

EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Education & Training Fund Support for Businesses – Factsheet

1 Background

EDF Renewables is committed to providing a community benefit fund linked to its Corriemoillie Wind Farm. 20% of the overall funding available through this fund (index linked) is targeted at promoting education and training opportunities across the Fund area. In its first year, this was £48,450. The funding is to be provided throughout the operating lifetime of the Wind Farm, expected to be 25 years.

EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Education & Training Fund exists to benefit those living within the community council areas of: Garve & District; Contin; Marybank, Scatwell & Strathconon; Strathpeffer; and Lochbroom (collectively these are termed the 'Fund Area of Benefit').

Award making and oversight of the Education & Training Fund is overseen by a Panel. The Panel has representation from key stakeholders, including sector experts and communities within the Area of Benefit, working together to ensure the Fund is delivered effectively and achieving its intended outcomes.

2 Fund Outcomes

The Education & Training Fund has been established to support a range of charitable education and training activity that will lead to the following outcomes:

- a) More individuals resident within the Area of Benefit are equipped with the range of skills and confidence required to enter into and retain employment in the key sectors the Fund supports;
- b) Micro / small businesses are able to create new job opportunities or retain existing jobs that may benefit individuals resident in the Area of Benefit; and,
- c) Micro / small businesses that employ individuals from the Area of Benefit have the necessary skills and confidence to grow and sustain their operations in order to secure their long-term future.

Applications must demonstrate how they will contribute towards one or more of these outcomes.

The Fund provides support for the following activities:

- **Bursaries** to support individual's costs of attending training, education courses or apprenticeships
- **Support for businesses** through the funding of mentoring packages, staff training and the employment of apprentices
- Support for activities that enable individuals to **develop their career aspirations and journey**

For information on bursaries and career aspirations see

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/corriemoille-education-and-training/>

3 Support for Businesses – what can be funded?

The Fund will support activities which enhance the skills of owners and managers to run, sustain and grow their business and improve the skills of employees to deliver the business' activities (including but not limited to training courses and apprenticeships). **This includes private sector businesses and their employees and third sector organisations' staff and volunteers.**

The Fund cannot support activity that is provided by, or funded from, statutory sources. Activities that can be funded include:

- **Mentoring costs up to £4,000.** The Fund will support micro (up to 10 employees) or small (10 – 50 employees) business to participate in a bespoke package of mentorship where this will improve the skills, confidence and capabilities of those involved in managing the business. The package of support should feature a clear workplan with specified outcomes and provisions for client confidentiality. Awards must not offset existing funding for such activity. Payments of awards may be phased according to the agreed mentoring workplan.
- **Training costs of up to £1,500 per individual** employee/volunteer from the Fund Area of Benefit undertaking training leading to a recognised vocational qualification. The Fund will support the same categories of costs as individual

bursary applications, however, the application should be made by the employer and signed by the employee, and payment will be made to the employer on submission of evidence for the costs of the training.

- **Apprenticeship costs up to £3,000.** In addition to bursaries for individuals undertaking an apprenticeship, the Fund will support the costs of wages for the time they are studying (not at the place of work) and an element of wages (up to one day per week) for the time they are at work, and should be for the hourly rate already agreed for the apprenticeship and appropriate for the industry / role in line with the market, up to a maximum of £10 per hour (gross). Grants are only available towards the cost of wages where these are not already being compensated for e.g. CITB contribution to those taking a MA in Construction. Applications should be made by the employer but signed by the individual too. These costs will be paid to the employer. Wage slips must be provided as evidence of continued employment in order to release subsequent payments

4 Support for Businesses – who can apply?

Applicants under this strand must be:

- A private (for-profit) or third sector (not-for-profit) employer;
- Micro (under 10 employees) or small (10-50 employees);
- Operating in the priority sectors identified in section 5 below
- Trading for at least two years;
- Not able to access funds towards the proposed activity from other sources or finance it from the business itself.

Applications must include:

- The names and positions of the individuals within the business who will be the beneficiaries of support from the Fund, and;
- Evidence that the business is not in a position to fund the proposed activity itself. We ask for a copy of your business' latest accounts with your application.

5 Priority Sectors

The activities above will be supported in the following sectors, on a scale of reducing priorities:

Priority 1: Renewables and energy industry related;

Priority 2: Engineering, construction and related trades (e.g. electrical, plumbing, joinery), health & safety, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Digital);

Priority 3: Industries which will benefit job retention in the area, including tourism, forestry and timber technologies, rural development, agriculture (including crofting), environmental conservation, estates management, aquaculture / fisheries management, equestrian, other land-based industries, food & drink, health and social care, creative industries, life sciences, finance and business services, haulage, education and other sectors generating benefits for the local community;

Priority 4: Other education courses that enhance employability and the success of micro (1-10 employees) and small (11-50 employees) sized businesses, including ability to set up and grow your own business. Examples are: marketing & sales, IT & web development, managing staff, accounts / financial management, entrepreneurship and business sustainability.

6 Exclusions

Awards can only support activity that is charitable in nature. The Fund cannot support the following types of activity:

- The advancement of religion or party politics;
- Activities that are the statutory responsibility of statutory authorities;
- Activities contrary to the interests of EDF Renewables or its subsidiaries;
- Activities likely to bring the fund administrator, EDF Renewables or its subsidiaries into disrepute;
- Anti-renewable energy/windfarm activities; or
- Retrospective funding (i.e. paying for costs incurred before a decision on an application to the Fund for support can be made, including the repayment of loans or debts).

7 Frequency of awards

There will be two rounds of awards each year, and application deadlines are on the Fund web-page: <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/corriemoille-education-and-training/> For more information please call Foundation Scotland on 0131 524 0300 or e-mail to communitybenefit@foundationscotland.org.uk