



SSE Sustainable Development Fund Guidance on applying for funds

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, your project must benefit communities that lie within North Lincolnshire.

You don't need to be a registered charity to apply, but your organisation must have a constitution (governing document or set of rules) and not be set up for individual profit. If you are unsure if your group is eligible, please contact us for advice.

Key information

Who can I contact if I have any questions or need guidance?

The Grants Team, 01724 296735, communitygrants@northlincs.gov.uk

Where does this money come from?

Communities can access funds which SSE Renewables have made available on a voluntary basis near each of its renewable energy developments.

SSE Renewables created the Sustainable Development Fund as part of its community benefit arrangements to support projects that will bring transformational change and significant community benefits to the regions in which SSE Renewables operate. The fund is managed through North Lincolnshire Council.

What can the grants be used for? What are the aims of the fund?

The fund is to be used to provide support for community focussed or charitable activities for strategic projects in North Lincolnshire in which SSE Renewables are investing. Applications must meet one or more of the following priorities:

1. Creating opportunities: Create or enhance opportunities for education and employment through activities that develop skills and improve an individual's chance of entering the workplace.
2. Empowering communities: Empower communities to become more resilient and protect vulnerable residents through measures which demonstrate long-term social, environmental, or economic improvements.
3. Sustainable places: Stimulate meaningful regeneration to improve or enhance local infrastructure, landscape, biodiversity, or heritage and make a lasting difference to the places we live, work and visit.

The fund will give priority to those applications which address at least one of the following:

- Climate Change
- Biodiversity
- Energy Resource efficiency
- Natural heritage

How do I apply?

If your project meets the fund priorities, please complete, and submit your application form, which can be requested from the Grants Team or downloaded from <http://www.northlincs.gov.uk/community-advice-and-support/community-rights-funding-and-grants/sse-keadby-wind-farm-community-fund/>.

How much is the fund worth? How much can I apply for?

The fund is worth £182,282 per year.

You can apply for funding from £10,000 up to a maximum of £30,000.

Minimum 10% contribution must be made to support applications with a maximum of 5% being accepted in kind, however additional match funding will be favourable by the panel. In kind support must be evidenced through timesheets submitted with claims for funding. Maximum hourly rates to be accepted at unskilled £10/per hr or skilled £15/per hr.

Multi-year funding applications will be considered by the panel.

What is the timetable?

We will contact you within four weeks of the panel meeting date to let you know whether your application has been successful or not.

Applications received after the deadline will automatically be considered for the next panel meeting.

Applicants can only receive one grant award per round. Whilst subsequent applications can be made in future rounds, the funding cannot support repeat activity and should not be considered as core funding.

How are decisions made? Who makes the decisions?

The SSE Sustainable Development Fund Panel will review applications and determine which projects should receive funding.

The panel comprises of 8 members with representation from North Lincolnshire Council Leadership team, SSE Renewables, Voluntary sector, Skills/Jobs sector, Built/Natural Environment sector, Community Energy sector and Young Person representative.

How will the panel assess my application?

The panel will review the application based on its relevance to the priority themes identified above and appraise the social, educational, economic, and environmental impact it could have to the local area. This will be the primary form of assessment.

It is important to bear in mind that the panel will be looking for projects with the potential for transformational change and those who are considering partnership working with other agencies/organisations within North Lincolnshire.

Additional consideration will be given to projects that demonstrate:

- Value for money – evidence that the project has a high impact for the amount invested.
- Community involvement – evidence that the community is engaged in the development and implementation of the project. This may be in the form of surveys,

service user involvement, community consultations, open days, letters of support or volunteering opportunities.

- Financial viability – evidence that the project has a sustainability plan to continue the project beyond the period of grant funding.
- Evidence of need – demonstration of a real financial need for the application and evidence that the applicant has leveraged other sources of external funding.

Who can apply?

Groups or organisations which need funding to support projects or activities consistent with the priorities listed above.

You don't need to be a registered charity to apply, but your organisation must have a constitution (governing document or set of rules) and be set up on a not-for-profit basis. If you are unsure if your group is eligible, please contact us for advice.

When must grants be spent by?

Any grant received should claim their funding within 12 months of allocation. Long-term projects (such as building work or multi-year projects) will be released in stages and must demonstrate progress within one year of award. Extension to the 12 month period must be requested for approval in writing to the Grants Team.

What happens during and at the end of the project?

SSE Renewables is committed to understanding the social impact of the fund. As a condition of the grant, you must complete the requested monitoring, evaluation, and feedback forms for your project.

The Grants Team will provide evaluation guidance and support.

What's the difference between this fund (SDF) and SSE's local wind farm fund?

The SDF fund supports projects which are transformational and focus on the identified priority areas. Groups supporting communities within the North Lincolnshire Council boundary are eligible to apply.

The SSE local wind farm fund exists to support the community organisations closest to the SSE wind farms to help them achieve their aims. Only groups from the immediate local area to the development are eligible to apply.

Groups that are eligible to apply to SSE Renewables' local wind farm fund are also eligible to apply to the Sustainable Development Fund.

Are there any activities you are unable to support?

- Projects which do not meet the SSE Sustainable Development Fund priorities.
- Projects which should be funded through the LEA or Parish Precept.
- Projects which do not benefit people living within North Lincolnshire.
- Individuals, or groups without a constitution (governing document or set of rules).
- The advancement of religion or party politics (including requests to support the core activities of religious or political groups).
- Payments towards areas generally understood to be the primary responsibility of statutory authorities.
- Projects benefiting primarily those residents outside the area of benefit.

- Projects from groups who have more than 6 months' worth of net costs in unrestricted reserves
- Activities contrary to the interests of SSE Renewables or its subsidiaries.
- Retrospective funding (i.e. paying for costs incurred before a decision on an application to the Fund for support can be made).
- Projects which are requesting a significant proportion of funding towards salaries except in exceptional circumstances where the project can demonstrate long term sustainability.
- The costs of energy consumption (instead we encourage funding to be used to provide energy efficiency measures which help reduce energy consumption).
- Individuals for their direct personal gain.
- The purchase of second-hand vehicles, plant and equipment which is older than three years. For anything older than three years, please contact the Grants Team to discuss a potential application.
- Projects which fund domestic animal welfare.
- The purchase of firearms.
- Funding towards trips abroad.
- The repayment of loans or payment of debts.
- Activities likely to bring the council, the company, or any member of the SSE group of companies into disrepute (for example anti-wind farm/renewable energy activities).

Please note:

Funding decisions are at the sole discretion of the SSE Sustainable Development Fund panel, and these decisions are final.