



Community Benefits





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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. Economic analysis, which has been independently peer reviewed by BiGGAR Economics, forecast that, if delivered in full, the total investment could support 17,500 jobs in Scotland. We are working with Local Authorities to create local accommodation solutions and we have committed to develop 1,000 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

During each Stage, we undertake a comparative 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

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

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

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 received 328 applications seeking grants from £40,000 to £500,000. We look forward to sharing the outcomes of these first projects over the coming years with further funding rounds opening annually.

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

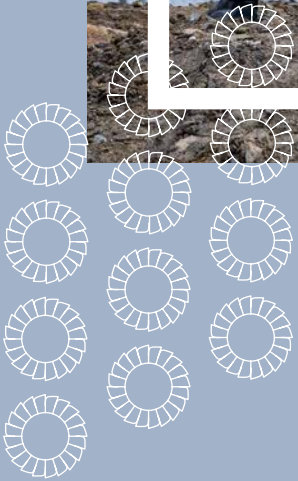
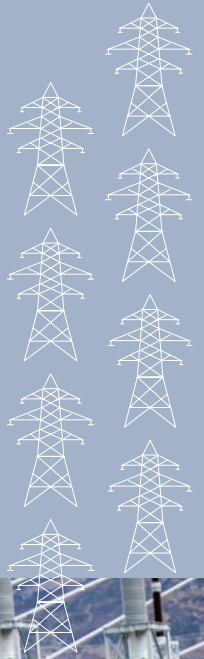
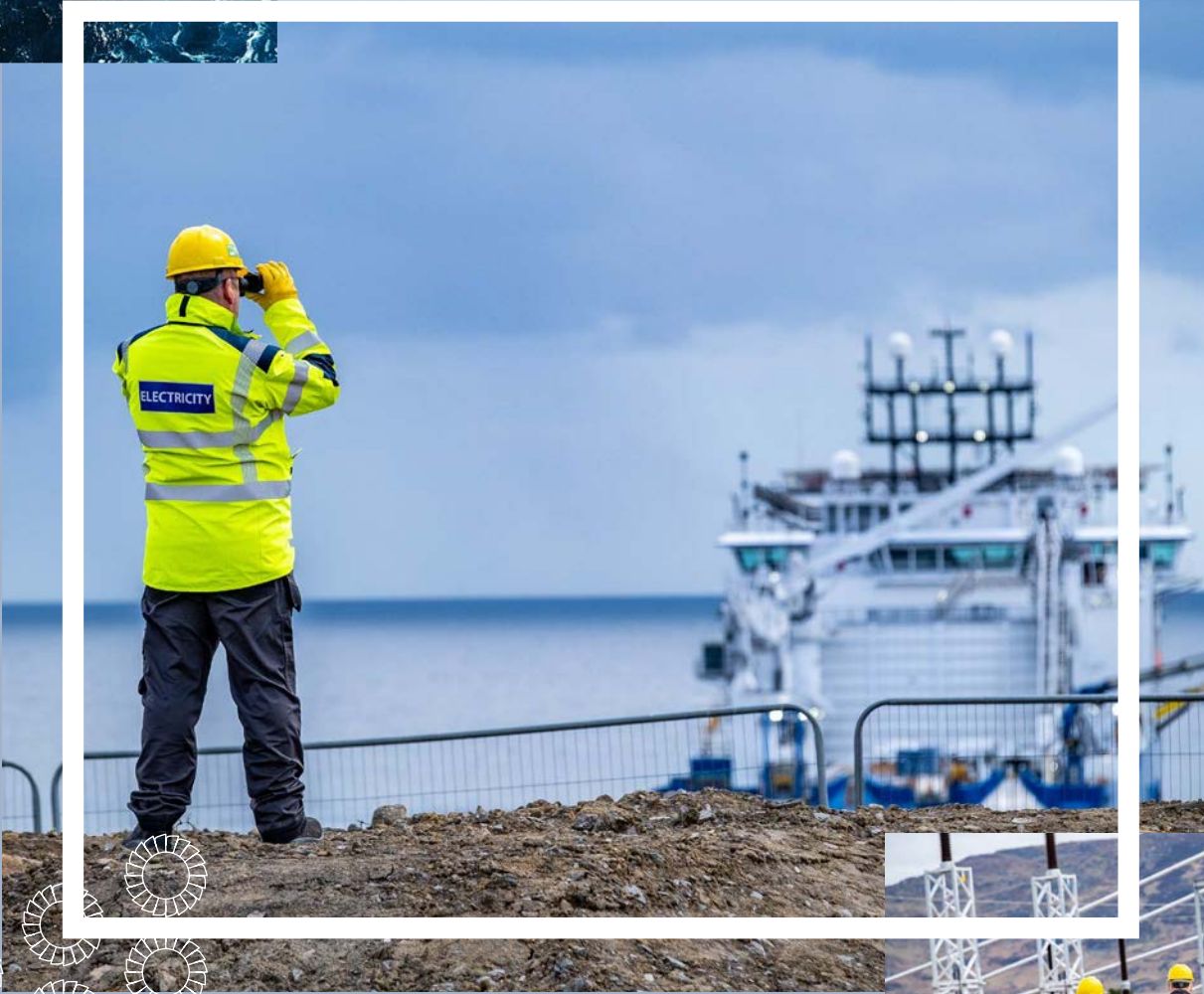
Alleviating fuel poverty: Looking at strategic ways to help people across the region.

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

In anticipation of expected UK Government guidance on Community Benefit funding for electricity transmission infrastructure, we are launching four preliminary local funds connected to projects recently completed or currently under construction. These funds will vary to reflect the different priorities, needs and wishes of the local communities close to the transmission project.

Local Community Benefit Funds are for communities close to transmission infrastructure, and we will work with those communities to design a fund that can have a positive local impact. We will use independent panels to make decisions allocating funding and will support communities to make best use of the funding opportunities.



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