

Yellow River Wind Farm

Spring 2024
Newsletter



About Yellow River Wind Farm

Yellow River Wind Farm is a 29-turbine wind farm currently under construction in Rhode, Co. Offaly. The project received planning permission in 2014 and in November 2022 SSE Renewables commenced the construction process of the wind farm.

When completed, the wind farm will produce enough clean green energy to power around 66,000 homes annually. The team in SSE Renewables would like to take the opportunity to extend their thanks to the local community for their patience during the construction of the wind farm.



About SSE Renewables

SSE Renewables is one of Ireland's leading developers of onshore wind farms, operating one of the country's largest wind farms, Galway Wind Park.

Headquartered in Ireland and the UK, with a growing presence internationally, SSE Renewables' strategy is to lead the transition to a net zero future through the world-class development, construction and operation of cleaner power assets across a diverse mix of renewable technologies. SSE Renewables is investing around €8bn to 2027, or almost €4.5m a day on average, to support the delivery of SSE's Net Zero Acceleration Programme to address climate change head on. This includes plans to increase installed renewable energy capacity to around 9GW by 2027.



Thanking the Community

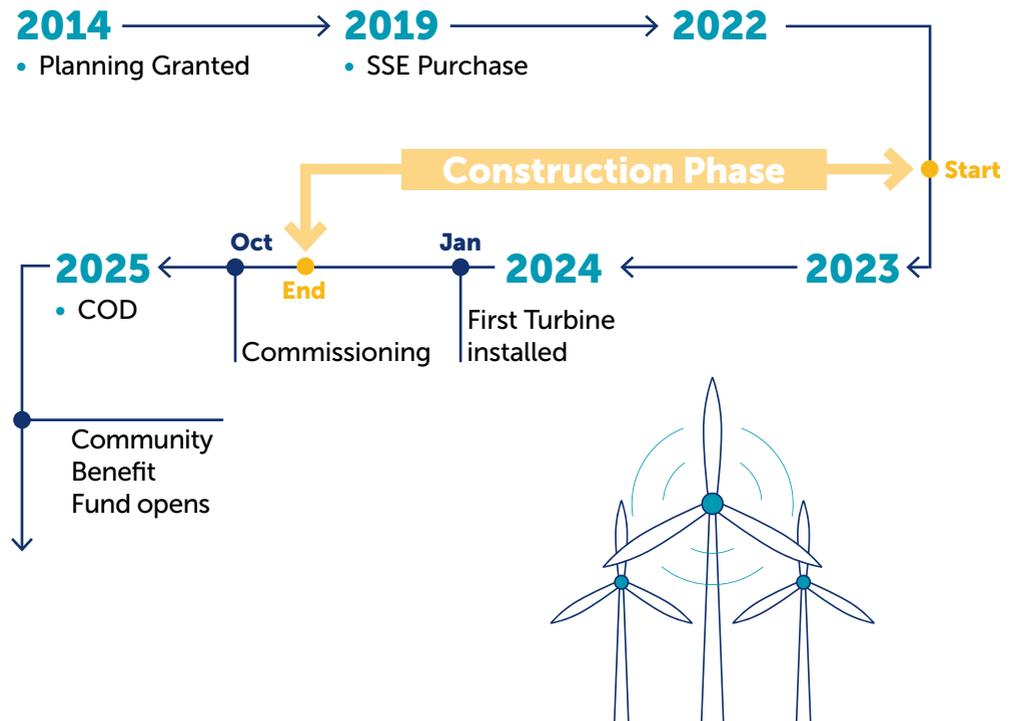
"After what has been a busy period of turbine deliveries and construction activity in Rhode, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of myself and the rest of the Yellow River Wind Farm project team to thank the community for all their patience and their support over the past several months. The majority of turbine components have now been delivered, with the last deliveries expected in May. Thank you again for your patience at this time."

Paul Rodgers
Project Manager

Benefits of the Project

-  101MW of clean green energy
-  Investment in local economies and communities
-  66,000 homes powered
-  150 jobs created at peak of construction period
-  Contributing to Ireland's Climate Action Target of 80% renewable electricity by 2030
-  Substantial Community Benefit Fund
-  Offset almost 70 million Kg of harmful CO2 emissions
-  Construction Fund supporting over 40 local causes to date

Project Timeline





Project Updates

Civils Construction Work

The civils works which commenced in November 2022 are being undertaken by Farrans Construction. The works which include the turbine foundations, hardstands, access tracks and cabling have progressed well and are approaching completion. Reinstatement and landscaping works will continue until the end of the summer.



Substation Under Construction

Substation Building Works

The substation is located at Rhode Green Energy Park and construction is being undertaken by Suir Engineering. The substation buildings have now been completed, and the electrical installation and commissioning is underway. External civils work, which include fencing and landscaping, are also progressing. The main transformer is expected to be delivered to site in April which will be an important milestone on the project. The main transformer converts low-voltage electricity coming from the wind turbines into high-voltage electricity that the national grid can use. Works have also commenced on the grid cable ducting and cabling which will transport energy from the substation to the national grid.

Wind Turbine Installation

Wind turbine components from Nordex Group began to be delivered to site at the end of November last year from Galway Port and the final components are expected to be delivered in May. Deliveries are made in the early hours of the morning to avoid disruption to the local community. The team have been making very good progress, with a major milestone being achieved in mid-January with the first turbine being fully installed.

As of 22 March, 10 of the 29 total turbines have been installed. We expect to have the final turbine installed by the end of the Summer.



Turbine Blades Arriving



First Turbine Installed



In the Community

Road Safety for Schools



With the darker days in winter, as well as an increased number of people and vehicles on the road during construction of the wind farm, our project team created a presentation which was shared with Rhode and Ballybryan national schools in February. Teachers in the schools were able to deliver this presentation to their students, providing

practical tips on how to stay safe on local roads on their way to and from school, and beyond. We are happy to share this presentation with anyone else who would find it useful.

Please email our CLO Richard Whelan if you would like a copy.



Construction Fund

St. Patricks Day at Rhode

SSE Renewables has allocated a Construction Fund to invest in and support local causes while the wind farm is being constructed. The objective of this fund is to give back to the community the wind farm will operate in in a meaningful way. SSE Renewables has sponsored over 40 projects and initiatives since construction began in 2022, including sponsoring the 2024 Rhode St. Patrick's Day parade which was a fantastic day that we are proud to have supported.



We also provided funding to a number of other great local groups over the past few months including:

Funding iPads for Rhode Primary School



Sponsoring Rhode Ladies GAA kits

New Applications

If your group or charitable organisation would like to apply for funding please contact our **Community Liaison Officer Richard Whelan** at Richard.whelan@sse.com who will advise on next steps.

All applications received will be reviewed on a regular basis and the team at SSE Renewables will let you know whether your application has been successful.



Providing water heater thermostats for the community creche.

Community Benefit Fund

The Yellow River Wind Farm will deliver a substantial Community Benefit Fund to local communities.

The process of establishing a Community Benefit Fund Committee, which will be the decision-making body for the fund, will be completed by the end of April 2024. The first function of the Committee will be to help shape the funding strategy which will outline how the fund will be invested in the local community.

To help shape and guide the Funding Strategy a comprehensive survey has been live since the 27th November 2023 and will close on the **30th of April 2024**. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage all local community groups and residents to complete the survey so that we can capture your views on how the funding from Yellow River Wind Farm is best spent to benefit the local area. The survey can be completed by scanning the QR code or following the link below.

We invite you to have your say. Please follow the link <https://forms.office.com/e/TmS8dNWETy> or scan the QR code and it will bring you to the survey



Thanks to all of you who have already completed the survey and signed up as Community Champions. All those who have registered to be kept informed about the Community Benefit Fund will be given the opportunity to have an input into the funding strategy before it is published. If you haven't already, please register for updates by scanning the QR code or following the link below.



<https://forms.office.com/e/X5CdttfeUk>

Meet the Team



Paul Rodgers
Project Manager



Richard Whelan
Community Liaison
Officer (CLO)



Shane Reynolds
Land Liaison
Officer



Eda Martin
External Relations
Manager

If you would like to get in touch with us please contact our CLO Richard by emailing Richard.whelan@sse.com