

Building Resilience

Resilient Communities Fund





Who we are

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks manages, maintains and develops the electricity networks which bring power to 3.8 million homes and businesses in the north of Scotland and central southern England.

Our engineers take care of around 130,000 kilometres of wires and cables, and over 100,000 substations. We work hard to ensure our networks are as reliable as possible and invest millions of pounds every year to upgrade and improve the electricity supplies within our

transmission and distribution areas.

We pride ourselves not just on working in our communities, but being part of them as well. Our skilled teams are based right across the regions we serve, supported by engineering and customer service teams based in major offices and depots in centres like Reading, Portsmouth, Perth and Inverness.

Our first priority is to provide a safe and reliable supply of electricity to the communities we serve.

Building resilience

At Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, extreme weather is something we expect and prepare for. Whether it's gale-force winds, floods or sub-zero temperatures, weather conditions present a significant challenge to our business, and it's a challenge we share with the communities we serve.

We regularly invest in the network to ensure it is as reliable it can be, but when the weather works against us and electricity supplies are interrupted, we're committed to providing our communities with the support they need to stay resilient whilst we work to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.

This work includes on-the-ground support from our community and customer service teams to help with resilience planning and co-ordination, but we recognise that sometimes communities require financial assistance too.

That's why we set up the Resilient Communities Fund, which provides grants of up to £20,000 for local resilience projects. Over the past four years we've funded some invaluable projects through the scheme; from flood defences, to snow ploughs, and rescue boats - which now play an important role in supporting the local response in emergency situations.

The fund also supports wider forms of resilience too, inviting applications from projects that encourage community cohesion, so that all community members are supported, and funding initiatives that are targeted to those in most need, such as the fuel poor or elderly.

This report details some of the projects we've supported across our north of Scotland and central southern England regions since the fund launched in 2015, demonstrating the great work of local organisations in making sensible

preparations and galvanising their resources for whatever the weather might bring.

In recognition of its success, we've extended the Resilient Communities Fund until 2023 so that we can continue to help build resilience in the regions we serve.

We look forward to supporting many more projects in the years to come.

Colin Nicol,
Managing Director,
Scottish and Southern
Electricity Networks



The fund at a glance

£2.13m to
325 projects
since 2015

66 defibrillators
funded 
40 flood prevention
projects supported

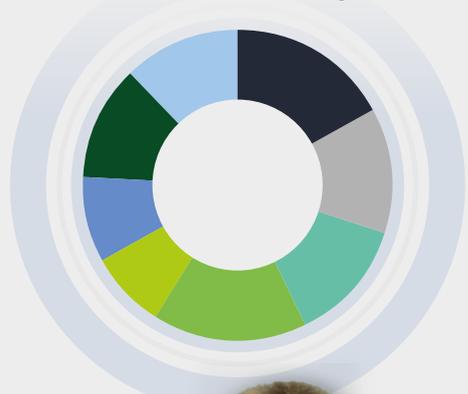
16 local authority areas
benefited from support 

52 projects to support
vulnerable people 

18 resilience
vehicles funded 

76 projects to supply
back up generation 

■ Emergency response ■ Flood equipment
■ Communication ■ Resilience equipment
■ Health equipment ■ Vulnerability
■ Generators ■ Training



"This fund is a huge support to creating resilient communities and I believe it demonstrates SSEN's drive to support communities who are at the heart of what the company does."

Norman Kerr OBE, Director of Energy Action Scotland and chair of our north of Scotland fund



About the Fund

The Resilient Communities Fund is a competitive grant-making fund which opens once a year to not-for-profit community groups and charities in our electricity distribution network areas in central southern England and the north of Scotland.

What does the fund support?

The fund provides grants of between £1,000 and £20,000 to support projects that achieve one of the following criteria:

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

How is the fund managed?

The fund is overseen by an internal funding team who provide advice and support to applicants at all stages of the process, including training on emergency resilience plans.

Two independent judging panels, one north and one south, review applications and determine which projects should receive funding. The panels comprise representatives with expertise in community resilience planning, including Scottish Government, British Red Cross and National Energy Action, alongside members of the SSEN management team.

How are fund priorities set?

Each year we consult with a broad range of stakeholders including national and local government, community members and past applicants to set the priorities for the fund in each network area.

We've also developed a Vulnerability Mapping Tool with Dundee University. This tool is used to identify communities who have low resilience, support them to apply to the fund, and to inform the panel of the resilience rating of each area.

Our funding process

1. Setting Priorities

An annual stakeholder consultation sets fund priorities. Specific regional needs considered.

2. Open Applications

Fund opens for 12 weeks. Guidance offered on project specifications and application submissions.

3. Independent Panel

Grant decisions made by expert independent panel based on fund priorities.

4. Ongoing Support

Guidance from our customer relationship managers and access to resilience support services.

Central Southern England Fund

£434,569
awarded to
62 projects in
2017 and 2018

21 flood resilience and prevention projects supported

14 training projects supported

9 projects to improve radio network performance and coverage during emergency events



"As the national fuel poverty charity National Energy Action is only too aware of the need to build capacity at local level to support vulnerable householders. I'm delighted to have been part of the judging panel and to help ensure that communities who need support become more resilient to the impact of severe weather."

Danni Crosland, Director of Operations at National Energy Action and panel member



Regional trends

The fund has identified several trends across central southern England:

1. Communication is vital

From ensuring local radio stations can continue operation during emergencies, to providing the latest technology latest communication technology, it's clear that frequent information exchange in emergencies is essential. We have also seen a growth in requests for multi-charge points at emergency hubs.

2. Sharing best practice

The fund benefits from resilience information sharing which happens at local and regional level. An innovative award to one community can act as a catalyst for improved resilience across an entire local authority area.

3. Supporting medical emergencies

A common concern for communities is dealing with an unexpected medical emergency. Communities have been preparing for such events through a range of first aid training, supporting medical volunteers and the purchase of medical equipment.



Surrey Search and Rescue

£17,028 awarded in September 2017

Water rescue services in Surrey improved through new communication equipment.

Surrey Search and Rescue covers the whole of the south east and have been called into neighbouring Hampshire, Berkshire and Wiltshire to assist Police. The new communication equipment enhances the team's capacity to respond to emergencies. This has allowed the team to respond quicker and be deployed within minutes.

"The digital repeater network gives us the ability to talk to from one side of the county to the other to coordinate our response. The GPS unit built into each radios keeps our crew safer as we can now track them in real-time from the command unit. It also helps when our crews find the missing person as we know instantly where they are and the location of the nearest teams we can deploy to support with casualty care."
Séamus Kearns, Head of Operations Surrey Search and Rescue

Monkton Farleigh Parish Council

£2,261 awarded in September 2017

Resilience to heavy snow strengthened through the purchase of a snow blade.

Monkton Farleigh is a Wiltshire rural community of around 400 people, which has experienced difficulties due to heavy snowfall and its elevated position. Through the fund, they were able to purchase a snow blade, which could be affixed to the front of a tractor. This would allow them to clear snow from roads and other important access areas. When the Beast from the East hit the country in early March 2018, the blade was deployed to clear snow which had made the main street and access roads impassable.

"We deployed the snow plough only days after its arrival and were able to keep the village functioning as envisaged in our emergency plan. Without the SSEN Resilience Fund a small community such as ours would have been unable to afford such a useful piece of equipment."

Mathew Midlane, Monkton Farleigh Parish Council



Serve On

£19,979 awarded in September 2018

Communities will benefit from a comprehensive resilience training programme.

Serve On is a local charity which supports the resilience of communities in Wiltshire and Salisbury. They have employed a Training Officer to enhance the training on offer to local volunteers. 100 volunteers will benefit from a range of training on a range of resilience themes including personal resilience, power and lighting, and first aid.

'We are excited by the good we can achieve and we think that, in the future, there are going to be a great many people with cause to be grateful to the Resilient Communities Fund for this opportunity.'

Martin Phillips, Serve On



North of Scotland Fund

£451,622
awarded to
76 projects in
2017 and 2018

26 Emergency Resilience Hubs supported

8 satellite phones purchased for remote communities

6 resilience vehicles provided



"The support from SSEN will really help further develop the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland focus, within both urban and rural areas across the North of Scotland, of bringing communities together, building community resilience and encouraging communities to look out for each other on issues of safety and resilience."

Willie Clark, Neighbourhood Watch Scotland



Regional trends

The fund has been able to support communities across the geographically disparate network region in the north of Scotland. The following trends have been identified:

1. Supporting remote communities

The unique resilience needs of the Scottish islands are a key focus. A common area of concern is having reliable power during extreme weather and SSEN has provided generator equipment which has enabled vital services including GP practices, welfare services and resilience hubs to operate safely.

2. Enhancing emergency services

The remote communities in the north of Scotland can experience extended waiting times for emergency services during extreme weather events and several applications have focused on building emergency services capacity.

3. Funding regional projects

The fund has supported projects which build capacity across the whole north of Scotland region including increasing the capacity of the Scottish Flood Forum and funding the Rural Watch Service managed by Neighbourhood Watch Scotland.





Perthshire First Responders

£15,000 awarded in September 2017

People in remote areas have access to vital medical help thanks to new emergency response vehicle.

Perth First Responders is supported by expert volunteers who answer life threatening 999 calls in areas of Perthshire and Dundee where it may be difficult for the Scottish Ambulance Service to reach. They provide lifesaving treatment whilst the ambulance is on its way and teach communities to perform CPR courses. A specially equipped vehicle is vital to the service's success as it enables volunteers to reach remote communities and transport equipment.

"This fantastic grant of £15,000 means that we can carry on helping to save lives across Perthshire. Since purchasing the vehicle, we have already covered 3,000 miles supporting the emergency services. We are proud to carry the SSEN logo on our vehicle."

Catherine Procter, Perth First Responders

Isle of Bute Resilience Team

£3,686 awarded in September 2018

An island community will benefit from enhanced resilience capacity.

The island of Bute can become cut off in the event of a storm. The local community council prepared the Bute Emergency Plan following a major severe weather power outage and disruption in January 2012 but resilience capacity continued to be an issue during an emergency. The grant has enabled the gap to be filled by the purchase of resilience equipment, volunteer protective clothing and range of volunteer training.

"This grant has enabled us to buy the equipment and uniforms needed to allow us to continue supporting our community when in greatest need. Without the support we would not be able to assist the emergency services in the way we plan to."

Fiona Gillespie, Isle of Bute Resilience Team



Pillar Kincardine

£14,274 awarded in September 2017

People with mental health difficulties in Aberdeenshire have improved resilience thanks to specialist action plans.

Pillar Kincardine is a voluntary organisation based in Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire which supports people coping with serious emotional, social or mental health difficulties. This project allows members to meet with representatives of emergency services and SSEN's customer relationship manager in an informal setting and breaks down barriers to communication on both sides, equipping members with information and practical advice for their personal action plans. The project supports 90 local residents.

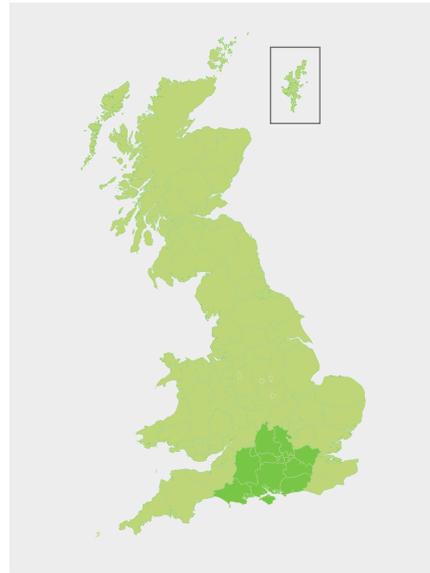
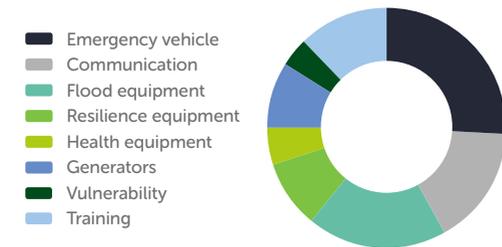
"Not only has SSEN funding helped Pillar to continue supporting people who are looking to improve their mental health and wellbeing, it has increased the range and type of support we can offer and strengthens our ongoing work around building resilient communities."

Moira Hurry, Service Manager, Pillar Kincardine



Funds in focus

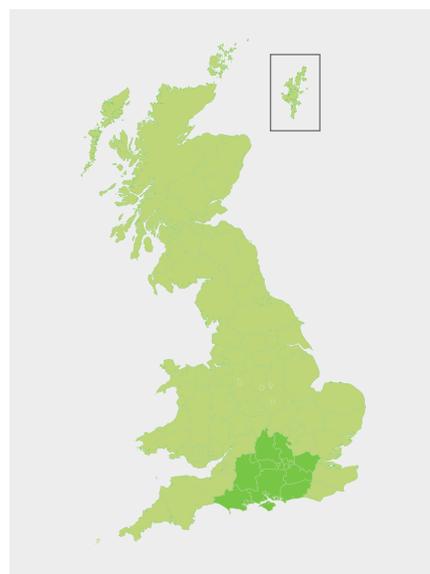
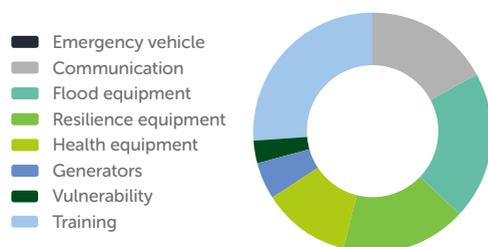
Central Southern England Fund 2018



Organisation	Project Description	Award Amount
Wessex 4x4 Response	To purchase communications and IT equipment.	£20,000
Goring and Streatley First Responders	To purchase a vehicle and equipment.	£20,000
Isle of Wight Search and Rescue (WightSAR)	To purchase a 4x4 vehicle.	£20,000
Serve On	To hire a Training Officer.	£19,979
The Hanneys Flood Group	To provide a storage facility and equipment.	£16,565
Fringford Parish Council	To purchase a generator.	£14,112
Oxfordshire Lowland Search and Rescue (OxSAR)	To purchase water incident equipment and training.	£11,000

Organisation	Project Description	Award Amount
North Wiltshire RAYNET	To provide equipment for a communications trailer.	£10,000
Wiltshire SAR	To purchase a Command Vehicle.	£10,000
Hampshire Search & Rescue Dogs	To purchase a drone and thermal imaging camera.	£9,925
Berkshire Lowland Search and Rescue (BLSAR)	To provide training and support for psychological trauma.	£7,000
Chalgrove Parish Council	To provide flood and emergency equipment.	£6,510
Chesterton Community Partnership	To create an emergency centre.	£4,203
Milton (Abingdon) Parish Council	To provide defibrillators and training for residents.	£4,000
Blewbury Parish Council	To provide a generator and other equipment.	£2,677
West Oxford Community Association	To purchase a defibrillator.	£2,196
Collingbourne Ducis Parish Council	To purchase a defibrillator.	£1,639
14th Andover (Stockbridge) Scout Group	To purchase emergency equipment.	£1,579
Longworth Village Hall	To purchase a defibrillator.	£1,451
The Whitchurch Association	To purchase emergency equipment.	£1,379
Cholsey Parish Council	To purchase a defibrillator.	£1,307
North Aston Parish Meeting	To purchase a defibrillator.	£1,289
Box Parish Council Flood Wardens	To purchase equipment for flooding.	£1,189
Shrivenham Parish Council	To purchase a defibrillator and salt spreader.	£1,165
Stalbridge Scout Group	To purchase a defibrillator.	£1,000
Kington St Michael Parish Council	To purchase a generator.	£415

Central Southern England Fund 2017



Organisation	Project Description	Award Amount
St Mary Bourne Parish Council	To complete flood resilience work.	£20,000
Wessex 4x4 Rescue	To purchase a 4x4 trailer.	£18,500
Surrey Search and Rescue	To fund digital communications upgrades.	£17,029
Wessex Flood Rescue Unit	To provide training and equipment.	£15,365
Bulford Parish Council	To purchase flood equipment.	£14,626
Hampshire Search and Rescue	To purchase hand-held GPS.	£13,375
Gloucestershire Rural Community Council	To run resilience planning events.	£12,350
CAN International	To provide volunteer training.	£10,654

Organisation	Project Description	Award Amount
Christchurch Lifesaving Club	To provide water rescue training.	£10,437
Burton Bradstock Parish Council	To purchase flood barriers.	£10,367
Dorset Search Dogs	To improve radio network coverage.	£10,066
Southbourne Surf Lifesaving Club	To purchase water rescue equipment.	£10,062
Old Windsor Parish Council	To employ a vulnerable persons outreach worker.	£7,800
Team Rubicon UK	To support resilience volunteer recruitment.	£7,000
Malmesbury Town Council	To purchase radios and emergency event equipment.	£6,725
Play Gloucestershire	To install a defibrillator.	£6,207
Gillingham Town Council	To purchase resilience equipment.	£5,652
Arne Parish Council	To purchase a generator and water pump.	£5,246
HOPE Portsmouth	To install a defibrillator.	£4,760
John Pounds Community Trust	To install a defibrillator.	£3,780
Easterton Village Hall	To purchase an emergency generator.	£3,559
Newbury Rugby Football Club	To install a defibrillator.	£3,538
Finchampstead Parish Council	To install a defibrillator.	£3,312
Solent Rescue	To provide a flood rescue kit.	£2,841
Chilmark Parish Council	To purchase two mobile generators.	£2,660
Monkton Farleigh Parish Council	To purchase a snow blade.	£2,261
Winterbourne Parish Council	To install a defibrillator.	£2,106
Sturminster Marshall Parish council	To install a defibrillator.	£1,995

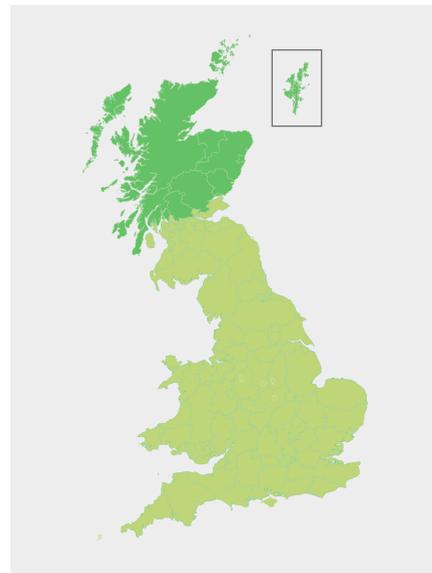
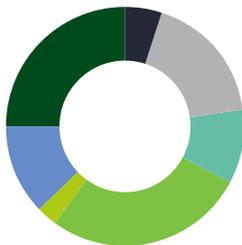
Organisation	Project Description	Award Amount
Kingston Lisle Parish Council	To install a defibrillator.	£1,750
Beckley & Area Community Benefit Society	To install a defibrillator.	£1,705
Community Council for Berkshire	To install a defibrillator.	£1,686
West Challow Parish Council	To install a defibrillator.	£1,613
Bradford on Avon Community Emergency Volunteers	To install a defibrillator.	£1,549
Trotton with Chithurst Parish Council	To purchase equipment for a resilience hub.	£1,277
Aldermaston Parish Council	To purchase emergency equipment and storage.	£1,076
Bradford Peverell Parish Council	To purchase a water pump.	£1,061

Organisation	Project Description	Award Amount
Argyll FM Ltd	To broadcast in south Kintyre.	£25,000
Neighbourhood Watch Scotland	To provide Rural Watch Scotland across the North of Scotland.	£12,000
Royal Voluntary Service	To support older people who have become lonely or isolated to be resilient.	£11,506
Scottish Flood Forum	To purchase flood alerting systems for three rural communities.	£10,500
Fintry Community Council	To enable the community to action the Community Resilience Plan.	£10,000
Skye Mountain Rescue	To build and equip a storage facility.	£10,000
Assynt Mountain Rescue Organisation	To replace a 4x4 ambulance based at Thurso.	£10,000
Terrence Higgins Trust Scotland	To empower volunteers to become Community Resilience Champions.	£10,000
Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance	To purchase new equipment for the air ambulance.	£8,746
Hopeman Community Association (HCA)	To purchase resilience equipment.	£8,195
Autism Initiatives	Helping people with an autism spectrum condition to build resilience.	£7,655
Alzheimer Scotland (Lewis and Harris)	To provide a circle of support for people with Alzheimers and dementia.	£6,750
Cuillin FM	To fund a generator.	£6,329
The Crask Inn	To replace a generator.	£6,000
Isle of Bute Resilience Team	To enhance a resilience team's capability.	£3,686
Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust	To provide a generator.	£3,092
St Andrew's First Aid	To purchase medical equipment.	£3,027

North of Scotland Fund 2018

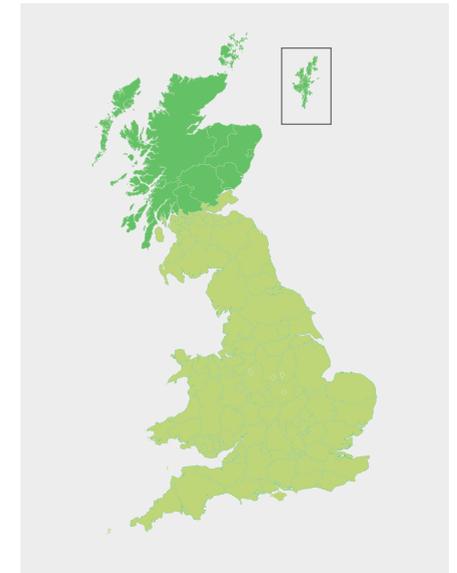
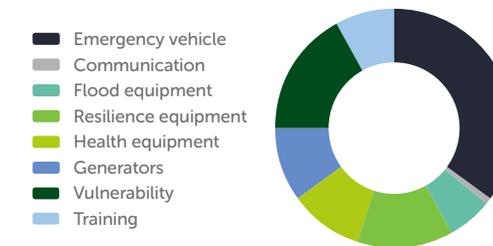


- Emergency vehicle
- Communication
- Flood equipment
- Resilience equipment
- Health equipment
- Generators
- Vulnerability
- Training



Organisation	Project Description	Award Amount
Cairndow Community Council	To build a resilience plan and equipment.	£3,000
Kintail Mountain Rescue Team	To replace satellite phones.	£2,838
Highland Hospice	To install a generator change over point.	£2,781
Nethy Bridge Community Council	To install a change-over switch.	£2,682
Dulnain Bridge Public Hall	To enable the hall to be an emergency centre.	£2,588
Crimond Area Tenants and Residents Association (CATRA)	To provide a defibrillator.	£2,500
Apex Church	To provide an Evacuation plan for a Care Home.	£2,437
Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council	To provide a resilient means of communication during an emergency.	£2,060
Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT)	To improve communication equipment.	£1,996
Kilmuir Community Council	To implement an emergency plan and related equipment.	£1,894
Kames and District Recreation Club	To install a change over switch.	£1,890
Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council	To purchase and install eleven new Grit Salt Bins at points across the community Council area.	£1,650
Stonehaven Flood Action	To purchase equipment and fix a CCTV.	£1,500
Papa Westray Community Council	To provide a resilient means of communication during an emergency.	£1,030
Sanday Community Association	To provide a resilient means of communication during an emergency.	£1,030
Stronsay Community Council	To provide a resilient means of communication which can be deployed during an emergency.	£1,030
Westray Community Council	To provide a resilient means of communication which can be deployed during an emergency.	£1,030
Banchory Community Council	To create a community resilience plan.	£250

North of Scotland Fund 2017



Organisation	Project Description	Award Amount
Hebrides Search and Rescue Team	To purchase a new replacement 4 x 4 vehicle.	£20,000
Scottish Flood Forum	To purchase a vehicle to assist flood hit communities.	£20,000
PAMIS (Promoting a More Inclusive Society)	To purchase Scotland's first mobile changing places toilet.	£20,000
Community Care Assynt Ltd	To provide a 4x4 vehicle.	£16,250
Perth First Responders	To purchase a new vehicle.	£15,000
The Sandpiper Trust	To provide 15 Sandpiper medical emergency bags.	£15,000
Milton Meadows Resilient Community Group	To improve flood defences.	£14,575

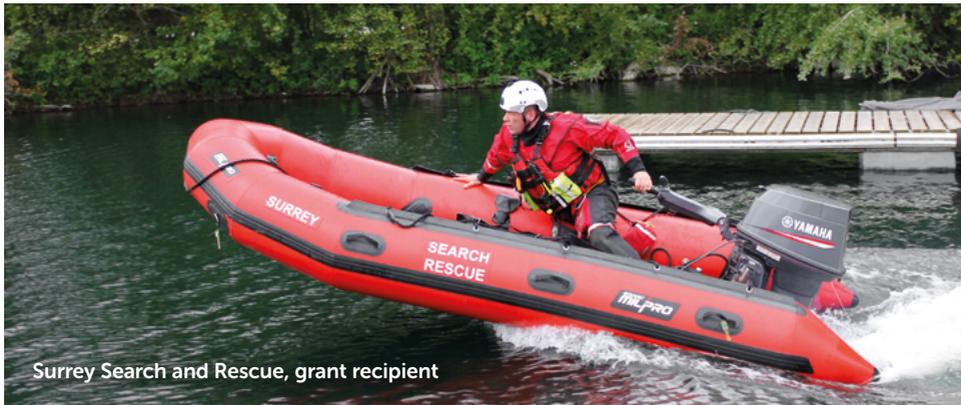
Organisation	Project Description	Award Amount
Pillar Kincardine	To provide wellness plans for members.	£14,274
Badenoch & Strathspey Community Transport Company	To keep people more socially connected in their communities.	£11,830
British Red Cross - Shetland	To purchase a vehicle for a patient transport service.	£10,000
Stronsay Community Council	To provide a change over switch and generator base stand.	£9,000
Community Off-Road Transport Action Group 4x4 Response	To provide equipment for logistical support to remote areas.	£8,245
Uyeasound Public Hall	To upgrade facilities to create an emergency hub.	£7,800
Eday Community Enterprise Ltd	To install an auto start panel and install a container.	£7,500
Merkinch Partnership	To provide community defibrillators and a training project.	£6,750
Kilmun Community Council	To provide a defibrillator and change over switch.	£5,040
Fetlar Community Association	To purchase equipment for an emergency response hub.	£4,710
Team Rubicon UK	To provide a portable Recruitment and Training Kit.	£4,394
Aberuthven Village Hall Trust	To provide a defibrillator, training and storage.	£4,371
Peedie Kirk United Reformed Church	To improve emergency lighting and fire detection.	£3,976
Arrochar Mountain Rescue Team	To purchase two monoculars.	£3,678
Graemsay, Hoy and Walls Community Council	To supply a generator change over switch.	£3,500
East Haven Together	To assist the community with a co-ordinated response to emergency events.	£3,420

Organisation	Project Description	Award Amount
Scourie & District Community Council	To improve an emergency response hub.	£3,250
Drimnin Village Hall	To equip an emergency response hub.	£3,159
Stanley & District Community Council	To improve a fire warning system.	£3,050
Ardgay and District Community Council	To provide two defibrillators.	£3,000
Marykirk Village Hall Management Committee	To fund an independent radio system.	£2,700
Newmill Community Association	To purchase a defibrillator and training.	£2,500
Kinross Community Council	To purchase a defibrillator.	£2,375
Torphins Community Council	To purchase community resilience equipment.	£2,335
Strathmore Sharks Rugby Club	To purchase a defibrillator.	£2,000
Ellon Community Resilience Group	To provide training and equipment.	£2,000
Coupar Angus and Bendochy Community Council	To supply 300 floodsax.	£1,890
Sinclair's Bay Community Council	To purchase a defibrillator.	£1,468
Tarskavaig Communities Hall Association	To equip an emergency response hub.	£1,430
Lochbroom Leisure Ullaspool	To provide life-saving training.	£1,258
British Red Cross	To provide a generator for an emergency vehicle.	£1,200
Three Harbours Association	To install a defibrillator.	£1,003
Edderton Community Hall	To provide a generator change over switch.	£818
Ferintosh Village Hall	To provide a generator change over switch.	£201

Our previous funding rounds

During the 2015 and 2016 funding rounds SSEN awarded £1.25m to 187 resilience projects – this included 46 projects to provide resilience equipment, 13 projects to improve communication and 26 projects to improve flood protection.

You can find a full list of awards from the fund at www.ssen.co.uk/ResilienceFund/



Surrey Search and Rescue, grant recipient



Contact Us

To find out more about the fund or register interest in the next round please contact:

North of Scotland:

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Central southern England:

Gareth Shields, gareth.shields@sse.com, 0141 224 7712

www.ssen.co.uk/ResilienceFund/

We'd also love your **feedback** so please do share any ideas you have for improving the fund.

Helping our customers

We understand the challenges that extreme weather can bring. Alongside the Resilient Communities Fund, we offer a number of additional services to help our customers.



Priority Services Register

For some, a power cut can be particularly distressing and difficult. We offer a free Priority Services register to give extra help and support to those in the greatest need. You may be eligible if you:

- Have children under 5
- Are over 60
- Have additional medical or communication needs.

For further information visit us at www.ssen.co.uk/PriorityServices

Or contact our dedicated team on 0800 294 3259

If you use a text phone, you can register by calling 0800 316 5457

Power Track app

Report a power cut instantly with our free Power Track app. You will also receive power cut updates and estimated restoration times.

The app is available now for free download on Apple & Android.



Free national power cut number

105 is the number to call if there's a power cut. You can call **105** to report a power cut or find out information about power interruptions in your local area.

You can also call **105** if you spot damage to electricity power lines and substations that could put you, or someone else, in danger. Remember, always keep a safe distance from potential hazards.



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