



Greencoat Stroupster Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund



Greencoat UK Wind Ltd, owner the Stroupster Wind Farm, makes an annual donation to benefit the groups and organisations in the Dunnet & Canisbay Community Council area. The Fund is held and administered by Foundation Scotland who receive and process applications. Decisions on awards are made by the Stroupster Community Fund Panel. The Panel is made up of nine local people, four are nominated by the Community Council and five are self-nominated and elected from the wider community.

History of Awards

The **Stroupster Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund** launched in 2016 and has made **96 awards** to community groups.

This report is for Year 5 of the Fund. This year, **19 awards** were made to community groups.

The **Dunnet & Canisbay Education and Training Fund** launched in 2019 and has awarded grants to **27 individuals**.

This year, **16 individuals** were awarded an Education & Training grant.

The Fund supports projects outwith the Dunnet & Canisbay area and, so far, 25% of the spend has been to projects outwith the Fund area.

How to Apply

Guidelines for applicants are available online for **community groups** at:

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/stroupster/>

and for **individuals** at:

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/dunnet-canisbay-education-fund/>

There are three rounds per year with deadlines of **15th March**, **15th July** and **15th November**.

For help please contact Eilidh Coll or contact Caithness Voluntary Group for further advice on fundraising.

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Year 5 Community Fund Awards

During Year 5, the Panel considered 25 grant applications and made 19 awards. One application was withdrawn by the applicant as the project could not proceed due to covid-19, three have been deferred and may or may not proceed, again due to covid-19. Three applications were rejected by the Panel. These are the 19 Year 5 awards:

- 1) **Scottish Surfing Federation £2,000** To contribute to the costs in holding the Scottish National Surfing Championships 2020 in Thurso.
- 2) **Caithness Disabled Access Panel £1,250** To carry out a survey of accessible toilets in community buildings.
- 3) **John O'Groats Development Trust £1,200** To contribute to the cost of the John O'Groats Book Festival 2020.
- 4) **Freswick Hall Committee £3,434** To contribute to upgrading the hall's toilets and improving the adjacent lobby and fire door.
- 5) **John O'Groats Development Trust £9,500** To install play equipment at the end of the road.
- 6) **Reiss and Killimster Park Group £10,000** To contribute towards installing new accessible equipment to benefit children with additional support needs
- 7) **Canisbay School Parent Council £2,658** Towards the P7 trip to Dalguise Outdoor Centre.
- 8) **Castletown Parent Council £2,000** Towards the P6/7 trip to Fairburn Outdoor Centre.
- 9) **Keiss School Council £500** Towards the P7 trip to Dalguise Outdoor Centre.
- 10) **John O'Groats Development Trust £5,000** To develop a dedicated response to the COVID19 crisis.
- 11) **Caithness and Sutherland Vintage and Classic Vehicle Club Ltd £8,500** To purchase a trailer to use as a commentary box to use at shows and a container for storage.
- 12) **Thurso Golf Club £5,254** To purchase a new mower to replace the existing 15 year old mower.
- 13) **Caithness Voluntary Group £15,000** To contribute to the costs of the Caithness Befriending project for three years.
- 14) **Thurso Pipe band £3,000** To fund uniforms for young people joining the band and to upgrade existing uniforms and drums to modern standards.
- 15) **Thurso High School £500** To fund a bus to take pupils to Edinburgh Airport for an educational trip to Iceland in October 2020.
- 16) **Scottish Ornithologists Club £9,000** To undertake landscaping works to improve the water quality for breeding bird and also to resurface the path to the public hide and purchase a brushcutter to keep the site in better order for visitors.
- 17) **Dunnet Forestry Trust £16,342** To fund a part time (0.5 FTE) Development officer to develop the volunteering programme and increase public access to and use of the Forest.
- 18) **Marie Curie £4,800** To provide one month of nursing care and support for terminally ill patients in Caithness from registered nurses and health care assistants which will enable patients to live well and die more comfortably in their own home.
- 19) **Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance £1,000** Panel led donation to Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance as the Air Ambulance has recently responded to an incident within the Dunnet and Canisbay Community Council area.

Year 5 Education & Training Fund Awards

The new Education & Training Fund offers bursaries to people living in the Dunnet & Canisbay area to access training and education opportunities that better equip them with the range of skills required to enter into or retain employment.

First time applicants can apply for up to £1,500, a second time applicant can apply for up to £1,000 and going forward a person will be able to apply for up to £300 for future courses. Multi-year courses such as HND's or Degrees are also eligible and will be subject to the same caps.

16 individuals were awarded an educational grant this year helping to cover the costs of further education and training including course fees, accommodation, subsistence, equipment and tools. The awards made in 2020 were:

- 1. £1,500** towards Fabrication & Welding Engineering at North Highland College (UHI)
- 2. £3,100** over four years towards (Mdiet) Dietetics at Robert Gordon University
- 3. £2,373.33** over two years towards BA Honours Education Studies through Open University
- 4. £1,500** towards MSc Geoinformation Tech & Cartography at Glasgow University
- 5. £1,500** towards SVQ Level 3 Electrical Installation at North Highland College (UHI)
- 6. £3,100** over four years towards MSc Quantity Surveying through University College of Estate Management
- 7. £1,425** towards Engineering Systems NC & SVQ 2 at North Highland College (UHI)
- 8. £1,330** towards Association of Accounting Technicians Level 5 at North Highland College (UHI)
- 9. £1,500** towards Cat C LGV training and test at Mitch Robson LGV Training
- 10. £1,175** towards SVQ Bricklayer through Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)
- 11. £2,800** over three years towards BSc Psychology at University of Edinburgh
- 12. £1,500** towards BSc Hons Agriculture at SRUC
- 13. £1,000** towards HNC Engineering Systems at UHI Thurso
- 14. £1,500** towards Computer Games Development at Dundee and Angus College
- 15. £1,500** towards MA English at University of Dundee
- 16. £1,600** over three years towards Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery at University of Aberdeen

Financial Overview

The Fund received its first donation from Greencoat UK Wind in 2016. Annual payments are £5,000 per MW of installed capacity at the wind farm and are index linked. Payments will be made over the 25 years the windfarm is likely to be operational. A summary of Greencoat Stroupster Community Fund finances for Year 4 is provided below.

Greencoat Stroupster Community Fund Financial Transactions 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2020	Dunnet & Canisbay area	wider Caithness area	Education & Training Scheme	TOTAL
OPENING BALANCE	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
INCOME:				
Donation Greencoat Year 1	£68,810.96			£68,810.96
Donation Greencoat Year 2	£112,636.99			£112,636.99
Donation Greencoat Year 3	£158,707.08			£158,707.08
Donation Greencoat Year 4	£163,770.98			£163,770.98
Donation Greencoat Year 5	£167,453.81			£167,453.81
Interest	£277.83	£15.11		£292.94
Grants Returned	£170.00	£400.00		£570.00
Inter fund transfer (from main fund to sub funds)		£131,694.56	£41,903.33	£173,597.89
TOTAL INCOME	£671,827.65	£132,109.67	£41,903.33	£845,840.65
EXPENDITURE:				
Grants awarded and paid	£322,590.10	£98,759.67	£34,303.33	£455,653.10
Grants awarded not yet paid	£26,394.00	£32,950.00	£7,600.00	£66,944.00
Other expenses (hall hire, marketing, mileage)	£266.90			£266.90
Inter fund transfer (main fund to Caithness sub fund)	£131,694.56			£131,694.56
Inter fund transfer (main fund to Education sub fund)	£41,903.33			£41,903.33
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£522,848.89	£131,709.67	£41,903.33	£696,461.89
CLOSING BALANCE	£148,978.76	£400.00	£0.00	£149,378.76

Impacts of Covid-19

Across Caithness a number of initiatives were launched to ensure local families had access to basic essentials. A £5,000 award the John O Groat's Development Trust enabled a plan using local businesses which had ceased trading but still had access to the supply chain to be able to provide groceries and hot meals.



A number of awards made through 2019 and 2020 were for events or activities which may have been cancelled so some variations to previous awards are expected.