



Educational Scholarship Scheme 2025 Guidelines



1. Introduction

Sundew Solar DAC is now inviting applications to the Timahoe North Solar Farm Educational Scholarship Scheme ("The Scheme"). Students living up to 5km from Timahoe North Solar Farm can apply to this Scheme. All programmes of third-level study and further adult education will be considered, provided they are Level 6 and upwards, as per the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), including Apprenticeships. Four Scholarships will be awarded.

Applications are welcomed from all courses, however, bonus points will be awarded to courses which are STEM focused (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and contribute to Sustainability, in particular the UN Sustainable Development Goals 4, 7, 11 and 13. For further information on these Goals please visit <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

Applications can only be made through the Timahoe North Solar Farm website www.timahoenorthsolarfarm.ie

The Scheme is part of the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS-2), a key policy initiative to deliver on the Government's Climate Action Plan, and it is structured in line with the recommendations of the RESS Community Benefit Fund Good Practice Principles Rulebook. The Scheme runs for 15 years from 2025 – 2040 with an annual call for applications.

Please note the key dates for the Educational Scholarship Scheme are as follows:

**Opening date for submission of application:
9am, 29th August 2025**

**Closing date for submission of application:
5pm, 26th September 2025**

2. Overview of the Timahoe North Solar Farm Educational Scholarship Scheme

As part of the Timahoe North Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund, we want to ensure that people living in the vicinity of the Solar Farm benefit the most. The cost of studies and student life can be a barrier for potential students. To help reduce this barrier, Sundew Solar DAC has created an Educational Scholarship Scheme ("the Scheme") to support local students in accessing further education. The Scheme will be funded directly from the renewable energy generated by Timahoe North Solar Farm through its Community Benefit Fund.

The 2025 Scheme includes a monetary grant to the value of €2,500 for each year of study, up to a maximum of 4 years, for four successful applicants living within 5km of Timahoe North Solar Farm. The Scheme may be used towards course fees, accommodation, tools, transport costs etc.

The RESS-2 Terms & Conditions places an emphasis on the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Put succinctly, these are the goals that have been set by the UN for all countries to deal with the challenges that are faced worldwide in order to grow sustainably over the 21st century. The use of funds to help address these challenges for local communities is important in developing sustainable communities in Ireland and in the achievement of a variety of national targets such as those pertaining to energy and climate. Fulsome delivery of the SDGs will enable a fundamental change to a greener, more inclusive economy and more resilient communities.

3. Scholarship Eligibility

To be considered for the Scheme applicants must:

- Be currently studying or hold an unconditional offer of a place for entry into the next academic year.
- Have a principal primary residence address within 5km of Timahoe North Solar Farm.
- Submit a valid application.

3.1 Scholarship Criteria

- The Scheme includes a monetary grant to assist local students with further education studies, including course fees, accommodation, tools, transport costs etc.
- Points will be awarded to students against a predefined set of evaluation criteria including proximity of their principal primary residence to Timahoe North Solar Farm.
- All programmes of third level study and further adult education will be considered, provided they are Level 6 and upwards, as per the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), including apprenticeships.
- Applications are welcomed from all courses however bonus points will be awarded to courses which are STEM focused (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) related and contribute to Sustainability, in particular the UN Sustainable Development Goals 4, 7, 11 and 13.

4. UN Sustainability Development Goals explained



Goal 4 - Quality Education

Such as courses which support knowledge and skills needed in communities to promote sustainable development, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, or projects which provide up-skilling within communities.



Goal 7 - Affordable and Clean Energy

Such as courses which support energy efficient projects or initiatives that encourage and deliver renewable electricity generation projects.



Goal 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities

Such as courses which strengthen efforts to protect and enhance the cultural and natural heritage of the local community or which support the implementation of policies and plans for communities towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaption to climate change.



Goal 13 - Climate Action

Such as courses which aim to improve education, awareness raising and improve capacity on climate change early warning, mitigation, adaption and impact reduction.

For further information on these Goals please visit <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

5. How to Apply

Applications can be made online via www.timahoenorthsolarfarm.ie. All documentation for the Scheme including the Schemes guidelines will be made available on the application portal home page. Please note only applications submitted via the online portal referenced above will be considered.

Applicants should allow approximately **30 minutes** to complete their application. We recommend you take the following steps when completing your application:

1. Read this briefing document thoroughly.
2. Register an account on the online application portal via www.timahoenorthsolarfarm.ie to register your interest in the Scheme and to ensure you are notified of any updates or clarifications made.
3. Submit any queries you have on the Scheme by sending a message to the Community Benefit Fund team via the messaging option on the online application portal. The FAQ page on the online application portal will be updated regularly to reflect these queries.

The application portal will close on **26th September at 5.00pm**. Late applications will not be accepted. Please note, canvassing or lobbying of any Scholarship Panel member will result in automatic disqualification.

5.1 Application Documentation

For your application to be considered eligible for evaluation you will need to ensure you have the following in place before applying to the Scheme.

- Eircode for your principal primary residence
- Proof of address – this can include, document issued by a government department that shows your address or copy of CAO documentation showing your address. Your proof of address must be less than 6 months old.
- Course code – in line with the National Framework of Qualifications (www.nfq.ie).
- Proof or confirmation of course acceptance/ attendance – this can be a letter of registration from your academic institution.
- Personal statement – this can be in the form of a written paragraph or can be uploaded as a short video.

6. Evaluation of Applications

1. All applications will be screened for eligibility. If an application does not pass the eligibility criteria phase, it will not proceed to the evaluation phase.
2. Eligible applications will be marked against the Evaluation Criteria.
3. The Scholarship Panel will be responsible for assessing all applications.

6.1 Evaluation Criteria

Eligible applications will be assessed and scored under the following evaluation criteria:

Proximity to Timahoe North Solar Farm	As part of the Timahoe North Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund, we want to ensure that people living in the area benefit the most from the development of the solar farm. For this reason, applicants residing closest to the solar farm will receive highest marks under the proximity criterion.
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) related course	Applicants studying STEM-related courses or apprenticeships will be awarded bonus points under this criterion.
Sustainability	A core goal of the Timahoe North Solar Farm Community Benefit Fund under the RESS 2 Rulebook is to fund projects which align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. A Scholarship application will receive bonus points if it demonstrates alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
Robustness of Application	The application is complete. All questions have been provided with a response and all required documentation has been submitted with application.
Personal Statement	Outlining why you think you should receive the Educational Scholarship Scheme.

7. Scholarship Offer

Applicants can expect to be informed of the outcome of their application no later than 14th November 2025. Please note, if we are experiencing any delays due to the volume of applications received, we will inform you of same.

7.1 If your application is successful

If your application is successful, a Letter of Offer containing the terms and conditions of the Educational Scholarship Scheme will be issued to you. Accompanying this letter will be:

- A letter of acceptance to be signed by the successful applicant and/or parent/guardian accepting the terms of the offer. This agreement must be entered into between Sundew Solar DAC and the individual receiving the Scholarship, or their parent/guardian as applicable.

- A request for further documentation such as: Bank Account details
- Any additional documentation requested by the scholarship panel.

The agreement must be signed by successful applicants and all requested documentation submitted prior to receiving the funds.

7.2 If your application is unsuccessful

- Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing.

As the Scheme will open for new applications in 2026 unsuccessful applicants will be able to re-apply to subsequent Educational Scholarship Scheme funding rounds, subject to the Schemes terms and conditions. All decisions of the Scholarship Panel are final and cannot be appealed.

8. Important Dates

Phase	Details	Date
Educational Scholarship Scheme opens for Applications	The Educational Scholarship Scheme opens for applications and all information is made available on the application portal: www.timahoenorthsolarfarm.ie	Friday, 29th August 2025 at 9am
Educational Scholarship Scheme closes for Applications	No applications will be accepted after this time.	Friday, 26th September 2025 at 5pm
Notification	Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application. Successful applications will be provided with a Scholarship Letter of Offer and a Scholarship agreement.	No later than 14th November 2025
Scholarship Offers	Applicants must accept the Scholarship offer and submit all documentation required.	Within 10 days of receipt of Letter of Offer

9. Contact Information

Please get in touch with our Community Benefit Fund team if you have any questions via www.timahoenorthsolarfarm.ie or contact TimahoeSolar@bnm.ie.
Alternatively, please contact our Community Liaison Officer, James Rowan on 087 7087022.