

Whirlwind Achlachen Wind Farm Community Fund



What is the Whirlwind Achlachen Wind Farm Community Fund and who is it for?

This charitable Fund is provided by Whirlwind Renewables, the owner of the Achlachen Wind Farm. The Fund supports community activity and development by supporting the charitable activities of constituted, not-for-profit groups working to benefit the community. The Fund is for groups operating in the Halkirk District Community Council area with priority given to projects within a four kilometre radius of the Achlachen Wind Farm.

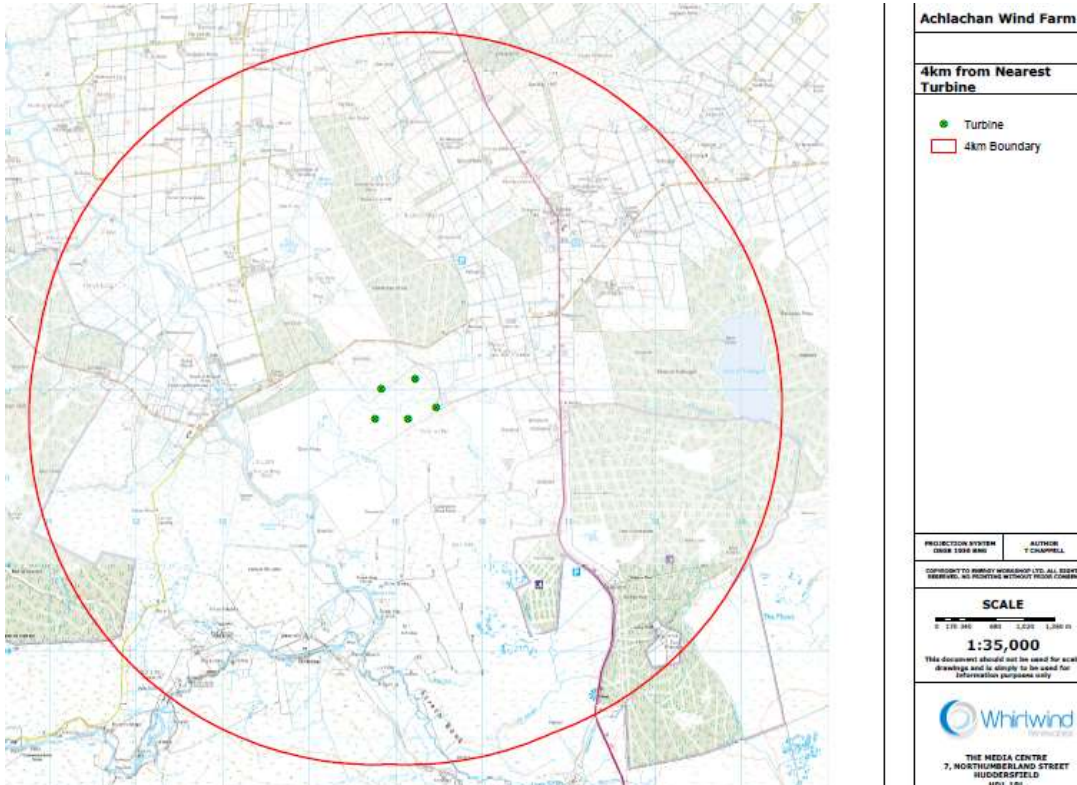


Figure 1 (above): 4km boundary around Achlachen Wind Farm (the Fund priority area)

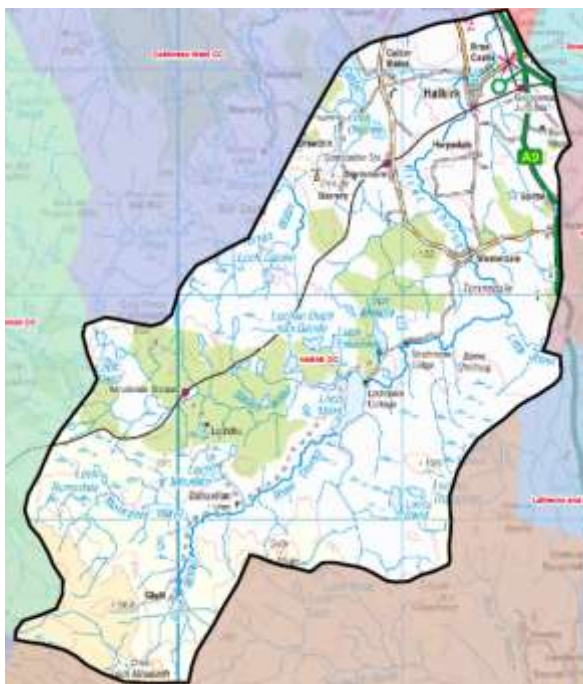


Figure 2 (left): Halkirk District Community Council area (the Fund area)

Groups outwith the Fund area or projects benefiting those other than residents of Fund Area will be welcome to apply to the Fund provided there is also clear and evidenced benefit to residents within Halkirk.

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

The Fund is held and administered by a charity, Foundation Scotland. Although the Foundation receives and processes applications, it works with a local Panel representing the community within the Halkirk area and who decide on grant awards from the Fund. The Panel is made of up to 14 Halkirk residents with local knowledge and interests. Panel Members serve for between two to four years.

What sizes of grants are available?

Grants are available from £200 to £10,000, however requests for more than £10,000 may be considered on a case-by-case basis where significant benefit can be evidenced.

What are the deadlines and timescales?

The Fund operates four funding rounds per year. The deadlines are:

Closing date for applications	Panel decision date
15 th March	Mid-End May
15 th June	Mid-End Aug
15 th September	Mid-End Nov
15 th December	Mid-End Feb

Who can apply for a grant?

These are the conditions that applicants must fulfil to apply for a grant:

- Applicants must be a community group/organisation (not-for-private-profit) with a governing document. Applicants do not need to be registered charities to apply.
- Applicants must provide their latest set of accounts, signed by an independent examiner.
- Applicants should be able to demonstrate that the planned activity benefits or involves residents within the Fund area.
- Applicants should provide evidence of community support.

Groups are welcome to apply for funding for more than one project in each round provided the group provides evidence that it has the capacity to manage multiple projects.

Applicants can apply for and hold more than one grant in any single year although any further awards may depend on timeous monitoring returns being provided in relation to previous awards.

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

Outcomes are the changes or differences that come about (for people, organisations and the environment) as a result of funded projects. They can guide applicants and provide focus for the Panel in its decision making and in judging the overall impact achieved by the Fund. The outcomes are designed to be broad, allowing the Fund to support a range of creative solutions to meet the local priorities.

The outcomes are:

1. Developing services and facilities.
2. Sustaining and creating employment.
3. Increasing skills and knowledge.
4. Preserving and enhancing or giving better access to culture, heritage and the environment.
5. Getting around and getting connected.

Applications must demonstrate how the proposed project will contribute towards one or more of these outcomes, listing the measurable activities/outputs that the group/organisation will deliver in order to achieve the relevant outcome(s). However, applications which do not clearly fit with these outcomes but which can show strong community support and evidence of need may be considered where funds allow.

What other criteria apply to applications?

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.

- **Running Costs:** Running costs are eligible. It would be expected that the amounts applied for would be comparable to previous year's running costs.
- **Local consultation:** Applicants should seek to demonstrate that they have consulted with the intended beneficiaries of the project and other local groups and/or businesses as appropriate, and that they are supportive of the proposal.
- **Match funding:** Applicants should ensure that possible funding sources for the project have been explored. Awards from the Fund should not displace funding that could be obtained from other sources, but should help leverage 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. However, applicants are not required to source any specific proportion of matched funds towards their project.
- **Local procurement:** It is desirable that, where appropriate, applicants should seek local providers but this should be demonstrated to offer best value, balancing considerations of cost, availability and quality as appropriate to the specific goods or service in question.
- **Trips outwith the area:** Applications should demonstrate how the trip will deliver on the Fund outcome(s).
- **Feasibility studies and other project development work:** Some projects, particularly large and transformative projects such as those involving the purchase and / or development of property, can require significant research / consultation, planning and other feasibility work. The Fund can support such activity however applications must demonstrate realistic ambitions, that appropriately skilled / qualified personnel are involved in conducting the work, and must not duplicate any similar recent feasibility work.
- **Multi-year Awards:** In applying for funding towards multi-year costs the applicant must list measurable activities and how these will contribute to the Fund outcome(s) in each year. Funding for subsequent years, where multi-year funding has been agreed in principle (to a maximum of three years), will be dependent on evidence of the agreed set of activities and outcomes being achieved annually.
- **Funding towards salaries for staff or wages:** Applications must show how the position will contribute to the achievement of Fund outcome(s) in a measurable way, including listing the main outputs to be delivered over the grant funding period. Where multi-year funding has been agreed in principle, funding for subsequent years will be dependent on evidence of set outputs achieved annually. Applicants will also have to:
 - a. demonstrate how the salary / wage rate has been arrived at, including how it has been benchmarked with comparable posts;
 - b. provide a job description and person specification for the post; and
 - c. outline the recruitment process, ensuring this is being run in a fair and open way.
- **Sustainable Development:** Applicants should consider whether projects will likely contribute to sustainable development, including minimising the environmental impact of projects and reducing the 'carbon footprint' of the applicant organisation and/or Halkirk community.
- **Emergency Situations:** The Panel is currently not able to respond to emergency applications.

Applications must be submitted in time for the closing dates.

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);
- Activities understood to be the exclusive responsibility of statutory authorities;
- Activities likely to bring Foundation Scotland, the Panel, the Community Council, the Donor, any companies in the Donor's group or the local community into disrepute;
- Anti-renewable energy/anti-wind farm activities;
- Retrospective funding (i.e. paying for costs incurred before a decision on an application to the Fund for support was made, including the repayment of loans or other debts);
- Activities outwith the Halkirk area which do not benefit the community within that area in any way;
- Individuals and groups that are not constituted;
- 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.

How can I apply?

The application form is available to complete online or download from

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/achlathan-wind-farm-fund/> or from the Programme Administrator at Foundation Scotland, on communitybenefit@foundationscotland.org.uk or 0131 524 0300.

Completed and signed applications should be emailed to submitted to communitybenefit@foundationscotland.org.uk

What if I have more questions?

If you need further information on the Fund or you wish to discuss your application, please contact Eilidh Coll, based in Caithness, on 07801 530 218 or e-mail: eilidh@foundationscotland.org.uk or the Programme Administrator using the contact details above.



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.