



# DELIVERING INVESTMENT, **SUPPORTING JOBS**



#### **ABOUT SSE RENEWABLES**

SSE Renewables is a leading developer and operator of renewable energy, with a portfolio of around 4GW of onshore wind, offshore wind and hydro. Part of the FTSE-listed SSE plc, its strategy is to drive the transition to a zero-carbon future through the world class development, construction and operation of renewable energy assets.

SSE Renewables owns nearly 2GW of onshore wind capacity with over 1GW under development. Its 1,459MW hydro portfolio includes 300MW of pumped storage and 750MW of flexible hydro. Its offshore wind portfolio consists of 580MW across three offshore sites, two of which it operates on behalf of its joint venture partners, SSE Renewables has the largest offshore wind pipeline in the UK and Ireland at up to 7GW.

SSE Renewables is a Principal Partner to the UK Government in the run up to and during the COP26 UN climate summit in November 2021.

#### **ABOUT THIS REPORT**

As well as clean, renewable electricity generation, SSE Renewables' current projects in operation or construction in Sutherland in the north of Scotland – Strathy North, Achany, Gordonbush and Gordonbush Extension – are delivering significant investment and good quality jobs in the local area and across Scotland and the UK. This report shows the economic contribution of these projects through their development, construction, operations and maintenance, with analysis undertaken by BiGGAR Economics. It also tells the story of wider socio-economic benefits from these wind farms' community benefit funds which will be provided over their operational lifetime.

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### Foreword by Jim Smith:

# GENERATING BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

The purpose of SSE Renewables hasn't changed – to provide people with the clean energy they need – but the world around us is moving quickly. With a climate emergency and clear net-zero carbon targets set by governments in the UK and around the world, we believe concerted action against climate change is necessary and a responsibility that we all share. We are proud to be a Principal Partner to the UK Government for the COP26 UN climate summit in November 2021.

At SSF Renewables, we have redoubled our efforts to create a low carbon world today and better world of energy tomorrow. We are well on our way to achieving our target of generating renewable output of 30TWh a year by 2030 and by the second half of this decade we expect to be adding a gigawatt of new renewable capacity annually. Potential future renewable projects in Sutherland can make significant contributions towards this goal.

Building more renewable energy projects in response to the climate emergency is about more than just the environment. It's about creating social and economic value for communities in a sustainable way. Through our direct actions and that of our supply chain, we create local jobs and make a positive contribution to Scottish and UK GDP. We are part of Highland communities for the longterm, and we have an ongoing commitment to share the value we've created.

With help from BiGGAR Economics, we have quantified some of our socio-economic impacts. We can see the scale of the economic contribution from our onshore wind developments in Sutherland. Millions of pounds and hundreds of jobs have been supported and retained in the local, regional and national economies and – crucially – this will continue throughout the projects' operational lives. We know that further developments can bring even more opportunities and skilled jobs to these areas too.

The experiences of the people and businesses impacted by SSE Renewables' investments are key to understanding the impact we've made. This report tells some of those stories, from local civil engineering firms to accommodation providers in the project areas.

Over the many years we've been present in Sutherland and indeed the Highlands, we have been delighted to see how communities have chosen to invest funds from our renewable energy projects into the initiatives that matter most to them - several of which are featured in this report. More recently this has included many projects supporting recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. These investments will pay dividends for many years to come, creating long-term, sustainable value for those communities.

We look forward to continuing to work with local communities in Sutherland to take advantage of the incredible renewable resources here in the fight against climate change and to create even greater social and economic value



Jim Smith Managing Director. SSE Renewables

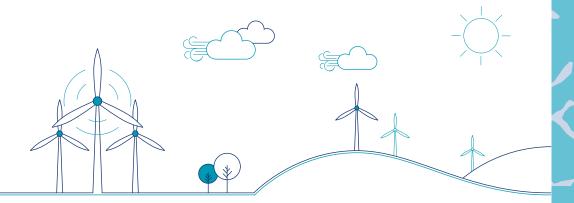
## SSE RENEWABLES' **RESPONSIBLE APPROACH**

SSE Renewables takes great pride in our responsible approach to developing our renewable energy projects. This approach has been honed through many years of experience developing our extensive portfolio which includes many onshore wind and hydro assets in the Highlands of Scotland and Sutherland in particular.

As a developer, constructor and operator of these essential assets we recognise that we become part of the communities they are in for the long-term. Inclusive community engagement is important as we develop our projects so that the views and concerns of the community can help to influence the project design. When we have all consents granted and we move to building a project we ensure that we have the right forums in place to liaise regularly and constructively with the community, increasingly social media and other digital means have become key tools to help keep everyone informed.

As a proud member of these Highland communities we always strive to ensure that the local benefits can be maximised. There are many opportunities for local businesses to win contracts directly with us or with our supply chain, businesses such as accommodation providers also benefit indirectly. As well as fixed-term employment during construction there are also longterm roles to help steward our assets with many people in our operations team living locally and coming through our apprentice or technical training programmes.

We recognise that there is the potential to harness more of Sutherland's abundant natural resources. We have a number of future development options which we hope will come to fruition. This includes an extension to our Achany wind farm project near Lairg and our Strathy South wind farm project next to our existing Strathy North wind farm near Strathy village. We will continue to utilise our responsible approach on these projects and if they are built then many more benefits will be realised in Sutherland and beyond.



#### STRATHY NORTH (67.65MW)

Strathy North wind farm is an operational 33 turbine site located in a commercial forestry plantation called Strathy Forest, approximately 7km from Strathy village in north Sutherland. It became fully operational in June 2015.

#### STRATHY SOUTH (208MW)

& Gordonbush Extension

Achany Extension Achany

#### **ACHANY EXTENSION**

#### ACHANY (38MW)

Achany wind farm is located in the Scottish Highlands near Lairg in Sutherland. The site consists of 19 turbines and became fully opertional in October 2010.

#### GORDONBUSH (71.75MW)

Strathy North

Strathy South

Gordonbush is a 35 turbine wind farm. west of Brora. Sutherland, in the Scottish Highlands. It became fully operational in June 2012.

#### **GORDONBUSH EXTENSION (38MW)**

Gordonbush Extension wind farm is located around 9.5km west of Brora. It is still under construction but, once complete in 2021, it will consist of 11 turbines. Gordonbush Extension is the first wind farm to be built by SSE Renewables without the support of UK Government subsidies.

## CONTRIBUTING TO LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ECONOMIES

#### INVESTING IN HIGHLAND, SCOTLAND AND THE UK

Total expenditure in our Strathy North, Achany, Gordonbush and Gordonbush Extension onshore wind farms in the Sutherland area of Scotland is expected to be £644m<sup>1</sup>. This investment is split between development and construction expenditure (£362m) and expenditure over 25 years of operational life (£282m.)

BiGGAR Economics was commissioned to understand where this money was spent as well as the economic contribution made by these projects<sup>2</sup>. They found that of the total £644m investment:

- Highland<sup>3</sup> secured **£74m** during the development and construction phases and is expected to secure £127m (£5m annually) in operational expenditure contracts – a total of £201m, which is 31% of total expenditure; and
- Scotland, including Highland, secured £165m during the development and construction phases and is expected to secure £247m (£10m annually) in operational expenditure contracts – a total of £412m, which is 64% of total expenditure; and
- The UK, including Scotland, secured £182m during the development and construction phases and is expected to secure £247m (£10m annually) in operational expenditure contracts – a total of £429m, which is 67% of total expenditure.

#### ADDING TO THE ECONOMY AND SUPPORTING JOBS

To understand the value of this £644m investment by SSE Renewables, BiGGAR Economics analysed the economic impact of these projects at a Highland, Scotland and UK level. Investment drives economic activity through the value it adds to the economy (referred to as Gross Value Added (GVA)) and the years of employment or jobs it supports. To fully capture the impact of this spending, the analysis included activity further down the supply chain (indirect impacts) and activity that results from the spending of salaries (induced impacts), as well as direct impacts.

Over the full lifetime of the four projects, from development to the end of 25 years of operational life, £485m is expected to be generated for the UK economy, of which £327m will be in Scotland. Within Scotland, £131m is estimated to be added to the Highland economy. The majority this economic contribution is expected to come during the operational phase, driven by the high proportion of this expenditure which is expected to be with Highland, Scotland and UK businesses. 45% of operational expenditure is expected to be with Highland companies and 88% is expected to be Scottish companies.

Many jobs are supported as a result of this economic activity. Over development and construction, BIGGAR Economics estimated that the projects supported 2,840 years' worth of full-time employment across the UK, of which 1,710 years were in Scotland and, of this, 520 were in Highland. The employment impacts are expected to last for many years too, with 180 jobs supported across the UK each year as a result of these projects' operation. 120 of these jobs will be within Scotland, with 50 of these jobs secured within the Highland area.

- 1 All expenditure is listed in 2019 prices.
- 2 The full BiGGAR Economics report with analysis methodology can be found on sse.com/sustainability/reporting. This includes full breakdown of results at project-level.
- 3 The Highland area' is defined as the Highland Council Area.

#### TOTAL ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

#### **Highland impact**

Total lifetime economic contribution:



#### During development and construction:

- £43m added to the economy
- 520 years of employment supported



### Every year over 25 years of operation:

- £4m added to the economy
- 50 iobs supported

#### Scotland (inc Highland) impact

Total lifetime economic contribution:



#### During development and construction:

- £129m added to the economy
- 1,710 years of employment supported



#### Every year over 25 years of operation:

- £8m added to the economy
- 120 jobs supported

#### **UK (inc Scotland) impact**

Total lifetime economic contribution:

£485m



#### During development and construction:

- £190m added to the economy
- 2,840 years of employment supported



#### Every year over 25 years of operation:

- £12m added to the economy
- 180 jobs supported



Highland

Scotland (inc Highland)

### **RJ MCLEOD**

SSE Renewables has ensured a high level of local content by using Dingwall based RJ McLeod as the main civil contractor on all four wind farms.

The construction of Achany Wind Farm in 2009 was the first onshore wind project that RJ McLeod was involved with. At that time, renewable energy projects accounted for around 20% of the turnover of the company. Through the experience that RJ McLeod gained on Achany, and subsequently Gordonbush Wind Farm and Strathy North Wind Farm, it was able to grow this area of business and secure wind farm contracts further afield. At times, renewable energy has accounted for the majority of its turnover.

RJ McLeod has a strong relationship with its supply chain and subcontractors within Caithness, Sutherland and the wider Highland region. It considers itself to be a Highland contractor and aims to only procure subcontractors from outside of Highland if there is no capacity within the area to meet their demands. It does this through nurturing strong relationships with its supply chain over time and by using the Open4Business portal, which was created by SSE in 2012 and is now operated by Inverness

Chamber of Commerce on behalf of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, to reach new suppliers in the area who can bid for the smaller contracts. While other civil contractors may use some local content, the approach of RJ McLeod generates the greatest possible economic impact in Highland from the civil contract.

#### Appointing RJ McLeod as the lead civil contractor on these four wind farms ensured the maximum possible benefit to the Highland economy.

When it was introduced to the onshore wind market, through SSE Renewables work in Sutherland, RJ McLeod brought with it many local contractors who have gone on to benefit from wider opportunities in the onshore wind market. This includes companies such as Gow Groundworks in Halkirk, CS Drilling in Thurso and others that have used the experience as subcontractors to RJ McLeod on these wind farms to develop specialist skills that they have used to secure contracts elsewhere. In this way, SSE Renewables' wind farms in Sutherland have served as a catalyst for developing onshore wind expertise in the area.



Source: BiGGAR Economics Analysis.

CASE STUDY

## **HIGHLAND HYDROSEEDING**



A landscaping business based in Forss, near Thurso, has added onshore wind farms to its list of specialisms.

Highland Hydroseeding is a groundcare and landscaping business based in Caithness, which was established in 1988. The company has five full-time employees, including a father and son team, and also employs contractors for bigger contracts.

The company worked on the Strathy North Wind Farm during the construction phase, and the contract included hydroseeding (applying a mix of seed, water and fibre mulch) a large area to prevent soil and peat erosion, with a seed mix specified by NatureScot (Formerly SNH) as part of the application process. The work was carried out over a season, with typically three or four employees working on it at a time.

In addition to the work during the construction period, Highland Hydroseeding has also secured landscaping contracts for the maintenance of the substation that serves Strathy North Wind Farm.

## "I think [SSE's] investment up north has been really good and I appreciate that they're employing local people when they can."



Developing a relationship with R.1 Mcl eod and SSE has been important in securing additional work for the company. Strathy North Wind Farm was the first onshore wind project that Highland Hydroseeding had worked on and it has since worked on a number of other wind farms, including SSE Renewables' Stronelairg Wind Farm and Greencoat's Tom nan Clach Wind Farm, and is in discussions about providing reinstating for the Gordonbush Extension.



## CASE STUDY: MELVICH HOTEL



Demand for accommodation from workers on the Sutherland wind farms has enabled some accommodation providers to remain open during the winter season.

Melvich Hotel, based in the village of Melvich near the site of Strathy North Wind Farm, has been in operation since 1850 and has been run by Rob and Jo Wyke since 2007. The hotel has 13 beds and also operates a restaurant and public house. As an accommodation provider in the Highland area, the business is seasonal with the hotel closing in November and opening in late March/early April. Typically, two full-time staff are employed during the winter months, increasing to four full-time and five part-time staff during the summer months.

During the two year construction phase of Strathy North Wind Farm, the hotel was the 'go to' provider for many contractors coming to the site. This led to increased occupancy rates, particularly in the shoulder seasons of spring and autumn, and the hotel was able to remain fully open through two winter seasons. Other accommodation providers in the area, such as Bettyhill Hotel and self-catering providers, also benefitted from increased business visitors. There has been continuing activity supported as SSE Renewables develops the neighbouring Strathy South Wind Farm.

## The business from the construction workers of Strathy North provided employment for four full-time members of staff at Melvich Hotel.

As a part of the community, the hotel has also benefitted from wider benefits supported by the wind farm, such as improvements in the road network, which provide a safe, high-quality road for walking and cycling, and investments supported by the community benefit fund. This has included Melvich slipway improvements, general tourism enhancements and promotional material for the North Coast 500, which has generated a significant boost in tourism activity and occupancy rates since it was launched in 2015.

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CASE STUDY

## **WAVERLEY ENGINEERING**



The Golspie based contractor has been able to provide multiple services to SSE Renewables in Sutherland.

Waverley Engineering is a construction contractor, plant supplier and commercial repair company. It employs between five and 10 people depending on demand, including apprentices.

Waverley Engineering was contracted to work on the construction phase of Achany Wind Farm, Strathy North Wind Farm and Gordonbush Wind Farm, and is currently working on the Gordonbush Extension. The company has provided a range of services, such as landscaping, enabling works and leasing equipment. The construction phases of these projects have been a significant source of activity, with typically two or three employees on site.

The company also undertakes ongoing operation and maintenance contracts for Achany Wind Farm and Gordonbush Wind Farm, which includes landscaping, road repairs, drainage, plate testing and snow clearance.

Gordonbush Wind Farm was also important as it was the first project with RJ McLeod, which has since proven a productive long-term relationship, as well as strengthening their relationship with SSE Renewables. In addition, Gordonbush Wind Farm was the first onshore wind project that the company had worked on, and it has since worked on a number of wind farms, often with RJ McLeod, outside of Sutherland, including SSE Renewables' Stronelairg Wind Farm and ScottishPower Renewable's Beinn Tharsuin Wind Farm. These projects have supported the company's growth, and provided a base for working on projects as far afield as Aberdeen.

In addition to working directly on these onshore wind farms, Waverley Engineering has also been involved in projects that have been funded by community benefit funds that have been established in the area. This included Golspie Community Council's £29,000 project to upgrade the Big Burn walk to make it more accessible for disabled and pushchair users. The project was part funded by the Gordonbush Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund.

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## COMMUNITY BENEFIT **FUNDS IN SUTHERLAND**

As part of SSE Renewables' commitment to being a responsible developer, we provide community benefit funds for each of our wind farms. Across the UK and Ireland, we operate 51 funds and have contributed £47.1m directly to communities since 2008. In Sutherland, we operate five funds and follow the Scottish Government Good Practice Principles for Community Benefits from Onshore Renewables.

At the core of our community benefit approach is:



**Local decision making** – investment decisions are made by panels of local people. This ensures that donations are spent on what really matters to the local community.



**Community consultation** – communities are consulted at the start of a fund and every five years thereafter to ensure focus on what the communities want and need.



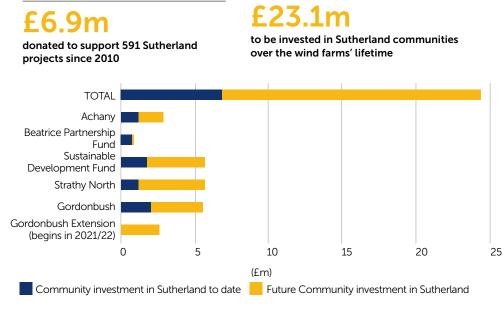
**Transparency** – SSE Renewables reports annually on how every penny of investment is spent. All annual investment reviews can be found at **sserenewables.com/communities**.



Good governance – Community Investment Managers at SSE Renewables work with the communities to ensure comprehensive administration of the funds and to evaluate their impact, including reporting against the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.



**Local legacy** – SSE Renewables works to ensure the community achieves a lasting legacy from the funding, including supporting the improvement of local assets and the creation of local development bodies.





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## UNDERSTANDING **COMMUNITY INVESTMENT IMPACT**

SSE Renewables knows that understanding the value of our investments in communities is an important part of being a responsible renewables operator. We use a range of recognised impact approaches to measure the success of our funds and to learn from improvement measures. At the centre of our impact approach is ensuring our evaluation is easy for grant holders. Two thirds of evaluated Sutherland grant holders rated the success of their project as very good.

#### ALIGNING IMPACT TO THE UN'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In line with international best practice on evaluating the impact of renewable assets, SSE Renewables measures the impact of its community funds against the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are a blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. Working towards achievement of the SDGs helps build a strong and healthy society which is mindful of the environment, promotes personal wellbeing and builds fair economic growth.

All investments made by the Sutherland Community Funds have been evaluated against the SDGs since 2010 and show positive activity towards the following goals:



£1,088,409



£1,662,646



£1,362,264



£2,466,289



£354,100

#### SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Social Return on Investment (SROI) is a method of accounting for value creation, primarily social or environmental value. SROI enables groups to measure how much change is being created by tracking relevant social, environmental, and economic outcomes. SSE Renewables commissioned New Economics Foundation Consulting to develop a SROI approach and methodology which would enable the social impact of community benefit funds to be captured.



For the Sutherland SROI study, the impact of eight projects funded by the local wind farm funds were analysed. The study found that for every £1 of community funds spent, the community projects are expected to generate £6.16 in wider value. The projects included heritage and tourism initiatives, skills and employability schemes and care projects. One of the projects focused on was Tykes who provide services to 105 young carers and their families. Tykes is funded by the Gordonbush and Beatrice Partnership Community Funds to ensure young carers have time out from home, a network of peers and the professional support needed to navigate their home, school and personal priorities.

For more information on the methodology used for this assessment, please refer to the methodology document at www.sse.com/sustainability/reporting.



SSE Renewables supported the establishment of the University of Highlands and Islands STEM Hub.





Across the Sutherland Community Funds, a key area which local people highlighted during community consultations is a need for investment in skills and education. They want to invest to make sure that children get the best start in life. The funds support a range of initiatives which bring specialist experiences to schools in Sutherland including STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) training through the University of the Highlands and Islands. This training provides a legacy of better equipment and more confident teachers to support children for years to come.

Local people want to make sure there are opportunities for young people to stay within the community and reduce the impact of youth de-population in the region. One of the successes of the Sutherland funds has been the creation of apprenticeship programmes which have received £525k from the funds. In the communities close to the Achany and Gordonbush Wind Farms, the programmes help young people access opportunities with local employers. The apprentices benefit from comprehensive coaching and access a range of quality skills qualifications. The programmes are vital to ensuring that key local services are available for the future – they enable businesses to prepare for the retirement of current staff by taking on a young person to take over roles.

### "If it were not for the grant, I would not have been able to take on an apprentice and give a determined young person an opportunity."

Lewis, apprentice employer, Lairg

The success of the apprenticeship schemes is demonstrated by Rachel, who gained an apprenticeship from the Kyle of Sutherland Apprenticeship Programme.

Rachel had an interest in horses and was placed with Caledonia Dressage in Bonar Bridge. The apprenticeship helped Caledonia Dressage to look to the future and has significantly expanded their repertoire, with Rachel developing a new social media strategy enabling horses to be sold across Europe.

The success has led them to recruit another apprentice as a Yard Manager.

apprenticeships provided in 2019/20



schools receiving STEM training

evening classes hosted per year



"The Falls of Shin is a big visitor attraction and the café creates local employment. It is a fantastic way to regenerate the local economy." David Watson, Kyle of Sutherland Trust Manager



#### **BOOSTING RESPONSIBLE TOURISM**

Tourism is a key element of the Sutherland economy and local consultations have highlighted the need to develop tourism in a way which showcases the best of the local heritage and which is positive for local communities.

When the Falls of Shin Centre burnt down in 2013, the community was left without a key visitor site. An early investment of £30k from the Achany Community Fund helped attract other funding and the new site opened in 2017. The site attracts 250,000 visitors to the area each vear, provides 12 local jobs and has a well utilised community event space.

Local consultations have highlighted communities wanting to tackle some of the negative consequences of increased tourist numbers. A donation of £49k from the Beatrice Partnership Fund has helped create a new camper van site and chemical waste disposal unit in Helmsdale. The site will not only reduce the

impact from wild camping but also will provide an income stream which can be re-invested into other local projects.

The Strathnaver Museum in Bettyhill has received some of the largest contributions from the Strathy North and Sustainable Development Funds, with £229k donated to the museum since 2015. The donations have helped protect the vital heritage resources of the museum including providing new display units and employing an education officer to help share the learning with local school pupils. The funds have also contributed to a large redevelopment of the museum site which will commence in 2021. The site attracts 6,000 visitors a year and encourages North Coast 500 participants to stop and spend money in the local

265,000

visitors attracted to Sutherland each year







#### **BUILDING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**

Enabling local people to build the community they want for now and for the future is at the forefront of the SSE Renewables community investment approach. We work to make sure that community ambition is raised, and future generations continue to benefit from the wind farm funding. Projects building for the future include establishing community broadband schemes, purchasing community assets such as Rogart Mart and upgrading community infrastructure such as the Portskerra Harbour slipway.

"Without the funding, this project would never have got started. It has allowed a disused area of the village to be regenerated and brought together the local community."

David Hodge, Portskerra Harbour Project

Community halls remain a priority for all communities and a Strathy North community consultation in 2019 identified that improving two local halls was a key local priority. The consultation findings helped focus the panel's priorities including releasing £326.5k of funding to help the community of Armadale to build a new village hall. The hall will be the centre of community life for years to come and includes cutting edge energy efficiency measures and an electric charging point. The hall also helped boost the local labour market with the contractor (Norbloc) committing to taking on local people to support the build, including the employment of a local school leaver.

"Crofting communities are scattered by nature and it can be hard to get to know your next door neighbours when you're two fields apart. The new hall is in the centre of our village and will be a place to gather, bringing the community closer together and fostering community spirit."

Caroline Jones, Armadale Village Hall Committee Member

Empowering communities to have capacity and skills to create the services and assets they need is pivotal to the success of the funds. Investing in development trusts is key, with the Achany Community Fund investing £298k in supporting the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust. The support helps ensure the Trust has robust leadership to implement the community action plan and to fund a diverse range of projects, including purchasing the Bonar Bridge Post Office and establishing a community broadband initiative. The Strathy North Community Fund has provided £42k to support the establishment of the Farr North Trust which will implement a range of support and services to the local communities from Melvich to Bettyhill. The investment in trusts is pivotal to attracting other funding to the region and for the creation of jobs.

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Community halls have been improved

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#### PROVIDING COMMUNITY SUPPORT DURING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

The community funds are vital to help during the most challenging times. We have worked to build community resilience and ensure communities have the capacity to deal with extreme weather and unforeseen events. The approach is exemplified in the steps taken by SSE Renewables and the local panels in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

With the outbreak of the pandemic, SSE Renewables' flexible grant funding approach enabled us to make £1m immediately available to support communities, ensuring the funds could be easily accessed by the communities and organisations best placed to deliver a front-line emergency response. Within six weeks, we had granted over £550k to communities and, by the end of September 2020, awards supporting community coronavirus responses totaled around £1.5m.

We took early action when the first national lockdown was announced to contact local panels and community councils to offer 10% of annual funds (£52k in Sutherland) for grassroots community responses. This funding enabled communities like Bettyhill and Helmsdale to provide meals for the elderly and purchase PPE for volunteers and community members.

It became clear to local panels that key local voluntary organisations would be at the heart of the community response. Emergency funding was provided to a range of services including the Bradbury Centre (Creich Croick & Kincardine District Day Care Association) to deliver an enhanced service during lockdown as well as Voluntary Group Sutherland to purchase an industrial spray sanitiser to enable community buildings and minibuses to be safely cleaned between uses.

SSE Renewables recognised the need for extra investment in the Highlands to help the recovery from the pandemic and we doubled the amount awarded from the Sustainable Development Fund to £2m. This helped protect vital Sutherland projects such as safeguarding the provision of Lairg Learning Centre and investing in the Dornoch Hub being developed by Dornoch Area Community Interest Company.

£52k

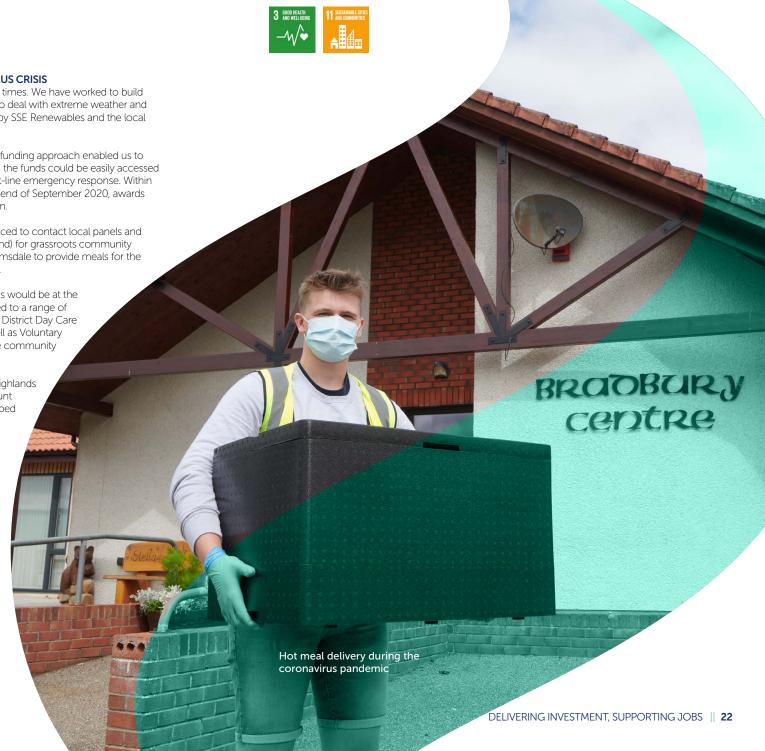
made immediately available to support the community coronavirus response in Sutherland

3,000

face masks provided in **Kyle of Sutherland** 

"The coronavirus pandemic was at a time when people were really concerned how they would manage. The early intervention services from Bradbury were only possible due to the speedy decision of the Achany panel granting the funds."

Lorraine Askew, Bradbury Centre Manager









SSE has published socio-economic reports on a number of its renewable assets. To read more, please go to <a href="mailto:ssecom/sustainability/reporting">ssecom/sustainability/reporting</a>.







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