

SHESKIN SOUTH WIND FARM

Community Report



Ireland
FuturEnergy

sse
Renewables

INTRODUCTION

This report describes the consultation process undertaken by co-development partners SSE Renewables and FuturEnergy Ireland in relation to the proposed Sheskin South Wind Farm. This report will lay out the steps taken by the partner companies to ensure that communities and stakeholders were, and continue to be, consulted, and engaged on the project, throughout its development.

APPROACH TO CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The co-development partners recognize the importance of ensuring that communities in the vicinity of a development are kept fully informed on the project, and its progression. It is also of critical importance to provide communities and stakeholders with avenues to contribute to the development of a project, through the provision of opportunities to review, comment on, and influence proposals where possible. Working in partnership, we aim to deliver a best practice approach to community engagement, upholding the standards set out in the DCCAE's Code of Practice for Wind Energy. During the development phase of the Sheskin South project, the aims of our consultation and engagement approach were to:

- Communicate early
- Communicate openly and honestly
- Provide an opportunity for consultees to have their say
- To listen and understand the views of the communities
- To answer questions
- To identify and understand any local issues that should be considered in the development of the project.

Consultation Guidance

In December 2016, the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment published the Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland, Guidelines for Community Engagement. The key driver behind the Code of Practice was "to ensure that wind energy development in Ireland is undertaken in observance with the best industry practices and with the full engagement of communities around the country".

The co-development partners place a high value on the importance of engaging with the local community in an open, honest and transparent manner and have strived to robustly comply with the fundamentals outlined in the Code of Practice in this respect. The project team have actively sought to engage with the local community throughout the pre-planning phase of the development. This approach has afforded the local community an opportunity to input and have an influence on the final project design.

This Community Report is also produced in line with relevant proposals set out in the draft Wind Energy Guidelines published in December 2019. The draft guidelines propose that planning applications for wind farms should contain a Community Report that outlines how developers have consulted and engaged with the local community regarding the proposed development and how they will work with the local community to allow for the free flow of information between the community and the developer at all stages in the project. The Community Report must also outline steps taken to ensure that the proposed development will be of enduring economic and social benefit to the communities concerned.

Project Resources

In order to implement a robust community engagement, approach the co-development partners have resourced this project with a number of dedicated staff from the outset. The following key personnel have been involved in Community Engagement on the Sheskin South Windfarm Project from within SSE Renewables and Future Energy Ireland.

Tom Coleman - Project Manager

Tom Burke - Community Liaison Officer

Vicky Boden - External Affairs

Emmet McLaughlin - Project Manager, FuturEnergy Ireland

Janine Thomas - Communications & Media Manager, FuturEnergy Ireland.

Context and Consultation Undertaken

The co-development partners are committed to undertaking a comprehensive consultation on all of their development projects. For Sheskin South early consultation coincided with the Covid 19 pandemic, to that end the co-development partners had to re-evaluate the consultation process, to ensure that the community were consulted and still received the same high level of information. Letters and newsletters were issued via post and contact details given for one on one consultations if required.

The co-development partners have undertaken to deliver pre-planning consultation and engagement in three phases:

Phase 1: Introducing the Project

Once the parameters of the project became clear, the co-development partners sought to make members of the local community aware of the project. Our initial approach targeted the following audiences:

- Project neighbours, located within 2km of the proposed site
- Local Political Stakeholders
- Local Community Groups

At all stages of the community engagement process, contact details in the form of a contact phone number and email address for enquiries were distributed including on the leaflets and information brochures. A contact and feedback facility are also included on the project website (details of the website are provided below)

At this phase of the project our approach consisted of introducing ourselves and the proposed development.

In September 2020 SSE Renewables and FuturEnergy Ireland made the first contact with the local community with regard to the potential for development of a renewable energy project in the locality. SSE Renewables and FuturEnergy Ireland notified residents hand delivering a letter to all houses within 2km of the proposed site boundary. This letter was accompanied

by an information leaflet showing outlining the project and location of the proposed renewable development. Appendix 1 & 1a)

All elected local representatives and local community groups were provided with the same information by SSE Renewables and FuturEnergy Ireland explaining the intentions of the applicant. The purpose of this was so that the elected local representatives were aware of the proposed renewable development, should they receive enquiries from their constituents. (Appendix 1 & 1a)

March 2021 a Community Liaison Officer (CLO) was appointed as the point of the contact for the Project and has been engaging with the local community. Contact details for the CLO and Project Manager were provided to all residents with 2km of the site boundary via an introductory letter. (Appendix 2)

In June 2021 a newsletter was delivered to all residents within the 2km area of the project, this newsletter detailed project updates and the next steps that would be undertaken. (Appendix 3)

Also in June an independent project website was created, www.sheskinshouthwindfarm.com the website includes detail on the following: (Appendix 4)

- About SSE Renewables & FuturEnergy Ireland
- About the Project
- Community
- Documents
- Consultation

Contact Details

In July 2021 we wrote to all residents informing them that representatives from SSE Renewables will be in the area on the 9th of August 2021 and to contact us if they wished for us to call with them to discuss the project in accordance with all Covid 19 government guidance. (appendix 5).

Phase 2: Pre Application Consultation Event

The purpose of this consultation event was to inform the wider public of the project, to present the proposed site layout, provide updated information on the project, the benefits of the project and also the availability of community benefit. The co-development partners also wanted to invite feedback from the local community. Six members of the project team attended the event including representatives of SSE Renewables, FuturEnergy Ireland and MKO (the EIAR consultant) and specialists were available to deal with any specific queries from the public. A number of poster boards on topics as outlined below were displayed at the event.(Appendix 6)

Project development Partners	Project Location
About the Project	Turbine Layout Map
Environmental Impact Assessment	Landscape & Visual
Proposed Grid Connection	Traffic Management
Noise & Shadow Flicker	Projected Timeframes
Benefits of the Project	Community Fund
Community Engagement	Meet the team



Information leaflets, supporting the information on the poster boards, were also made available as part of this engagement event. Attendees were invited to take this literature with them from the public information event. The information event was held from 2 – 8pm in Bangor Parish Hall with a total of 16 members of the public in attendance 4 of which filled out a feed back form. (Appendix 7)

The main issues and queries that arose during the event, and which were discussed with attendees by the project representatives, included project location, design, layout and grid .

As part of this public engagement event, a feedback form via a “comment box” was provided seeking comment and suggestions from attendees and asking if they would like to be kept informed of the progress of the proposal.

Advertising and Promotion: In order to ensure that members of the community, and interested stakeholders were aware of the public information event a leaflet was distributed to all homes and businesses within a 2km radius of the proposed Sheskin South Site. The event was also advertised in the Western People (Appendix 8) and on Mid West Radio, the local radio station (Appendix 9) in the weeks preceding the event.

Web presence:

A dedicated project website was established in June 2021 www.sheskinsouthwindfarm.com (Appendix 10) this enabled and supported the outreach being delivered. This website also provided a high-level overview of the project, and hosted a virtual consultation, thus ensuring that those unable to attend the public information event on the day, still had access to the relevant information. The website also included contact details for a member of the project team should any member of the public wish to make contact to comment on the project or request further information.

Phase 3: Ongoing availability and presence

On completion of Phase 1 & 2, the project then transitioned to a quieter period of activity from an engagement perspective. The goal during this phase was to maintain an ongoing presence for the project, and to remain available to members of the public should they wish to make contact. Our approach to Phase 3 consisted of:

- 1) Web presence: The webpage built as part of Phase 1, was maintained on an ongoing basis. As part of this process, project updates were uploaded to the webpage at various stages.
- 2) CLO contact details: Contact details for the project CLO were advertised on the project website. These details included a telephone number and project email address, which was and continues to be monitored during office hours on a daily basis, Monday to Friday.
- 3) Engaging our existing network: SSER has established structures for engagement both formally and informally, with stakeholders and communities living in the immediate vicinity of the proposed windfarm.
- 4) Newsletter issued in February 2023 informing local residents and stakeholders that the Sheskin South Wind Farm will be submitted into planning at the end of February 2023. (appendix 11)

OPPORTUNITIES AND BENEFITS

The Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland stipulates that wind farm developers should identify enduring economic benefit to the communities concerned from the proposed development and should also highlight economic benefits to the communities concerned.

Short Term Economic Benefits

SSE Renewables and FuturEnergy Ireland recognise that our consented projects bring with them many local opportunities through both the construction and operational phases. During construction, it is estimated that at peak construction circa 100-120 jobs will be created. This in turn will have a knock-on effect on the local economy through the supply of services to the workforce. Local businesses will have the opportunity to provide their services, which might include accommodation or the supply of sundries, materials, labour or equipment.

To ensure that local businesses have the best chance of becoming part of the project supply chain, if consented, we will hold a 'Meet the Buyer' event before we begin construction, which will be advertised in the local press. These events allow interested businesses to meet our contractors and to discuss the opportunities that they might benefit from. As with all SSE Renewables and FuturEnergy Ireland developments, there will also be opportunities for local community benefit funding.

Long Term Social and Economic Benefits

Proposed Community Fund Benefits

SSE Renewables and FuturEnergy Ireland strongly believe in playing our part locally by contributing to the social, environmental and economic well-being of communities surrounding our wind farms. One of the most important aspects of developing and operating wind farms is working in partnership with local people to deliver tangible socio-economic benefits. Since 2008, we have awarded over €10 million to community projects in proximity to our wind farms through our Community Fund programmes. We have allocated funding to a range of measures with a focus on energy efficiency, education, sustainability and safety.

Should Sheskin South Wind Farm be consented, it has the potential to provide significant additional investment into community projects that will benefit local residents and businesses. Following the publication of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) and the terms of conditions of the first auction under the scheme, RESS1 took place in 2020 which mandated

all electricity generated projects in receipt of a RESS contract contribute €2/MWhr in community benefit for a period of 15 years. Based on this assumption, it is anticipated that a community fund in the region of €6,000 per megawatt (MW) of installed capacity per annum could be available when the project comes into operation, this equates to approximately €7 million to be available to the local area within the first 15 years of the wind farm.

Council Rates

Additionally, rates payments per annum from the project will contribute substantial funds to Mayo County Council over its lifespan, which will be redirected to the provision of public services within County Mayo. These services include provisions such as road upkeep, fire services, environmental protection, street lighting, footpath maintenance etc. along with other community and cultural support initiatives.

IMPACT OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The level of feedback received during all three phases of engagement on the project has been low. The 4 feedback forms that were filled in were positive comments on the proposal. No requests were received in which stakeholders or members of the local community sought to amend the project design.

CONCLUSION

As co-development partners in the Sheskin South wind farm project, SSE Renewables and FuturEnergy Ireland have carried out an active engagement, consultation and dialogue with the local community from an early stage in the development, and preapplication stage of the Sheskin South Wind Farm Project. The consultation process has been a valuable exercise. The process also enhanced our understanding of the key issues and concerns of the local community, relating to wind farm development, as well as other wider issues impacting the communities. We have also established a network of contacts in the area. This network will be of critical importance, to allow for a partnership approach to develop, if the project is to progress to construction. Through the development of the windfarm, the community benefit package, employment during the construction and operation of the development and also through the annual rates payable to the local authority, we are confident that the proposed Sheskin South Wind Farm will provide an enduring economic and social benefit to the communities surrounding the proposed project.

Appendix 1a



September 2020

Dear Resident,

Proposed Wind Farm at Sheskin South

I hope you are keeping well. I am writing to you from SSE Renewables, and on behalf of our co-development partners, Coillte CGA. I would like to share some information about our companies and some of the works that we are carrying out in your area.

SSE Renewables is Ireland's leading developer, owner and operator of onshore wind farms. Since 2008, we have invested over €2.5 billion in Ireland's sustainable energy infrastructure. We operate 28 onshore wind farms making us the largest generator and provider of renewable energy across the island of Ireland. SSE and Coillte are proud to have contributed over €8.3 million in funding since 2008 to communities close to our wind farms in Ireland. This funding has been able to assist more than 2743 local projects, focused primarily on sustainability, energy efficiency and safety initiatives. The community fund is paid out one year after the windfarm starts producing electricity.

Coillte Renewable Energy also have extensive experience in the design, construction and operation of wind energy developments throughout Ireland and currently have ambitions to develop over 1 gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy over the next ten years.



Together we are exploring the potential to develop a wind farm in your area. The proposed development is made up of 16 turbines with a total installed capacity of 90MW. The enclosed map will provide an indication as to where the project is located. The project is currently at an early feasibility assessment stage.

As part of our feasibility assessments, SSE Renewables and Coillte CGA are currently carrying out environmental survey works at the site.

We are keen to work closely with you and the wider community on this project. Ordinarily, it would be our preference to knock on your door and to introduce ourselves face to face. However, given the current environment, and the HSE guidance on Covid 19, we must change the way that we work, for both your safety and mine. With safety in mind, Our Community Liaison Officer will be in the area in the coming weeks and would really like to meet with you and talk about the project and answer any queries you may have. If you would prefer that I didn't call at your door could you please contact us on 0818 211 500 and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Alternatively, please email clo@sse.com.

Best regards,
SSE Renewables.

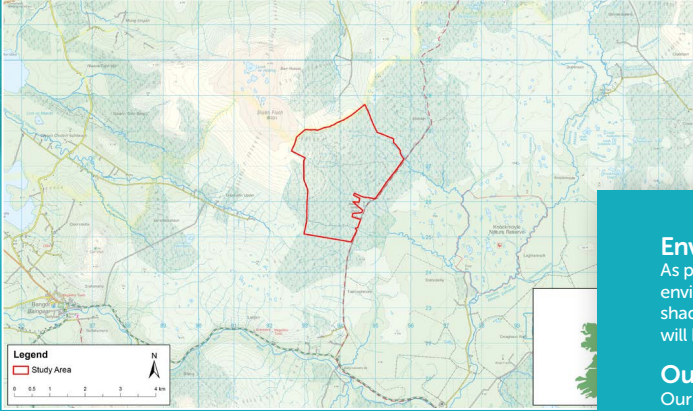
Appendix 1



Sheskin South Wind Farm Proposal

A CO – DEVELOPMENT PROJECT BY
SSE RENEWABLES AND COILLTE CGA

SSE Renewables Ireland and Coillte CGA are jointly exploring the potential for a new renewable wind energy project at Sheskin South in County Mayo.



The proposed Sheskin South Wind Farm Site is located immediately to the south of Slieve Fyagh Mountain at the northern extent of the Nephin Beg Range. The village of Glenamoy and town of Bangor Erris are circa 9km to the North and circa 8 km to the South West respectively. Currently the proposal is for a 90 MW project. This project will be able to power 60,000 homes with clean green energy whilst offsetting approximately 75,000 tonnes of household CO2 emissions per year.

The proposed project is being fully designed to be able to comply with forthcoming updated Wind Energy Guidelines and will have an associated community benefit fund. The co-development partners will also be exploring the possibility of a community investment scheme that will be set out in the Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS).

Environment

As part of development proposals the project will undergo a comprehensive environmental analysis which will cover a range of issues such as ecology, shadow flicker, noise, landscape and visual to name a few. These assessments will be carried out by specialist environmental consultants.

Our Focus

Our commitment is to engage inclusively with all our stakeholders. Through open and early dialogue, we aim to design and build projects that contribute to local sustainable development, while supporting and enhancing a sense of community spirit and solidarity. Together Coillte and SSE Renewables are working to support new, local jobs, contribute to the local economy, while helping to deliver Ireland's ambition to achieve 70% renewable electricity by 2030, as set out in the Climate Action Plan.

Next Steps

- ✓ Continuing Environmental Studies
- ✓ A dedicated Environmental Impact Assessment consultant will be appointed
- ✓ Continuing community engagement to listen and address any concerns

About the developers



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, which was co-developed with project partner Coillte.

Coillte Renewable Energy

Coillte's Renewable Energy business is a business within the Coillte Group. Coillte Renewable Energy are responsible for harnessing the wind energy above Coillte forests. Coillte is currently working toward our aspiration of adding a further 1GW of wind energy generation capacity over the next ten years, driving Ireland's ambition toward 70% renewable electricity by 2030.

Contact us

Please feel free to contact us on:
freephone **0818 211 500** email on **clo@sse.com**

Appendix 2

Sheskin South Wind Farm



12th March 2020

Dear -----

Proposed Wind Farm at Sheskin South

I hope you are keeping well. I am writing to you from SSE Renewables, and on behalf of our co-development partners, Coillte. Following on from the leaflet that was delivered in September 2020 there have been a few developments on site that I would like to share with you.

Firstly, my name is Tom Burke and I have been engaged by SSE Renewables as the Community Liaison Officer for Sheskin South wind farm, and will be your point of contact for any concerns or queries on the proposed development.

Secondly, SSE Renewables and Coillte have engaged the services of consultants MKO to prepare the Environmental Report. You may now see some activity on site and we would like you to be aware that some scoping and other studies for the wind farm is underway.

We are keen to ensure that you will be kept informed of all developments on this project. Ordinarily, it would be our preference to knock on your door and to introduce ourselves face to face to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. However, with current Government restrictions during Covid 19, this is not possible, and we must change the way we work, for both your safety and ours.

In the meantime SSE Renewables are keen to hold a webinar in the coming months to provide you with a forum to hear more about the proposal and to ask any questions you may have. Details of this will be communicated to you nearer the time.

In the meantime If you would like to find out more about this project, please feel free to call me directly, on 086 0421776, or email me on tom.burke@sse.com. I would be happy to give you an over view of the project and do my best to answer any questions that you might have.

I look forward to hearing from you, and hopefully we will meet when these restrictions have lifted.


Best regards,

Tom Burke
Community Liaison Officer
SSE Renewables


Appendix 3


SHESKIN SOUTH WIND FARM

Public Information Leaflet June 2021



Co-development partners, SSE Renewables & Coillte Renewable Energy are jointly exploring the potential for a renewable energy project at Sheskin, Co. Mayo. Whilst this project is at the early development stages, we believe in communicating with our neighbours right from the beginning. Our aim is to develop responsible projects in a way that is good for us, for society and for our neighbours.





OUR FOCUS ON ENGAGEMENT

Our commitment is to engage inclusively with all of our stakeholders, through early and open dialogue. Our aim is to build projects that contribute to local sustainable development, whilst supporting and enhancing a sense of community spirit. Together SSE Renewables and Coillte Renewable Energy are working to support new local jobs, contribute to the local economy, whilst helping to deliver Ireland's ambition to achieve 70% renewable electricity by 2030, as set out in the Climate Action Plan.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In order for members of the local community to be kept informed about the proposed development at Sheskin South Wind Farm, SSE Renewables & Coillte Renewable Energy will arrange a series of online community information sessions and invitations will be circulated in due course.

Our goal is to hold pre-planning Community Information Sessions between mid-late 2021. In addition, we intend to continue to engage on an ongoing basis with the local community regarding the development of the proposed Sheskin South Wind Farm through the following measures, subject to government guidance on COVID 19 measures:

- Door to door calls in the vicinity of the proposed Sheskin South Wind Farm
- Availability of a full time, dedicated Community Liaison Officer
- Dedicated project website www.sheskinsouthwindfarm.com
- Online webinar event (date to be confirmed).
- Regular project newsletters/Leaflets

We welcome any engagement and interaction with you on any aspect of this proposed project.

You can contact us by email at clo@sse.com or call our Community Liaison Officer Tom Burke on 086 0421776

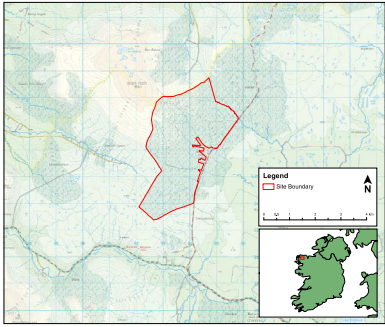
Our postal address:
SSE Renewables, Red Oak South, South County Business Park, Leopardstown, Dublin 18, D18 W688.



SHESKIN SOUTH WIND FARM

The proposed Sheskin South Wind-Farm development site is located approximately 6.7 km northeast of Bangor Emis and 11km south of the Atlantic Coastline and falls entirely within the townland of Sheskin, Co. Mayo. The study area comprises lands predominantly under commercial forestry within Sheskin townland and measures approximately 1,013 hectares. The site is accessible from the south via the N59 and travelling northwards on the L52926 local road and then via a forestry gravel road. The L52926 and forestry road forms part of the Western Way walking trail. The waymarked route of this walking trail follows the eastern boundary of Sheskin South project site, before continuing northeast towards Ballycastle.

In September 2020 we circulated communications introducing both SSE Renewables and Coillte Renewable Energy and spoke of the potential for a new renewable energy project in the area. At this early stage in the project development, the number of turbines and layout is conditional on the completion of technical and ecological studies. However, we commit to keeping you informed as the project progresses and will look for community feedback on all aspects of the project once a design has been developed. This will take the form of community consultation sessions subject to government COVID 19 regulations that are in place at the time, online webinars and feedback forms on the project.



PROJECT UPDATE

McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan (MKO) were appointed by the co-developers in January 2021 to commence the process of investigating the suitability of the site for a potential wind farm project. Since appointment, MKO have undertaken a number of baseline studies as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. Works undertaken to date have included site walkovers, feasibility assessments associated with grid connection routes and assessment of buildable areas.


It is anticipated that the project will include the following:

Main project components:

- Wind Turbines construction
- Hardstand areas and access roads
- On-site 110kV substation and connection to national grid
- Borrow pits and spoil management areas

Off-site project components:

- Turbine component haulage route
- Replacement lands for felled forestry



A constraints study is underway which will allow for the development of a proposed preliminary layout in the coming weeks. Further layout iterations may emerge as we progress through these studies, the Environmental Impact Assessment and the community consultation process.

It is envisaged that the project will exceed a 50MW capacity scale and will therefore likely be considered a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) which requires the planning application to be submitted direct to An Bord Pleanála. A pre-application stage consultation process with An Bord Pleanála will commence in the coming weeks. It is anticipated that further consultation will also be undertaken with Mayo County Council in conjunction with the SID pre-application phase process.

The project will fully comply with the latest wind energy guidelines and we commit to a minimum set back distance from turbines to residential dwellings of 800m, which is in excess of the current requirements of 500m minimum setback under the Wind Energy Guidelines (2006). A community benefit fund will be established which will include both funding for wider community initiatives and a Near Neighbour scheme focused on houses in close proximity to the project. Community Investment opportunities will also be explored as outlined in the governments new Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) and we will keep the community informed as updates become available throughout the development of the project.

NEXT STEPS

1. Our environmental consultants MKO will be active on site over the coming months carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment to determine the site suitability and to further inform the proposed design of Sheskin South Wind Farm.
2. Community engagement led by our Community Liaison Officer (CLO) Tom Burke will continue in the locality sharing information and listening to feedback.
3. Liaisons with planning authorities at An Bord Pleanála and Mayo County Council will commence in June
4. Engagement with a specialist consultant to develop proposals for the inclusion of recreational amenity facilities on the proposed site will commence in the coming months. Examples of such facilities include:
 - Creation of a network of public walkway/cycleways through the wind farm site which could be used as a basis for promoting local tourism.
 - Exploring potential for the connection of these internal walkway/cycleways with existing external amenities in the local area.
 - Enhancing habitats which add to the local and regional biodiversity.

As part of the recreational amenity design process we are seeking ideas from near neighbours, local communities and local community groups on what the design could entail.

Our intention is to develop a recreational proposal with the assistance and input from those living and working in the area who will ultimately use and benefit from any new facilities. The final proposal will be shared with the community prior its inclusion in the final planning submission.

We would like to hear from you how you think this proposal could work best in your area deliver real benefits to the local community and deliver real benefits to the local community. Please contact our CLO or email your thoughts and ideas using the contact information provided.

COMMUNITY FUND

Both SSE Renewables and Coillte Renewable Energy are recognised for delivering award-winning community benefit funds around our wind farms, which aim to deliver a lasting benefit to local communities. Sheskin South Wind Farm will also have a community fund associated with it, and the fund will comply with recent changes in government legislation under the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS). The exact detail of the community benefit scheme is still to be determined, but it is important to us that the community is consulted on what the fund will look like, as well as being involved in the decision-making process. At the appropriate time we will hold consultations events to help shape how the fund will operate and until that time we will keep the community updated on any developments in this area.

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 Ireland's largest wind farm, the 174MW Galway Wind Park, which was also co-developed by our project partner Coillte Renewable Energy.

About Coillte Renewable Energy

Coillte Renewable Energy is a business within the Coillte Group. Coillte Renewable Energy has developed and constructed a number of operational projects, either as 100% Coillte projects or as co-development projects.

Coillte owns and manages almost a million acres of land across Ireland, and the Renewable Energy Business is responsible for developing renewable energy projects on these lands. The stated ambition of the Renewable Energy business is to develop a further 1GW of renewable energy over the next ten years, driving Ireland's ambition to achieve 70% of electricity generation from renewable sources by 2030.


Meet the team



Louise Glennon,
Head of External Affairs,
SSE Renewables Ireland



Emmet McLaughlin,
Project Manager,
Coillte



Shane Liddy,
Project Manager,
SSE Renewables



Tom Burke,
Community Liaison Officer,
SSE Renewables

www.sheskinsouthwindfarm.com

Appendix 4

Sheskin South Wind Farm



Dear Resident

I am writing to you again from SSE Renewables and Coillte Renewable Energy our co-development partner, to give an update on the proposed wind farm in your area, Sheskin South Wind Farm.

As we have communicated over the past year, we are keen to keep you updated on any developments as the proposed project proceeds. Therefore, I was hoping to share some additional information with you about the proposed project, and get your feedback in advance of progressing to a wider public consultation which we intend to hold in the Autumn which will be subject to all government Covid 19 guidance.

Please find enclosed an updated map and proposed turbine layout for Sheskin South Wind Farm. This is only a draft indication of a layout for the wind farm and we would welcome any comments you may have. This will enable us to ensure that your input will be taken on board, as we continue with our design iterations, based on on-going studies by our consultants, and further reviews by the project team, prior to determining the final layout ahead of submitting the project to planning.

Overview of initial proposed turbine layout.

The draft layout for the proposed Sheskin South Wind Farm comprises 21 wind turbines. Apart from the turbines themselves, the other principal components of the wind farm are the hardstand areas and access roads, underground cables between the turbines, borrow pits for the sourcing of stone on site and spoil management areas, an on-site 110kV substation, an underground electrical connection to the national electricity grid and potential recreation or amenity facilities within the site.

The proposed turbines will have a ground to blade tip height of up to 200 meters and it is estimated that the output of the proposed Sheskin South Wind Farm will be approximately 126MW.

We will as previously stated, be holding a wider consultation with the community in the Autumn time, subject to government guidance on Covid 19 measures. However, we feel that as you are closest placed to the project that we would like to give you advance notice of the draft layout so that you can study it at your leisure and contact me if you would like any further information or have any concerns.

If you would like me to call again or if you just want to have a chat about the initial proposed layout please contact me on 086 042 1776 or email me on tom.burke@sse.com.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Burke

Community Liaison Officer

Tom.burke@sse.com

086 042 1776

Appendix 5

Sheskin South Wind Farm



29th July 2021

Dear

I am writing to you again from SSE Renewables, and Coillte Renewable Energy our co-development partner, to give an update on the proposed wind farm in your area, Sheskin South Wind Farm.

As we have communicated over the past year, we are keen to keep you informed of any developments as the proposed project proceeds. Therefore, I would like to share some additional information with you about Sheskin South Wind Farm, and get your feedback, this would be in advance of progressing to a wider public consultation which we intend to hold in the Autumn, this will of course be subject to all Covid 19 guidelines.

My colleague and I will be in the area during the week beginning Monday, 9th August. We would like to meet with you outdoors, to discuss the proposal in further detail. If you do not want to receive a call to your door, please contact me on 086 042 1776 or email me on tom.burke@sse.com and I can brief you over the phone or arrange a more suitable time to meet.










I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Burke

Community Liaison Officer

086 0421776

-  Sheskin South Site Boundary
- Western Way Mayo
-  Western Way Buffer 1x TH Buffer
-  720m Residential Buffer
-  50m Lake & River Buffer
-  Annex I Habitats
-  Environmental Designations Buffer 100m
-  Gas Network Ireland Buffer 2x Hub Height
-  400m NIAH Buffer
-  Other Wind Farms 7x Rotor Diameter Buffer

SHESKIN SOUTH WIND FARM Community Report

Appendix 6

Proposed Grid Connection

An underground grid cable will carry the electricity from the socket substation to an appropriate node on the grid. This will allow the energy generated by the proposed Sheskin South Wind Farm to flow to the national electricity network. It is proposed that, where possible, grid connection infrastructure will be installed within the public road network and in accordance with the Government's Wind Energy Guidelines.

Traffic Management

The site is accessible from the south via the N59 and travelling northwards on the L52926 local road and then via a Coillte forest gravel road. The L52926 forest road forms part of the Western Way walking trail. An internal access track runs through the site.

A Traffic Management Plan will be developed and agreed with Mayo County Council and An Garda Síochána prior to construction commencing on site.

We are considering connection points at the existing Ballinacross substation in our analysis. The final decision on a grid connection point will be based on instructions from EirGrid, the national transmission system operator.



Noise & Shadow Flicker

NOISE

Strict planning guidelines on wind turbines and noise emissions in accordance with the Government's Wind Energy Guidelines exist to ensure the protection of residential amenity in the vicinity of proposed wind farms.

Sources of noise during operation of a wind farm are primarily aerodynamic from the movement of blades through the air and, to a lesser extent, mechanical. Modern wind turbines are designed to minimise mechanical and aerodynamic noise.

The effects of noise are being assessed as part of the ongoing EIA and in consultation with the planning authorities and will comply with the wind farm planning guidelines.

SHADOW FLICKER

Shadow flicker is the name given to a phenomenon caused when the sun is behind the turbine blades as it rises or sets, casting a moving shadow over a small opening in a building such as a window, which creates a flickering effect within the building.

However, proposed updates to the Irish planning regulations will have a zero-tolerance for shadow flicker occurrence, to protect local residential properties. A shadow flicker assessment will be carried out as part of the EIA for the proposed Sheskin South Wind Farm. If these results identify shadow flicker to be possible at a certain point of the day, software will be used to identify the occurrence during operations, and the turbines will be shut down for that period of time, therefore mitigating the effect.

Employing this mitigation measure will ensure that no resident living near the wind farm will experience shadow flicker.

Independent noise consultants are undertaking a noise assessment to consider the impact of the proposed turbines on the surrounding area, in particular on nearby residential properties. A background noise survey has been carried out at a number of locations around the wind farm site, which will allow predicted noise emissions to be simulated based on the existing background noise levels measured combined with proposed turbine noise emissions.

If the proposed wind farm is constructed and built out at Sheskin, noise levels will again be measured during commissioning of the wind farm to verify compliance with the specified limits. In the unlikely event of exceedance of the limits, noise levels will be reduced using the turbines' control systems.



Projected Timeframes

Further site investigations and surveys will be carried out at the site and within the surrounding area over the coming months. The results of these studies and the feedback received during ongoing public consultation will inform the final design layout for the proposed development.

SSE Renewables & Coillte Renewable Energy intend to submit the planning application to An Bord Pleanála (pending determination of the proposal as Strategic Infrastructure Development) in early 2022. The planning application will include:


- Application Forms and Public Notices
- Planning Drawings
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report
- Appropriate Assessment Screening Report
- Natura Impact Statement

Once submitted, all planning application documents and drawings will be available for viewing in the offices of Mayo County Council and An Bord Pleanála. They will also be available on a dedicated project website.

Following lodgement of the application, members of the community will be able to make submissions to An Bord Pleanála during the public consultation period (duration to be specified by An Bord Pleanála - minimum 7 weeks).

Site investigations & surveys	Quarter 4	2021
Public Consultation	November/December	2021
Submission of planning application	Quarter 1	2022
Planning decision expected	Quarter 1	2023
Secure Government support via Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS)	2026 - 2028	
Appoint Contractors	Quarter 1	2028
Construction	Quarter 2	2028
Project Completion	Quarter 2	2030

*Timeline is for indicative purposes and subject to change



Benefits of the Project

Supporting Irish Communities


SSE Renewables and Coillte Renewable Energy strongly believe in playing our part in contributing to the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of the communities surrounding all of our wind farms. One of the most important aspects of developing and operating wind farms is working with local people to deliver real benefits for their communities.

SSE Renewables has awarded more than €9 million since entering the Irish market in 2008 to over 3,200 projects in the communities closest to its wind farms. Galway Wind Park (GWP), which Coillte Renewable Energy and SSE Renewables co-developed, has the largest community fund of its kind in Ireland. The fund awards more than €400,000 annually.

Part of the GWP community fund is a scholarship programme designed to help local students with their college fees and living expenses. The scholarship supports students attending Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) and National University of Ireland (NUI) Galway as well as other educational institutions across the island of Ireland.

Environmental

- Contribute to Ireland's Climate Action target of 80% renewable electricity by 2030.
- Capital Investment of €140 million
- Generate 126 MW of electricity, enough to power approximately 83,000 homes*
- Contribute approximately €700,000 annually in Community Funds
- Contribute substantial rates to the local authority
- Offset approximately 90 million kg of harmful CO2 emissions per annum



Community Fund

As part of the Climate Action Plan, the government has introduced the Renewable Energy 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.

Should the proposed Sheskin Wind Farm be accepted in the RESS process, the fund value will be calculated at a level of €2 per megawatt hour.

This would equate to more than €700,000 per annum over the first 15 years of the wind farm's operational life. However, the final amount of funding will depend on the final installed capacity of the site as well as the actual electricity generated.

The community benefit fund 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. Part of the community benefit fund will be allocated to a Near Neighbour Scheme, which, under RESS 1, requires a minimum payment of €5,000 per annum to all residential properties within 1km of turbines with discretion to increase the amount and to extend up to 2km. A Fund Committee consisting of a number of voluntary 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.

The project team will be engaging with the local community post-planning to inform the governance structure of the Fund and the aims and objectives of the scheme.



Community Engagement

SSE Renewables and Coillte Renewable Energy understand the importance of community engagement at every stage of the proposed Sheskin South Wind Farm project. The proposed development will benefit from participation by the local community and all other interested parties during each stage of the development project. We are keen to keep channels of communication open at all times and are available for you. We can be contacted through the following channels:

Online: www.sheskinsouthwindfarm.com

Email: clo@sse.com

Our Community Liaison Officer: Tom Burke: 086 042 1776


Request for Feedback

We value your feedback during the design process. Should you wish to submit any comments/suggestions on the proposed development, there are a number of avenues available to do so. Consultation is ongoing and we continue to seek your views in the following ways:


- At this exhibition by providing comments via the feedback form
- By email: clo@sse.com
- Via the project website: A feedback questionnaire can also be completed here
- SSE Renewables, Red Oak South, South County Business Park, Leopardstown, Dublin 18, D18 W6B8




Meet the team




Tom Coleman,
Consents Manager,
SSE Renewables




Garry Brides,
Project Manager,
SSE Renewables



Tom Burke,
Community Liaison Officer,
SSE Renewables



Emmet McLaughlin,
Project Manager,
Coillte



SHESKIN SOUTH
WIND FARM

www.sheskinsouthwindfarm.com


Appendix 6

Landscape & Visual


The impact on the surrounding area and landscape is a key consideration in the design of the proposed project at Sheskin.

A landscape and visual impact assessment is being carried out to understand the visual impact of the wind farm on the existing environment.


A Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) drawing has been produced outlining visibility of the turbines in the current draft layout. Photomontages have also been prepared to show what the turbines would look like once operational, from the areas identified in the ZTV as most visible.




Existing view from Doohooma




Viewpoint of proposed development from Doohooma




Existing view from Bangor




Viewpoint of proposed development from Bangor




Landscape & Visual




Existing view from Bellacorick bridge




Viewpoint of proposed development from Bellacorick bridge



Existing view from N59 road



Viewpoint of proposed development from N59 road



Landscape & Visual



Existing view from Carrowmore Lake



Viewpoint of proposed development from Carrowmore Lake



Existing view from Belderg



Viewpoint of proposed development from Belderg



Appendix 7



Dear Resident,

This feedback form seeks to capture your views on Sheskin South Wind Farm, a project being jointly developed in Co. Mayo, by SSE Renewables, and Coillte Renewable Energy.

If you have any comments on the proposed wind farm please don't hesitate to outline them within this document and return them either by email to CLO@SSE.COM or by post to SSE Renewables, Red Oak South County Business Park, Dublin.

Indeed if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us via email at clo@sse.com or by contacting our Community Liaison Officer, Tom Burke on 086 0421776.

Sheskin South Wind Farm Feedback Form

1. Which do you consider yourself to be? Tick the description(s) most relevant to you:

☐ Local resident

☐ Local Business

☐ Community Representative

☐ Political Representative

☐ Other

2. Based on the information provided in our consultation materials, do you have any comments on the proposed Sheskin South Wind Farm?

3. Do you have any comments or suggestions on how the community fund could be allocated in the area?

4. Would you like to join a Community Liaison Group to inform how this fund is invested?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Sheskin South Wind Farm Feedback Form

5. Are you satisfied with the information provided?

☐ Yes ☐ No

6. If yes what did you like, if no, how could we improve?

7. How did you find out about the public consultation?

8. Would you like to be kept informed of the project, if so please enter your contact details below.

Name:


Address:

Email Address:

Telephone Number:

For the purposes of data protection, please note that the only personal data that we hold will be the contact details you will submit on this form. Your details will be stored in a secure manner for the duration of the project or until you request removal of the information. Your details will only be used to contact you in relation to updates on the Sheskin South wind farm project.

If you decide to opt out at any time, your details will be deleted from our systems and you will no longer be contacted with regards to the development of the Sheskin South Wind Farm project.



Appendix 8

SHESKIN SOUTH WIND FARM Public Consultation

Have your say

**28th April 2022 from 2pm - 8pm
at Bangor Erris Parish Hall**

- Further information on the project
- To give your feedback
- Meet the team

Call or email Community Liaison Officer, Tom Burke on 086 0421776 or clo@sse.com



Appendix 9

Radio Advert for Sheskin South

SSE Renewables and FuturEnergy Ireland are developing Sheskin South Wind Farm, in the Sheskin Bangor Erris area, Co. Mayo.

This project has the potential to power 83,000 homes with green renewable energy and provide local support through a community benefit fund.

All are welcome to drop in and find out more about the proposed development, at a face to face consultation event on 28th April in Bangor Erris Parish Hall from 2 -8 pm.

Alternatively for more information, log on to www.sheskinsouthwindfarm.com or call Tom Burke on 086 0421776.

We look forward to seeing you.

Appendix 10



www.sheskinsouthwindfarm.com

Appendix 11

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, which was co-developed with project partner Coillte.

FUTUREENERGY IRELAND

FuturEnergy Ireland is a joint venture company owned on a 50:50 basis by Coillte and ESB that is actively looking to drive Ireland's transition to a low carbon economy. The company's ambition is to develop more than 1GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and make a significant contribution to Ireland's commitment to produce 80% of electricity from renewable sources by the end of the decade.

CONTACT US

Email :- clo@sse.com tom.burke@sse.com
Post : Sheskin South Wind Farm, Red Oak,
South County Business Park, Leopardstown, Dublin
www.sheskinsouthwindfarm.com



SHESKIN SOUTH WIND FARM

Public Information Leaflet
January 2023



SHESKIN SOUTH WIND FARM UPDATE

Further to our public open event held at Bangor Parish Hall in April 2022, SSE Renewables have finalised Sheskin South wind farm layout and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). We are looking to submit an application to An Bord Pleanála in the first quarter of 2023.

Commenting on the application

Sheskin South lands is considered Tier 2 - Open for Consideration which may be considered for wind farms or small clusters of wind turbines.

Consultation with members of the Mayo County Council, An Bord Pleanála and NPWS has helped to shape the design and development of the proposed Sheskin South wind farm.

With results obtained from a wide range of studies and feedback from public and statutory consultees the design of the wind farm has now been finalised to 21 turbines with a maximum height of 200m, blade rotor of 170m and a hub height of 125m.

The application meets the threshold for wind energy set out in the Seventh Schedule of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2022 and is therefore being submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála as a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) in accordance with Section 37E of the Planning and Development Acts 2000, as amended.

The EIAR will accompany the planning application for the proposed development submitted to the Board. The planning application is also accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

If you want to make an observation, you must do this within 6 weeks of the specified period from the date of the notice that will be published by the applicant.



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

SSE Renewables and FuturEnergy Ireland are committed to keeping local residents informed about the Sheskin South Wind Farm proposal. Following on from our public consultation event we will be submitting a detailed community consultation report alongside our Environmental Impact Assessment Report which will be submitted into An Bord Pleanála along with the planning application.

Aside from the application for the wind farm there are two additional planning applications for submission in 2023. Turbine delivery and site access route application and a grid connection application. These will be subject to a separate planning application, they have however been assessed as part of the windfarm Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

Turbine Delivery Route

This is the route that the turbine parts will take in order to arrive at the Sheskin site. The components will be transported from Galway Port and along to the proposed main site entrance.

Grid Connection

It is intended to connect the development to the National Electricity Grid via a 110Kv underground cable which will connect Sheskin South to the existing Bellacorrick substation.

SSE Renewables and FuturEnergy Ireland will host a separate public information event in Bangor Erris to share details for the delivery route and the grid connection applications with the public in advance of any planning submission. We will keep you informed of this as the project progresses.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS OF SHESKIN SOUTH WIND FARM



Contribute to Climate Action Target of 80% renewables by 2030



Capital Investment of €140 million



Generate circa 126MW of electricity, enough to power 83,000 homes



Contribute approximately €700,000 per annum in community benefit funds



Offset approximately 88 million Kg of harmful CO2 emissions.

Once the planning application has been submitted it will be advertised in the local press. You will then have the opportunity to comment formally on the application and details of this will be advertised both locally and online.

FuturEnergy Ireland

