

A'CHRUACH WIND FARM COMMUNITY FUND FACTSHEET - 2020

What is the A'Chruach Wind Farm Community Fund and who is it for?

This charitable fund is provided by Infinis, the developer and owner of the A'Chruach Wind Farm in Argyll & Bute. **The Fund supports community projects benefitting those living in one or more of the following community council areas – West Loch Fyne, Dunadd and Lochgilphead.** The Fund's purpose and priorities have been informed by a process of community action planning that happened in each community over the winter of 2015/16.

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

The Fund is held and administered by a charity, Foundation Scotland. 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. The Foundation receives and processes applications and works with a local Panel representing the three communities who decide on grant awards from the Fund. The Panel is made up of community councillors and other individuals with local knowledge and interests.

The current Panel comprises the following representatives:

- Dunadd (Barbara Halliday, Sue Maclean, Morag Goodfellow)
- West Loch Fyne (Fred Bruce, Jan Williams, Leonard McNeill)

How much is available?

The annual index linked fund is a minimum of £149,000 per year. The Fund will be in place for the operating life of the wind farm which is expected to be 25 years.

What sizes of grants are available?

The following sizes of grant are available for a range of activities that benefit the local community.

- **Small grants: £500 - £5000**
- **Medium grants: £5,001 - £25,000.**
- **Large grants: over £25,000.**

Grants requests may be multi-year in nature, usually for no more than three years. If you are applying for a multi-year grant totalling more than £25,000 you should follow the application process for large grants, outlined below. Grants of over £50,000 will only be awarded in exceptional circumstances.

Large grants require a two-stage application process. In the first instance, applications are invited via a short enquiry form which is submitted to Foundation Scotland. Foundation Scotland may seek some further information prior to the Panel discussing your enquiry. The Panel will then agree whether or not to invite a full application. So please be aware large applications will usually take longer to process.

What are the 2020 closing dates and when will decisions be made?

Closing date for applications	Decisions
19 March 2020	End of May
17 September 2020	End of November

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

The Fund will support positive change by investing in a wide range of inspirational, community-led activity that is strategic, positive and creative and helps create a legacy of lasting impact. The Fund will do this by making grants to support the costs of relevant projects, services and facilities.

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

- Advance rural regeneration through increasing opportunities for enterprise and vocational training
- Enhance infrastructure including affordable housing, transport, broadband, community-owned property and access routes.
- Establish new community services and seek to improve or expand existing services, particularly with regard to young people and the elderly.
- Develop and improve community facilities
- Enhancing leisure facilities and to develop and expand tourism and leisure opportunities.
- Capacity building for new and existing community organisations to help achieve the other priorities.

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.

- **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. In exceptional circumstances 100% funding may be considered.
- **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 within mid-Argyll and the surrounding area, but in others Argyll and Bute or indeed the west of Scotland might be most appropriate).
- **Capacity Building:** We encourage applicants to consider how the project will provide opportunities to build the skills and knowledge of group members or other local people connected with the project, whether this is a key outcome (see above) for the project or not.
- **Partnership working:** That the organisation 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:

- The advancement of religion or party politics (including requests to support the core activities of religious or political groups).
- Activities understood to be the exclusive responsibility of statutory authorities
- Projects benefiting primarily residents out-with the Area of Benefit
- Activities contrary to the interests of A'Chruach Wind Farm Limited or any companies in its group
- Activities likely to bring Foundation Scotland, A'Chruach Wind Farm Limited 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, and/or
- Costs already incurred or activities which will take place before the Panel considers the application (i.e. retrospective funding).

Who can apply for a grant?

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

- The proposal is for projects or activities consistent with at least one of the Fund outcomes (above).
- Applicants have a constitution (governing document or set of rules) and are set up on a not-for-private-profit basis. Please note 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.

How many applications can I submit?

Where a group wishes to apply for a grant for more than one project they may submit more than one application per round. This may be particularly relevant to areas with smaller populations where they may be one main organisation which is responsible for a range of different activities or projects and/or where a single organisation operates sub-committees for differentiated activities.

How can I apply?

An application form for download from www.foundationscotland.org.uk/achruach or from the Programme Administrator at Foundation Scotland, on communitybenefit@foundationscotland.org.uk or 0131 524 0300. Application material is also available from **Lochgilphead Post Office** or **Argyll & Bute TSI** (50 Union St, Lochgilphead).

Completed applications should be emailed with scans of supporting documentation to communitybenefit@foundationscotland.org.uk. For further advice or information on the Fund or to discuss your application, please contact the Community fund Coordinator, Eimear Cassidy eimear@foundationscotland.org.uk on 0141 341 4968 or 07912759623.