



VENTIENT ENERGY GORDONSTOWN COMMUNITY FUND AUCHTERLESS, INVERKEITHNY & FISHERFORD FUND FACTSHEET

What is the Ventient Energy Gordonstown Community Fund and who is it for?

This charitable fund is provided by Ventient Energy, the owner of the Gordonstown Wind Farm. The Fund will benefit charities and community groups within each of the Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford Community Council and the Fyvie, Rothienorman and Monquhitter Community Council areas.

The areas of benefit are located entirely within the Aberdeenshire Council authority area. If you are unsure whether your project is within the area of benefit, please consult the maps available at <https://aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online/open-data-map-view-community-councils/> or contact the Programme Administrator at Foundation Scotland to check - details below.

How much is available?

An annual fund of £25,000 per year, index linked, will be available for the operating life of the wind farm which is expected to be 25 years. The two Community Councils initially agreed that the Fund will be split 80% to Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford and 20% to Fyvie, Rothienorman & Monquhitter and that this split will be reviewed after five years. Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford will have £20,000 per year for the first five years, and Fyvie, Rothienorman & Monquhitter will have £5,000 per year for the first five years. These sums are index-linked.

In April 2019 the two community councils agreed to a revised split for the five years until March 2024. As Ventient Energy had made some additional funding available, it was agreed that the whole of this additional sum including the arrears, would go to Fyvie, Rothienorman & Monquhitter. On that basis the split of the overall fund was agreed at 64% to Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford and 36% to Fyvie, Rothienorman & Monquhitter.

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

The funds are administered in different ways.



The Fund for Fyvie, Rothienorman & Monquhitter will be administered directly by its Community Council. The Community Council has appointed a Panel with delegated powers to make decisions on applications. Further details are available here: https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/Ventient_Energy-gordonstown-fyvie/

Decisions on grant awards from the Fund for Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford will be administered by the Ventient Energy Gordonstown Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford Community Fund Panel. Further details are available here: <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/gordonstown/>

The rest of this Factsheet is about the Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford Fund.

The Panel is made up of three Community Councillors, and five other members from the wider community through an open and transparent recruitment process. A chairperson is appointed from amongst their number but that person does not hold a 'casting vote'. Members stand down in rotation to ensure that new members join while there are still some experienced members continuing to serve.

What sizes of grants are available?

Grants are available for a range of activities that benefit the local community. The lower limit for grants is £250 but no upper limit has been set. However, do bear in mind the overall size of the fund when considering the amount you apply for. If you are considering applying for a grant of more than £5,000, please phone the Foundation Scotland Fund Manager first (contact details below).

What are the deadlines and timescales?

There is a rolling programme for grant applications. Once a grant application has been received and a written assessment report prepared, a Panel meeting will be held to determine the application, usually within 5 to 7 weeks of the application being received.

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

The Fund purpose is to support activity which will sustain and develop the life of the community and ensure that the area is an attractive and vibrant place to live, work and



visit. The Fund will do this by making grants to support the costs of relevant projects, services and facilities. The Fund for Auchterless, Inverkeithny & Fisherford is a charitable fund and to that end can be used towards:

- The advancement of education
- The advancement of citizenship or community development (including rural or urban regeneration and the promotion of civic responsibility, volunteering, the voluntary sector or the effectiveness or efficiency of charities)
- The advancement of culture or science
- The advancement of public participation in sport (and other recreational activity)
- The improvement of access to services or social activities
- The advancement of environmental protection or improvement
- The promotion of sustainable development, meaning development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, including the promotion of energy efficiency measures and sustainable transport options
- Any other purpose falling within the definition of charitable contained in sections 7 and 8 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Every application should demonstrate how it fits in with the objectives of the Community Action Plan developed as a result of the Planning for Real Exercise in the area in 2015: <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/media/597988/Auchterless-Inverkeithny-Fisherford-Community-Action-Plan-2015.pdf> While the Panel has discretion to fund other activity, the funding priorities of the local community are as set out in this Community Action Plan.

In order for the Fund to have a longer lasting effect, the Panel has decided that it would prefer to see awards made for the purchase of capital items or for contributing towards the cost of capital projects, rather than being spent on revenue items, such as travel costs, or the subsidising of activities.

What other criteria apply to the Fund?

As well as demonstrating a fit with at least one of the outcomes above, the Panel **may** look for projects that demonstrate how they meet the following additional criteria.

- Match funding: that other possible funding sources for the project have been

explored. This might include applicants raising some funds through their own fundraising efforts. The Fund should not displace funding that could be obtained from other sources, but should help lever-in additional funds if possible. Additionally, it should not reduce community-based groups' commitment to organising local activities that contribute to a vibrant community calendar and promote community spirit. Ideally, applicants can demonstrate that a percentage of

the total project cost will be sourced from other funding sources, including the applicant organisation itself, which might be in a position to contribute to the project cost. Only in exceptional circumstances will 100% funding be awarded.

- Local procurement: that local suppliers will be used for the provision of goods and services, where appropriate (e.g. in terms of quality of products / services available) and feasible (in terms of availability and cost). ('Local' will vary depending on the nature and availability of the item/service in question. In some cases it could be taken to mean Formartine and the surrounding area, but in others Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire or indeed the North East of Scotland might be most appropriate).
- Sustainable development: that consideration has been given to helping achieve sustainable development, including minimising the environmental impact of projects and reducing the applicant's 'carbon footprint'.
- Local consultation: that the applicant has consulted an appropriate number of the intended beneficiaries of the project as appropriate, and can demonstrate they are supportive of the proposal, and where appropriate that the applicant has consulted other community groups.
- Partnership working: that the applicant has considered whether delivering its 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.

How will the Panel consider the application?

1. Panel meetings are closed, due to the confidential nature of information being discussed.
2. Normally an applicant would not attend a Panel meeting.

3. Applicants will normally be expected to supply quotes for the each of the services or materials being purchased as follows:
 - Up to £200 - no quote required
 - Between £200 and £2,000 - one quote required
 - Over £,2000 - three quotes required
 - If the service or item is specialised and there are a restricted number of suppliers, then the Panel may accept a lesser number of quotes.
4. Any information given by the applicant remains confidential to the Panel throughout.
5. The Panel has adopted a conflict of interest policy. If a Panel member is associated with an applicant they have to declare a conflict of interest, and in the event of a direct interest, withdraw. In the case of an indirect interest, a member has to declare it but need not withdraw. All declared conflicts of interest shall be recorded in the minutes of the Panel.
6. The level of the applicant's unrestricted reserves may be taken into account in deciding whether to make an award.
7. Successful applicants will be expected to acknowledge in publicity or materials Ventient Energy and Foundation Scotland.

What is excluded from funding?

Awards cannot support the following types of activity:

- The advancement of religion or party politics (including requests to support the core activities of religious or political groups). Funding to support buildings owned by churches e.g. church halls are still eligible so long as they are used by the community
- Activities understood to be the exclusive responsibility of statutory authorities e.g. activity in school forming part of the Curriculum for Excellence
- Projects benefiting primarily those resident outwith the Area of Benefit
- Activities contrary to the interests of Ventient Energy or any companies in its group



- Activities likely to bring Foundation Scotland or Ventient Energy or any companies in its group into disrepute
- Anti-renewable energy or anti-wind farm activities including promoting or sponsoring any objection or representation to the operation of the Wind Farm, national or local policy in connection with renewable energy or any other renewable energy proposal
- Costs already incurred or activities which will take place before the Panel has made a decision on an application (i.e. retrospective funding).

The Panel is unlikely to approve funding for overseas trips.

Who can apply for a grant?

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

- 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, or if the group has been operating for less than one year they should provide a cash-flow projection
- Applications may be accepted from private businesses or individuals where they can clearly demonstrate that the public benefit arising from an award will outweigh any private gain and the grant is necessary to enable the proposed activity to take place (i.e. the business cannot fund the activity itself).

How many applications can I submit?

There is no limit on the number of awards which a group may receive in a Fund year, although each application will be assessed on its merits. An applicant may make more than one application in any Fund year (30 March to 29 March each year) but only one award can be made. There is no maximum grant award figure, but if you are considering applying for a grant of more than £5,000, please phone the Foundation Scotland Fund Manager first (contact details below).



It is recognised that there may be one main organisation or group which operates sub-groups for different activities. In such cases we will accept separate applications to any one round, as long as they are for clearly differentiated activities. In other cases, a single application with separately itemised project costs may be a more straightforward approach.

Micro-grants

Auchterless, Inverkeithny and Fisherford Community Council also operates a micro-grant scheme from an award made by the Panel for that purpose, normally representing 5% of the total Fund each year.

Individuals or groups which are not constituted may apply for awards of up to £500. The awards must still be for charitable purposes, and any private benefit must be outweighed by the benefit to the community. For an example, an award of £80 to a young person towards music lessons or the purchase of a musical instrument could be made with the condition that a performance is given to a group in the local community e.g. a group of pensioners.

All the other criteria applicable to the larger grants also apply to micro-grants. Application forms are available from the Community Council at auchterlessifcc@gmail.com

How can I apply?

An application form must be completed for each application. These are available online or for download from <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/gordonstown/> or from Foundation Scotland at the address below.

What if I have more questions?

For further advice or information on the Fund or to discuss your application, please contact the Fund Manager at the address below.



Contact details

Programme Administrator
Foundation Scotland
15 Calton Road
Edinburgh
EH8 8DL
communitybenefit@foundationscotland.org.uk
0131 524 0300

Iain Catto
Fund Manager
iainc@foundationscotland.org.uk
0791 275 9525