29 By 29

£29 million by April 1, 2029

Project Investment January 1, 2021 to May 13, 2026

Project investment so far

£26,777,323

Tree Walk

£476,239

More than £450,000 invested in nature tree walks around UK & USA main buildings

£8,844,725

More than £8.8 million invested in forestry and peatland projects in the UK

AESSEAL ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY

Project Investment
January 1, 2021 to May 13, 2026

29by29 Investment summary

The AES Engineering Ltd Group has committed to invest £29 million on environmental projects between January 1, 2021 and April 1, 2029.

Part of the commitment was an undertaking to provide progress upgrades, and we can announce that the group has committed more than **£26,700,000** – putting us well ahead of target.

A summary of the larger investments follows:-

Phase 5 Factory For The Future Green Only Investment (**England**)	**£5,800,000**
Mill Close Tree Walk (**England**)	**£298,614**
EcoGuard research development to prevent flaring, and parts	**£1,771,733**
Betterworld Solar Farm (**India**)	**£1,000,000**
India branch solar, energy generation and storage, and electricity upgrade	**£772,991**
Betterworld Forestry Hardgatehead, 300 acres (**Scotland**)	**£1,978,669**
Betterworld Peatland Restoration, 13,500 acres (**Scotland**)	**£5,904,884**
Betterworld Forestry Aghnagrane, 90 acres, Fermanagh (**N Ire**)	**£711,708**
Betterworld Forestry Drumreask, 40.6 acres, Fermanagh (**N Ire**)	**£249,464**
BREEAM Building (**Australia**)	**£512,186**
Kronau (**Germany**) heat pump and solar array	**£520,908**
Bradford re-roof, solar panels (**England**)	**£1,140,191**
Electric vehicles and chargers	**£433,441**
USA solar, energy generation and storage, and electricity upgrade	**£1,821,139**

Of the **£26,777,323** so far committed, **£5.8 million** was 'green-only' investment on the new 175,000 sq. ft. Factory for the Future site at the Global Technology Centre in Rotherham. This was described as "a temple of innovation" by former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, and includes almost 3,000 solar panels, 2.2 MW of battery energy storage systems, air heat pumps, advanced transformers, and other energy-saving and environmental measures.

Betterworld Solar Farm, India

Mill Close Tree Walk, UK

Betterworld Forestry, N. Ire.

See more on the Factory for the Future in our corporate video

The upgrade of old cladding and roofing with new materials has enabled the company to utilise as much power as possible from the solar panels and batteries.

More than **£396,000** was spent on gas removal and heating at Mill Close, with ongoing investment across the building on LED lighting, air conditioning, ventilation and heating.

The group has also spent more than **£250,000** on a Tree Walk around the perimeter of the Factory for the Future site, providing a habitat for wildlife and an educational facility that has been enjoyed by more than one thousand children since opening a year ago.

Other major initiatives include the **£5.9 million** acquisition of 13,500 acres in Sutherland, Scotland, for the Betterworld Peatland Restoration Project. In addition to planting several million trees, the project will restore peatlands, which can store significantly more carbon than forests and retain it for thousands of years.

There have also been investments on Betterworld Forestry of **£711,708** at Aghnagrane in Co Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, **£249,464** on 40.6 acres at Drumreask in the same county and more than **£1.9 million** at Hardgatehead in Scotland.

We are also constructing a BREEAM excellent building at the Advanced Manufacturing Park in Rotherham, with a projected environmental expenditure of **£1.2 million** included in the **£17.5 million** land and building cost.

Outside of the UK, construction of a new **£177,625** tree walk is on-going at AESSEAL Inc's 50,000 sq. ft. US base in Tennessee, with landscaping and new pathways, and a 552kWp solar array and 500kWh battery energy storage system, as well as an environmentally friendly heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system.

In November 2025, the company opened its new Australian headquarters in Brisbane, the first building in the country to be certified under the BREEAM sustainability scheme with a rating of excellent. More than **£500,000** extra was invested to ensure it met the stringent environmental inspection standards, and measurements were made around reduced carbon emissions, low impact design, adaptation to climate change, ecological value and biodiversity production.

Other major investments on environmental projects include a **£1 million** 5MW solar farm and renewable energy project which opened in Pune, India in March 2023, and separate expenditure on an Indian group building that has become almost entirely green.

More than **£520,000** was spent on a solar array and heat pumps in Kronau, Germany. Other initiatives have included rainwater harvesting, solar energy and advanced insulation in Spain, Northern Ireland and South Africa.

Mill Close Phase 5, UK

Rockford Tree Walk, USA

BREEAM building, Australia

Chris Rea's video updates

Progress towards meeting our promise to invest £29m on environmental projects by 2029 has been rapid, with relevant research undertaken on each project and the benefits they will bring to the planet. Unfortunately, such commitment still has not been met by the majority of the business world or those governing the planet's largest economies.

Very little, if any, progress has been made in committing to finding a solution to climate change and securing the survival of this planet.

Investing the money is all well and good, but it's not really about that. Receiving recognition such as the King's Award for Enterprise in the sustainable development category is fantastic, but that's not why we do it.

Seeing the benefits of what we are doing is what provides satisfaction – witnessing one thousand children already enjoying our educational and fun nature and wildlife walk since its opening last year, sponsoring a poetry competition and reading event that encouraged young people to reflect on the value of looking after the planet. That value is, of course, one that goes way beyond money.

It makes sense for the business too. New governance such as the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive indicates that any business not genuinely working to reduce the impact of climate change will, in the future, face strong sanctions, so the investment is partly self-preservation, but is mostly about preservation of the planet for future generations.

We have continued with our Betterworld.Solutions initiative, which exists to persuade boards to provide a conduit for more environmental projects to be brought to their attention. It is based on the principle that board members would gladly make more environmental investments if suitable projects were brought to their attention.

We have had some successes, with members such as ASD Lighting and Rototherm undertaking environmental projects as a result, but we would like more commitment from more companies – and the message is it doesn't have to cost a lot, and you could actually see a return on investment while helping to save the environment.

Finally, as heatwaves bring water shortages and drought to many areas of the globe, and climate change continues unabated while the world continues to operate as normal, we will continue to carry out business in a responsible way and we will honour our pledge to invest £29m by 2029.

Chris Rea, CBE, DL, BSc, CEng, HonFIMechE

Managing Director

On behalf of the AES Engineering Ltd. Group of Companies

AES Engineering Ltd received the King's Award for Enterprise in the sustainable development category in 2025