

Blackridge Community Fund Fund Factsheet (2020)

What is the Blackridge Community Fund & who is it for?

The Blackridge Community Fund is a charitable fund to benefit those living in the Blackridge community council area. The Fund is a vehicle through which a number of different funds are administered including those provided by FS Wind Ltd and Harthill Wind Ltd, the owners of Torrance Wind Farm and Torrance Extension Wind Farm and the EDF-ER Burnhead Fund.

How is the Fund managed & who makes decisions about how it's used?

The Fund is managed by Foundation Scotland, an independent grant-making charity. Foundation Scotland receive and process applications for grants. Recommendations about grants and how the money is used are made by a Community Panel made up of local residents including two community councillors – Kate Strachan, Billy Craig, Andrew Valentini, Clare Gregor and Gavin MacDonald. Other residents are welcome to nominate themselves.

Who can apply for an award?

Applicants must normally fulfil the following conditions to apply to the Fund:

- The proposal is for projects or activities consistent with the overall charitable purpose of the Blackridge Community Fund;
- Applicants have a constitution (governing document or set of rules) and are set up on a not-for-private-profit basis. However applicants do not need to be registered charities to apply.
- Applicants provide their latest set of accounts signed by an independent third party.

Foundation Scotland and the Panel recognise that some community activity is organised by groups that are more informal without formal governance arrangements (such as a constitution) in place. Such groups are welcome to enquire about applying for a grant and can sometimes be supported depending on circumstances.

How much is available?

Annual payments are made from each specific fund at different times in the year. All the payment are index-linked. The total sum expected in 2020 is £46,500.

What size of awards is available?

Awards of between £500 and £4,000 are available. Applicants are expected only to apply for the amount they required. The Panel welcomes applications that can show funds are also being raised from other sources. If you can demonstrate why you need a larger grant and that there is significant community support for the project you propose, then the Panel may be able to consider your request. If you think

this applies to your project, then please contact Foundation Scotland for an initial discussion and we will be able to give you tailored advice before you complete an application form. Please do not complete an application form without speaking with Foundation Scotland first!

Applicants may request support for recurring costs over a 3 year period. In these circumstances the maximum award level is £10,000.

Microgrants

Constituted groups including the Community Council can apply at any time to Foundation Scotland for a grant of up to £500.

Non-Constituted groups and individuals can also apply for a Micro grant however you must discuss your project idea with the Community Council first who will apply to the Blackridge Community fund on your behalf. Alternatively, they may direct you to a more suitable local organisation who could apply for the micro grant on your behalf.

Foundation Scotland will endeavour to consider applications and provide a decision on the application within 21 days. Payment timescales will be dependent on submission of a Grant Acceptance form from the nominated Constituted group.

What are the deadlines and timescales for 2020?

Closing date	Decision
Thursday 12 th March	Early May
Thursday 28 th May	Early August
Thursday 10 th September	End November
Thursday 10 th December	End February

What will the Blackridge Community Fund support?

The Fund provides grants to support charitable activities that:

- Enhance quality of life for local residents
- Contribute to vibrant, healthy, successful and sustainable communities
- Promote community spirit and encourage community activity.

Awards can support a wide range of costs and activities including equipment costs, running costs for local groups, staff or sessional worker costs, consultations, maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities etc. As stated on the Application Form at Section 5.5, for any capital items (e.g. equipment, construction services) costing between £200 and £2,000 you will need to provide a quotation from a supplier. For items exceeding £2,000 in value, three quotes should be provided. If this is not possible, we will ask you to explain why.

What other criteria apply to the Fund?

- Projects should be well planned taking a strategic approach where possible.
- Any outstanding feedback reports from previous grants need to have been received by Foundation Scotland before further grants are paid.

What cannot be supported?

- Projects which do not primarily benefit people living within the Blackridge Community Council area.
- Individuals (please note, the EDF Burnhead Education & Training Fund does provide grants for individuals and Blackridge residents are eligible to apply for that. For further information go to: <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/edf-burnhead-moss-education-and-training-fund/>).
- Grant requests towards the advancement of religion or politics (including requests to support the core activities of religious or political groups).
- The purchase of secondhand vehicles.
- 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).
- General fundraising appeals or activities.
- Activities understood to be the primary responsibility of statutory authorities
- Applications that are primarily for benefit of flora and fauna which do not have wider community benefit.
- Activities contrary to the interests of any of the wind farm owners, Foundation Scotland or activity considered to be anti-renewables.

How can I apply?

Application forms and guidance are available online or to download from www.foundationscotland.org.uk/blackridge or by post or email from the Programme Administrator at Foundation Scotland on 0131 524 0300 or kathryn@foundationscotland.org.uk.

Completed and signed applications should be submitted to **Programme Administrator, Foundation Scotland, 15 Calton Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8DL** or via email (including scans of supporting documents) to: communitybenefit@foundationscotland.org.uk

What if I have more questions?

We welcome pre-application enquiries. For further advice or information on the Fund or to discuss your project proposal, please contact the Foundation Scotland team on the number above.

What happens after I have submitted the application?

We will check your application has been submitted with the necessary information. We aim to contact you as soon as possible if there is anything missing or if you are ineligible to apply.

An assessor will then contact you to arrange a short telephone conversation to learn more about your project and request for funding. If you will be unavailable for any significant period between the submission deadline and notification date, please include a note to that effect in a covering letter, as your application may not be considered if our assessor cannot contact you.

You will then be informed of an outcome in writing by email or letter within two weeks after the Panel decision making meet.