



**Foundation
Scotland**



E.ON CAMSTER COMMUNITY FUND FACT SHEET (2018)

What is the E.ON Camster Community Fund and who is it for?

This charitable fund is provided by E.ON, the developer of the Camster Wind Farm. The Fund benefits communities in the three Community Council areas of Latheron, Lybster & Clyth; Tannach & District; and Watten within the County of Caithness.

How is the Fund managed, and who makes decisions about it?

The Fund is held and administered by a charity, Foundation Scotland (FS). Although FS receives and processes applications, decisions on awards are made by the E.ON Camster Community Fund Panel, a local Panel of 12 people comprising of four representatives from each of the three Community Council areas. Each four is made up of one Community Councillor and three members appointed from the wider community.

How much is available?

The annual Fund provides £150,000 (as at Year 1 – 1st September 2013) for the life of the wind farm which is expected to be 25 years, rising with the Retail Price Index. The annual payment to the Fund is divided equally between each of the three Community Council areas. So in Year 5 (1st September 2017) each Community Council area received £54,525.

What sizes of grants are available?

Grants are available from £250 to £25,000, however requests for more than £25,000 may be considered on a case-by-case basis where significant benefit can be evidenced and groups should get in touch to discuss this before making an application.

Who can apply for a grant?

Applicants must fulfil the following conditions to apply for a grant:

- The planned activity benefits residents within the area of benefit.
- Identify which of the outcomes the proposal will deliver.
- Is a community group/organisation (not-for-private-profit) and provides its governing document(s). However applicants do not need to be registered charities to apply.
- Applicants provide the latest set of accounts signed and verified/audited by an independent/third party.

What are the deadlines and timescales?

The fund operates two funding rounds per year: 31st March (with awards announced in June) and 30th September (with awards announced in December).

What will the Fund be used for and what 'outcomes' are the Panel looking for?

The Fund supports community groups and charities working in the Camster Community Fund area that are providing activities or services which bring benefit to individuals or groups in the three community council areas.

Within this broad purpose, the Panel has set the following outcomes. The outcomes are designed to reflect the needs and issues identified in the community consultation done in 2012 and are therefore based on local needs and aspirations which can be found on the FS website.

The outcomes for the Camster Fund are as follows:

1. There are more and better opportunities to take part in sports and recreational pursuits
2. Access to and through settlements is safer
3. People of all ages enjoy more, better and varied activities and services
4. Community life is enhanced and maintained through a wide range of activities, events and improved amenity of settlements
5. Economic activity is encouraged within the Fund area
6. People have more vocational skills and experience
7. The natural and cultural heritage is more valued, experienced and understood by both visitors and residents
8. Energy use in homes and community buildings is more sustainable
9. Tourism opportunities are promoted and created in the Fund area

Every application **must** aim to deliver a project that can demonstrate how it will contribute towards one or more of the Fund outcomes. All applications should list the measurable activities/outputs a group/organisation will deliver in order to achieve the relevant outcome(s).

What other criteria apply to the Fund?

Local consultation: That the applicant has consulted an appropriate and proportionate number of the intended beneficiaries of the project, and can demonstrate they are supportive of the proposal.

Local procurement: That local suppliers of goods and services will be used, where appropriate (e.g., in terms of quality of products / services available) and feasible (in terms of availability and cost). The definition of 'local' will vary depending on the goods/services in question. In some cases it could be taken to mean within the Area of Benefit but in others Caithness or indeed the North of Scotland might be most appropriate.

Partnership working: Where appropriate, that the applicant has considered whether delivering their project in partnership with other organisations / groups will add value (financial, capability, or other). This could involve working with voluntary, private or public sector bodies that operate at local, regional or national level.

Supporting activities which are the responsibility of statutory authorities:

Most independent funders, and E.ON, do not wish to support activity that is generally thought to be a statutory responsibility. Public agencies like schools, health or police services are therefore ineligible. However, determining whether applications are additional to statutory provision can be a very grey area even where an application is being made by a community group. The applicant must demonstrate that the proposed project is additional to statutory provision and budgets and the work would not be undertaken without funding from another source.

For example a Parent Teacher body attached to a school that is independently constituted and working to bring additional funds to schools to extend children's educational opportunities. As part of the assessment process, FS will consider on a case-by-case basis whether a particular project is additional to statutory provision. A useful consideration is whether the project takes place outwith school time, and whether people from the wider community are involved. However, even then an application for activities or equipment that will only be used by pupils and during school times may be considered outwith or additional to statutory responsibilities.

Supporting churches or groups connected with churches:

The Fund will not support activity that promotes the advancement of religion. However churches are eligible to apply for funding for non-religious activity that is likely to benefit a wider catchment than their own specific congregations. In the same vein, churches could apply for funding to upgrade the facilities or fabric of a Church Hall where this is used by other groups that bring wider benefit to the community.

Supporting the work of groups engaged in campaigning activities: The Fund will not support any form of campaigning activities including those that advance party politics.

Supporting activity that takes place outwith the area of benefit but which benefits or involves those living within the area of benefit:

It is acknowledged that those living in the area of benefit do make use of facilities outwith the Fund area. Groups providing activities outwith the Fund area are eligible to apply to the Fund where they can demonstrate that the activity does involve and benefit people living in the area of benefit. However such activity may not necessarily be considered as high a priority as applications from groups operating within the area of benefit.

Requests for support with feasibility studies and other project development work

The Fund is unlikely to support activity such as research / consultation, planning and other feasibility work. Any applications would have to demonstrate significant community support, realistic ambitions, that appropriately skilled / qualified personnel are involved in conducting the work, and must not duplicate any similar recent feasibility work.

Match Funding applications

The Panel encourages applications that have attracted funding from other sources, including from the applicant organisation's own funds. This is particularly the case for larger applications, and may have a bearing where there is competition for funds. However, applicants are not required to source any specific proportion of matched funds towards their project.

Emergency procedures

Sometimes something happens to a group or community that can't have been predicted. The Panel will aim to be flexible to requests for funding in between rounds under exceptional circumstances and in emergency situations. Lack of forward planning by a group does not constitute an emergency.

Support for trips outwith the Fund area.

Such requests from community groups/organisations are eligible where it can be demonstrated that they will deliver on the Fund outcome(s).

What is excluded from funding?

Awards cannot support the following types of activity:

- The advancement of religion or politics (including requests to support the core activities of religious or political groups);
- Activities understood to be the exclusive responsibility of statutory authorities;
- Projects benefiting residents primarily located outwith the Area of Benefit;
- Activities contrary to the interests of E.ON or any companies in its group;
- Activities likely to bring the Foundation, E.ON or any companies in its group into disrepute;
- Anti-renewable energy / wind farm activities; and/or
- Costs already incurred or activities which will take place before the Panel has made a decision on an application (i.e. retrospective funding);
- The repayment of loans or debts.

How can I apply?

The application form can be completed online, or downloaded from

www.foundationscotland.org.uk/Camster or by contacting the Programme Administrator at Foundation Scotland: communitybenefit@foundationscotland.org.uk or telephoning: 0131 524 0300.

How many applications can I submit?

Groups can apply for funding for more than one project in each round, even if it is still holding an award from a previous round. If a group is not able to deliver a funded project within the agreed timescale it should contact Eilidh Gunn to discuss the reasons why and possibility of an extension to the grant period. FS may need to seek the Panel's permission for an extension.

What if I have more questions?

If you can't find the information you are looking for on the Camster Fund web page on the Foundation Scotland website at www.foundationscotland.org.uk/Camster and/or need further advice or information on the Fund or to discuss your application, please contact Eilidh Gunn, on 07801 530213 or e-mail: eilidh@foundationscotland.org.uk

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