

Unlock our Future Fund - Fund Factsheet

The European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre provides £150,000 per annum for the 20 year lifetime of the wind farm (as at Year 1 – 2018), tracking the Retail Price Index, to a community benefit scheme to help fund projects taking place within the boundaries of the local authority areas of Aberdeenshire and /or the City of Aberdeen. The Fund is administered by Foundation Scotland, an independent grant-making charity.

Fund priorities

All applications must meet all of the following four priorities:

- **Contribute to a climate smarter world with sustainability at its core.** This is an approach that helps to guide actions needed to transform and reorient activities to effectively support development and ensure they can continue in a changing climate;
- **Invest in community facilities and activities that are fit for the future and are environmentally sustainable,** especially community spaces and transport. Applicants will require to demonstrate how their project will impact on the local and global environment. Only projects which show due consideration to the principles of sustainable development including how negative environmental impacts will be mitigated and any potential environmental enhancements delivered, will be funded;
- **Support projects which are innovative in their delivery.** As a major focus of the Fund is innovation and 'breaking the mould', the Panel will particularly welcome applications for new ideas and initiatives that either need trying out or where pilot activity has already been successful;
- **Ensure a legacy (lasting impact) which brings clear benefit to the local community.** Legacy can both be infrastructure or a 'living legacy', where the benefit of an activity continues long after the activity has been completed.

£15,000 (index-linked) annually, 10% of the overall scheme, will be available to Blackdog for projects or activities that meet the criteria of the Fund.

Fund cross-cutting themes

Applications will be stronger if they can meet some or all of the following themes:

- Local procurement – that the goods or services purchased with the grant will be sourced from as close to your project as possible
- Strengthening community partnerships
- Capacity building locally
- Focus on future generations and untapping local potential
- Match funding
- Enhancing quality of life for all

Size of grants

- Small grants of £500 – £2,000.
- Large grants of between £2,001 and £15,000.

Large grants may be awarded over a period of up to three years. The maximum total grant which may be awarded as a multi-year grant is £30,000, with £15,000, £10,000 and £5,000 as the maximum sums in years one, two and three respectively.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Have a constitution (governing document or set of rules) and be set up on a not-for-profit basis. Applicants do not need to be registered charities to apply, although the activity must be charitable in nature.
- Provide their latest set of accounts signed by an independent / third party or, if the group has been operating for less than fifteen months, they should provide a cash-flow projection.

The preference is for new activity to be funded i.e. applicants should demonstrate what additional activity will take place beyond that already happening.

Exclusions

The Fund will not support the following:

- Projects that do not take account of their environmental impact or do not have a positive environmental impact;
- The advancement of religion or politics (including requests to support the core activities of religious or political groups);
- Activities which are deemed to be the responsibility of statutory authorities;
- Grants to individuals or businesses;
- Projects benefiting primarily those residents out with the area of benefit.
- Activities contrary to the interests of Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm Limited, Vattenfall or its subsidiaries;

- Activities likely to bring Foundation Scotland, Vattenfall, Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm Limited or its subsidiaries into disrepute;
- Anti-renewable energy / wind farm activities;
- The repayment of loans or payment of debts;
- Retrospective funding.

There is a presumption against funding staff salaries, especially existing staff for which funding elsewhere has been lost.

Only alterations to village halls and community centres that will improve their environmental sustainability are likely to be funded.

One-off events or days or trips are unlikely to be funded unless there is shown to be a clear lasting legacy as a result.

Please refer to the Fund Strategy for more details, available here:

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/unlock-our-future-fund/> from where you may also obtain an application form. Alternatively contact:

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Edinburgh
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January 2019