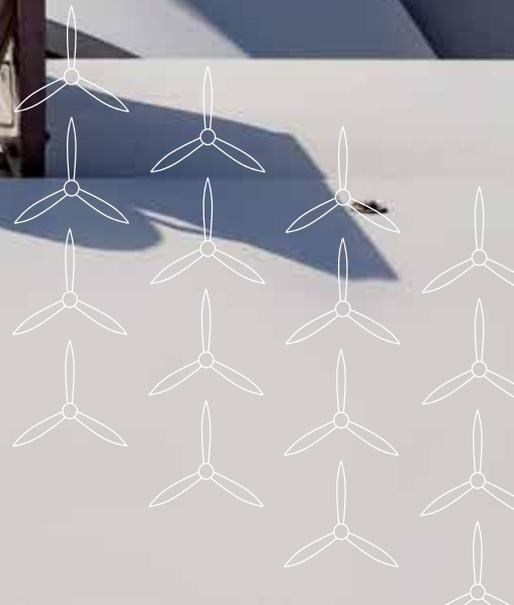


Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Newsletter

Summer 2023



Welcome to the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Summer Newsletter 2023

Recent months have been particularly busy for the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project team. Public consultation events on our offshore infrastructure plans took place in March and April along with a number of briefing events for key stakeholder groups. This consultation provided us with valuable feedback which will be used to refine our plans. We extend thanks to our stakeholders and communities for their meaningful engagement and feedback received throughout the consultation process.

As you may be aware, our project was unsuccessful in securing a contract through the first Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS1). This is just one of a number of mechanisms that offers a route to market for offshore wind energy projects. We priced a realistic and deliverable project for near-term delivery and while we were disappointed with the auction result, we are actively exploring alternative options for a route to market.

Our Arklow Bank 2 project remains an important project in our offshore portfolio and we remain committed to its delivery. We are appreciative of the positive messages and kind sentiments received from the local community, public representatives and the business community. Arklow Bank 2 has a vital role to play in contributing to Ireland's climate action targets, to Ireland's homegrown energy security, and to the national and regional economy – in particular, to the economic wellbeing of County Wicklow and North Wexford. It is heartening to have such high levels of community support pledged for the project over past weeks and a clear message that the region is supportive of our goal of securing an alternative route to market and delivering the project.

With a Maritime Area Consent and planning permission already secured for the onshore grid infrastructure and operations and maintenance facility, the project is mature, viable, and well-positioned to deliver as part of the Government's 5GW offshore wind target for 2030. SSE Renewables remains committed to its delivery and to moving ahead with our offshore planning application for submission to An Bord Pleanála later this year.

We completed ground investigation works at the onshore substation location at Avoca River Park, at landfall, and along the onshore cable route in late April and May. Further ground investigations are

planned throughout the summer offshore, to support the engineering design development of the project; another example of SSE Renewables commitment to the delivery of the project.

Our commitment to local communities continues through our Sponsorship and Fisheries Funds. We launched the first of its kind climate and sustainability programme 'Our Classroom Climate' into Ireland in April, to benefit a number of primary schools close to our site. Additionally, our volunteer mentors across Ireland the UK, concluded a second year of the Business in the Community Ireland Student Mentoring Programme with a number of sixth year students in Glenart College. As mentors, we were particularly proud to see the students receive their certificates at the National Mentoring Celebration. As always, our Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 Sponsorship Fund continues to support projects, initiatives, and activities in local communities.

In May, we announced our support for Wicklow Sailing Club in the delivery of yet another eagerly anticipated Round Ireland Sailing Event. Due to commence in June next year, the SSE Renewables Round Ireland 2024 race of some 705 nautical miles will see local, national and international vessels start and complete the race from Wicklow Town. The benefits to the sailing industry and to local tourism should prove noteworthy.

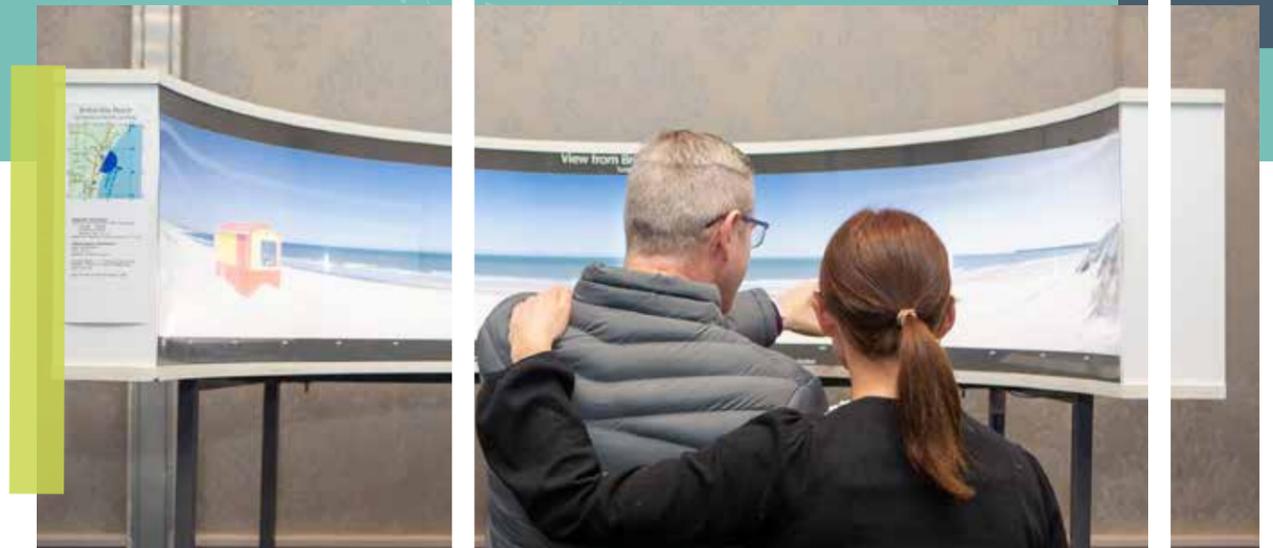
In the coming months, we will endeavour to keep you updated through our newsletters, website updates and other relevant notifications. As we prepare to compile our Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), our scoping report, available on our website www.sserenewables.com/arklowbankphase2 will provide stakeholders with information on the proposed development and allow for stakeholder engagement on the key topics to be addressed in the EIAR e.g., baseline data sources and assessment methodologies.

As the heady days of summer fast approach, we hope to meet you at some of the local upcoming events. Our Project team's work to deliver Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 for our communities continues at pace.

Kind regards

Deirdre Keogh

Community Engagement Manager



Constructive Engagement with Local Communities at recent Public Consultations

Public consultation is key to understanding the views of stakeholders and local communities. Public consultation on our offshore infrastructure was the third consultation undertaken on the project to date, and specifically aimed at seeking public opinion and feedback on our offshore infrastructure plans and proposals.

The consultation opened on March 13th. We undertook an extensive media campaign leading up to and during the public consultation in press, radio, social media and an outdoor promotional campaign which included admobile presence at the Arklow and Wicklow Town St Patrick's Day Parades.

We held in-person events in Arklow, Wicklow Town, and Courtown, Co. Wexford, where we had the opportunity to meet with communities, appraise on our offshore plans and proposals, listen to feedback and answer questions.

A virtual exhibition on the project was live on our website throughout the consultation and remained open for feedback until 14th April.

We held a public webinar on 5th April where we shared information on our project's progress, our future plans and sought to address issues and questions raised through a live Q&A session.

We circulated postal packs, issued outreach emails, and held a number of stakeholder briefings including briefings/meetings with the Southeast Coastal Protection Alliance (SEPCA), Wicklow County Council and Arklow and Wicklow Chambers of Commerce. We also maintained a presence in local press relating to other initiatives and projects we have, and are supporting, through the SSE Renewables Sponsorship Fund.

John O'Sullivan, Project Manager said: "Our team has been engaging with local communities over the past five years with this being our third public consultation on the Arklow project. The in-person events provided us with the opportunity to discuss our offshore plans face-to-face, listen and answer questions from the public. I would like to thank everyone who attended our consultation events and provided feedback during the period of the consultation. The events, both virtual and in-person, facilitated meaningful engagement with local communities and provided useful information and feedback for the team".

Indicators from the feedback returned demonstrated strong support for the project. Our photomontages and 3-D simulation tool of the turbine site were particularly well received by the public. Feedback gathered from our outreach activities will inform our upcoming planning submission for the offshore element of the project.



Marian O'Regan and Marc Walshe (SSE Renewables) pictured at the Wicklow Town public consultation event



James Kehoe chats to Turloch and Patricia Bracken on SSE Renewables' offshore project plans at the public consultation event in the Arklow Bay Conference & Leisure Hotel



Members of the Arklow Project team pictured with local residents at our public consultation event in Courtown Sailing Club



Arklow & District Chamber of Commerce President Paul Lynch pictured with SSE Renewables team members Deborah Coleman, Kaj Christiansen and Deirdre Keogh at the April Chamber meeting

Anchoring down in the Seafarers' Memorial Garden, South Dock, Arklow

Thirty years ago, a few miles south-east of the Arklow Bank 2 offshore development site, a trawler made an unusual catch! An anchor, the size and type used by the many small sailing vessels that plied their trade in and out of Arklow in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was recovered. For close to three decades, it was held in a Wexford garden until recently, when the anchor was purchased and gifted to the people of Arklow by SSE Renewables.

Jim Rees said: "Throughout the 1800s, schooners, brigs, barques and ketches sailed in and out on almost every tide. Arklow Maritime Museum has a wonderful collection of artefacts and memorabilia telling the story of these wonderful vessels and those who sailed them. Now, the recovered anchor will add to that story, but not in the museum. Instead, its new home is the Seafarers' Memorial Garden at Arklow South Dock". Jim acknowledged the efforts made by SSE Renewables Fisheries Liaison Officer, Brendan Dillon, who sought to bring the anchor back to Arklow over the past few years.

The Memorial Garden first opened over 20 years ago to commemorate all who had lost their lives to the sea. It boasted several statues including the helmsman at the wheel, the young boy sailing his model boat, and a statue of a woman and her two children waiting to welcome her husband home. The helmsman and the boy remain in situ, but regrettably, the statue of the woman and her children was stolen only weeks after the opening. Their place is now filled again with this recovered anchor.

Wicklow County Council kindly agreed to have the anchor mounted in the Seafarers' Memorial Garden, next to the SSE Renewables operation and maintenance facility site. The Council agreed to take on the responsibility for its future safety and maintenance. We, at SSE Renewables are grateful for the Council's support.



Brendan Dillon and Deirdre Keogh, SSE Renewables, pictured with local historian Jim Rees, marking the installation of the anchor gifted by SSE Renewables and installed at the Seafarers' Memorial Garden, South Dock, Arklow.

New Maritime Consent Regime is essential to the future success of the Offshore Wind Industry

At the Wind Energy Ireland Conference in May, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, announced that the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) will be established on 17 July 2023.

MARA's establishment marks the transition to the new maritime consenting regime and will be a key enabler towards achieving Ireland's ambitions for the offshore renewable energy sector. This new agency will have responsibility for assessing applications for Maritime Area Consents and for granting licenses for certain activities in the maritime area. Ms Laura Brien, currently Chief Executive of the Health Insurance Authority, will take up the position as Chief Executive Officer of MARA.

SSE Renewables' Maria Ryan, Director of Offshore Development, in her speech at the Wind Energy Ireland Conference, reaffirmed SSE's commitment to the Arklow Bank 2 Project noting how essential MARA's role will be to the future success of the offshore wind industry. She remarked on the need to "ensure sufficient resources are in place across planning and consenting to support projects to go through the process, in a fair and thorough manner, but at pace." She also called for stepping-stone targets to set a path out to the country's 2050 renewables target of 37GW.



Maria Ryan, Director of Offshore Development, SSE Renewables, pictured with Noel Cuniffe, CEO, Wind Energy Ireland, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien and Justin Moran, Director of External Affairs, Wind Energy Ireland, at the Wind Energy Ireland Conference, May 2023

Onshore Site Investigations

SSE Renewables commenced onshore site investigations in May at the 220kV substation site, along the export cable route and at the landfall in Johnstown North. The onshore investigations are an important next step in the development of the Arklow Bank Wind Park 2 project, informing the project refinement process and ultimately, further reducing project risk. We are grateful to the businesses and domestic residents for their ongoing valued co-operation during these investigative works.

Offshore Campaigns

We have mobilised on our offshore development site area to gather data to inform the design development of the project. The campaigns are expected to take approximately six weeks. A Marine Notice (No. 37) for the site investigation activities has been published by the Department of Transport and is available on the Department's website at www.gov.ie/en/collection/01258-marine-notice-2023/. Our Fisheries Liaison Officer, Brendan Dillon is available should you need to get in touch.



Niall Mulvihill, David Niven and Sean Barron, members of the SSE Renewables team onsite at the landfall at Johnstown North, Arklow



Our Ongoing Commitment to Schools



Schools represented at the 'Our Classroom Climate' launch included: St John's Senior National School, Arklow; Réalt na Mara National School, Brittas Bay; The Glebe National School, Wicklow Town and Scoil Ghormáin Naofa, Castletown, Co. Wexford.

SSE Renewables backs primary schools with launch of climate change education programme 'Our Classroom Climate' into Ireland

To celebrate World Earth Day 2023, SSE Renewables collaborated with Wicklow-based EnviroSafe Ireland and Welsh-based Our Classroom Climate (OCC), to launch a climate and sustainability pilot programme for primary schools.

Launched in the Arklow Bay Conference & Leisure Hotel, Arklow, Co. Wicklow on 19th April, the programme, which is approved by University College Dublin and Cardiff University, is the first of its kind to be introduced into Ireland.

The programme includes:

- Downloadable digital lessons
- A climate measuring device and dashboard to record results
- A science kit with over 80 experiments (including DIY algal bioreactor for carbon capture) which students can safely use under the supervision of their teacher.

Schools represented at the launch included: St John's Senior National School, Arklow; Réalt na Mara National School, Brittas Bay; The Glebe National School, Wicklow Town and Scoil Ghormáin Naofa, Castletown, Co. Wexford. Students at the event had the opportunity to undertake carbon capture experiments with Dr Iwan Palmer and Dr Elke Rink, Celtic Advanced Life Science Innovation Network (CALIN).

Launching the 'Our Classroom Climate' programme involved considerable planning with our partners. The programme aligns with SSE Renewables' vision and strategy to promote sustainability through championing education and training activities and programmes in communities close to our development sites like Arklow Bank Wind Park 2.

By funding programme resources, we hope to encourage and support children's learning about the environment, climate, and how they can make a positive difference both individually and collectively, to a greener and more sustainable future. Once the pilot concludes, we hope to offer the programme to other schools in the community and eventually expand to other areas near our sites.

Mark Douglas, Founder, OCC, commented: "We are delighted to be introducing Our Classroom Climate into schools in Ireland. We have been working with leading educators and scientists to produce a climate change education programme, www.our-classroom-climate.com, that not only raises awareness, but also shows schools, pupils, and parents that we can have a hugely positive affect on our local climate, starting in the classroom.

Our climate monitors that each school receive will not only produce live air quality data but will allow schools to share their climate dashboards with any other schools. Ultimately, this will create a network of climate aware schools and pupils across Ireland, UK and the world.

The launch in Arklow was funded by SSE Renewables as part of its social value proposition. As a leading renewable energy company, this sends out a powerful and positive message about the need to educate the next generation on climate, air quality, and renewable energy solutions. We would also like to thank our official partner EnviroSafe Ireland, along with University College Dublin for their support in bringing this unique schools' offering to schools and look forward to the project extending to other schools in Ireland".



Henri Rolland and Kaylin Kinsella, Scoil Ghormáin Naofa, Castletown, Co. Wexford capturing carbon with Dr Iwan Palmer at the 'Our Classroom Climate' launch event in the Arklow Bay Conference & Leisure Hotel



Pictured at the Arklow Bay Hotel are pupils Alex Holt-O'Brien, St John's Senior National School, William Molloy, Scoil Ghormáin Naofa, Castletown, Kimmy McCall, Glebe National School and Lucy Kilcoyne, Scoil Mhuire Réalt na Mara, Brittas Bay, with Senator Pat Casey, Deirdre Keogh, SSE Renewables, Mark Douglas, OCC and Dr Iwan Palmer of CALIN Cardiff.

Glenart College and SSE Renewables complete a second year of the Business in the Community Ireland Student Mentoring Programme

For a number of sixth year students in Glenart College, the benefits gained from having undertaken the Business in the Community Ireland Student Mentoring Programme should serve them well as they prepare for the future world of work having benefitted from the support and advice of volunteer mentors from SSE Renewables across Ireland and the UK.

This year marked the second year of SSE Renewables involvement in the Student Mentoring Programme run in collaboration with Glenart College, Arklow, and Business in the Community Ireland. The programme, delivered in one-to-one monthly sessions over the course of the academic year, is designed to facilitate personalised sessions covering topics such as: goal setting, career investigation, CV and interview skills' preparation. Sessional content is drawn from a suite of Business in the Community Ireland approved resources and student soft skills and resilience-building are encouraged throughout.

This year was particularly noteworthy with students from Glenart specifically acknowledged at the Business in the Community Ireland National Mentoring Celebration held in the Grand Masonic Lodge, Molesworth Street, Dublin. Deirdre Keogh, Community Engagement Manager, SSE Renewables, gave the address on behalf of all mentor organisations participating in the national programme. Nationally, 265 students and mentors have participated in the programme this year, with 2,279 students and 2,109 mentors having participated to date. Currently, there are 26 student mentoring programmes running across the country.

Glenart College students on the programme included: Ailbhe Rowlands, Sarah Keeley, Ross Burke Murphy, Zachary Du Preez, Leah Walker Moore, Adam Higgins, Kade Van de Vyuer, Daniel Therkelsen and Alannah Doyle. Mentors from SSE Renewables included: Deborah Coleman, Rob Sheldon, Aoibhín Flanagan, Hugh Connell, Ann Fahy, John O'Sullivan, Richard Irving, Aaron Henry and Deirdre Keogh.

As a company, we benefitted hugely from our association with Business in the Community and our partner school Glenart College. The mentoring programme aligns well with SSE Renewables' commitment to support education and training in communities near our development sites like Arklow. It gives us a chance to give something back as a company and most importantly, our support helps contribute to talent and skills development for young people and a collective better future for all.

We wish to acknowledge our particular thanks to Niall Walsh, teacher and Programme Co-ordinator in Glenart College, and Ms Alison Norman, Regional Co-ordinator, Business in the Community Ireland, both of whom were hugely supportive in making this year's programme such a success for students and mentors alike.

Finally, on behalf of our mentors, it was a pleasure to be involved with the programme and mentor such bright, earnest, and ambitious students. We wish our mentee students and all those sitting state examinations, every success.

SSE Renewables Sponsorship Fund supports Arklow Sea Scouts youth programme with the purchase of a new RS Toura Vessel

Sea scout groups from the county gathered for a day of competition and fun – a perfect day to take the new RS Toura vessel out onto the glistening water at the Cove on South Beach. Arklow Sea Scouts purchased two new RS Toura vessels, one supported through the SSE Renewables Arklow Bank Sponsorship Fund and the second, through a Government Sports' Capital grant. SSE Renewables supported Arklow Sea Scouts in its purchase of the vessel to facilitate youth scouting and maritime training activities.

Laura Coey, Arklow Sea Scouts said, "The entire scouting group in Arklow and the wider scouting community are very grateful to SSE Renewables. They have provided our group with the opportunity to expand our water activities for not only our youth members, but for the wider scouting community also. The same week that the RS Toura arrived, our scouts gave 191 beavers and many of their leaders from all over county Wicklow, their very first sailing experience. The new Toura is a total game changer for us, allowing us to coach all scouts from zero to competent levels. Prior to SSE Renewables' support, we weren't in the position to have this progression system in the group".

Deirdre Keogh, Community Engagement Manager, said, "SSE Renewables' sponsorship of the RS Toura vessel will benefit not only Arklow Sea Scouts in developing an appreciation for scouting and safe maritime leisure activities, but also other members who visit Arklow and make use of the new vessel. We are very grateful for the chance to support this initiative. We similarly want to extend our thanks to those who tirelessly volunteer to support local youth activities and those who participate in weekly beach clean-ups".

Deirdre Keogh, Community Engagement Manager, SSE Renewables, with Sean Cassidy, Ivo Kazimirs (Arklow Sea Scouts) and members of the Avoca and Kilcoole Scouts at the Cove, South Beach, Arklow



Glenart College students pictured with SSE Renewables mentors Deborah Coleman, Hugh Connell and Deirdre Keogh at the National Mentoring Celebration where students involved in the programme around the country received their certificates



SSE Renewables Supporting Communities through our Sponsorship Fund

Initiatives, groups, and clubs across our communities in Arklow, Wicklow Town and Courtown, Co. Wexford, continue to benefit from the support provided through the SSE Renewables Sponsorship Fund.

Our most recently confirmed sponsorships include support through the Fund for:

- Arklow Sailing Club
- Arklow Tidy Towns
- Abbey Lane Medieval Mural Project, Arklow Town Team
- Arklow Writers' Group publication in aid of Arklow RNLI
- Arklow Lawn Tennis Club
- Avoca Tidy Towns
- Arklow Community Action Resource Centre
- St Vincent de Paul, Arklow
- Wicklow & District Lions Club

To request an application please email deirdre.keogh@sse.com



Deirdre Keogh, SSE Renewables pictured at a meeting of the Arklow Active Retirement Association. The Sponsorship Fund supported the Association with a donation towards its 'Friday Club' meetings and information sessions



Peter O' Connor, Enda Kavanagh, Juile Sammiller and Murt O'Sullivan with Deirdre Keogh, SSE Renewables, at the Kilanerin-Ballyfad Community Development Association's Centre. SSE Renewables supported the Centre with funding towards the installation of PV solar panels



Pictured at the Harbour to Headwaters Project official launch at the Maritime Museum are Donal O'Keefe, Local Authority Waters Programme, Deirdre Keogh, Cllr Peir Leonard, and Sarah Rubalcava, Rubalcava Heritage Services. SSE Renewables supported the project with design costs for the public information boards to promote the project.



Deirdre Keogh pictured with Philip O Donovan, Training Officer, Stefano Copolla, Snorkelling Officer and Glen Brennan, PRO, Wicklow Sub Aqua Club, Wicklow Town. SSE Renewables Sponsorship Fund supported upgrades at the Club's storage facility



Steve Blout, Wicklow Swimming Club, pictured with Deirdre Keogh. The SSE Renewables' Sponsorship Fund supported the replacement of a number of marker buoys to help with water-based activities and events



Sean Olohan, Maurice Corr (Lions Club President), Geraldine Mooney and Jim Molloy pictured with Deirdre Keogh, SSE Renewables, at the charity golf classic in June held in Blainroe Golf Club. SSE Renewables supported the event with a charitable donation to Wicklow & District Lions Club.

SSE Renewables sponsors Round Ireland Yacht Race 2024

The start date for the biennial SSE Renewables Round Ireland Yacht Race was recently announced by SSE Renewables and Wicklow Sailing Club. The 705 nautical mile race around the island will start from Wicklow on Saturday 22nd June 2024.

The 2024 edition of the race marks the 22nd running of Ireland's premier offshore sailing event and the continued title sponsorship of the race by SSE Renewables. The race will offer both competition and personal achievements for boat owners and crews alike and has been described as the 'Kilimanjaro of Sailing' for its bucket-list appeal.

The SSE Renewables Round Ireland Race is the pinnacle of the ISORA (Irish Sea Offshore Racing Association) series and is the second longest race in the Royal Ocean Racing Club calendar while also alternating with the Rolex Fastnet Race.

The race is also a calendar event of France's National Offshore Racing Union (UNCL) and Classe 40 series.

The 2022 edition saw 52 entries despite being the first event to take place in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic. Large crowds were drawn to Wicklow Town for the race and festival with a significant economic benefit for the local community.

"With the support of SSE Renewables once more, our ambition has increased, and we hope to reach upwards of 70 entries for the 2024 race," commented Karen Kissane, Commodore of Wicklow Sailing Club. "With Kyran O'Grady, who has competed on several occasions himself, taking on the role of Race Director, we are in safe hands".

SSE Renewables is delighted to continue to support Wicklow Sailing Club in the delivery of yet another eagerly anticipated Round Ireland sailing event," said Barry Kilcline, Head of Offshore (Ireland) for SSE Renewables. "We're looking forward to building on the success of our involvement in last year's sporting spectacle and local festival event by extending the excitement associated with the Round Ireland not just throughout Wicklow but amongst sailing communities all around the island. In this way, our sponsorship of the Round Ireland is an ideal fit as we continue to advance our pipeline of offshore wind projects off Ireland's east, south and west coasts."

The Notice of Race for the SSE Renewables Round Ireland Yacht Race 2024 will be published on 31st July 2023 and the competition will officially open for entries on 8th January 2024.

Announcing the date of the SSE Renewables Round Ireland Race 2024 were (left to right) Kyran O'Grady, Race Director SSE Round Ireland Race 2024, Karen Kissane, Commodore, Wicklow Sailing Club, and Barry Kilcline, Head of Offshore (Ireland) for SSE Renewables





Team Building in Tinahely

Members of the SSE Renewables Arklow Bank Project team pictured following a day of team building events at The Orchard Centre, Killaveney, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow.

Contact Us

Our Fisheries Liaison Officer Brendan Dillon and myself, as Community Engagement Manager, would be delighted to hear from you with any suggestions for future newsletters or queries you may have in relation to the project.

Thank you for your continued support and looking forward to meeting you at our upcoming public consultation.



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Get in touch by post!

If you would like to send us a letter or post your public consultation feedback form to us, mark the envelope for the attention of Deirdre Keogh, Community Engagement Manager, Arklow Bank Wind Park and send it to:

SSE Renewables, South County Business Park, Red Oak South, Leopardstown, Dublin 18, D18 W688