

## RWE Rosehall Wind Farm Community Fund



RWE Renewables, owner the Rosehall Wind Farm, makes an annual donation to benefit the groups and organisations in the Ardgay & District, Creich and Lairg Community Council areas. The Fund is held and administered by Foundation Scotland who receive and process applications. Decisions on awards are made by the SSE and RWE Community Fund Panels. The Panel is made up of 12 local people, six are nominated by the three Community Councils and six are self-nominated and elected from the wider community.

### Year 9 Overview

The Fund launched in 2012 and has made 76 awards to community groups.

The Year 9 donation from RWE was £74,751.81.

Nine applications for support were received and seven awards made, totalling £195,240.

Five awards this year were multi-year awards to contribute towards staffing costs and core costs for community groups.

Four Panel members stood down, while four new Panel members joined.

### How to Apply

Guidelines for applicants are available online for **community groups** at:  
<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/funding-available/rosehall>

There are two rounds per year with deadlines of **30th April** and **31st October**.

For help please contact Chris Lee or contact Voluntary Group Sutherland for further advice on fundraising.

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## Year 9 Awards

This year, the Panel held a number of additional meetings as part of an internal review of the distribution of wind farm community benefit funds within the communities of Creich, Ardgay and Lairg.

The Panel was aware that since 2006 the communities had been receiving varying community benefit arrangements from six windfarms in the area and with a further six in the pipeline. Over 14 years the annual community benefit sums have made a substantial contribution to the area with additional funds and inward investment levered in alongside. This is a real testament not only to the many groups and organisations, volunteers and staff who plan and deliver activity but also to the shared vision of the three community councils during the mid-2000's and who were determined the area capitalised on the strategic potential of community benefit. The Panel wished to take stock of the changed landscape of community organisations now delivering a range of social, economic and environmental benefits in the area. In particular, the Panel identified five 'primary organisations' in this fragile area, working on behalf of the communities, supporting jobs and economic and community development.

There were nine applications received to the Fund, seven of which were awarded, four of these were to the primary groups mentioned in the previous section. The two applications not awarded were both withdrawn by the applicants in advance of the Panel meeting. The awards were:

- 1) **Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust** **£80,000** To make a strategic investment in the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust allowing the group to carry out activities as designed by the staff, boards and volunteers over the next four years.
- 2) **Lairg and District Community Initiatives** **£40,000** To make a strategic investment in Lairg District Community Initiatives allowing the group to carry out activities as designed by the staff, boards and volunteers over the next four years.
- 3) **Kyle of Sutherland Hub** **£20,000** To contribute to the Hub Managers post over a period of two years.
- 4) **Creich Croick and Kincardine District Day Care Association** **£25,000** To contribute to two Activity Coordinators at 25 hours per week who will work at the centre organising stimulating activities for older people in the community.
- 5) **Bonar Bridge and Ardgay Golf Club** **£2,640** To replace doors, windows and a carpet in the Clubhouse dining room and meeting room as part of a programme of Clubhouse improvements.
- 6) **Bonar Bridge Football Club** **£25,000** To refurbish the clubhouse to bring back to an acceptable standard following a period of abeyance where the clubhouse fell into disrepair.
- 7) **Lairg Community Association** **£2,600** To contribute to salary costs for the Association's part-time Administrator for one year from June 2021.

## Financial Overview

In Year 9, RWE Renewables donated £74,751.81 to the Fund. The donation for award making is split equally between the three communities, so each community was allocated £24,917.27. A summary of the Rosehall Wind Farm Community Fund finances for Year 9 is provided below.

	General Account	Ardgay & District	Creich	Lairg
<b>OPENING BALANCE (1 Aug 2020)</b>	£237.62	£6,856.33	£7,140.89	<b>-£2,535.01</b>
<b>INCOME:</b>				
Year 9: donation RWE Renewables		£24,917.27	£24,917.26	£24,917.27
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£24,917.27</b>	<b>£24,917.26</b>	<b>£24,917.27</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE:</b>				
Year 9 grants allocated (including Y1 allocation only for multi-year awards)*		£26,713.33	£26,713.35	£29,313.32
Marketing: Kyle Chronicle	£100.00			
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£7,575.18</b>	<b>£26,713.33</b>	<b>£26,713.35</b>	<b>£29,313.32</b>
<b>CLOSING BALANCE (31 Jul 2021)</b>	<b>£137.62</b>	<b>£5,060.27</b>	<b>£5,344.80</b>	<b>-£6,931.06</b>

\* There is a sum of £112,500 which has been awarded as multi-year awards, but not yet allocated. These figures will be included and accounted for in future reports.

The total amount awarded in grants represents 111% of the donation to the Fund in Year 9, which was made possible by utilising some of the underspend from Year 8.

## Previously Funded Projects

### Bonar Bridge Improvement Group

Bonar Bridge Improvement Group was set up in August 2018 by a group of local people who had noted some areas of neglect in public areas in the village of Bonar Bridge. The group wanted to improve the look of the area and make the village a nicer place to spend some time.

An online fundraiser quickly raised £200 enabling some early clearing works and the purchase of some summer bedding plants for the newly cleared areas.

The group was particularly keen to turn their attention to the space around the bridge area

which had been neglected. It was proposed to establish a beautiful picnic area with seating to create an inviting area for people to stop and enjoy the area, hopefully visiting other local services while they are here. More importantly, the project was intended to instil some local pride in the village and provide an attractive seating area for friends and family to gather and spend quality time together in the centre of the village.

The new seats are made from recycled plastic and are bright and colourful whilst being easy to maintain. The main feature of the area was to be a repurposed fishing boat which could be filled with colourful plants. Various other plant

pots and plants were arranged around the area to give the whole area a bright summery feel. Fabric membranes and stone chipping finished the area off and will keep it looking tidy.



## Conclusion

Year 9 has seen several positive outcomes for, and from, the Fund:

- The Panel made some bold strategic awards which will support several key community organisations for the next four years, enabling them to better concentrate of the day-to-day delivery of services and activities.
- There was a good response to the opportunity to join the Panels with four vacancies through the year.
- There was a healthy conversion rate from application to award, at 78%
- There were no rejections as both applications were withdrawn by the applicants in advance of Panel meetings.

Much of this has been brought about by close collaborative working between Foundation Scotland, the Panels, the local Development Trusts and other local funders.