



Scottish & Southern  
Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

# Community Benefits







**We are investing £22bn into the transmission network by 2030 to unlock cleaner, more secure energy**

## The Opportunity

We are investing more than £22bn into the transmission network to unlock cleaner, more secure energy for homes and businesses for generations to come. Our investment will support an increase in electricity demand and contribute to the decarbonisation of the electricity network. Grid investment is key to maintaining a stable network and supporting the UK to meet net zero targets.

Our network in the north of Scotland will play a leading role in the clean energy transition, connecting and transporting renewable electricity from wind, hydro and marine generation. Our Community Benefit Funds allow a share of the benefits to go directly to those communities that we work in. Our Community Benefit Fund is designed to bring substantial benefits and a positive, lasting legacy through local and regional initiatives across the north of Scotland.

Following UK Government guidance published on 10th March 2025, all new eligible infrastructure will generate funds of £200,000 per km of overhead line, and £530,000 per new substation. We expect the value of this funding to be over £100m in the coming years.

## Economic Impact

One of the biggest investment programmes in the north of Scotland for over a century will lead to thousands of jobs across the region. Placing multimillion-pound contracts with the local supply chain will create huge economic value for Scotland. Economic analysis, which has been independently peer reviewed by BiGGAR Economics, forecast that, if delivered in full, the total investment could support 17,500 jobs in Scotland. We are working with Local Authorities to create local accommodation solutions and we have a dedicated housing team working collaboratively on local housing solutions. Those solutions will vary according to the circumstances of each place but ultimately we expect to provide more accommodation for local people, delivering a lasting legacy for our Pathway to 2030 programme.

## Our Suppliers

The contractors we work with on our projects will deliver benefits to communities and we will ensure a coordinated, positive impact is achieved. The added value our contractors can bring will vary from project to project but we are currently working with suppliers to deliver significant community benefits including providing expert staff and materials to develop local projects, reducing barriers to local employment, delivering educational programmes and working with schools, creating apprenticeships, creating appropriate housing solutions, sponsoring locally important events, building active travel routes, and using the services of local businesses.







## Our Community Benefit Fund

Following an extensive stakeholder consultation exercise in 2023, we launched our first Community Benefit Fund in 2024 to fund a range of community projects across the north of Scotland.

We have two types of fund open to projects in our network area. Not for profit, constituted groups can apply for funding.

Our Community Benefit Fund plans involve a local and a wider regional element:

### Regional funds

Our first round of regional funding awarded £2m to ten projects across the north of Scotland. The second round opened for applications in September 2025. We look forward to sharing the outcomes of these funding rounds over the coming years with an increasing fund size expected.

Based on feedback from our public consultation held in 2023, the fund is to be used to provide support for strategic projects in the region and any successful application must meet one or more of the following themes:

**People:** Focusing on skills, training and employability;

**Place:** Emphasising the community and culture of the north of Scotland; and

**Alleviating fuel poverty:** Looking at strategic ways to help people across the region.

These themes should be reviewed in the context of a strategic fund, with the view of maximising impact to the north of Scotland.

Awards are made by an independent regional panel chaired by ex Scottish Government minister, Peter Peacock and details of the awards we make can be found on our website at: [ssen-transmission.co.uk/communitybenefit](https://ssen-transmission.co.uk/communitybenefit)

### Local funds

Local Community Benefit Funds are for communities close to new transmission infrastructure, and we will work with those communities to design a fund that can have a positive local impact. We will use independent panels to make decisions allocating funding and will support communities to make best use of the funding opportunities. A number of local funds have already launched and many more will follow. Each fund is unique, being developed specifically with local communities to ensure that local priorities are supported.

A full list of the projects we have supported along with case studies can be seen in our Community Benefit Fund Annual Review available on our website.



# Regional fund case study:

Connecting the next generation with traditional Scottish music and culture



**£181,638**  
awarded to Fèis Rois

Founded in 1986, Fèis Rois aims to provide opportunities for people of all ages to access, participate in and enjoy Scottish traditional music and Gaelic cultural activities. Over the years, they have shown the importance of their project across Ross-shire and beyond, with participants increasing both their confidence, skills and knowledge of traditional music and culture. Fèis Rois also provide a vital ladder of progression, supporting young musicians to reach their full potential and become industry professionals. The Fèis Rois programme is a well-embedded existing offer within the community, but unfortunately, due to an increase in programme costs, additional funding was needed to continue. SSEN Transmission were able to provide the necessary additional funding to support the project until 2028. This includes supporting their Easter tuition week, regular weekly classes, Ceilidh Trail sessions and the October residence. These sessions support young people from their very first engagement with traditional music and Scottish culture, all the way through to potentially becoming a professional musician. Over the course of the three years, this funding will enable Fèis Rois to engage with a minimum of 675 children and young people through music workshops and events, as well as supporting a minimum of 30 young musicians through the Ceilidh Trail programme. This funding will allow Fèis Rois to continue to provide their important programmes and continue to engage young people with Scottish culture and music.

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[www.ssen-transmission.co.uk](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk)