



Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks



Helping communities during the pandemic

Resilient Communities Fund 2020

Who are we

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.

Since 2015 we have operated the Resilient Communities Fund which has provided £2.8m to 540 not-for-profit community groups and charities in our electricity distribution network areas in central southern England and the north of Scotland. The fund helps communities to build resilience for emergency events and protect the welfare of vulnerable community members.



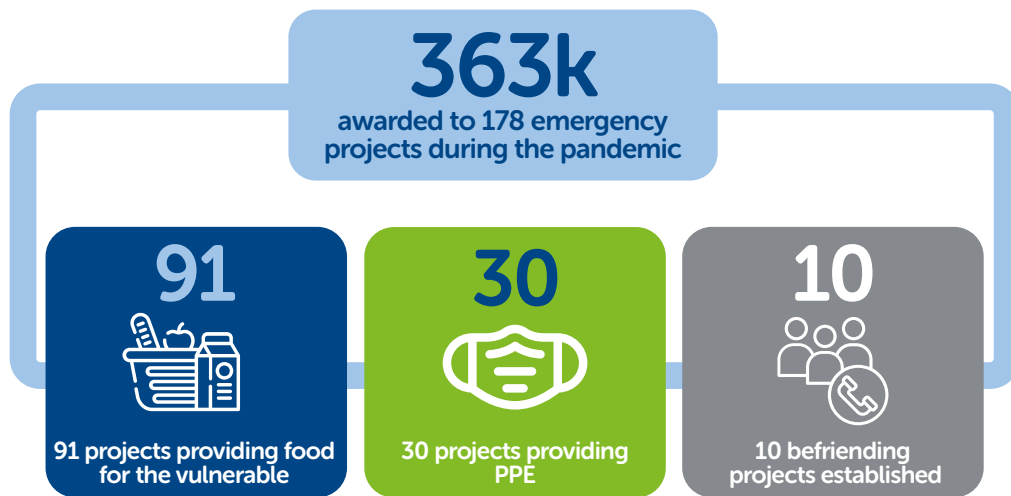
A new challenge

This has been a year like no other. The global coronavirus pandemic has impacted us all as we navigate new ways of living and working in our everyday lives. SSEN has played its part in supporting communities during this unforeseen time. Our dedicated frontline staff have worked throughout the pandemic to keep the power flowing to the regions we serve, including the care homes and hospitals that are so critical in our country's response to the pandemic.

Local communities have been at the centre of the coronavirus response. SSEN recognised that we could help community

volunteers to support the most vulnerable in our network areas. We acted quickly and decisively by awarding £363,848 funding to 178 community organisations. This funding has been vital for communities in allowing them to focus on their immediate needs, from accessing PPE for volunteers to providing hot meals for those self-isolating. We know the impact of the pandemic is not yet over and we remain committed to playing our part. We will continue to work with communities during the recovery from the pandemic to ensure lessons learned from this experience will help enhance resilience planning for future emergencies.

Funds at a glance



Responding quickly to local needs

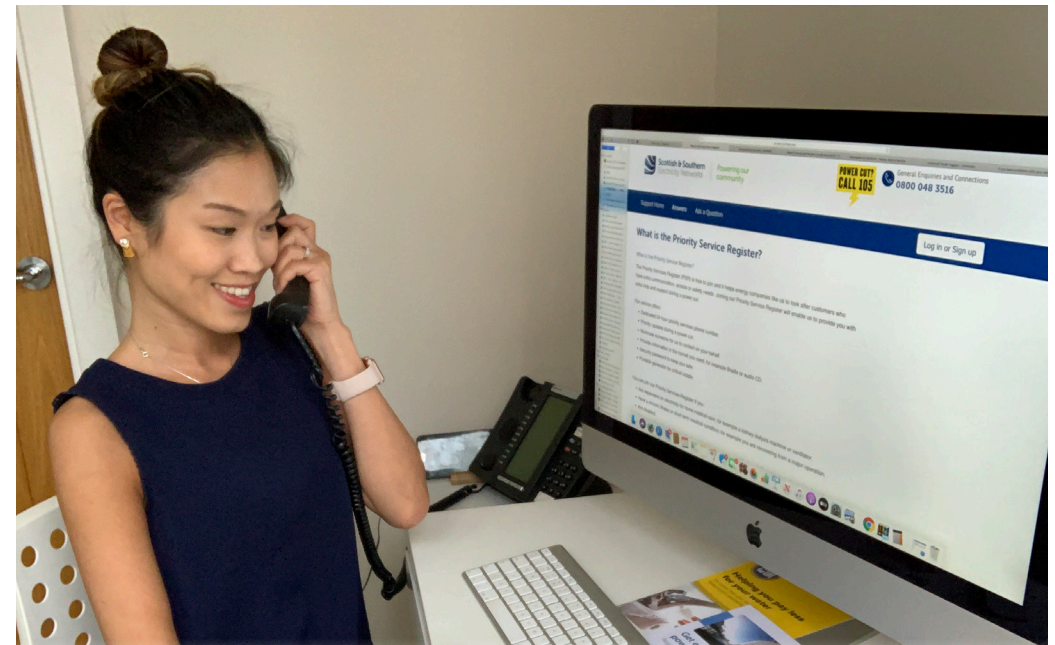
When the national lockdown was announced on 23 March 2020, SSEN consulted stakeholders including the Scottish Government and British Red Cross, on how our voluntary funds could add value to government and philanthropic responses to the coronavirus pandemic. It was identified that our experience and relationships with locally elected bodies including community and parish councils put us in a strong position to support their grass-root community responses.

SSEN opened an emergency Resilient Communities Fund on 31 March 2020 to provide grants of up to £3,000 to Community, Town and Parish Councils. The funds were available for community-based responses to support those who were socially isolating or distancing. Within seven weeks of the lockdown starting, SSEN made awards of £363,848 to 178 communities.

Communities reported that the SSEN funds were essential for their resilience planning and that the speed at which the funds were provided enabled them to mobilise local activity quickly. The flexibility of the fund enabled communities to respond to their specific needs from supporting volunteer ferry travel on the Isle of Luing, to identifying vulnerable residents in Portsmouth. Although every community response was unique, there were notable themes on what communities needed support with: providing meals and materials for the vulnerable; accessing PPE; issuing leaflets and communication; and supporting volunteers.

"Thank you so much for the food parcels. I would have struggled if it was not for the lovely people who cared so much about us."

Chris, Kinship Carer



"We are delighted to have the support of SSEN through this significant funding which enables our teams to provide additional support during a difficult time."

citizens advice Hampshire

Paul Bright, CEO Citizens Advice Hampshire

Case Studies Mobilising Advice Services

£40,000 awarded to Citizens Advice Scotland and Citizens Advice Hampshire

In March 2020, SSEN received an urgent plea for support from Citizens Advice Scotland and Citizens Advice Hampshire to help them transition to home working and develop their capacity and resilience to deliver the increased demand for remote services.

SSEN released £20,000 emergency funding in each network area to allow these vital organisations to purchase equipment and upskill staff to deliver telephone and webchat advice remotely. Citizens Advice Hampshire also developed initial Home and Well telephone support which includes raising awareness of the SSEN Priority Service Register.

The funding from the Resilient Communities Fund has helped over 80,000 local residents to access advice and information, helping them understand the impact of the pandemic on their employment, housing and consumer rights.



"Many shielding elderly residents told us that without our volunteer group they would not have been able to cope during lockdown. Enormous thanks go to SSEN for funding vital help."

Elizabeth Coyle-Camp, Tisbury Parish Councillor

Protecting Volunteers

£3,000 awarded to Tisbury Parish Council

Tisbury Parish Council in Wiltshire reacted quickly to the pandemic and utilised their resilience plans to coordinate a Tisbury Neighbourhood Response. The work of the response team ensured the most vulnerable in the community were identified and supported throughout the lockdown.

The funding from SSEN enabled 300 local volunteers to receive the personal protective equipment they required to deliver support safely. This included delivery of prescriptions, shopping orders, and carrying out emergency odd jobs for self-isolating residents.

The funding also helped pay for telecommunications software supporting a dedicated force of Telephone Angels, who handle calls for help which are relayed to volunteers on the ground, including a life-saving Quick Response Team. During lockdown, one in four residents in Tisbury were aged over 70, raising demand for the support services.

Helping the Vulnerable

£1,063 awarded to Stobswell Forum; £3,000 awarded to Dundee Thegither

In Dundee, the community responded to the pandemic by initiating help for the most vulnerable. The inner-city area of Stobswell has 5,000 residents living in an area identified in the lowest 20% on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. Local volunteers and third sector agencies created a community larder to help those in need in April 2020.

They also provided lunches for children being home schooled - the packs included healthy food and activity packs to keep children engaged. During a six month period 2,820 packed lunches were provided and 513 bags of groceries were given out. The Larder was a lifeline to local families and individuals.

The Dundee Thegither project, supported by Dundee City Centre and Harbour Community Council, supplied food parcels, medicine and other necessities for 300-350 people a week during lockdown; delivering vital prescriptions and providing a befriending service for people who found the enforced isolation difficult.



Dundee Thegither

"I am extremely grateful for the kindness shown to my family during such a stressful period in my life. I will never forget everyone's kindness."

Ann, local resident

Communities Working Together

£4,650 to Balintore and Hilton Community Council; Fearn Community Council; and Nigg and Shandwick Community Council.

Three community council areas in the north of Scotland collaborated to support their vulnerable residents during the pandemic. Lockdown meant residents in rural Ross-shire required a 15-mile round trip to access open services and they took responsible steps to minimise unnecessary travel.

A volunteer group was initiated to implement emergency plans and ensure the community was resilient and coordinated. They identified vulnerable residents and volunteers provided deliveries of fruit, vegetables and essentials to the elderly and self-isolating.

The volunteers were given access to a community hall kitchen and prepared simple and healthy warm meals which were safely delivered to elderly residents. By working together, the communities were able to share learning, pool resources and support more residents.



"The Resilient Communities Fund really boosted the funds available for all the work that went on in the communities. The Seaboard Centre being a Community Action Hub brought the community councils together as a collective which benefited those in need in our communities. We found that pulling together in this way forged a strong working relationship and one we hope to continue building on."

Maureen Ross, Seaboard Centre, Balintore

Central Southern England Fund 2020

£195,000

Awarded

86

Projects

- Food and Material 43%;
- Enabling Volunteers 30%;
- Communications 12%;
- PPE 5%;
- Advice 10%



Organisation

Award Amount

Citizens Advice Hampshire	£20,000
Westbury Town Council	£3,000
The Vine Centre	£3,000
Malmesbury Town Council	£3,000
Charlbury Town Council	£3,000
Denham Parish Council	£3,000
FISH Volunteer Centre / Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council	£3,000
Harwell Parish Council	£3,000
Piddington Parish Council	£3,000
Hazelmere Parish Council	£3,000
Gosport Borough Council	£3,000
Slough Borough Council	£3,000
Colnbrook with Poyle Parish Council	£3,000
Freshwater Parish Council	£3,000
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead	£3,000
Wantage Town Council	£3,000
Godalming Town Council	£3,000
Haslemere Community Council	£3,000

Organisation	Award Amount
Vale of White Horse Council	£3,000
Sonning Common Parish Council	£3,000
Fareham Borough Council	£3,000
Hounslow Phab	£3,000
Hounslow Multicultural Centre	£3,000
South Oxfordshire District Council	£3,000
Portland Town Council	£3,000
Winchester Town Forum	£3,000
Cliddesden Parish Council	£3,000
Tisbury Parish Council	£2,996
Woodstock Parish Council	£2,980
Hamworthy Parish Council	£2,900
Florence Park Community Association	£2,870
Weymouth Town Council	£2,750
Somerton Parish Council	£2,710
Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council	£2,700
West Hendred Parish Council	£2,600
Yateley Town Council	£2,600
Fyfield and West Overton Parish Council	£2,500
Box Parish Council	£2,500
Bourton on the Water Parish Council	£2,500
Risinghurst and Sandhills Parish Council	£2,300
Burnham Parish Council	£2,236
Havant Council	£2,225
Fordingbridge Town Council	£2,100
Chalfont St Giles Parish Council	£2,050
Niton and Whitewell Parish Council	£2,000
Pewsey Parish Council	£2,000
Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe Parish Council	£2,000
West Tisbury Parish Council	£2,000
Midhurst Town Council	£2,000
Petworth Town Council	£2,000
HIVE Portsmouth	£2,000
Newnham Parish Council	£2,000

Organisation	Award Amount
Blackbird Leys Parish Council	£1,952
ILAYS	£1,920
Pramalife	£1,920
Middleton-on-Sea Parish Council	£1,825
Thrupton Parish Council	£1,500
Watchfield Parish Council	£1,500
Faringdon Town Council	£1,500
Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council	£1,500
North Hinksey Parish Council	£1,500
Wootton Parish Council	£1,500
Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council	£1,400
Bishop's Waltham Parish Council	£1,300
Haslemere Town Council	£1,300
Hermitage Parish Council	£1,244
Overton Parish Council	£1,236
Churt Parish Council	£1,200
Chiseldon Parish Council	£1,200
Berinsfield Parish Council	£1,150
Singleton and Charlton Parish Council	£1,090
West Tytherley, Frenchmoor and Buckholt Parish Council	£1,053
Benson Parish Council	£1,000
East Hanney Parish Council	£1,000
Milland Parish Council	£900
Fringford Parish Council	£772
CommuniCare	£704
Mildenhall Parish Council	£610
Bromham Parish Council	£590
Farncombe Day Centre	£505
The Ivers Parish Council	£500
Market Lavington Parish Council	£472
Bishopstone Parish Council	£450
Fairford Town Council	£425
Warminster Town Council	£385
Kingsclere Parish Council	£380

North of Scotland Fund 2020

£168,484

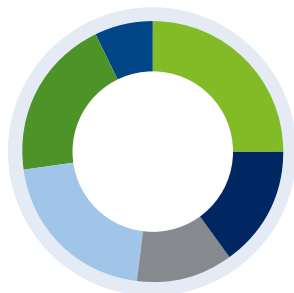
Awarded

92

Projects



- Food and Materials 25%;
- Enabling Volunteers 15%;
- Communication 12%;
- PPE 21%;
- Advice 20%;
- Befriending 7%



Organisation

Organisation	Award Amount
Citizens Advice Scotland	£20,000
Moray Community Councils	£17,000
Fort Augustus & Glenmoriston and Glengary Community Councils	£3,100
Dundee Thegither	£3,000
Aberdeen Ferryhill Parish	£1,550
Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council	£1,550
Allness Community Council	£1,550
Alyth Community Council	£1,550
Seaboard Memorial Hall on behalf of Balintore and Hilton Council	£1,550
Benholm and Johnshaven Community Council	£1,550
Blair Atholl Community Council	£1,550
Blairgowrie & Rattray Community Council	£1,550
Braco & Greenloaning Community Council	£1,550
Campbeltown Community Council	£1,550
Castletown and district community council	£1,550
Dornoch Community Council	£1,550
Dufftown and District Community Association	£1,550

Organisation

Award Amount

Fintry Community Council	£1,550
Gartmore Community Council	£1,550
Glen Ogilvie Residents' Association	£1,550
Hopeman Community Association	£1,550
Inver and District Community Council	£1,550
Kilninver & Kilmelford Community Council	£1,550
Kinloch Rannoch Community Council	£1,550
Kyleakin and Kyclerhea Community Council	£1,550
Lochdar Community Council	£1,550
Luing Community Council	£1,550
Methven and District Community Council	£1,550
Mull Community Council	£1,550
Nigg & Shandwick Community Council	£1,550
Seil & Easdale Community Council	£1,550
Sheildaig Community Council	£1,550
Southend Community Council	£1,550
Steeple Church Dundee	£1,550
Strathard Community Council	£1,550
Sunart Community Council	£1,550
Tain Community Council	£1,550
Tongue Community Council	£1,550
Uig Community Trust	£1,550
Scourie Community Council	£1,550
Auchtergaven Community Council	£1,550
Bute Community Council	£1,550
Yell Community Council	£1,550
Fearn Community Council	£1,550
Merkinch Partnership	£1,550
Durness Community Council	£1,550
Kippen Community Council	£1,550
Papa Westry Community Council	£1,550
Assynt Community Council	£1,550
Killin Community Council	£1,550
Glenlyon & Loch Tay Community Council	£1,550

Organisation	Award Amount
Islay Community Council	£1,550
Northmavine Community Council	£1,550
Great Bernera Community Council	£1,550
Lismore Community Council	£1,550
Muir of Ord Community Council	£1,550
Oban Community Council	£1,550
Drymen Community Council	£1,550
East Kintyre Community Council	£1,550
Lochbroom Community Council	£1,550
Castlebay Community Council	£1,550
Bornish Community Council	£1,550
Cromar Community Council	£1,550
North Uist Community Council	£1,550
Meigle & Ardlar Community Council	£1,550
Lochboisdale Community Council	£1,550
Strachur Community Council	£1,550
Carnoustie Community Council	£1,550
Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council	£1,550
Cromatry and District Community Council	£1,500
Dunblane Community Council	£1,500
Arrochar & Tarbet Community Development Trust	£1,500
Cairndow Community Council	£1,500
Kilfinan Community Council	£1,426
Nether Lochaber Community Council	£1,310
Cromdale and Advie Community Council	£1,100
Kilmadock Community Council	£1,100
Stobswell Forum	£1,063
Belhelvie Community Council	£1,000
VSA (Voluntary Services Aberdeen)	£1,000
Edderton Community Council	£1,000
Garelochhead Community Council	£1,000
Newtyle & Eassie Community Council	£1,000
Kingussie Community Council	£1,000
South Harris Community Council	£1,000

Organisation	Award Amount
Kemnay Community Council	£1,000
Brora Community Council	£1,000
Trossachs Search and Rescue	£1,000
Tarbat Community Council	£500
Arran Community Council	£499





Scottish & Southern
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Contact Us

To find out more about the Resilient Communities Fund or register an interest in the next round please contact:

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

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks is a trading name of:

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