

Boost for education and training support in Ross-shire

Nineteen new bursary awards to support education and training for residents and organisations in the EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Wind Farm area have been made. The new funding takes the total awarded since last year to sixty-four.

The fund is open to residents, small businesses and third sector organisations within Contin, covering; Garve and District; Lochbroom; Marybank, Scatwell and Strathconon; and Strathpeffer. Bursaries can cover travel costs, fees, equipment, accommodation costs, or childcare. The fund supports a wide range of training courses that help people improve their skills and employability and can also help to retain jobs in the area. Businesses can apply for funding to help cover the costs of staff training, apprenticeships, or business mentoring.

Fund Co-ordinator Marion McDonald said: “Thanks to EDF Renewable’s donation and to our Panel of local decision makers, we have again been able to support a really diverse range of training and education courses this past year. In these financially difficult times, it has been great to offer local communities something positive. Local people are undertaking such a wide range of courses – from qualifications in childcare to gaining a powerboat licence, and helping people train for new careers in the renewables sector.”

For Meg from Strathpeffer, who received an initial award for basic safety training followed by a second award for rope access training, the funding has provided an opportunity to retrain for a new career in the renewable energy sector.

On receiving her first award, Meg said: “After just completing the GWO basic safety training, I’m eager to learn more and have the opportunity to pursue an interesting and varied career. I hugely value the opportunity this course provides me in gaining a route into this exciting and innovative sector.”

Angelica from Ullapool received funding to qualify for a Commercial Powerboat licence. This meant she could get work locally, transporting visitors to Isle Martin.

Having completed her training, Angelica said: "I have now received all my paperwork and have started to run the ferry. Already new opportunities are starting to emerge in the context of the island. I am very happy and so grateful to you to have been given this opportunity.

EDF Renewables Director of Asset Operations, Piero Maggio said: "It's always such a pleasure to see people make use of our funds to further themselves with training or education. Hearing that another nineteen people have benefitted from Corriemoillie Wind Farm is great news just before Christmas. We wish everyone the best with their newfound skills, awards and experiences."

The next deadline for applying to the Fund is 7 February 2023. For further information about how to apply visit: www.foundationscotland.org.uk/corriemoillie-education-training or phone Foundation Scotland who manage the fund on 0131 524 0300.

ENDS

For further information please contact Marion McDonald at Foundation Scotland: Tel 07912 759524

PHOTOS:



Meg from Strathpeffer received awards for basic safety and rope access training to develop a career in renewables



Angelica from Lochbroom successfully gained her Commercial Endorsement for Powerboat Licence and now operates the Isle Martin ferry.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Foundation Scotland

Foundation Scotland distributes charitable funds on behalf of over 400 individuals, families, charitable trusts, companies and public bodies. As a registered charity, it provides cost effective and tax efficient giving and funding distribution services, distributing over £11 million each year.

Its developmental approach, partnerships with communities of interest and place, and in-depth knowledge of the charitable and community sectors ensures that funds entrusted to Foundation Scotland for distribution make a real difference to people's lives. The Foundation also holds around £60 million in charitable endowments.

As part of this work, Foundation Scotland administers over £5 million in community benefit payments annually, linked primarily to renewable energy projects. The Foundation works with more than 300 communities across Scotland and a wide range of project owners, supporting the set-up and on-going activities of over 60 community benefit funds.

The Foundation favours a long-term view, promotes and harnesses community strengths and supports decision-making processes that are inclusive, accountable and community led.

In November 2022, Foundation Scotland won the 'Best Engagement' category in the Scottish Green Energy Awards. The awards provide recognition and celebration for professional excellence in the renewable energy industry.

For more information visit www.foundationscotland.org.uk

About EDF Renewables

EDF Renewables Group has more than 25 years' worth of experience in delivering renewable energy projects in more than 20 countries around the world. EDF Renewables UK and Ireland is one of the UK's leading renewable energy companies which develops, builds and operates generation projects with a focus on onshore and offshore wind as well as battery storage and solar.

The company has an operating portfolio of 37 wind farms and one of the UK's largest battery storage units, with an expanding renewables portfolio with almost 4GW of projects in planning and development across wind, battery and solar.