



Principles of Engagement

How we deliver value for our Communities and Stakeholders

About SSE

SSE is committed to providing the energy needed today while building a better world of energy for tomorrow, developing, constructing and operating low carbon and flexible infrastructure to support the transition to net zero.

Our assets and projects include onshore and offshore wind, hydro power, solar, efficient gas-fired generation and energy storage, as well as projects looking at new technologies such as Carbon Capture and Storage and Hydrogen as we move towards a net zero future. SSE also has electricity transmission and distribution grids and provides energy products and services for businesses.

As part of SSE's Net Zero Acceleration Programme, we have plans to invest £40 billion across the next decade to 2031/32, to deliver cleaner, more secure and affordable energy. This will see us ramp up the deployment of renewables and flexible power generation needed to back it up when the wind isn't blowing. In doing so we intend to create more than 1,000 new green jobs, supporting skills development and delivering training programs.

As SSE develops, constructs and operates the projects which will help us transition to a net zero future, we will continue to prioritise and consult the Communities and Stakeholders surrounding our assets, enabling us to deliver value for the broader society.

About this document

We are committed to ensuring that our projects are built on a foundation of meaningful stakeholder engagement that understands and addresses the needs and viewpoints of individual communities.

This document outlines the principles we are committed to and the tools we use to achieve engagement that adds real value for our Stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of our projects.

Our Commitments

- 1. We will** work to go above and beyond statutory requirements, establishing a process of industry best practice for engaging with our Communities and Stakeholders.
- 2. We will** work in partnership with Stakeholders and Communities. A dedicated SSE colleague for each of our major projects and activities to ensure our Stakeholders have a single point of contact who is embedded into the Communities that we are part of.
- 3. We will** provide regular opportunities for our Communities and Stakeholders to engage with our team using a variety of different methods and will seek feedback to ensure that our communication methods are appropriate and accessible.
- 4. We will** be open and transparent in our approach, publish the outcomes of our engagement and share how feedback shaped the decision making process if appropriate.
- 5. We will** set out clear boundaries of disclosure and explain how any personal information, questions or feedback will be stored, used or processed.
- 6. We will** establish open lines of communication with a variety of political stakeholders including Elected Representatives, Parish Councils and Community Councils and engage consistently throughout the lifecycle of a project.
- 7. We will** engage with businesses and local suppliers to offer insights into opportunities available in our supply chain and provide information on how to apply and the skills required.
- 8. We will** work with schools, colleges and further education institutes to inform and enhance the knowledge of future generations. In doing so we will demonstrate the opportunities within our sector, raise aspirations and support the development of skills needed for future employment.



Our Principles of Stakeholder Engagement

We work collaboratively with our Stakeholders and Communities across the project lifecycle to ensure positive benefits are felt within the communities in which we operate.



Communication



Collaboration



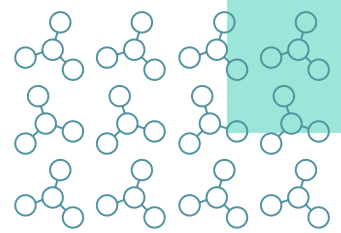
Implementation

Communication – We are open and transparent, delivering effective, timely and regular communication.

Collaboration – We seek the views and opinions of a wide range of Stakeholders and work closely with all and interested parties, developing our proposals in partnership.

Implementation – We work alongside our project delivery teams to, where possible implement changes to our proposals through design and delivery.





Our approach to Stakeholder engagement

To ensure SSE is embedded within the Communities that we are a part of, a dedicated SSE colleague is appointed at an early stage of development.

Their role is to be a single point of contact for the community, work to identify Stakeholders and implement a robust and individually tailored stakeholder engagement strategy.

We recognise that all Communities priorities and needs differ, and by having a dedicated colleague who can establish an understanding of a community, we can ensure that we deliver the best approach for each area.

My role as a Stakeholder Engagement Manager

"SSE Thermal is leading the transition away from reliance on fossil fuels towards, cleaner, lower carbon technologies, but to do this successfully we need to work closely with the communities we're part of. The thing I enjoy most about my role is the variety of people I get to speak with on a daily basis, from community members to planners, engineers to school teachers, and many more in between."

Rachel Fox

Stakeholder Engagement Manager, SSE Thermal



"What I love most about my role as a Stakeholder Engagement Manager is the variety and that no day is ever the same! I could be writing a newsletter in the morning, joining project team calls to get the latest information on a wind farm construction project in before lunch and travelling to a meet a community group in the afternoon. We work closely with our stakeholders and communities to understand their needs and how SSE can work with them to listen, address concerns and be a positive addition to their community."

Pauline Allison

Stakeholder Engagement Manager, SSE Renewables

Stakeholder Consultation

We are committed to engaging throughout the project lifecycle, from early development, through consultation, into construction, operation and leaving a lasting legacy. We are committed to learning lessons and will always be open to comments, advice and feedback.

Project Lifecycle Process

Project Development

At the point of project conception, we begin a process of identifying Stakeholders, allowing us to share our proposals to those potentially impacted at the earliest opportunity, ensuring we also engage with harder to reach stakeholders and marginalised or vulnerable groups.

Submission

We inform our Communities and Stakeholders when a planning proposal has been submitted to the relevant authority for examination and determination ensuring transparency in the process.

Final Investment Decision

Once a final investment decision has been made, confirming that construction will proceed we communicate this with Communities and Stakeholders and provide refreshed details of the project.

Operation

Ongoing communication and community engagement continues throughout the operational life on the project.

Consultation

As part of the consultation process, we go above and beyond statutory obligations to engage with Communities and Stakeholders, gathering feedback and incorporating this into our proposals where possible.

Determination

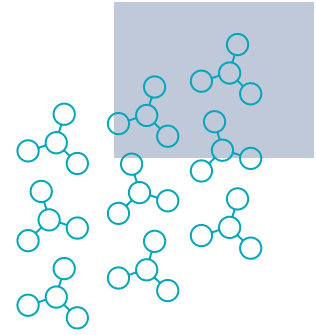
We communicate with Communities and Stakeholders the outcome of our planning application once a decision is made by the relevant body.

Construction

As the project moves into construction, increased communication may be needed around short term construction impacts and agreed mitigation measures. Ahead of construction works starting, we will establish a Community Liaison Group (CLG) to ensure that key project milestones or activities that may be impactful to the local area are shared throughout the construction phase.

Decommissioning & Demolition

We engage through our established Community and Stakeholder networks to communicate decommissioning milestones and activities and work to leave a lasting positive legacy in areas where assets are no longer operational.



Our Communication Tools

SSE Liaison

A single point of contact, embedded within the community with a dedicated role in identifying stakeholders and implementing a robust stakeholder engagement strategy that is determined by the needs of individual communities.

In person Information Events

Face to face drop in events held at local venues, advertised through local spaces and at various times across numerous days to provide the maximum opportunities for community members and stakeholders to meet the project team, learn more about projects, ask questions and provide feedback.



Websites

Each project has a dedicated website which hosts all relevant and up to date information as well the contact details of the project's dedicated SSE colleague.

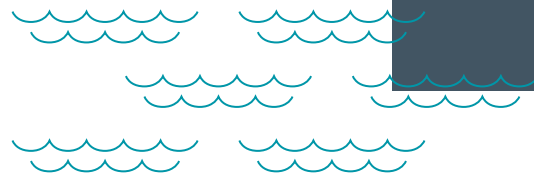
Virtual Consultations

Online virtual platforms form a key part of our consultation process, ensuring accessibility and the opportunity to provide feedback to a broad range of stakeholders.



Community/Parish Councils

As a key representative body of local communities, the project's dedicated SSE Liaison colleague and other project representatives as appropriate, will attend local parish or community council meetings on a regular basis.



Community Liaison Groups

A Community Liaison Group (CLG) is a group made up of community representatives, including those elected, and project team members. Meeting on a regular basis, the group will discuss project information, upcoming activities and any local issues that may be raised. Members of this group are responsible for disseminating the information with the stakeholder group they represent.



Face to face

Our dedicated SSE Liaison colleagues are available to ensure individual community members have access to someone who can sit down with them and talk them through information, questions or concerns. We provide information in accessible formats on request, for example large print, braille, different languages.

Supply Chain Events

Ahead of construction activities, SSE hold supply chain events to meet local businesses, allowing the business community to engage directly with the appointed principal delivery team and learn more about how they can support the delivery of our projects.



Educational Outreach

Building relationships with local schools and colleges is an important way of engaging young people with our projects, educating them about energy sources and new technologies as well as the potential skills and future employment opportunities in our sector.

Newsletters

Regular project update newsletters are circulated locally to communicate key milestones throughout the project lifecycle.

Visit the pages below to learn about our projects:
SSE Thermal | SSE Renewables

