

EDF power solutions UK Burnhead Moss Wind Farm Fund

**Fund Report
April 2025 – March 2026**

Highlights

The year at a glance: April 2025 – March 2026

- Amount awarded: £295,447
- Range of grant sizes: £150 - £45,577
- Applications received: 83
- Awards made: 69
- Organisations and individuals funded: 62

The EDF Burnhead Community Fund continues to have a growing impact in three communities experiencing challenging socio-economic circumstances as a legacy of the decline in coal mining and heavy industry in the areas. Relatively few community groups or charities operate in some of these areas, although this is gradually changing.

The 2025/26 reporting year was one of the fund's most active to date, with a total of **£295,447 awarded** across all four sub-funds during the period. **83 applications** were received and **69 awards** made to **28 organisations and 34 individuals**, reflecting strong and sustained demand from local communities.

	FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS			FUND FOR INDIVIDUALS	
	Blackridge	Avonbridge & Standburn	Limerigg & Slammanan	Education & Training Fund	TOTAL
£ awarded in reporting period	£ 45,900	£84,900	£85,934	£78,712	£295,447
£ awarded cumulatively from fund start date to end of reporting period	£512,164	£325,777	£350,908	£634,492	£1,823,342
# applications received in reporting period	24	10	11	38	83
# awards made in reporting period	16	8	11	34	69
# organisations/ individuals funded in reporting period	13	7	8	34	62
£ leverage	£8,100	£50,977	£92,167		£151,244

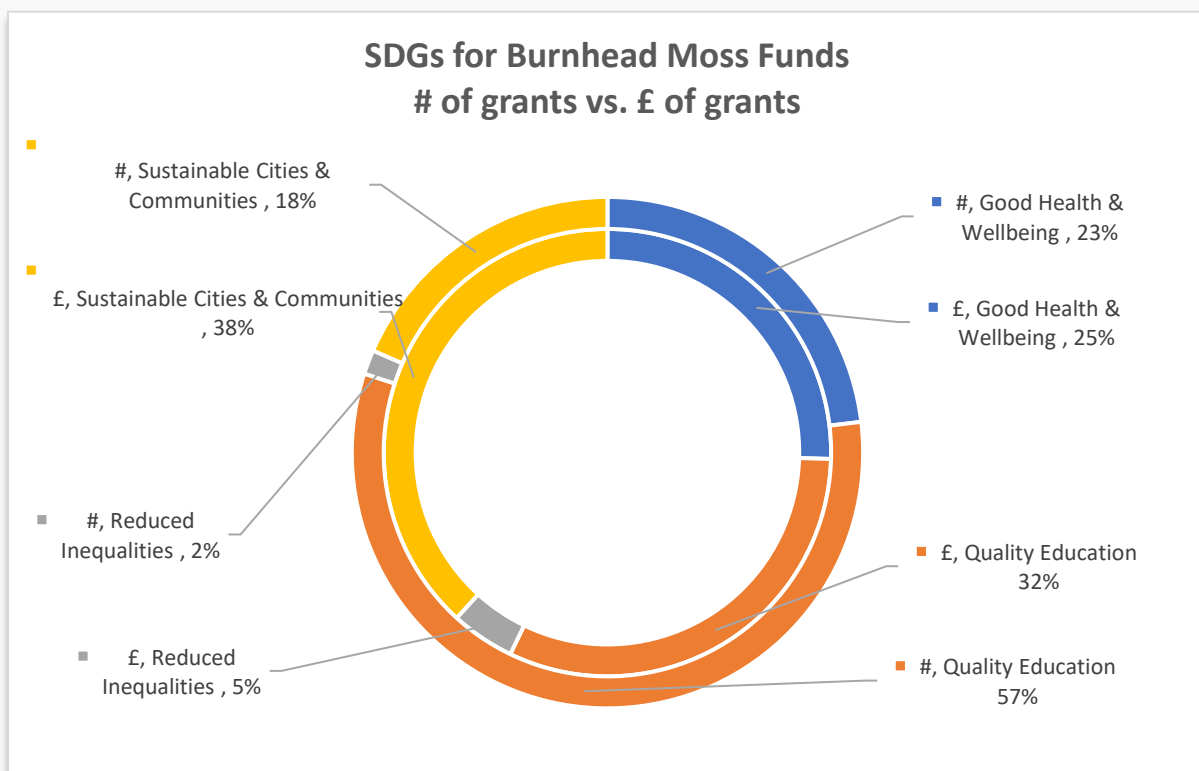
Since the fund's inception in 2016, a cumulative total of **£1,823,342** has been awarded — a truly significant amount that underlines the fund's long-term impact across Blackridge, Avonbridge & Standburn, and Limerigg & Slamannan.

Making a difference

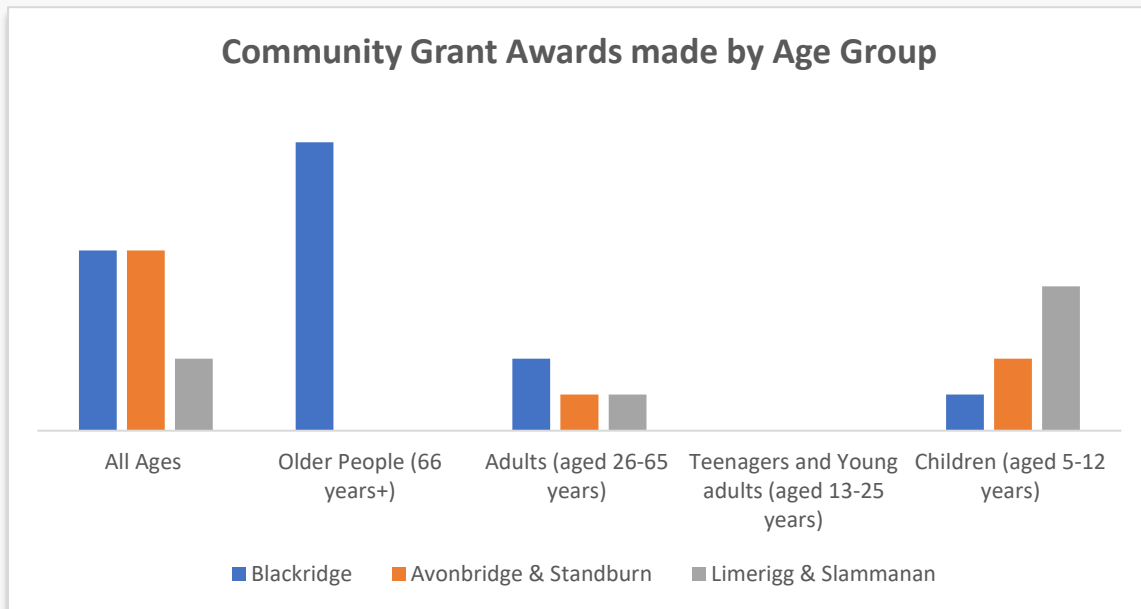
To measure the positive impact that Fund monies are having on local communities and residents, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are used to identify the main benefits each project or activity supports. Also considered are the age ranges of participants. This helps to demonstrate how the Fund is contributing towards both global and local priorities.

Similar to previous years, awards have primarily contributed towards achieving three of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs – see chart below). More funding than in previous years - 38% of the funding - has been awarded to help create Sustainable Cities & Communities (SDG11), with Quality Education (SDG4) receiving 31% of funding awarded, and following close behind with 25% of funding, fostering Good Health & Wellbeing (SDG3). These represent the main outcome chosen for each application. However, it is recognised that many projects contribute to more than one SDG.

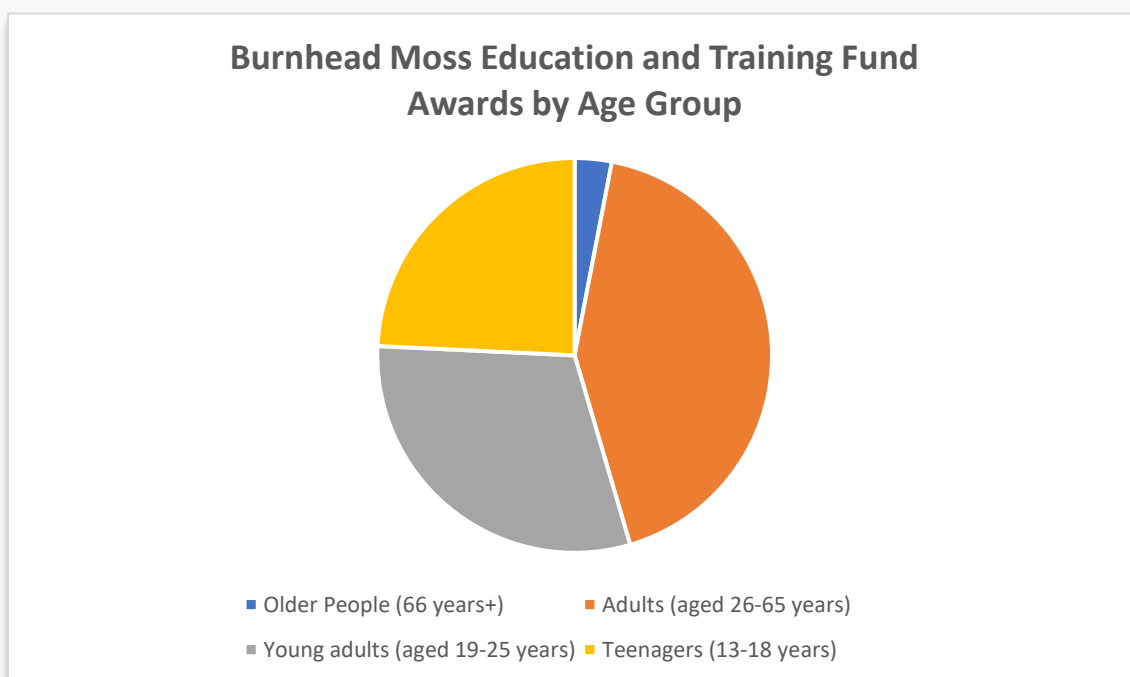
The chart below shows the comparison between the number of grants awarded compared to the value of those grants. It shows that many awards for smaller amounts were made under the area of Quality Education, whereas fewer awards of greater value contributed towards Sustainable Cities & Communities.



The majority of projects funded have also benefitted all age ranges across the community, with Blackridge Community Fund having a larger emphasis on supporting older people, and the two other sub-funds in the Falkirk area supporting more projects for children. All the sub-funds also have supported a number of projects benefiting all ages.



Education & Training awards have supported adults of all ages as well as significant proportion of teenagers.



Local case studies

Please see the following links for case studies:

- [Upper Braes Communities Community Development Support](#)
- [Blackridge Camera Club](#)
- [Blackridge Knit Wits](#)

When reflecting on these case studies, Malcolm Jack, previously Community Funds Manager at Foundation Scotland, recalled visiting the Craiginn Centre in Blackridge:

“I was really impressed with the ‘Then and now’ photographs, capturing in a nutshell Blackridge’s evolution over the past 50+ years. It’s an example of how a small amount of community benefit funding can fuel the efforts of dedicated community groups like this Camera Club and make a difference in lots of different ways within a community. These evocative photos certainly epitomise the community spirit in Blackridge. The Blackridge Camera Club's achievement shows how modest grants can enable grassroots organisations to create lasting cultural and social value, preserving industrial heritage whilst forging connections between established residents and newcomers in rapidly changing communities.”

Local impact: Education and training bursaries

In February 2026, Jo Finlay, Foundation Scotland’s Impact, Learning and Knowledge Manager published a report reviewing the 27 (and growing) Education & Training Funds administered by Foundation Scotland across Scotland.

The report particularly noted **the EDF power solutions Burnhead Moss Education & Training Fund**, one of the earliest Education and Training Funds which went on to act as a pilot for many that followed, showing just how powerful trust can be when it is built into funding design. Individuals spoke about being supported as they progressed through learning, building confidence and capability over time, and described the emotional impact of that support, and not just the practical outcomes.

“Someone thinks I am worthy of that time and effort and money.”

That sense of being trusted was genuinely important. Non-means-tested funding reduced stigma, increased take-up and allowed people who were just managing to pursue education without risking their finances or dignity. Jo concluded that:

“Education and Training Funds are not a silver bullet. But they are a subtly powerful example of what can be achieved when resources are placed in communities’ hands, shaped by local knowledge and used to champion people when it counts”.

The full article can be found here: [Learning that lasts - Foundation Scotland's Education & Training Fund Evaluation](#)

A full review of Burnhead Moss Education and Training Fund up to August 2025 is published here: [Burnhead Moss Fund Education & Training Case Study](#)



Fund distribution

About the Fund and how it works

EDF Burnhead Community Fund is provided by EDF power solutions, owner of Burnhead Moss Wind Farm. The Fund benefits those living in, working in or visiting the Community Council areas of Blackridge (West Lothian), Limerigg & Slamannan and Avonbridge & Standburn (both Falkirk). Established in 2016, an annual amount of £130,000 (index-linked) is paid into the Fund for the operating life of the wind farm, anticipated to be 20 years. The Fund distributes monies through the following four sub-funds:

- **Burnhead Moss Education & Training Fund (BMET)** – provides grants to individuals in the form of bursaries to support their participation in training courses and further education. Individuals must be resident in one of the three Community Council areas named above. Foundation Scotland has established a BMET Working Group made up of residents from all the areas to guide the Fund, with award decisions made by Foundation Scotland.

- **Blackridge Community Fund** – provides funding for groups and organisations delivering activities in Blackridge. An advisory Panel of Blackridge residents makes award decisions.
- **Burnhead Moss (Avonbridge and Standburn) Community Fund** - provides funding for groups and organisations delivering activities in Avonbridge & Standburn. Community stakeholders requested Foundation Scotland to make award decisions.
- **Burnhead Moss (Limerigg & Slamannan) Community Fund** - provides funding for groups and organisations delivering activities in Limerigg & Slamannan. Community stakeholders requested Foundation Scotland to make award decisions.

The three area Funds support charitable activities that:

- Enhance quality of life for residents
- Contribute to vibrant, healthy, successful and sustainable communities, or
- Promote community spirit and encourage community activity.

Not-for-profit groups or organisations working to benefit people living in the three areas can apply. Grants may support a wide range of costs, for example for equipment; running costs for local groups; staff or sessional workers; consultations; and maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities.

Overall Fund Finances Summary

Grants paid during the year amounted to **£266,983**, with a further **£110,778** committed in multi-year awards that will be paid in future years. Some previously awarded grants were returned or cancelled, releasing **£17,834** back into the fund. Closing balances available at year end totalled **£86,596** in aggregate, though the Limerigg & Slamannan sub-fund ended the year in a small deficit position of **£3,106**, reflecting its high level of grant activity and multi-year commitments, which will be managed through future year allocations.

As previously reported, the proportion of Fund income awarded as grants has been steadily rising from 70% as at March 2022, to 89% at March 2025 and now 94% in March 2026. This shows the continued progress the fund is making in maximising the awards going out to the community.

Fund distribution

1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026

	Community Organisations			Individuals	
	Blackridge	Avonbridge & Standburn	Limerigg & Slammanan	Education & Training Fund	TOTAL
Annual Donation (£)	£48,533	£48,533	£48,533	£36,400	£182,000
Balance carried fwd. (£)	£52,859	£89,069	£35,666	£81,811	£259,406
Interest payments (£)	£1,126	£1,722	£1,128	£1,142	£5,118
Grants returned/cancelled (£)	£5,500	£6,820	£0	£5,514	£17,834
Grants Paid (£)	£37,550	£66,832	£73,484	£89,117	£266,983
Multi-year grants awarded pending payment in future years (£)	£29,315	£41,428	£14,950	£25,085	£110,778
Closing balance available (£)	£41,154	£37,884	£-3,106	£10,664	£86,596

Sub-funds

Blackridge Sub-Fund

The Blackridge sub-fund awarded **£45,900** to **16 grants** across **13 organisations** during 2025/26, from 24 applications received. The fund continued to support a broad range of community groups, with a particularly strong focus on combating social isolation and supporting older residents.

A significant strand of activity involved supporting multiple groups that use the Craig Inn community venue, with grants covering hall rental costs for the Blackridge Craft Club, Armadale & Blackridge Camera Club, Blackridge Model Railway Club, Blackridge Scottish Women's Institute, Knit Wits, Monday Club, and Time Out Art Class. This was due to some unexpected rises in venue costs when the Centre was taken back into Council management.

Larger awards included a three-year programme of social outings for the **Monday Club** (£15,000), supporting older residents to combat loneliness and isolation, and a three-year programme of summer outings for the **Blackridge, Westrigg, and West Craigs OAP Association** (£15,000). The **Blackridge Community Council** received support for village improvements including new signage, dog-fouling equipment, and a defibrillator (£5,000), as well as a station planter initiative (£600).

Other awards supported the **Blackridge Primary School Parent Council** (£2,000 for school excursions), the **Blackridge & District Model Flying Club** (£1,500 for grounds maintenance equipment), the **Blackridge Senior Ladies Indoor Bowling Group** (£1,500), and **Blackridge Parish Church of Scotland** (£1,300 towards its 125th anniversary community programme).

In terms of the beneficiary groups reached, grants principally benefited **older people** (£32,500 across 5 grants) and **local residents** generally (£9,400 across 8 grants), with children and young people also benefiting (£2,000). Aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the majority of spending fell under **Good Health and Wellbeing** (£33,500 / 7 grants) and **Sustainable Cities and Communities** (£10,400 / 8 grants).

The cumulative total awarded from the Blackridge sub-fund since 2016 now stands at **£512,164**.

Avonbridge & Standburn Sub-Fund

The Avonbridge & Standburn sub-fund awarded **£84,900** across **8 grants** to **7 organisations**, from 10 applications received. This was a particularly impactful year for the sub-fund, with several large strategic grants approved.

The most significant commitment was continued funding for the **CVS Falkirk & District Upper Braes Community Development Officer**, covering the Avonbridge & Standburn element of a two-year appointment. This post plays a key role in refreshing Community Action Plans and building local group capacity.

At the end of the first year of this project, Victoria McRae, CEO, CVS Falkirk & District reported:

“The Upper Braes Community Development Project has made strong progress during 2025/26, strengthening participation, supporting local leadership, and advancing community-led initiatives across rural communities. Community Action Planning has been central to this success, supporting local people to develop and lead their own ideas and aspirations. This community-led approach has encouraged wider third sector engagement and created stronger local networks and support services shaped by communities, for communities. Despite ongoing challenges relating to community infrastructure and venues, the programme continues to build confidence, collaboration, and long-term community resilience across the Upper Braes area.”

Another major investment was a grant to **Drumbowie Community Park** for large pond clearance and restoration work (£22,968), enhancing a valued community woodland amenity and supporting local biodiversity.

Other notable awards included support for **Recyke-a-Bike's Pedal Power Schools** programme at Avonbridge and Drumbowie Primary Schools (£11,954), promoting cycling skills and active travel; **Drumbowie Community Park's** ongoing administration and maintenance costs (£6,000); and **Avonbridge Parent Council** (£7,500) towards extra-curricular activities and a nursery smart board. The sub-fund also supported **Quiet Waters** (£2,500) to deliver a pilot Cognitive Behavioural Therapy group programme for local residents, and **Linlithgow and Avon Valley Church of Scotland** (£5,000) to maintain the Avonbridge Community Café and address loneliness in this rural community.

Grantmaking in this sub-fund generated notable **leverage**: additional external funds of **£50,977** were secured by grant recipients, demonstrating the catalytic impact of the fund.

The largest beneficiary group by funding was **local residents** (£56,826 / 3 grants), with children also well served (£20,574 / 3 grants). SDG alignment was primarily with **Sustainable Cities and Communities** (£50,826 / 2 grants) and **Good Health and Wellbeing** (£26,574 / 5 grants). The cumulative total awarded from this sub-fund since 2016 is **£325,777**.

Limerigg & Slamannan Sub-Fund

The Limerigg & Slamannan sub-fund awarded **£85,934** across **11 grants** to **8 organisations**, from 11 applications received — the highest award total of the three community sub-funds and a reflection of significant investment in the area's community infrastructure and services.

The largest single commitment was to **CVS Falkirk & District** (£45,577) to fund a part-time Community Development Officer for two years, focused specifically on Limerigg & Slamannan, refreshing Community Action Plans and supporting local groups. **Martha's Pantry Slamannan** received £13,500 to cover core operating costs at its new venue, supporting residents experiencing poverty and disadvantage with food provisions and emergency support. **Recyke-a-Bike** received £7,260 for a free bike programme for children in the area, and **Slamannan Bowling Club** was awarded £6,817 to install kitchen equipment, enabling a wider range of club and community activities.

Further awards were made to **Limerigg Action Group** (£5,000) for a community event celebrating the new playpark and ongoing village hall improvements, **Slamannan Primary School** (£4,500) for its Broadening Horizons extra-curricular trips programme, **Friends of Tremanna and the Braes** (£3,000) for Christmas and birthday gifts for care-experienced young adults, and **93rd Braes Scout Group** (£280) for storage equipment.

This sub-fund also generated significant **leverage**, with recipients attracting £92,167 in additional external funding alongside the grants received.

Beneficiaries were primarily **local residents** (£52,394 / 2 grants) and **children and young people** (£14,040 / 4 grants), with people living in poverty or disadvantage also specifically targeted (£13,500 / 1 grant). SDG alignment was dominated by **Sustainable Cities and Communities** (£50,577 / 2 grants) and **Good Health and Wellbeing** (£14,357 / 3 grants).

The cumulative total awarded from this sub-fund since 2016 is **£350,908**.

Burnhead Moss Education and Training Fund

The Education and Training Fund received **38 applications** this year and made **34 awards** totalling **£78,712** — all to individual residents across the three community council areas. This sub-fund supports individuals with the costs of education, training and professional qualifications, helping to widen access and improve employment prospects and life chances.

Awards covered an exceptionally broad range of courses and qualifications, spanning higher education, vocational training, and professional development. Among those supported were individuals studying architecture, biomedical science, psychology, law, life sciences, and creative industries at degree and postgraduate level. Vocational and trade qualifications funded included LGV/HGV driving licences, plumbing, personal training, professional cookery, OFTEC oil training, and a Modern Apprenticeship in vehicle maintenance. Specialist courses in cyber security, clinical decision-making, patient assessment, food hygiene, grief support, and outdoor learning qualifications were also funded.

The fund also supported two organisational grants: **Under the Trees** received £9,500 to deliver Wild Passport and Forest Kindergarten qualifications for up to ten learners, strengthening outdoor education provision across the fund area; and **CVS Falkirk & District** received £1,110 to run a Food Hygiene course open to residents from all three community areas.

The cumulative total awarded from this sub-fund since 2016 now stands at **£634,492**.

Conclusion

The EDF power solutions Burnhead Moss Wind Farm Community Fund has continued to have good community impact over the last year.

The BMET Fund is operating successfully, supporting residents of all ages to overcome financial and other barriers to education and training, with increasing evidence of long-term impact in terms of gaining employment, promotion and career progression, small business/self-employed activity, skills development and increases in confidence, self-esteem and interpersonal skills essential to life, learning and work.

Each area Fund continues to support a wide range of impactful charitable activities making positive differences to residents and communities. Funding the Community Development Officer initiative in Limerigg & Slamannan and Avonbridge & Standburn is galvanised volunteering, new and existing community groups, and driving forward new Community Action Plans for the areas as well as assisting the development of larger community-driven projects and services.

There has been good publicity associated with some of these initiatives, local awareness and appreciation of the Fund remains high, and there is good potential for further.

Further information

For further information about the Fund, you can visit:

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/funding-available/burnhead-moss-wind-farm-fund>

Or contact:

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