



Whiteside Hill Community Fund Factsheet

What is it and who makes decisions about it?

This charitable fund is provided by Arevon Energy, which manages Whiteside Hill Wind Farm, and is administered by Foundation Scotland working with the Upper Nithsdale Community Trust. The Fund supports community projects benefitting residents of Kirkconnel & Kelloholm and the Royal Burgh of Sanquhar and District, geographically defined by community council boundaries.

What can the Fund be used for?

Awards can support a wide range of costs and activities, including charitable, educational, community, environmental, renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable development and general community amenity schemes or projects.

All applications should show how the event, project, activity or service contributes to the Upper Nithsdale Community Trust priorities. Within Upper Nithsdale area, the following have been identified as key priorities:

- Services and projects which deliver activities that bring **economic benefits to Upper Nithsdale** for example events, local festivals, arts and galas, employability activities, social enterprises, tourism related projects.
- Services and projects which deliver activities that demonstrate **community benefits and build community capacity in Upper Nithsdale** for example community managed services, community run facilities, community safety activities, civic pride and environmental projects, projects that identify community need.
- Services and projects which demonstrate early intervention and address the needs of **disadvantaged groups in Upper Nithsdale** for example young people are more actively involved in decision making, our ageing population is active and engaged to influencing services in their own community, projects that promote fairness and respect across communities.

In addition, UNCT will prioritise support for applications which meet the following:

- Evidence that the project/activity enhances or is additional to normal service provision
- Can demonstrate community consultation
- Can clearly evidence within the application that they are actively working in partnership with other organisations

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

The Fund is held by a charity, Foundation Scotland which also assesses applications. The funding decisions are made by the Trustees of the Upper Nithsdale Community Trust, who are local residents drawn equally from Kirkconnel and Kelloholm and the Royal Burgh of Sanquhar and District Community Council areas.

How much is available?

Overall, the fund value is approximately £135,000 per year. The fund offers two levels of award as follows:

- Small grants: Up to £500
- Standard grants: £501 and over

Who can apply for an award and what are the criteria?

Small grants are available to individuals or non-constituted groups, as well as constituted groups, for activity which will benefit the local community.

The criteria for the standard grants are as follows:

1. Applications will deliver a project or service in Upper Nithsdale, making a valuable contribution to UNCT priorities
2. The project must commence within 12 months of an award
3. Applicants must have a constitution (governing document or set of rules) and be set up on a not-for-private-profit basis. Groups do not need to be registered charities to apply
4. Applicants must be able to provide their latest set of accounts, signed by an independent third party
5. Groups seeking to undertake capital projects in respect of land or assets (e.g. village halls, community spaces) must either own the property or hold a lease
6. Multi-year awards, for a maximum of three years may be applied for. Applications for multi-year awards can include an inflationary increase on the previous year
7. There is a limit of five years of consecutive applications from the same organisation.

Is there anything that cannot be funded?

The following are not eligible for funding:

1. The advancement of religion or party politics (including requests to support the core activities of religious or political groups)
2. Activities understood to be the primary responsibility of statutory authorities
3. Projects benefiting primarily residents outwith the Area of Benefit (determined by the Community Council boundaries)
4. Activities contrary to the interests of the Arevon, the Upper Nithsdale Community Trust, Foundation Scotland, or likely to bring any of them into disrepute.
5. Anti-renewable energy or anti-windfarm activities
6. Retrospective funding (i.e. paying for costs incurred before a decision on an application to the fund for support can be made)
7. The repayment of loans or payment of debts.
8. Individuals and groups that are not constituted

9. Groups without a representative membership structure i.e. groups that unduly restrict their membership and/or where the committee or board is not elected by, or otherwise accountable to, a wider group of people
10. Applications for fireworks or include Chinese lanterns and/or helium balloons.
11. Applications for the sole benefit of any private asset where there is no wider community benefit
12. Applications which include costs for depreciation
13. Prizes or sponsorship money
14. Applications requesting funding to support activity/projects which as a result will raise funds to donate to others.

How can I apply?

A different application form must be used for each size of grant. Forms can be downloaded from www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/whiteside-hill/ or by email from uppernithsdale.communitytrust@yahoo.com

What if I have more questions or want to discuss a potential application?

For further advice or information on available funding, or to discuss your project proposal informally you can contact the Upper Nithsdale Community Trust on uppernithsdale.communitytrust@yahoo.com