



Minygap Community Fund- Factsheet

What is the Minnygap Community Fund and who is it for?

This charitable fund is provided by Minnygap Energy Ltd, owner of the Minnygap Wind Farm, and the Johnstonebridge Community Centre & Development Trust. The Fund supports community projects benefitting residents of Johnstone, Templand and Kirkpatrick Juxta, geographically defined by community council boundaries.

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

The Fund is held and administered by a grant making charity, Foundation Scotland. The Foundation receives and processes applications and works with a local Advisory Panel, which decides on awards from the Fund. The Advisory Panel is made up of community councillors and other individuals with local knowledge and interests.

How much is available?

The annual index linked fund is a minimum of £50,000 per year, starting in 2018. The Fund will be in place for the operating life of the wind farm, which is expected to be 25 years.

What sizes of awards are available?

There are two types of award:

- **Small Grants** from £1 to £500.

Individuals and unconstituted groups may apply for a small grant, but must have a sponsoring organisation, which will receive the grant and make payments on behalf of the individual or unconstituted group. This may be a Community Council. Individuals may apply for no more than £250. All projects must be charitable and be able to demonstrate community benefit.

- **Standard Grants** from £501 to £10,000.

Standard grant requests may be multi-year in nature, at the level of up to £10,000 per year over three years. Groups may not apply for both a small grant and a standard grant for the same activity or project.

What are the timescales?

There are no deadlines for small grants and applications can be made at any time. A decision will usually be made within four weeks of receiving your application.

Standard grant application deadlines and decision dates are published on the Fund web page: www.foundationscotland.org.uk/minnygap

Who can apply for a grant?

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

- The proposal is for a project or activity/ies consistent with at least one of the Fund outcomes (below).
- Applicants have a constitution (governing document or set of rules); are set up on a not-for-private-profit basis; and have at least three unconnected Committee members. Please note applicants do not need to be registered charities to apply. Individuals and unconstituted groups may apply for a small grant, for charitable activities of primarily community rather than private benefit.
- Standard grant applicants must provide their latest set of accounts signed by an independent / third party, or a forward budget if the group has been operating for less than one year.
- Applicants should provide a copy of a recent bank statement.

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

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.

Applications are expected to address one or more of the following outcomes (or changes for the community):

- a) Enhance the quality of life for local residents
- b) Contribute to vibrant, healthy, successful and sustainable communities
- c) Promote community spirit and encourage community activity
- d) Support sustainable community assets, including capital assets (like land and buildings), community enterprises, local exchange systems, people's skills and abilities, culture and the local environment
- e) Provide a safe and pleasant place to live
- f) Help people into work
- g) Improve local transport

What other criteria apply to the Fund?

As well as demonstrating a fit with at least one of the outcomes above, priority for grants can be given to projects that demonstrate the following additional criteria:

- **Leverage or match funding:** That the applicant is seeking to secure match funding for the project (from local fundraising activity or other sources) and/or can demonstrate what other funding may be secured as a result of implementing this particular project.
- **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 Dumfries and Galloway or the South of Scotland might be most appropriate.

- **Sustainability:** That organisations can demonstrate their intention for the project to become sustainable in the future without the need to rely on grant funding.
- **Building capacity locally:** That the applicant has considered whether the project provides opportunities to build the skills and knowledge of group members or other local people connected with the project. This could be through formal or informal learning activity, e.g. through some form of mentoring activity, peer support or buddying scheme and/or any other learning opportunity that could be created through the project.
- **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.

What is excluded from funding?

Awards cannot support the following types of activity:

- The advancement of religion or party politics.
- Activities understood to be the responsibility of statutory authorities.
- Activities contrary to the interests of Minnygap Energy Limited or its affiliates.
- Activities likely to bring Foundation Scotland, Johnstonebridge Centre and Community Development Trust, or Minnygap Energy Limited or its affiliates into disrepute.
- Anti-renewable energy/wind farm activities.
- Retrospective funding (i.e. paying for costs incurred before a decision on an application for support from the Fund can be made).
- The repayment of loans or payment of debts.
- Activities which benefit solely flora or fauna

How can I apply?

The simplest way is to apply online, via the fund web page:

www.foundationscotland.org.uk/minnygap

Application forms and guidance are available to download from the same page, or can be requested by email or post from the Programme Administrator at Foundation Scotland, on office@foundationscotland.org.uk or 01557 814927.

What if I have more questions?

We welcome pre-application queries. For further advice or information on the Fund or to discuss your project proposal informally, please contact the Foundation Scotland team by email office@foundationscotland.org.uk; phone 01557 814927 or post at The Kiosk, Gatehouse of Fleet, Dumfries & Galloway, DG7 2HP.

Foundation Scotland is registered as a Scottish charity (SC022910) and is a company limited by guarantee (SC152949) with its registered office at 15 Calton Road, Edinburgh, EH8 8DL.