

Community Benefits

We are investing £20bn into the transmission network by 2030 to unlock cleaner, more secure energy



The Opportunity

We are investing £20bn into the transmission network by 2030 to unlock cleaner, more secure energy for homes and businesses for generations to come. Our investment will support an expected 50% increase in electricity demand by 2035 and contribute to the decarbonisation of the electricity network, helping meet UK net zero targets.

Our network in the north of Scotland will play a leading role in the clean energy transition, connecting and transporting renewable electricity from wind, hydro and marine generation. Our Community Benefit Fund will allow a share of the benefits to go directly to those communities that we work in. Our Community Benefit Fund is designed to bring substantial benefits and a positive, lasting legacy through local and regional initiatives across the north of Scotland.

Following a UK Government announcement in November 2023 regarding community benefits from transmission infrastructure, SSEN Transmission anticipates the value of future community funds from our current investment plans to be in excess of £100m. This is subject to finalised Government guidance and approval from Ofgem, and will apply to all new transmission infrastructure projects in Great Britain.



Economic Impact

One of the biggest investment programmes in the north of Scotland for over a century will lead to thousands of jobs across the region. Placing multi-million-pound contracts with the local supply chain will create huge economic value for Scotland. In 2024, we are recruiting another 400 new employees across the north of Scotland. We are working with Local Authorities to create local accommodation solutions and we have committed to develop 200 properties, which upon completion of the transmission infrastructure projects, will provide accommodation for local people, delivering a lasting legacy for our Pathway to 2030 programme.

Our Suppliers

The contractors we work with on our projects will deliver benefits to communities and we will ensure a coordinated, positive impact is achieved. Examples of benefits our contractors can deliver include providing expert staff and materials to help local projects, employing local people, delivering educational programmes and working with schools, creating apprenticeships, creating housing, sponsoring locally important events, and using the services of local businesses.

Our Community Benefit Fund

We have two types of fund open to projects in our network area. Not for profit, constituted groups can apply for funding.

Following an extensive stakeholder consultation exercise in 2023, we will launch our first Community Benefit Fund in 2024 to fund a range of community projects across the north of Scotland.

Our Community Benefit Fund plans involve a local and a wider regional element:



Regional funds

The first £2m round of our regional Community Benefit Fund is open until Friday 22nd November 2024. Funding from £40,000 to £500,000 is available with awards to be made in January 2025. Based on feedback from our public consultation held in 2023, the fund is to be used to provide support for strategic projects in the region and any successful application must meet one or more of the following themes:

- People: Focusing on skills, training and employability;
- Place: Emphasising the community and culture of the north of Scotland; and
- Alleviating fuel poverty: Looking at strategic ways to help people across the region.

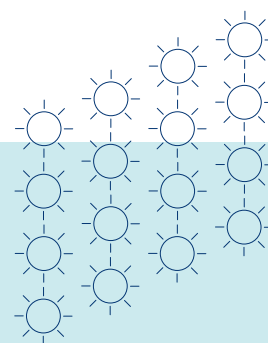
These themes should be reviewed in the context of a strategic fund, with the view of maximising impact to the north of Scotland.

Local funds

Our local funds will launch soon and will be dedicated to communities situated close to our infrastructure. The focus for these funds will be developed through discussions with communities, ensuring that local priorities are supported.

The local funds will be solely for communities who are situated close to new infrastructure. We're working on a delivery strategy for this fund, and more information on how we plan to administer this will be published once determined.

Local communities will be able to apply for both elements of the fund.



More information on our Community Benefit Fund and how to apply can be found at our webpage:

ssen-transmission.co.uk/communitybenefit

Enquiries can be made to: community.benefit@sse.com