

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, your project must benefit communities that lie wholly within the Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) area. If you are unsure who your distribution network operator is, please check here: www.ssen.co.uk/Whoismynetworkoperator

Key information

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

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Where does this money come from?

SSEN has established this fund to support communities in our power distribution network area to improve local resilience. This funding comes from a proportion of the performance reward we receive from the regulator Ofgem.

Who can apply?

- Community groups based within the SSEN distribution area
- 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.

How do I apply?

If your project meets the fund criteria, please complete and submit an application form, which can be requested from SSEN or downloaded from: www.ssen.co.uk/resiliencefund

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

For the North of Scotland SSEN area, £1 million is available in 2022. In most cases, you can apply for funding from £1,000 up to a maximum of £20,000. In exceptional circumstances multi-year or multi-community funding to a maximum of £50,000 can be considered.

What is the timetable?

Round opens	11 February 2022
Deadline for applications	13 May 2022
Awards made	July 2022

- Applications received after the deadline will not be eligible.
- Applicants can only receive one grant award per round.

How are decisions made?
Who makes the decisions?

The SSEN Resilient Communities Fund Panel will review applications and determine which projects should receive funding. The panel comprises representatives of community and organisations with expertise in community resilience planning alongside members of the SSEN management team.

What can grants be used for?

The fund will provide support for projects which create a stronger, coordinated resilience framework for local communities.

What are the criteria for the fund?

The fund will support projects that achieve one of the following criteria:

1. Resilience for Emergency Events - To enhance community facilities, services and communication specifically to support the local response in the event of a significant emergency such as extended power loss.
2. Vulnerability - To protect the welfare of vulnerable community members particularly during significant emergency events such as extended power loss, through enhancing their resilience and improving community participation and effectiveness.

Please note - the past rounds of the fund were significantly oversubscribed and in this round *priority* will be given to:

- a) Projects which support communities who are particularly remote or isolated and have experienced emergency events due to poor weather in the past.
- b) Projects in areas affected by recent significant storms which resulted in extended power loss.
- c) Projects which demonstrate innovative approaches to improving the resilience of vulnerable community members.
- d) Projects which support areas which can be difficult for emergency services to respond to events in.
- e) Projects from communities which have not applied before and have been identified as having low resilience.
- f) Projects which see communities working together and refer to local resilience plans.

Project Guidance

- Consider how your project fits with your community emergency plan.
- If purchasing equipment, consider how it will be stored and maintained.
- Ensure you get the appropriate quotes for work and equipment.
- Ensure any staffing cost is provided at or above the living wage.
- If applying for generator equipment groups required to complete a Generator Specification Form in addition to the main application form. It is also important to think about storage and will be responsible for maintaining the generator.

When must grants be spent by?

- All grants received should be spent within one year of being awarded, with the exception of long-term projects (such as building work or multi-year projects) which will be released in stages and must demonstrate progress within one year of award.

What happens when the project is finished?

- At the end of the activity period you must submit a final evaluation report in which we will ask you to fully report on the project and its outcomes.

Are there any activities SSEN are unable to support?

- Projects which do not benefit people living within the SSEN distribution areas
- Actions that are in conflict to the interests of SSEN.
- Individuals.
- The advancement of religion or politics.
- The repayment of loans or payment of debts.
- Costs already incurred or activities which will take place before we have made a decision on an application (retrospective funding).
- Payments for activities which are the responsibility of statutory authorities.