poor light. Monitoring of the population will continue during throughout the construction of the wind farm and will continue throughout the operational life of the windfarm.

Grid connection:

SSE Renewables has secured a grid connection for the project – the connection will be at Derryiron a 110Kv substation.

Roads:

Construction traffic will primarily be confined to the R400 from the M6 Motorway to the Garr Road roundabout in Rhode. SSER will be liaising with the Offaly CoCo in advance of construction where a detailed traffic management plan will be agreed.

Sponsorship of Rhode Parish Centre

SSER are delighted that we were able to assist Rhode Parish Enterprise Centre in contributing toward a new heating boiler for the Centre, this will help the Parish Enterprise Centre who have suffered severe loss of income during the Pandemic close down.

COMMUNITY FUND

As part of the Climate Action Plan, the government has introduced the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS). This scheme aims to promote the generation of electricity from renewable sources by providing financial support to renewable electricity projects in Ireland. All projects supported by RESS must establish a Community Benefit Fund to be used for the wider economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being of the local community.

The community benefit fund for Yellow River will be arranged in accordance with the RESS guidelines, and our best practice experience of delivering voluntary community funds on existing projects across the island.

A Fund Committee consisting of a number of volunteer community representatives, the project developer and an administrator will be established. The Fund Committee will be the decision-making body of the Fund, placing communities at the heart of the decision-making process.

Recently we were delighted to contribute towards a boiler for the Rhode Parish Community Hall, this will ensure that the hall can continue to provide services for the community.

BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT



Generate 100 MW of electricity, enough to power approximately 66,000 homes



Environmental - Contributing towards Ireland Climate Action target of 80% renewable electricity by 2030



Capital Investment of over €150 million



Contribute substantial rates to the local authority



Substantial annual contribution for community funds



Offset approximately 71 Million kg of harmful CO2 emissions per annum

