Welcome to SSE’s Community Investment Review 2014/15

Sharing value
Understanding SSE’s funding programme, the community perspective and an overview of 2014/15.

Making a difference
Take a closer look at some of this year’s funding success stories and the people behind them.

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Positive impact
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Foreword
Like the hydro-electric power stations that are dotted around the country, sensitively positioned wind farms should contribute to the social, environmental and economic wellbeing of people throughout the UK. One of the most important social impacts associated with wind energy is the provision of wind farm funds. These funds share the value of generating electricity from wind with local communities. SSE has been providing these funds for more than a decade. Over these years the funds have grown in numbers, status and impact, and now, SSE provides funding to communities through 25 funds in Great Britain, the vast majority of which are in Scotland.

In 2014, SSE published its first annual review of its wind farm funds, showing exactly how each pound was spent. We did that because the funds have reached a scale that, we believe, deserves greater transparency. Publishing the detail of the funds is important for two reasons.

The first is to highlight the excellent funding decisions made by community panels and trusts and the impact they are making. It makes us, at SSE, very proud to see the hundreds of different projects across the country that are being supported by our wind farms. The second reason is to inspire communities to develop new projects by showing the kinds of innovative ideas being realised in other areas. Funding of this scale can energise, reinvigorate and transform communities and we are very conscious we have a duty to create the conditions whereby communities can make the most of that opportunity.

So, building on our first report last year, the 2014/15 report further demonstrates the scale and diversity of community development in the areas and regions around SSE wind farms. From enterprising projects that support young apprentices in some of our most remote communities to energy solutions for affordable housing, it is clear to me that local people are making good judgments and we are making their communities more sustainable places to live and visit.

SSE is a company for the long-term and we like to think we remain rooted in the communities we work, live and serve. A commitment has been made to support people who live near our wind farms for the 25 year life of the turbines. The annual review – and the ones that will follow – simply demonstrates our intent to make sure those funds have the best possible impact they can. And by doing so, we help to share the value of renewable energy and support healthy, active and vibrant communities.

Rachel McEwen
Director of Sustainability
Sharing value

Our commitment

SSE seeks to be a responsible developer of renewable energy. That means we must consider carefully the social and environmental impacts of every project before proceeding to develop. It also means we make sure local communities share in the economic value that is created. One of the best ways to do that is by providing funds for community benefit.

SSE’s onshore wind farms and hydro-electric stations now support 25 grant-making community funds across Great Britain. Since 2002, we’ve committed over £139 million and supported more than 5,000 local projects. These funds are long-term sources of finance which will see communities benefit over the lifetime of each development, usually 25 years. In providing funding, we seek to enable local regeneration through community-led economic, social and environmental development.

We’re proud to help communities grow and build strong foundations for the future. To this end, we’ve set out five clear commitments for the way we manage our funds.

1 Keep it simple

We make the grant making process as straightforward as possible and look to remove some of the barriers which may hinder community development. There’s no need to over complicate things and hinder community development. There’s no need to over complicate these things and remove some of the barriers which may

2 Work together

We believe a strong partnership between a funder and the community means effective collaboration and, ultimately, a fund that works for everyone.

SSE takes an active role in fund administration, working with each panel or trust directly. We are committed to local decision-making, empowering communities to support the projects that matter most to them. We hope that by taking a hands-on role, we can effect real change and build greater trust with communities. A key part of this involves maintaining consistent and open communication with the whole community.

3 Listen hard

Our Community Investment team regularly meets local groups to hear their thoughts and aspirations. While we’re always at the end of the phone to chat through any issues, it’s often most effective to meet face-to-face to discuss project ideas. By working as an active partner in this way, we can develop a breadth of local knowledge to inform and improve our grant-making.

We listen hard to the changing needs of local people and adapt our grant-making processes in response. We’re also piloting peer reviews of our funds and regular funding surgeries to ensure we’re meeting expectations. We’re also having conversations about community co-investment in our developments to further share the value of our projects with local communities.

4 Be flexible

Each of SSE’s funds has a 25 year lifespan – we’re in this for the long haul. To create effective long-term partnerships with communities, we have to be flexible when it comes to individual community priorities. Although consistency is important, we understand that a ‘one size fits all’ approach is not always the best option and that the needs of a community can change significantly over time. Our approach is to work with communities to find the best model and agree to review it on a regular basis.

Our core focus will always be an open grant-making fund, but we’re also speaking with communities to pilot a range of initiatives within our fund structure that deliver targeted benefit to individuals, such as fuel poverty prevention and energy efficiency schemes.

5 Create a legacy

We hope that in the coming years our grant-making programme will continue to evolve and change for the better. The word ‘legacy’ is often debated but we believe that true and lasting legacy comes from implementing real change that makes a long-lasting difference to people’s lives. We encourage communities to think big and hope that initiatives such as community ownership, apprenticeship schemes and setting up endowment funds will go some way to meeting this aim.

We’re also piloting small grants for rural micro businesses and believe this new venture could bring unique opportunities for local economies in our areas of development. With planned investment of over £200 million over the next 25 years, it’s exciting to see where the funds will go next.

How we calculate a fund

A 50MW onshore wind farm provides:

- Total annual value – £250,000 (£5,000 per megawatt of installed capacity x 50)
- £125,000 (50%) per year ring-fenced for local community fund
- £125,000 (50%) per year allocated to regional Sustainable Development Fund

Our funding process

At an early stage and separate to the planning process, we share our community investment policy with the local wind farm liaison group.

Once a project receives planning consent, we consult with local stakeholders to agree the area of benefit and fund delivery arrangements.

We work with the local community to either set up a decision-making panel or enter into agreement with a nominated community organisation, such as a development trust.

On the start of major construction, we organise a fund launch event and invite initial applications.

Applications undergo an assessment. Funding decisions are made by the panel or trust at meetings throughout the year.

A final evaluation report is submitted by the applicant on the project and its outcomes.
Working together

The success of our funding programme relies on local decision makers who volunteer their time to award grants in their local area. They are responsible for helping hundreds of projects come to fruition every year and their passion, hard work and commitment is invaluable.

"After years of attending countless meetings about the wind farm, I was keen to discover how things were going to work out and if this project was going to produce the community benefits we had hoped for. I am very happy to say our hopes have been more than realised and I have great pride for the way we as a community have been respected, treated and considered.

In just a year, the fund has already worked wonders in our North Sutherland community. As well as those local businesses, shops, hotels, and bed and breakfast establishments which were busy all winter during the construction of the wind farm, the fund itself has enabled many of our village halls to upgrade their buildings and facilities and our clubs to renew equipment. The swimming pool, MUGA pitch, football, clubs and local schools have all been supported. Not to mention the fencing and cattle grids which surround our township.

With the help of SSE, we look forward to planning what is best for our communities in future years so that a lasting benefit may be established in this very fragile part of the world where perhaps we were either overlooked or forgotten before."

Janette Mackay
Chair of Strathy and Armadale Community Council

"As an elected member on the panel I take real pride in discussing and approving the applications that come into the committee. We are a diverse group from all walks of life and when we come together the decisions we make are for the greater good of the community which gives me a real feel good factor.

"Our community could never dream of receiving this much secure investment over such a long period of time from any other source. I am so pleased that the panel is not made up of folk in an office in the big city that have no idea about our area or struggles, but made up of people who have the knowledge and understanding to make the right decisions."

Emma Montgomery
Strathly North Panel

The number of local decision makers we work with across our community panels and trusts

192

1,680

The number of local decision makers every year

"The funding we receive from SSE has made a real difference to our community. It allows us to operate a grant scheme that benefits all community groups and has helped us secure employment of three community caretakers. Lately, we started a joint apprenticeship scheme with neighbouring trusts and have created six apprenticeships in 18 months."

Linda Whiteside
Chair of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company

"Helping to disburse the community fund in its first year has been a hugely rewarding experience for our fragile community has never before had access to anything resembling it under local control. I am confident that the community will rise to the opportunities offered and maximise the usefulness of the fund in the years to come."

Jen A. Johnston
Secretary of Bettyhill, Strathnaver and Altnahara Community Council

"I've been on the panel for three years and have enjoyed seeing our communities' money support a wide range of projects. It feels good to support applications which have a meaningful legacy. We often make suggestions which ensure the fund goes further and lasts longer.

It is a privilege and a pleasure to chair this dedicated and ethnic group of representatives from the five local community councils involved as we reach for our second million pound milestone of approved awards. It is certainly rewarding to play a vital part in this long-term partnership with SSE."

Alistair Rennie
Fairburn Panel

"It is a privilege and a pleasure to chair the dedicated and ethnic group of representatives from the five local community councils involved as we reach for our second million pound milestone of approved awards. It is certainly rewarding to play a vital part in this long-term partnership with SSE."

Douglas Craik
Chairperson, Griffin and Calliachar Panel

"In my role at SSE, I’ve worked with many communities across the country and have seen the amount of time and effort which has gone into the funding by both the panel members and the applicants alike. I greatly admire their dedication and enthusiasm. It’s clear how much each community genuinely cares about what happens in their area."

Ciara Wilson
Community Funds Manager at SSE

"In my role at SSE, I’ve worked with many communities across the country and have seen the amount of time and effort which has gone into the funding by both the panel members and the applicants alike. I greatly admire their dedication and enthusiasm. It’s clear how much each community genuinely cares about what happens in their area."

Glenmoriston Community Company

"The success of our funding programme relies on local decision makers who volunteer their time to award grants in their local area. They are responsible for helping hundreds of projects come to fruition every year and their passion, hard work and commitment is invaluable.

From Orkney to Essex, every community we work with is unique, with its own priorities and aspirations for development. By listening to the views of local experts, we can best ensure that the right projects are supported and that the fund meets the needs of the wider community both now, and in the long-term."

"Working together

Sharing value

is invaluable.

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04 SSE Community Investment Review 2014/15

05
Funder’s Report 2014/15

It’s been a year of progress for the SSE community investment programme, with a growing number of funds, a diverse range of awards and some exciting new ideas taking shape.

We have worked with community panels and trusts across our 25 community funds to make almost £3 million in grant awards to 414 projects. This includes the first awards from Strathy North wind farm on the north coast of Sutherland, and important funding milestones for our Clyde and Drumderg funds, which reached a total spend of £2 million and £500,000 respectively.

£24m

Total value of the projects supported by our funds in 2014/15

With a total project value of over £24 million, some eight times the value of our grants, it’s encouraging to see the impact our contribution is having to support funding from other sources.

Given reduced opportunities for public funding, it is also no surprise that our average demand across our funds in 2014/15 was 147% – with our regional sustainable development funds the most popular, attracting £5 in application value for every £1 available.

A long-term view

Many of our funds have been active for a number of years now. In these cases, communities have begun to recognise the need for more targeted, coordinated community development in order to make the most of their funding.

Fund panels at Gordonbush and Achany undertook reviews of their fund objectives, looking to focus on long-term projects that will leave a legacy, and several funds have investigated the potential to save beyond the 25-year period with investment in an endowment fund.

Our panels and trusts awarded over £152,000 in training positions directly supported through the endowment fund. It’s clear that opportunities for local jobs are a priority, particularly in rural areas, with over £100,000 invested in apprenticeship schemes alone.

Making the difference

It’s also the case that small grants often have a big impact. 84% of our awards this year were for grants up to £10,000. A £200 micro grant for the local toddler group or £5,000 to support a young apprentice, while lower in value, can make a big difference where it matters most.

Major strategic projects have also played their part this year, with some key awards which will provide a real and lasting legacy for the future. The Ericht Trust was awarded £40,000 towards a community buy out of a disused school in Blairgowrie for redevelopment as a community cinema and venue. The children of Crawford in South Lanarkshire were successful in their bid for a much-needed play park which was granted £148,000. And in Highland Perthshire, a major high speed broadband project was given a £50,000 boost to train and employ local technicians.

Another key theme which emerged in 2014/15 was rural self-sufficiency during times of severe weather. A difficult winter prompted a number of communities to set up local resilience initiatives and we received requests for equipment such as snow ploughs, cold weather kits and hand held radios. It was fantastic to see communities taking the initiative in this way and a total of £48,000 was awarded to emergency community teams across the country.

147%

Average demand across our funds in 2014/15

Regional development

The regional funds have brought a new dynamic to our funding programme by creating opportunities for strategic initiatives with the potential to affect wider community development in the long-term. During 2014/15, two new regional funds were launched in the Scottish Borders and Perth and Kinross. The independent panel awarded 18 projects across the two funds a total of £372,122. Our Highland Sustainable Development Fund will reopen in October 2015, and with a budget of £1 million, we look forward to helping many more major projects get off the ground.

Skills and employment

Learn how community-led initiatives are helping to create jobs and start careers.

Education and youth development

Take a look at the community projects that are helping young people learn and develop.

Culture, heritage and tourism

Find out how our funding is building vibrant communities and developing strong visitor economies.

Sport and recreation

Discover how community funds can help develop and maintain local sporting infrastructure.

Environment and conservation

See the initiatives that are cutting carbon and protecting the local environment.

Community facilities and services

Read our success stories of revitalised local amenities and services.

It’s been a year of progress for the SSE community investment programme, with a growing number of funds, a diverse range of awards and some exciting new ideas taking shape.

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Making a difference
Skills and employment

Enterprising opportunities

One of the most rewarding outcomes of the funds is the ability to create new opportunities for learning, training and employment; so important in ensuring the long-term survival of fragile rural economies.

Over £177,000 was invested in training, jobs and apprenticeships in 2014/15. Many of the grants for skills and training were directed at helping young people prepare for the world of work; from SQA employability awards to bike mechanic certificates – these initiatives provide invaluable life skills and qualifications to help participants reach positive destinations.

Cairngorms Skills Project
Highland Sustainable Development Fund
£57,000 awarded April 2014

More than 40 young people across the Highlands can now benefit from support to enter careers in construction or forestry related industries.

In remote rural areas that often lack training and employment opportunities, young people can often be restricted to seasonal or low-skilled work. The Cairngorms Skills Project, led by the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust, is being expanded across the whole Highland region and will help 14 young people each year for the next three years, with their applications to study construction or forestry related courses at college. The Trust provides support such as training and transport costs, and also arranges local work placements.

"The project has helped me excel in my college studies and also gain practical experience. The funding has made things a lot easier and without this support I would struggle to be where I am now."

Heather Coyle
HNC Forestry trainee

Cairngorms Skills Project
Highland Sustainable Development Fund
£57,000 awarded April 2014

The Bike Station
Griffin and Callaichar
£20,000 awarded December 2014

The afterschool ‘build your own bike’ course gives 30 young trainees the opportunity to gain bicycle mechanic skills.

The sessions, held at Breadalbane Academy, involve 24 young people being peer mentored by six previous graduates of the course. The mentors work towards Silver Velotech standards, whilst supporting the trainees to achieve Bronze Velotech certificates – recognised vocational qualifications. The trainees work on donated bikes which are sold when completed, with income reinvested back into the project. The course helps young people remain engaged with education, building their self-esteem and equipping them with practical skills which can lead them into fulfilling careers.

"The project has helped me excel in my college studies and also gain practical experience. The funding has made things a lot easier and without this support I would struggle to be where I am now."

Heather Coyle
HNC Forestry trainee

"The training programme reaches young people who have fewer opportunities due to their rural location and helps them to develop in positive ways."

Mark Sinclair
The Bike Station

Community Trusts
Apprenticeship Scheme
Highland Sustainable Development Fund
£87,250 awarded April 2014

Three community organisations in the Great Glen are working together to offer apprenticeships to 14 local young people over the next three years.

The Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company (FAGCC), Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust and Glenarry Trust work to identify young people looking for apprenticeships and place them with local businesses that would otherwise not be able to employ an apprentice. In an area with few employment opportunities, the scheme gives young people the chance to live and work in the local area. The award to FAGCC has allowed the groups to expand the number of apprenticeships on offer to local young people. Four of the placements will be specifically for over 19s, for whom it’s more difficult to access funding.

Ben Armitage, an apprentice with the scheme, is training on the job at The Lock Inn towards SVQ3 in Professional Cookery.

"I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity to learn and gain experience at the same time. It has spurred me on to follow a career in catering."

Ben Armitage
Apprentice at The Lock Inn
Robust facilities and services form part of the fabric of communities so it’s no surprise that nearly half of our grants were awarded to improving and enhancing these provisions in 2014/15.

Over £1.2 million was invested in establishing new facilities and developing existing services this year. From rural development to supporting the elderly and the vulnerable, the diversity of projects is testament to the strong sense of community that exists in our areas of development.

Making a difference
Community facilities and services

**Strong foundations**

**Allt Beag Market Garden**

**Strathy North**

£6,860 awarded May 2014

The Allt Beag Armadale Trust is redeveloping the Allt Beag Croft into a market garden for community use.

The Allt Beag Croft, situated in a stunning location overlooking Armadale Beach in North Sutherland, was lying vacant for many years until the Trust purchased it in 2002. With the help of local volunteers, the Trust has redeveloped the site to make it productive once again. The award allowed the group to purchase a polytunnel to increase productivity of the garden and protect crops from the wild elements of the north coast.

They were also able to buy a shed to safely store equipment for the garden. The fruit and vegetables grown will be sold, with profits made reinvested into the project.

“The shed and polytunnel are helping us achieve our long-term objective – producing locally grown fruit and vegetables for sale in the community.”

Margaret Mackay
Allt Beag Armadale Trust

**Helmsdale Dementia Activity Programme**

**Gordonbush**

£5,000 awarded September 2014

Helmsdale and District Community Association (HDCA) runs weekly activities for people in rural East Sutherland living with dementia.

An active social life is important for people living with dementia, helping them to maintain their independence and stay in their own homes for as long as possible. The award allowed HDCA, working with service provider Engaging with Activity, to deliver this invaluable work to support vulnerable individuals. Weekly activities include Tai Chi, crafts and cookery classes. Participating in these activities helps individuals with dementia improve their self-esteem and reduces isolation.

While most of the service users suffer from dementia, activities also cater for users with learning difficulties and mobility diseases.

**Food Train**

**Clyde Dumfries and Galloway**

£11,500 awarded September 2014

The Food Train provides a grocery shopping delivery service for elderly members of the community in Dumfries and Galloway who are unable to go to the shops themselves.

The charity aims to support people aged 65 and over to maintain their independence and stay in their own homes for as long as possible. To achieve this, it undertakes various initiatives including a grocery shopping delivery service, household support service and more recently a befriending service helping those experiencing isolation and loneliness.

The service is delivered by local volunteers, some of whom have been involved for 10 years since the project began in 1995. The award has allowed the Food Train to purchase an additional delivery vehicle for their grocery service, enabling volunteers to make deliveries to even more elderly people.

“The addition of the new van to our delivery fleet will enable us to continue to provide this vital and much needed service to support even more elderly people in the local area.”

Helen McAnespie
Food Train
Making a difference
Culture, heritage and tourism

Vibrant communities

A rich cultural, artistic and social calendar is vital to encourage community spirit and to bolster the visitor economy. Some unique projects are telling the story of their local heritage this year.

Comrie’s interesting military connections have been brought to light again with the redevelopment of 10 Nissen huts into self catering accommodation at Cultybraggan Camp, and the mining history of Leadhills in South Lanarkshire has been given a new musical platform in the reforming of its silver band. In 2014/15, over 65 community events and festivals also received grants.

Comrie Development Trust

Perth and Kinross Sustainable Development Fund
£36,350 awarded March 2015

Visitors to Comrie in Perthshire will be able to enjoy the unique experience of staying the night at an ex-Prisoner of War camp.

Cultybraggan Camp is the last remaining WWII high security POW camp in the UK. Owned by the Comrie Development Trust on behalf of the community, the 90 acre camp provides space for allotments, community groups, events and recreation. The camp is a significant employer in the area, housing 18 businesses and providing around 50 full-time equivalent jobs.

The Trust now has exciting new plans to turn 10 of the 80 Nissen huts on site, which housed the prisoners, into self catering accommodation. The award will allow the huts to be connected to a biomass boiler, which will provide the heat they need without contributing to climate change.

"The one-of-a-kind accommodation will encourage more visitors to Cultybraggan to learn about the camp’s heritage. Connecting the huts to the biomass boiler has the added bonus of reducing CO₂ emissions significantly.”

Naomi Clarke
Comrie Development Trust

Leadhills Silver Band

Clyde South Lanarkshire
£23,174 awarded April 2014

Until recently, the Leadhills Silver Band had been playing on instruments that were over 100 years old.

Originally a miners band, Leadhills Silver Band was disbanded when the mines shut. After discovering the original brass instruments were lying disused in storage, a small group of local residents reformed the band in 2010. Thanks to the award, they now have a new set of instruments, allowing the old ones to finally be retired. As brass instruments are expensive, the new equipment means the band can be fully inclusive and give all members the opportunity to play. The group performs regularly at community events, greatly enjoyed by the older members of the community who are delighted by the rekindling of the band.

“Having decent instruments has made an enormous difference. As well as sounding better, we have been able to plan a larger concert outside the village, which wouldn’t have been possible before.”

Teresa Brasier
Leadhills Silver Band

Aberfeldy Farmers’ Market

Griffin and Calliachar
£12,000 awarded December 2014

Last year the Aberfeldy Farmers’ Market showcased the very best of Perthshire’s larder.

Run by the Aberfeldy Small Business Association (ASBA), the monthly market has already made a name for itself, attracting some of the best small retailers in Perthshire and allowing locals and visitors to purchase directly from producers. For the first time, shops in the town are opening on a Sunday to take advantage of the visitors drawn to the market during the summer months. The award, being delivered over three years, is allowing ASBA to develop the market into a self-funding event that will increase visitor footfall in Aberfeldy, benefitting local businesses.

“The market has been embraced by visitors and locals alike, enhancing the shopping experience and supporting local businesses through increased footfall.”

Jenny Langrish
Aberfeldy Small Business Association

“The one-of-a-kind accommodation will encourage more visitors to Cultybraggan to learn about the camp’s heritage. Connecting the huts to the biomass boiler has the added bonus of reducing CO₂ emissions significantly.”

Naomi Clarke
Comrie Development Trust
Making a difference  
**Education and youth development**

**Thriving youth**

With around £426,000 invested in projects that support a younger demographic in 2014/15, it’s clear that encouraging the next generation continues to be a key priority across our funds.

Younger members of the community are often at the heart of these projects, from designing a dream play park, to writing letters of support, and carrying out local fundraising. Their enthusiasm is the driving force behind many of the applications we receive.

**Bananas Playgroup**

*Clyde Borders*  
£2,812 awarded in April 2014 and March 2015

Children at Bananas Playgroup in the Scottish Borders are getting messy with their new ‘mud kitchen’ and play shelter.

The mud kitchen was installed earlier this year in the playgroup’s garden at Broughton Primary School, with an award of £822. The kitchen consists of wooden units and cooking equipment, letting the children learn and explore the outdoors in a creative way. The group was also awarded a grant of £1,990 from the fund last year for an outdoor play shelter, meaning the children can enjoy daily outdoor singing and dancing sessions. The garden area is now well equipped for outdoor learning, which is a vital part of a child’s development.

“It’s amazing to see the children running around and enjoying the new play park equipment.”

*Julie Reed*  
Friends of Ealand Park

**Friends of Ealand Park**

*Keadby*  
£20,000 awarded April 2014

Toddlers in Ealand can now enjoy a brand new play park thanks to one of the largest awards from the Keadby fund to date.

Ealand Park provides the only outdoor play and leisure venue in the village, without which local children would have to travel almost two miles to the nearest park. Friends of Ealand Park, set up by three determined teenagers, has updated the toddler playground which now includes swings, a tornado spinning dish and a pirate ship. The new toddler area offers the children a fully equipped, safe play space within easy walking distance from their homes.

**The Young Karers**

*East Sutherland (TYKES)*

*Gordonbush*  
£4,320 awarded September 2014

TYKES supports young carers in East Sutherland, offering a drop in service where they can socialise and take part in activities.

The group was established in 1999 when research highlighted that 4% of young people in the area were caring for a family member with little extended support. The Gordonbush community fund keenly backs the group’s work and has previously supported the project with an award of £4,000 towards the costs of employing a sessional worker.

This year’s award will allow the group to provide trips for young carers, including daily outings and three overnight respite stays. Young people with caring responsibilities can often experience feelings of isolation through the role that they undertake at home. Respite breaks allow them to develop social skills, make friends who share the same burdens and understand that they are not alone. But most importantly, it gives them the chance to be a child.

“TYKES helped me to realise I’m not alone as a young carer. If I’ve had a bad day at school, I know I can go to TYKES and just chill out.”

*Alyson MacKay*  
TYKES club member
Making a difference

Sport and recreation

Loch Achonachie Anglers Club

Fairburn
£10,000 awarded August 2014

Loch Achonachie Anglers Club has purchased new boats and engines to improve the fishing experience for members and visitors.

The club controls salmon and wild brown trout fishing on various lochs and rivers in the Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon areas in Ross-shire. Until recently, it was using old, unreliable plastic boats and outboard engines that no longer met EU emission regulations. The purchase of three new aluminium ‘unsinkable’ boats and four new engines means members and visitors can fish on the waters in a secure and enjoyable environment. The new equipment will make the experience safer, allowing them to attract younger members and also help the club to promote the area as a fishing tourism destination.

Stephen Dowds
Loch Achonachie Anglers Club

Loch Achonachie Anglers Club

North Coast Leisure Centre

Strathy North
£15,000 awarded December 2014

Children in North Sutherland are able to gain valuable life skills through the swimming and mobility classes held at the North Coast Leisure Centre in Bettyhill.

The award has allowed the Tongue and Farr Sports Association, that runs the centre, to continue covering the staffing costs of the lesions. Held three days a week for babies, toddlers and young children, the classes give local children the opportunity to attend swimming lessons without having to travel what can be more than a 60 mile roundtrip to access similar services – particularly important in such a remote rural setting.

The leisure centre provides a range of activities which local residents would struggle to access if they didn’t have the facility. The water confidence classes provide a vital service to local young people in this coastal region.

“When Euan started swimming lessons six months ago, he wouldn’t go near the water without armbands. Now he can’t wait until the lessons and is even starting to swim a breadth unaided.”

Tara Smart
Local parent

A diverse range of sporting and outdoor pursuits were backed through the funds with grants totalling over £505,000 in 2014/15. This variety is encouraging, especially in rural areas where access to services can often be limited.

From swimming to skiing, fishing to football, groups across the country are being increasingly ambitious in their aspirations for quality sports provision in their area. These kinds of projects are invaluable in promoting positive wellbeing and encouraging healthy lifestyles for local people.
Making a difference
Environment and conservation

Sustainable surroundings

Protecting the natural environment and taking measures to reduce energy consumption within the community are important initiatives which we strongly encourage. In 2014/15, over £230,000 was awarded to projects which take an active role in addressing these challenges.

Enhancing local surroundings was a leading theme, with over £80,000 awarded to rural path networks and scenic walk development and £19,500 for community renewable schemes. A number of energy efficiency measures were supported, including a major affordable housing project in Sutherland.

Helmsdale Housing Project
Highland Sustainable Development Fund
£24,306 awarded April 2014

Helmsdale and District Development Trust is ensuring its new innovative housing project is truly sustainable through the installation of energy efficiency measures.

The four houses are 100% community owned and represent the first affordable housing to be built in the Highland village of Helmsdale for 35 years. The houses were completed in December 2014 with the first tenants moving in only a few days later, in time for Christmas.

The award allowed the Trust to install solar panels as part of the energy efficiency measures, not only reducing the carbon footprint of the buildings, but also lowering energy bills for the families that moved in earlier this year. The income generated from the solar panels is invested by the Trust into other community initiatives.

“Protecting the natural environment and taking measures to reduce energy consumption within the community are important initiatives which we strongly encourage.”

Williestruther Loch Walk
Scottish Borders Sustainable Development Fund
£30,000 awarded October 2014

A new countryside walk is to be created around Williestruther Loch, near Hawick in the Scottish Borders.

Walking around the entire circumference of this scenic loch is currently not possible, with only verge parking providing access for anglers. The award will allow the beauty spot to be opened up for the benefit of the whole community, including local residents, wildlife enthusiasts, photographers and visitors. The new path will include boardwalks, viewing platforms and a pond dipping area, and will provide a new and inspiring educational facility for local school children. At a mile long, the low level and accessible route will cater for all ages and abilities.

“The new walk will be a real asset to the town that we believe will attract locals as well as tourists.”

Marion Short
Hawick Community Council

ALIenergy

Lingy
£9,237 awarded April 2014

ALIenergy carries out a series of projects in the Argyll and Bute region which promote sustainable energy use and renewable energy generation to address fuel poverty and reduce carbon emissions.

Working with a variety of communities, businesses and households, ALIenergy runs activities such as energy education in schools and communities, affordable warmth advice, support and mentoring to combat fuel poverty, and support to community renewable energy projects and co-operatives. Last year, at least 899 vulnerable households received in-depth Affordable Warmth advice; energy education was provided to more than 3,600 people and 775 households were referred for free insulation measures.

“Protecting the natural environment and taking measures to reduce energy consumption within the community are important initiatives which we strongly encourage.”

Mandie Currie
ALIenergy

“The difference that our Affordable Warmth team makes to people’s lives is significant – not just financially, it is often emotional as well.”

Annette McFarlane-Barrow
Resident

“We can now afford the little things we couldn’t before.”

“Protecting the natural environment and taking measures to reduce energy consumption within the community are important initiatives which we strongly encourage.”

Mandie Currie
ALIenergy

1918  SSE Community Investment Review 2014/15
Our funds in focus

In this section we take an in-depth look at the detail and data behind SSE’s community investment programme in 2014/15.

Total spend across our funds
£2,965,758

in South Ayrshire to date

in Argyll and Bute

through energy efficiency projects

in local projects over its lifetime.

Fund demand
£2.51 per £1

The number of training opportunities supported in Perth and Kinross

£1,018,247

Total number of projects supported in the Highlands

153

The number of households supported through energy efficiency projects in Argyll and Bute

1,663

The largest grant awarded in South Ayrshire to date

£101,047

Total spend across our funds in the south of Scotland

£1,018,247

Total spend across our funds

£2,965,758

Positive impact

Highlands and Islands

Home to the widest spread of SSE community funds, the Highlands and Islands region hosts seven developments that provide community benefit, including two hydro schemes, comprising a total capacity of 330MW. Approximately £27 million will be invested through these funds in their lifetime.

Strathy North

The Strathy North community fund will provide over £4.5 million to invest in local projects over its lifetime. Established in May 2014, the fund serves a population of around 940 over three community council areas of Bettyhill, Strathnaver and Altnaharra; Melvich; and Strathy and Armadale. A smaller ring-fenced fund is available in Strathy and Armadale only.

Annual fund payment
£227,000

Value of applications
£251,589

Total value of projects
£632,004

Fund allocation by category

Community facilities and services 31%

Education and youth development 7%

Sport and recreation 50%

Culture, heritage and tourism 7%

Environment and conservation 8%

Strathy North

£8.20 per £1

Average fund leverage across our funds

Gordonbush

The Gordonbush community fund will provide approximately £1.2 million to invest in local projects between 2011 and 2016. The fund benefits a population of around 6,860 over the four community council areas of Stronsay, Golspie, Helmsdale and Roag.

Annual fund payment
£202,047

Value of applications
£625,056

Awards approved
£119,693

Total value of projects
£648,260

Fund allocation by category

Community facilities and services 38%

Education and youth development 3%

Sport and recreation 20%

Skills and employment 4%

Culture, heritage and tourism 32%
Positive impact

### Achany

The Achany community fund will be worth £2.5 million between 2010 and 2015 to share between local projects.

The fund serves a population of around 2,500, covering the three community council areas of Contin, Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon, and Muir of Ord.

#### Annual fund payment

£142,538

#### Value of applications

£228,297

#### Awards approved

£218,877

#### Total value of projects

£2,018,967

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>160% Fund demand</th>
<th>£92.22 per £1</th>
<th>35% Capital</th>
<th>65% Revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Fairburn

The Fairburn community fund is expected to invest around £2.7 million in local projects over its lifetime.

The fund benefits a population of more than 4,100 over the three community council areas of Contin, Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon, and Muir of Ord.

#### Annual fund payment

£110,040

#### Value of applications

£181,477

#### Awards approved

£91,464

#### Total value of projects

£1,010,483

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>126% Fund demand</th>
<th>£1.11 per £1</th>
<th>38% Capital</th>
<th>62% Revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Glendoe

The Glendoe community fund will invest an estimated £2.2 million in local projects between 2010 and 2015.

Opened in 2009, Glendoe was the largest conventional hydro-electric scheme to be built in over 50 years. The fund benefits a population of around 2,000 over the two community council areas of Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston, and Stratherrick and Foyers. The fund is managed locally by the Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston-Community Company and the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust on behalf of SSE.

#### Annual fund payment

£111,664

#### Value of applications

£201,601

#### Awards approved

£54,643

#### Total value of projects

£88,865

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>95% Fund demand</th>
<th>£1.63 per £1</th>
<th>30% Capital</th>
<th>70% Revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

## Fund allocation by category

- **Community facilities and services**: 54%
- **Culture, heritage and tourism**: 14%
- **Education and youth development**: 11%
- **Sport and recreation**: 15%
- **Environment and conservation**: 4%

### Fund leverage

**Revenue**

£1.63 per £1

**Capital**

30%

## Total investment

£125,464

### Grants approved

£56,000
Positive impact

Kinglycroft

The Kinglycroft community fund will provide over £35,000 to invest in local projects over its lifetime. Kinglycroft is one of SSE’s smaller hydro-electric schemes. The annual value of the fund is around £26,878, following an estimated circulation of 3,000 across the community council areas of Kithill, Strathardle and Morvern. The fund is administered by the Highland Council on behalf of SSE.

Bu

Bu wind farm was decommissioned in March 2015. A final community benefit payment of £12,000 was made to the community. The fund has provided over £346,000 in micro grants to 373 community projects of varying sizes.

Sparness

The Sparness community fund will provide over £60,000 to invest in local projects between 2004 and 2029. The fund benefits just over 500 people in the community council area of Sparness.

Griffin and Calliachar

The Griffin and Calliachar community fund has an estimated value of £11 million over its lifetime. Launchedin 2011, it serves a population of around 7,000 over the five community council areas of Aboyne, Dull and Weem, Dunkeld and Birnam, Kinnoull and Calliachar.

Perthshire

SSE has three developments in the Perthshire region covered by two community funds. With an installed capacity of 220MW between the three developments, over £13 million will be invested in local projects.

Fund allocation by category

- Community facilities and services 50%
- Education and youth development 15%
- Sport and recreation 25%
- Culture, heritage and tourism 10%

Drumderg

An estimated £6.6 million will be invested through the Drumderg community fund in local projects over its lifetime. This fund serves a population of around 3,700 over the two community council areas of Alyth and Mount Blair.

SSE Community Investment Review 2014/15
Positive impact

**Argyll and Bute**

SSE currently operates one development in the Argyll and Bute region. The Tanyg wind farm has an installed capacity of 17.8 MW and is expected to generate £80,000 in community benefit funding over its lifetime.

**Tangy**

Through the Tangy wind farm, around £25,000 per year is invested in charitable projects in the local area.

**Sustainable Development Fund – Perth and Kinross**

The Perth and Kinross Sustainable Development Fund has a current estimated value of £2 million over its lifetime.

**Ayrshire**

This region hosts two SSE developments including Haydar Hill wind farm, the UK’s biggest on its completion in 2016. Community funds in this region cover developments with a combined installed capacity of around 140 MW, with £1.3 million to be invested over their lifetime.

**Haydar Hill**

The Haydar Hill community fund will provide around £1.3 million to invest in local community and charitable projects over its lifetime.

**Huntersmont**

The Huntersmont community fund will provide over £250,000 over five years to invest in community and charitable projects.

**Fund leverage**

Revenue £3,99 per £1

**Fund demand**

£1,000

**Annual fund allocation**

£24,594

**Total projects**

£10,870,000

**SSE Community Investment Review 2014/15**
Positive impact

Scottish Borders

This region currently hosts three of SSE’s developments. With a combined installed capacity of 43.6MW, over £4.2 million will be invested in local projects over the lifetime of the funds.

Langhope Rig

The Langhope Rig community fund will provide over £1 million to invest in local projects over its lifetime. The community benefit fund serves a population of around 2,400 over the two community council areas of Heriot, Easton and Charnock, and Pinlair of Slow.

Annual fund payment £77,154
Value of applications £84,257
Awards approved £138,866*
Total value of projects £870,896

186% Fund demand £6.27 per £1 Fund leverage 96% Capital 4% Revenue

Fund allocation by category

- Community facilities and services 59%
- Education and youth development 8%
- Environment and conservation 33%

Toddburn

The Toddburn community fund will provide over £2 million for investment in local projects over its lifetime. The fund serves a population of around 1,800 over the three community council areas of Heriot, Easton and Charnock, and Pinlair of Slow.

Annual fund payment £186,000
Value of applications £241,027
Awards approved £203,906
Total value of projects £2,000,105

186% Fund demand £6.27 per £1 Fund leverage 96% Capital 4% Revenue

Fund allocation by category

- Community facilities and services 32%
- Education and youth development 9%
- Sport and recreation 3%

Clyde Dumfries and Galloway

The Clyde Dumfries and Galloway community fund will invest around £4.3 million in community projects over its lifetime. One of three funds that benefit as a result of SSE’s Clyde wind farm, the Clyde Dumfries and Galloway community benefit fund serves around 12,600 people in the four communities: Upper Teviotdale, Lower Teviotdale, Borders Water, and Stewartry.

Annual fund payment £161,125
Value of applications £270,801
Awards approved £139,820*
Total value of projects £3,058,650

176% Fund demand £14.05 per £1 Fund leverage 84% Capital 16% Revenue

Fund allocation by category

- Community facilities and services 70%
- Culture, heritage and tourism 16%
- Education and youth development 5%
- Sport and recreation 8%
- Environment and conservation 2%
Positive impact

**Artfield Fell**

The Artfield Fell community fund is expected to provide around £70,000 over a lifetime to local community projects.

The fund serves an estimated 1,500 people in the community council areas of Old Luce and New Luce. Funds are administered by Dumfries and Galloway Council on behalf of SSE.

**Annual fund payment**

£24,373

**Value of applications**

£12,387

**Awards approved**

£21,473

**Total value of projects**

£87,731

**Fund by category**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Funded amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Community facilities and services</td>
<td>£7,080</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**South Lanarkshire**

The South Lanarkshire region is home to the Clyde South Lanarkshire community fund, the single largest community benefit fund in the UK. The fund is expected to invest around £28 million over its lifetime.

**Clyde South Lanarkshire**

The Clyde South Lanarkshire community fund provides over £40,000 per year to invest in community projects in the local area.

This fund is the largest of three which benefit from SSE’s Clyde wind farm and serves an estimated 4,000 people in the community council areas of Biggar, Crawford, Dumfart, Leadhills, Liddesdale, Quothquan and Thankerton, and Symington. The fund is administered by South Lanarkshire Council on behalf of SSE.

**Annual fund payment**

£843,370

**Value of applications**

£450,000

**Awards approved**

£414,224

**Total value of projects**

£733,112

**Fund by category**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Funded amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Community facilities and services</td>
<td>£83,740</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Balmuirrie Fell**

The Balmuirrie Fell community fund will provide £160,000 over its lifetime for local community projects.

The fund serves an estimated 2,125 people in the three community council areas of Kirkconnel, Nith Vale and Elcho. Funds are administered by Dumfries and Galloway Council on behalf of SSE.

**Annual fund payment**

£22,750

**Value of applications**

£20,000

**Awards approved**

£28,945

**Total value of projects**

£52,050

**Fund by category**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Funded amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>Community facilities and services</td>
<td>£1,080</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SSE Community Investment Review 2014/15**
The North Lincolnshire region is host to Keadby wind farm, west of Scunthorpe. Keadby is the largest onshore wind farm in England, with an installed capacity of 68MW. It is expected the fund will invest £4.25 million in local projects over its lifetime.

### Annual Fund Payment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value of applications</th>
<th>£172,214</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual fund payment</td>
<td>£170,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Value of applications**

- £137,214
- £60,000

**Annual fund payment**

- £10,000
- £2,100

**Total value of projects**

- £290,851
- £1,000

### Awarded by Organisation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amcotts Parish Council</td>
<td>£9,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Althorpe and Keadby Parish Council</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crowle Community Council</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crowle Town Council</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastcote Primary School</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keadby Community Council</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liddington and Holdenby Parish</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Fund Allocation by Category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultural</td>
<td>Amcotts Parish Council</td>
<td>£9,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>Althorpe and Keadby Parish Council</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Crowle Community Council</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>Crowle Town Council</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>Keadby Community Council</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Essex

**Awards approved**

- £137,214
- £60,000

**Total value of projects**

- £290,851
- £1,000

### Fund contacts

#### Tilbury

- **Organisation**: Barrow Denton
  - **Address**: 10 Henderson Road
  - **Telephone**: 01463 728 208

- **Organisation**: Crowle Community Welfare Association
  - **Address**: 101 Crowle Road
  - **Telephone**: 01463 728 208

- **Organisation**: Isle Community Choir
  - **Address**: 100 Isle Road
  - **Telephone**: 01463 728 208

- **Organisation**: Tilbury Community Centre
  - **Address**: 200 Kent Road
  - **Telephone**: 01463 728 208

#### Fund Finance

- **SSE**: £4.25 million
- **Annual fund payment**: £170,000

#### Essex

- **Awards approved**: £137,214
- **Total value of projects**: £290,851

#### Tilbury

- **Annual fund payment**: £10,000
- **Value of applications**: £172,214