

RWE Rosehall Wind Farm Community Fund

Summary Report 2025

Fund Background

The Rosehall Wind Farm Community Fund is provided by RWE Renewables, owner of the 24.7 MW Rosehall Wind Farm, 2.5 km north-east of Rosehall in Sutherland in the north of Scotland.

The fund was launched in August 2012. Annual donations to the fund are £2,500 per MW of installed capacity. Payments are index-linked to when the wind farm started exporting electricity and will be made over the 25 years the wind farm is likely to be operational. In Year 10, the annual donation to the fund was £77,488.

The fund supports community activity and development by supporting the charitable activities of constituted, not-for-profit groups working to benefit residents of three community council areas: Ardgay & District, Creich and Lairg (the fund area).

Requests to support a wide range of costs and activities can be considered, for example: equipment costs; running costs; events; staff or sessional workers costs; consultations; feasibility studies; refurbishments and other costs.

The SSE & RWE Community Funds Panel makes recommendations on awards from both RWE Rosehall Wind Farm Community Fund and the two SSE Funds that operate in the same area - the Achany Community Fund and the Kyle of Sutherland Apprenticeship Scheme. The panel has 12 volunteer representatives serving on it, made up of two community councillors and two further community representatives from each of the three community council areas.

Executive Summary

2025 was another significant year for the RWE Rosehall Wind Farm Community Fund with a total of £276,033.05 awarded. In line with the fund's established pattern of distribution, 70% of the funds awarded were for multiyear grants primarily made to support core operating costs of key local anchor organisations such as Kyle of Sutherland Hub and The Bradbury centre. The total value of grants payments released in 2025, which included payments on multiyear grants awarded in previous years, was also a record for the fund at £196,640.55, a full 40% higher than the highest annual value of sums paid out since the fund launched in 2012.

Single year awards supported refurbishment and development of community assets Culrain Community Hall and Bonar Bridge Football Club pitch facilities following the successful community asset transfer of its playing field from Highland Council. The fund also provided core cost salary support in the shorter term to Lairg & District Learning Centre and Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust.

Year at a glance

- Total value of grants awarded: £276,033.05
- Total value of grants paid out £196,640.55
- Total project costs supported £942,674.28

Grants awarded in 2025

Funding request	Offer Statement	Awarded Amount
Bonar Bridge Football Club	To contribute to the cost of grass cutters, new gates, a storage facility and fencing for the club's playing field.	£15,607.59
The Bradbury Centre	To contribute to the cost of running the centre, providing transport, meals, activities, daily exercise, and support services to enhance community cohesion and reduce isolation among clients.	£70,698
Culrain & District Hall	Towards the replacement of rotted and damaged exterior wooden cladding to ensure the hall is watertight and prevent further bee and wasp infestations, and to benefit residents of Culrain and District, providing a community venue fit for purpose.	£20,000
Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust	Towards core costs for one year to support key salaries delivering projects	£22,000
Kyle of Sutherland Hub	To continue to support core costs of the Kyle of Sutherland hub to safeguard vital community services for three years.	£70,698
Lairg & District Learning Centre	To contribute to the cost of salaries for a Deputy Manager and Project Officer, ensuring operational stability.	£20,698
Lairg & District Community Initiative	Towards core running costs for three years to ensure LCDI continue to deliver a range of projects for the benefit of the community.	£33,537.14
Lairg Gala Week	The purchase of new fridges, tables and a BBQ tent as part of a project to refurbish its bar and refreshment facilities to support its annual Gala week each July to benefit Lairg residents and visitors.	£2,320.82
Lochview Rural Training	Towards the salary costs of a part time Development Officer for two years to support Lochview Rural Training's work and long term strategic development with a focus on financial sustainability.	£18,785
Rosehall Primary School Parent Council	towards a Goblin G2 Electric Kit Car to support pupil's learning on renewable energy and sustainability as well as developing basic construction and electronics skills and stimulating interest in STEM subjects. <i>*This grant though awarded was not accepted by the applicant.</i>	£1,688.50
Total Awarded		£276,033.05

Financial Overview

In 2024, RWE Renewables made a community benefit payment of £103,171.73 to the fund. The donation is split equally between the three communities, so each community was allocated £34,390.58

The tables below show the financial headlines for the fund year followed by a general summary of fund finances for 2025. Grants paid out include multiyear grant allocations awarded in previous years towards projects continuing in 2025.

Table 1: Financial headlines 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Financial Headlines 2025	
Annual donation from RWE	£103,171.73
Total value of grants awarded	£276,033.05
Total value of grants paid out	£196,640.19

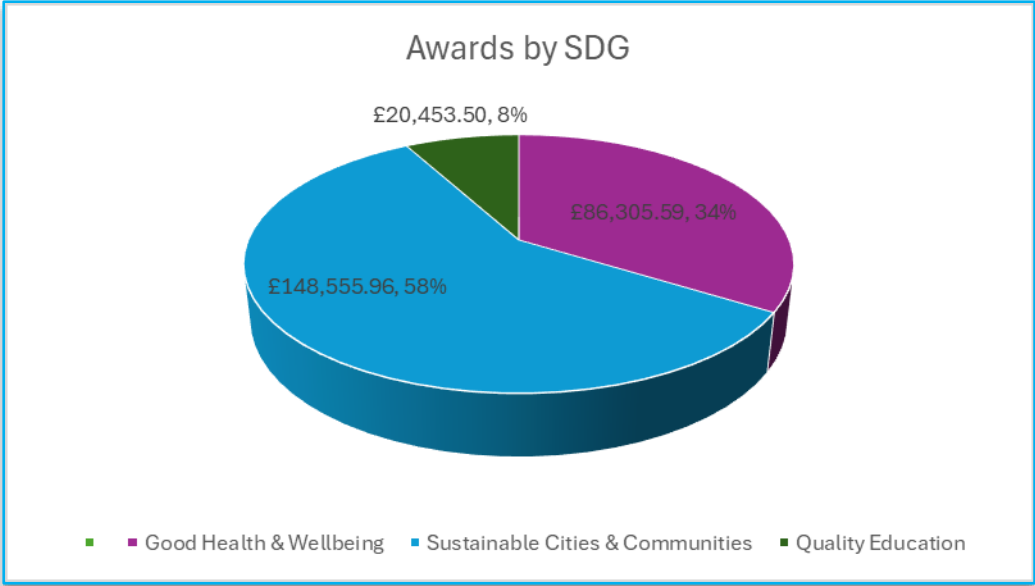
Table 2: Financial statement 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	Ardgay & District	Creich	Lairg	Total
Opening Balance (1st Jan 2025)	£37,200.36	£31,873.62	£33,044.31	£102,118.29
Total Donations received	£34,390.58	£34,390.57	£34,390.58	£103,171.73
TOTAL	£71,590.94	£66,264.19	£67,434.89	£205,290.02
Total Grants awarded	£92,011.02	£92,011.02	£92,011.01	£276,033.05
Total value of awarded payable in future years	£43,797.51	£43,797.49	£43,797.50	£131,392.50
Total Grants paid out incl. grants from previous years	£68,680.00	£63,380.00	£64,580.19	196,640.19
Total grants cancelled or returned	£15,896.16	£15,896.18	£15,896.16	£47,688.50
Available balance	-£24,990.66	-£25,017.33	-£25,046.64	-£75,054.63

Awards By UN Sustainable Development Goals

Foundation Scotland uses the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to help assess the impact of awards made for each fund. The 17 SDGs were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The SDGs are integrated; they recognise that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

Each award from the fund has been assigned a primary SDG to which the purpose of the award fits most closely, although awards will often deliver across several SDGs. A summary of the value of awards made in 2025 by their primary SDG is given below.



2025 Fund review

The Rosehall fund is administered in close collaboration with another community benefit fund SSE Achany, and the two funds share a decision making community Panel of volunteers representing the community council areas of Ardgay, Creich and Lairg, made up of community councillors and general community members.

Many of the applications received go to both funds and decisions are made on the basis of the funds available in each in two annual application rounds. Multiyear awards from both funds, principally to a group of five local organisations defined as 'anchors', mean that a periodic review is required to ensure that the funds distribution model remains fit for purpose, is serving the communities and its organisations well and is broadly supported by communities, applying organisations, and community councils.

Throughout 2025 a funds review was conducted with proposals brought forward to formalise the historic fund distribution statistics in a new fund design. Analysis shows a historic split between awards to the five anchors and others averaging £71.5% to anchors and 38.5% to others. The proposal was for anchors to receive assured funding for the remainder of the life of the funds, (10 years), leaving an open fund available for others to apply for year round with the existing panel making open fund decisions and reviewing impact of the fund as a whole.

Conversations were held with representatives of the three communities of Lairg, Ardgay and Rosehall throughout 2025 as well as with the five anchors. These explorations concluded that the three communities and local organisations are best served at present by the current open grant making model, with provision for multi-year awards for up to three years for core costs for key organisations. This will allow the funds to remain responsive to ongoing need, new ideas, new projects, and the evolving funding landscape.

Conclusions

The 2025 fund year reflects the breadth of need across these three Kyle of Sutherland communities and the continued importance of having a responsive, locally led fund to address it. The grants awarded this year have supported projects with lasting value from preserving buildings and green spaces that bring people together, to sustaining the organisations that provide learning, wellbeing and essential services day to day.

Behind each award is a community working hard to maintain and improve life in a rural area and the fund has played a practical role in delivering this.

As the fund moves into its thirteenth year, the range of projects supported in 2025 demonstrates the resilience and ambition of these communities.

The commitment of RWE and Foundation Scotland to long-term, place-based investment continues to provide a reliable platform from which local people can plan, develop and deliver a more positive future.

Fund Case Studies

Culrain & District Hall: Preserving a community's only public building

Culrain and District Hall secured £20,000 of funding from the RWE Rosehall Wind Farm Community Fund to replace dilapidated and rotted external cladding to preserve and protect the community's only public building.



About Culrain and District Hall

The organisation operates as a registered charity serving the communities of Culrain, Ardgay, Bonar Bridge, Invershin, and Rosehall, governed by a committee of 10 trustees and supported by 30–70 volunteers annually. The hall functions as the sole public building in Culrain, providing a food larder, emergency resilience hub, and venue for social events and meetings. The hall's exterior Larchwood cladding had deteriorated significantly, with separation and holes compromising weather resistance. The building was no longer watertight, leaving it vulnerable to structural damage, whilst persistent bee and wasp infestations had caused event cancellations and ongoing pest control costs and maintaining the building's structural integrity was central to continued service delivery.



£20,000 was requested from the RWE Rosehall Wind Farm Community Fund towards a total project cost of £42,291, with a parallel application to the SSE Achany Wind Farm Fund (£20,000) and £2,291 contributed from reserves. The project involved complete removal and replacement of the cladding, eliminating water ingress and pest risk.

At the same time, the project delivered a weatherproof exterior with a projected lifespan of at least 25 years. This final phase completed a broader refurbishment programme - encompassing roofing, insulation, electrics, and fire safety - representing approximately £100,000 of investment secured through sustained community effort and grant funding.

Bonar Bridge Football Club: Securing Migdale Playing Field for the Community

Bonar Bridge Football Club received £15,607.59 towards Securing Migdale Playing Field for the Community.

About Bonar Bridge Football Club

Bonar Bridge Football Club is a registered charity (SCIO), originally established in 1968 and reformed in 2018 following a period of closure. Based at Migdale Park in Bonar Bridge, the club provides football training and matches for children aged 5–11, youth players, and adult men. Governed by 12 trustees and supported by 20 volunteers with no paid staff, the club serves approximately 500 people annually from across Kyle of Sutherland, Lairg and surrounding areas. In October 2024, following four years of negotiations, the club secured a 25-year lease on Migdale playing field from Highland Council.

The playing field had been in decline for many years, with a deteriorated surface and perimeter fencing that was broken or absent in places, leaving the area accessible to unauthorised vehicles and unsafe for users. Restoring the field had been identified as a top priority in the local Community Action Plan, with over 100 letters of support received from residents, Bonar Bridge Primary School, and Creich Community Council.

The lease came with conditions: fencing and gates were required around the entire perimeter, and responsibility for pitch maintenance transferred from the council to the club. The project addressed these obligations across three workstreams. Two grass-cutting machines allow volunteers to maintain the pitch efficiently, halving the cutting time to one hour.

Perimeter works included removing broken fencing, installing two kissing gates and two 5-metre vehicle access gates for emergency services; club volunteers carried out the fencing installation, contributing an in-kind value of £2,000. A storage facility provides secure housing for the equipment.

The project benefits an estimated 500 people, including 60 primary school pupils who use the field weekly, 100 football club members across three teams, 200 residents using the space for recreation and dog walking, and 70 match visitors.

Lairg & District Learning Centre: Sustaining a Community Lifeline

Lairg & District Learning Centre was awarded £20,698 to Support Core Staffing Costs

About Lairg & District Learning Centre

Lairg & District Learning Centre is an independent learning centre and registered charity established in 2001 to provide adult education and community based learning for Lairg and surrounding areas. Having secured its current property at the old schoolhouse in 2004, the organisation has grown from a volunteer-led initiative to a team of one full-time and three part-time staff, supported by over 30 freelance tutors and 15 volunteers.

The centre serves over 2,600 people annually across Sutherland and beyond, delivering a broad range of learning opportunities — from creative workshops and digital support to online Gaelic classes, adult literacy programmes, and climate-focused projects. The centre manages 12 live, grant-funded projects simultaneously, each requiring detailed reporting, delivery coordination and financial monitoring.



The roles of Deputy Manager and Project Officer are central to this work, held by local people with strong community knowledge and established local relationships. Both posts are currently funded through an unsustainable combination of management fees from grant applications and reserves, which the organisation is actively drawing upon to maintain continuity.

The project sought core costs funding to contribute towards the salaries of these two posts, enabling the centre to maintain operational stability and continue delivering inclusive learning experiences across the community. The centre's engagement approach is embedded in everyday local life, with the team gathering feedback through community markets, local shows, social media and an Ideas Tree - prioritising informal, accessible conversations as the basis for their work.



The centre's impact extends well beyond its programme of courses. It functions as a welcoming space for people experiencing isolation or difficulty, offering warm, flexible support and referring individuals to other services as needed. Participant feedback consistently highlights the sense of belonging the centre fosters alongside its learning outcomes. The application outlined a commitment to longer-term sustainability, including enrolment in the Scottish Government's Accelerate programme, collaboration with Brora Galleries Social Enterprise on a potential social enterprise model, and plans to expand earned income through online delivery.

Further Information

For more information, contact:

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About Foundation Scotland

Foundation Scotland helps communities create positive change and deliver lasting impact. We support philanthropists to help their personal giving make the most difference. We work with donors to invest in community action that enables people and places to flourish. We work in partnership with communities to maximise opportunities from place-based funds. And we offer social investment opportunities to enable social enterprises, community organisations and charities to grow and deliver positive social impact.

We have distributed more than £220 million to grassroots organisations across the country since the Foundation launched in 1996. Our developmental approach and in-depth knowledge of charitable and community sectors ensure that funds entrusted to the Foundation make a real difference to people's lives nationwide.

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