



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 **111 awards** to community groups.

This report is for Year 6 of the Fund. This year, **13 awards** were made to community groups.

The **Dunnet & Canisbay Education and Training Fund** launched in 2019 and has awarded grants to **39 individuals**.

This year, **17 individuals** were awarded an Education & Training grant.

The Fund supports projects outwith the Dunnet & Canisbay area and, so far, 22% 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 6 Community Fund Awards

During Year 6, the Panel considered 15 grant applications and made 14 awards totalling £117,758:

- 1) **Caithness Voluntary Group £1,500** To offer free transport to people over 70 and disabled people who have not got their own means of transport to enable uptake of the covid-19 vaccine.
- 2) **Brough Bay Association £4112** To create a heritage exhibit including a display boat, information panel, seating and wildflowers.
- 3) **Caithness Astronomy Group £5542** To buy a robotic telescope to enable observations online.
- 4) **Scottish Ornithologists Club £43,647** To improve access for all-ability visitors and to increase safe breeding areas for terns at St. John's Pool Bird Reserve, Dunnet, so as to enhance biodiversity and understanding and appreciation of it amongst residents and visitors alike.
- 5) **Wick Academy Youth Football Club £1,900** To purchase football training equipment and clothing for 20 young people and coaches.
- 6) **Caithness Voluntary Group £6,908** To fund a Development Officer who will support development trusts in Caithness with project development.
- 7) **John O'Groats Development Trust £8,000** To design and develop a Mobile App for John O'Groats which can be used by visitors and residents, providing information about walks and trails, historical and natural sites of interest, folklore, services and businesses.
- 8) **Venture North Cooperative Limited £1,983** To purchase mobile kitchen equipment and storage to enable Venture North to enhance the 'Taste North' annual food festival to showcase Caithness and Sutherland.
- 9) **Brough Bay Association £30,793** To undertake significant improvements to the slipway and to create a new car park, turning area and steps to the beach, safeguarding the harbour area so that people can continue to use it for work and recreation for many years.
- 10) **Thurso Pipe Band £1,200** To contribute towards the Band's core costs including insurance and rent as group recovers from covid lockdown to safeguard the Band's future.
- 11) **John O'Groats Mill Trust £8,500** To create the John O'Groats Mill Trail: an accessible coastal path joining the centre of John O'Groats to the cultural centre of John O'Groats Mill.
- 12) **Castletown Youth Club £3,219** To contribute towards the Club's core costs to help the Club recover from covid lockdown to safeguard the Club's future.
- 13) **Keiss School Parent Council £450** Towards the 2021 Primary 7 personal development course in Fairburn Activity Centre to ease the transition to High School for rural children.

Year 6 Education & Training Fund Awards

The 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.

Newsletter

17 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 2021, which total £30,405, were:

1. **£1,500** towards Level 4 Diploma Financial Planning through the Chartered Institute of Engineering
2. **£1,500** to undertake cat 1 Driving Rigid Training and Test in Orkney
3. **£605** to fund trailer test driving lessons and test
4. **£1,500** to take the Category C Rigid Driving Test
5. **£1,500** to fund the CPC and HGV Class 1 training and test fees
6. **£1,500** to fund course fees and travel to undertake the Start Up Brewing short course
7. **£3,100** towards BEng Electrical and Electronic Engineering
8. **£1,500** towards Masters Mechanical Engineering
9. **£1,600** over three years BSc Game Development
10. **£1,000** for Hairdressing Level 3
11. **£300** towards HND Engineering Systems
12. **£3,100** towards BSc Immunology
13. **£2,800** towards MA (Hons) English and Film Studies
14. **£2,500** towards Master of Occupational Therapy
15. **£2,500** towards MEng Robotics
16. **£1,500** towards Sport and Fitness BSc
17. **£1,500** towards SVQ 3 Vehicle Diagnostics Technician

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 6 is provided below.

Greencoat Stroupster Community Fund Financial Transactions 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2021	
OPENING BALANCE	£148,987.76
INCOME:	
Donation Greencoat Year 6	£168,892.42
Grants Returned (projects not proceeding due to covid 19)	£10,990.70
TOTAL INCOME	£179,883.13
EXPENDITURE:	
Year 6 Community grants allocated	£117,758.28
Year 6 Education and training grants allocated	£30,405.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£148,163.28
CLOSING BALANCE	£180,707.60