


Norfolk Offshore Wind Zone Community Benefit Fund

Case Studies



VATTENFALL

Table of contents

Introduction	4
Case studies	5
 Nature and Gardens	6
 Community Hubs	12
 Community Facilities	18
 Transport and Connectivity	24
 Lighting	28
 Green Jobs	30
 Climate Adaptation	34
 Advice and Support	36



Introduction

Vattenfall's purpose is to make fossil free living possible within one generation.

Our Norfolk Offshore Wind Zone could power up to 4.6 million UK homes, helping turn East Anglia into a renewable energy superpower.

Contingent on Norfolk Offshore Wind Zone being constructed and becoming generators of clean, homegrown energy, we are developing a community benefit fund that will bring £15 million of funding for local communities – delivering additional, lasting benefits.

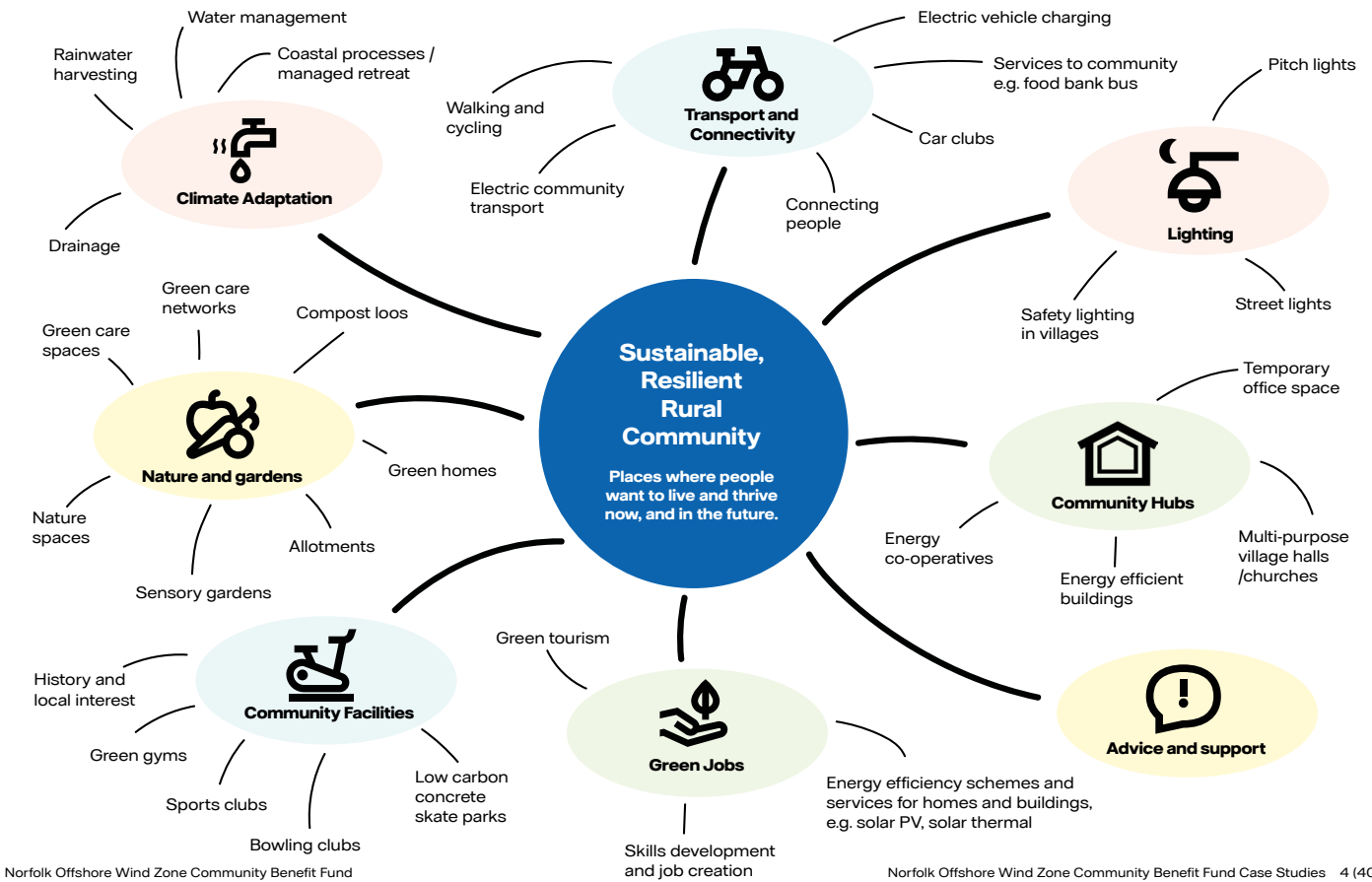
We began our dialogue with people in Norfolk about the fund in Spring 2021, via a ‘Give My View’ survey. To ensure it is based on, and responsive to, community interests, needs, and aspirations we then ran a series of local workshops, from January to August 2022.

Following these sessions, we compiled ideas from the previous two phases and collaboratively developed themes that do them justice (see below), which have informed our thematic workshops. You will see that there is a lot of interconnectivity and overlap between them.

Vattenfall already run [several community benefit funds](#) for projects in England, Scotland and Wales.

In this booklet you will find a series of case studies showcasing initiatives that communities in Norfolk and elsewhere in the UK have undertaken to promote climate smarter living. These include examples of projects which have secured grant funding from Vattenfall community funds, and funds from elsewhere, as well as other community projects which we found inspiring. We hope they help to inspire your climate smarter community projects.

The diagram below summarizes the range of ideas participants in the Norfolk Offshore Wind Zone Community Benefit Fund dialogue considered important in the development and resilience of sustainable communities. For more info please see the Phase 2 reports on the NOWZ CBF webpage.







Case Studies

Nature and gardens


Delivering a food movement




Fund provider
Vattenfall




Administrator
Pen Y Cymoedd Wind Farm Community Fund CIC
<https://penycymoeddcic.cymru/>



Grant recipient
Glynneath Training Centre
glynneathtc.org.uk



Grant size
£194,258 (over four years)



Area
Neath Valley, Wales

About

Glynneath Training Centre aims to deliver a food movement that champions existing growing spaces and collaboratively turns disused land into community gardens. They also wish to provide green learning activities to schools, nurseries and community groups, alongside volunteering opportunities and courses for the community.

How the money was used

- Establishing a base where volunteers could meet and hold workshops
- Groundwork and gardening activities
- Running a recycling challenge, a cemetery planting session and allotment-based projects
- Improving the community garden
- Acquiring and installing street planters
- Planting wildflowers and trees




Benefits

- **Wellbeing** – the centre got local students outdoors, engaging with nature


How they are building on the project

- As a result of the project, volunteers are now working with four nearby primary schools
- Members have also joined forces with the National Autistic Society to run events in the local area, such as litter picking


Building a nature hide




Fund provider
Vattenfall
[Clashindarroch Wind Farm Community Fund](#)




Administrator
Foundation Scotland



Grant recipient
The Cabrach Trust
cabrachtrust.org



Grant size
£34,151



Area
Inverharroch Farm, Moray, Scotland

About

The Cabrach Trust wanted to build a publicly accessible hide on a newly established all-ability nature trail, overlooking the river Deveron. This ambition formed part of their regeneration strategy and masterplan for the area, intending to create jobs and attract new visitors, as well as to celebrate its cultural heritage and landscapes.

How the money was used

- Planning and constructing a new hide to view local birds and otters



Benefits

- **Stargazing** – the hide provides shelter for this and other related activities
- **Education** – people can learn more about the importance of ‘Dark Sky’ discovery sites at the hide, which provides information on the area’s own designation

How they are building on the project

- A wide range of community groups, charities, researchers and artists now use the hide for various activities, establishing a new community facility



Case Studies

Nature and gardens

Creating a forest garden



Fund provider
Vattenfall



Administrator
Edinbane Community Company
<https://edinbanecommunitycompany.org/>



Area
Edinbane, Isle of Skye, Scotland

About

A local primary school wished to create a forest garden and community growing space, identifying suitable land for this within their grounds. Vattenfall's community benefit fund helped them realise this ambition.



How the money was used

- Co-developing plans
- Acquiring and installing a 'Polycrub' growing tunnel – a gale-proof polytunnel made from recycled salmon farm pipe
- Landscaping for vegetable beds
- Constructing new compost facilities
- Building forest walkways
- Upgrading the playground – incorporating new facilities designed for creative play



Benefits

- **Creativity** – new equipment has encouraged students to be more creative and given them extra ways to do so
- **Wellbeing** – the project has got people outdoors, learning about nature and sustainable living

How they are building on the project

- The school now provides vegetables and herbs to a nearby restaurant
- Students worked with a local pottery shop to design and produce "Welcome" signs to the forest school and growing area

Supporting community woodland



Fund provider
Vattenfall



Administrator
Pen Y Cymoedd Wind Farm
Community Fund CIC



Grant recipient
Cwmaman Woodland Group



Grant size
£3,942



Area
Cynon Valley, Wales

About

The Cwmaman Woodland Group wished to deliver an intergenerational environmental community project, comprised of a wide range of activities. Having been unsuccessful in a previous bid for funding, they were referred to a member of Vattenfall's Supporting Communities Team. She helped them involve other groups, refresh their constitution, and develop a delivery plan.

How the money was used

- Looking after the community garden and sculpture trail
- Running a poster competition for local school children
- Raising awareness of local nature trails
- Improving wildlife habitats
- Attending events to recruit new members
- Evaluating the project and planning ahead



Benefits

- **Revamped identity** – through the bid drafting process, members refreshed their constitution and policies
- **A clear path forward** – they co-developed an action and delivery plan
- **Training** – members honed their bid writing skills

How they are building on the project

- The group has partnered with various organisations to run their activities, such as Keep Wales Tidy

Case Studies

Nature and gardens

Backing a community garden



Fund provider
Vattenfall



Administrator
Pen Y Cymoedd Wind Farm
Community Fund CIC



Grant recipient
Sunrise Community Garden



Grant size
£3,800



Area
Rhondda Valley, Wales

About

Sunrise Community Garden is a voluntary community-based gardening group that helps and teaches people from all walks of life. They wanted to set up a dedicated space for the community to grow food in.

How the money was used

- Constructing hard-core areas for a shed, greenhouse, pathways and raised beds
- Building a secure concrete shed to house tools



Benefits

- Improved community facilities** – the group is helping local people find new passions and learn new skills

How they are building on the project

- The new hub is used to deliver more targeted training and workshops



Planning an allotment academy



Fund provider
Vattenfall



Administrator
Pen Y Cymoedd Wind Farm
Community Fund CIC



Grant recipient
Glynneath & District
Allotment Society



Grant size
£4,998



Area
Neath Valley, Wales

About

The Glynneath & District Allotment Society wanted to construct an 'allotment academy' that could be used to hold classes and store equipment.

How the money was used

- Funding the initial stages of planning and structural engineer reports



Benefits

- Empowerment** – getting through the first phases enabled them to successfully bid for funding elsewhere

How they are building on the project

- The academy is now used for meetings and gardening workshops, as well as various art activities







Case Studies

Community Hubs


Reviewing youth club design




Fund provider
Vattenfall
[Unlock Our Future Fund](#)




Administrator
Foundation Scotland



Grant recipient
Girlguiding Kincardine and Deeside
[girlguidingkincardine-deeside.org.uk](#)



Grant size
£2,000



Area
Braemar, Aberdeenshire, Scotland


About

Opened in 1952, the Braemar Sheiling provided accommodation to local Girl Guides and youth groups for 62 years, until it was deemed unfit for purpose and demolished. Girlguiding Kincardine and Deeside – who managed the building – wished to construct a new purpose-built facility on the site and had an initial design developed for it.

But, they also wanted to ensure that the new building fully embraces net zero targets. With that in mind, Vattenfall provided grant funding to help them review the existing design.

How the money was used

- Upgrading the proposed structure and energy systems – ensuring it would meet Passivhaus standards



Benefits


- Financial security** – it will save 95% of the forecasted energy use, significantly reducing associated costs
- Inspiration** – as a great example of innovation, it can inspire other organisations to take the time to also undertake feasibility studies

How they are building on the project


- The group are using the innovative design as a 'hook' to attract additional donors and funders




Securing a village hall's future




Fund provider
Vattenfall
[Unlock Our Future Fund](#)




Administrator
Foundation Scotland



Grant recipient
Newburgh Village Hall Committee



Grant size
£28,860




Area
Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland

About

Dating back to the 1800s, Newburgh village hall is a traditional granite building with a concrete extension. The Hall Committee wished to make a series of improvements to secure its future, prioritising energy efficiency.

How the money was used

- Acquiring and installing air source heat pumps
- Purchasing solar panels and a battery storage unit



Benefits

- Financial sustainability** – significantly reduced the hall's operating costs
- Improved community facilities** – enabled users to rapidly adjust the temperature, providing community groups greater flexibility and comfort
- Leadership** – combining energy efficiency upgrades with renewable energy generation has brought the hall as close to net zero as feasible, providing an example for other community hubs to follow

How they are building on the project


- The Committee has established a local climate action group and is using this as a vehicle to share information about the refurbishment among the wider community




Case Studies

Community Hubs


Enabling climate smarter sailing




Fund provider
Vattenfall




Administrator
Foundation Scotland



Grant recipient
Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust
aberdeenshiresailing.org



Grant size
£38,176



Area
Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland

About

The Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust helps people of all ages and abilities learn to sail. They have considered which areas of their operations have the biggest environmental impacts and have been dealing with them in turn.

The Trust wanted to purchase an electric van, upgrade Peterhead Sailing Club's clubhouse, and make their rescue fleet more sustainable.

How the money was used

- Purchasing an electric van
- Installing an electric vehicle charging point
- Acquiring 14 solar panels and a battery
- Buying an electric outboard motor, battery, and charger




Benefits

- **Education** – quickly becoming a local talking point, the van has helped local people learn about electric vehicles
- **Learning** – the clubhouse upgrades have generated considerable interest, with many people expressing surprise about the amount of energy that this relatively small system can produce
- **Wellbeing** – electric motors are quieter and less polluting, improving quality of life for many people, particularly instructors, who previously spent a lot of time close to petrol motors


How they are building on the project

- The Trust is actively engaging with their industry body about their journey to a climate smart future, transforming it into a case study for other groups to learn from
- Members are collaborating with a wide range of people from across the sailing community, making good use of their knowledge and experience


Launching a community hub




Fund provider
Vattenfall




Administrator
Pen Y Cymoedd Wind Farm Community Fund CIC



Grant recipient
Age Connects Morgannwg
ageconnectsmorgannwg.org.uk



Grant size
£100,000



Area
Aberdare, Cynon Valley, Wales

About

Age Connects Morgannwg took over the St Mair's Centre in Aberdare, creating a community hub called Cynon Linc. They wanted support launching and running the building.

How the money was used

- Employing key staff
- Supporting with initial running costs
- Contributing towards the refurbishment – creating an extension to provide additional space for community activities and events, as well as therapy
- Delivering a targeted marketing campaign



Benefits

- **Community facilities** – it regularly hosts a range of organisations, including a local youth group
- **Capacity building** – this space is used for community first aid training
- **Wellbeing** – it provides a more welcoming space for people to make new friends and get involved in group activities
- **New relationships** – to deliver the project, members partnered with a local council, university health board, and a range of individuals from both the third sector and the local community

How they are building on the project

- The charity is providing new, sustainable activities
- The hub now hosts Signposted Cymru, a community based charity that supports people with mental health issues



Improving a local offering



Fund provider
Vattenfall



Administrator
Pen Y Cymoedd Wind Farm
Community Fund CIC



Grant recipient
Cwmparc Community Association
cwmparccommunityassociation.webs.com



Grant size
£5,000



Area
Cwmparc, Rhondda Valley,
Wales

About

Cwmparc Community Association provides a range of low cost meals for nearby residents at their Café, as well as free Food Hygiene training and volunteering opportunities. They wanted to employ a local volunteer to extend their opening hours and increase their home delivery service.

How the money was used

- Employing a volunteer for 20 hours a week



Benefits

- **Increased reliability** – the Café previously had to occasionally close due to a lack of staff, causing issues for those rely on it for their daily meals
- **Capacity building** – the Association trained their new member of staff in Food Hygiene and they now support the Café manager
- **Empowerment** – the Vattenfall team helped them secure additional funding to employ the volunteer for an extra 10 hours a week


How they are building on the project

- The Association now cooks Sunday lunches, delivering them to the elderly and less able in the community
- They are providing ongoing employment for a local person, made possible by the increase in revenue







Researching retrofit




Fund provider
Vattenfall




Administrator
Foundation Scotland



Grant recipient
The Fittie Community Development Trust
fittietrust.org.uk



Grant size
£23,536



Area
Footdee, Aberdeen, Scotland

About

The Fittie Community Development Trust wished to run a future-facing artistic collaboration and refurbish a disused community asset. Located near the heart of Aberdeen’s oil and gas industry, the project demonstrated how a transition to a low carbon economy can encompass both physical and cultural changes.

Before applying for funding, the Trust sought expert advice to identify the most efficient and cost-effective options for the building.

How the money was used

- Purchasing new insulation
- Improving glazing
- Acquiring an air source heat pump
- Installing underfloor heating




Benefits

- **Brighter future** – its combining efficiency improvements and creative collaboration has empowered the community to secure a legacy and move away from fossil fuels
- **Inspiration** – as an exemplar venue, it can inspire other organisations to look into how they too can help the UK achieve its net zero ambitions
- **Local recovery** – the hall hosted a range of community facilities, supporting people’s wellbeing and the area’s economy
- **New perspective** – the project demonstrated that change can come from artistic creativity and new ways of doing things (not just technological innovation)

How they are building on the project

- This facility now hosts a range of artistic activities
- The Trust has partnered with a local arts organisation on a collaborative project to celebrate the past and looked forward to a net zero future
- The grantmaking panel has shifted the focus of their grants from ‘innovative climate-smart projects’ to ‘creative solutions’


Breathing new life into a key sports facility




Fund provider
Vattenfall




Administrator
Foundation Scotland



Grant recipient
Huntly Sports Trust



Grant size
£100,000



Area
Meadows sports fields, Huntly, Aberdeenshire, Scotland

About

The Huntly Sports Trust needed to refurbish their synthetic pitch to be allowed to host competitive football and rugby matches again. It was in dire need of repair.

How the money was used

- Plugging the funding gap for a new all-weather pitch
- Replacing security fencing



Benefits

- **Point of pride** – the new facility has been praised as one of the best in Aberdeenshire
- **New life** – it has regained its status as a key sporting facility, providing safe, usable space when the grass pitches are unplayable e.g. due to waterlogging

How they are building on the project

- The Trust is planning to replace the existing floodlights with energy-efficient LED lights



Case Studies

Community Facilities

Putting local issues on the main stage



Fund provider
Vattenfall



Administrator
Pen Y Cymoedd Wind Farm
Community Fund CIC



Grant recipient
Avant Cymru
avant.cymru



Grant size
£5,000



Area
Rhondda Valley, Wales

About

Based in the Rhondda Valley, Avant Cymru was established to bring relevant, exciting theatre productions and opportunities to the area. They wanted to address local issues in a series of monthly shows, which would be shared online, and acted on by the local community.

How the money was used

- Employing local actors, videographers and a producer
- Modelling potential energy savings



Benefits

- **Representation** – the project tackled local issues and created a platform for online discussions after every show
- **Empowerment** – it created unique opportunities for local people of all ages to voice their concerns
- **Support** – the group encouraged a range of organisations to come along and handout leaflets, signposting help and support
- **Amplification** – young people were involved in every episode
- **Accessibility** – the shows were timed to make sure teenagers could come along after school and older people felt comfortable (finishing before it got dark)

How they are building on the project

- The project has attracted national press coverage, inspiring more individuals and organisations to raise issues they wanted future shows to address
- Avant Cymru has delivered a range of classes and workshops for the local community

Getting people moving



Fund provider
Vattenfall



Administrator
Pen Y Cymoedd Wind Farm
Community Fund CIC



Grant recipient
Run Wales
runwales.com



Grant size
£2,500



Area
Cynon Valley, Wales

About

Run Wales is a Social Running Programme that focuses on overcoming barriers to participation by those not traditionally attracted to a running club. They wished to train a group of local Run Leaders, helping new people get started.

How the money was used

- Funding Leadership in Running Fitness (LiRF) qualifications for 18 'Run Leaders'



Benefits

- **Accessibility** – the group established a new club, providing a place for beginner runners to go and feel welcome
- **New opportunities** – with Run Wales identifying a shortfall of social running opportunities in the area, this project helped level the playing field
- **Capacity building** – the courses enabled local people to deliver sessions for multi-ability groups, advise and support new runners, and develop programmes for those who want to progress
- **Wellbeing** – qualified leaders helped ensure sustained growth in running participation, providing them with tools to make a real difference to their health and wellbeing

How they are building on the project

- More than 200 people in the area now run on a regular basis
- The group has created a sustainable network of social running groups in the area
- They have also upskilled a trail leader to deliver mountain runs
- The project has inspired local parents to set up a local running buggy group



Case Studies

Community Facilities


Backing local boxing



Fund provider
Vattenfall




Administrator
Pen Y Cymoedd Wind Farm
Community Fund CIC



Grant recipient
Cwmgwrach Amateur
Boxing Club



Grant size
£3,226.32



Area
Neath Valley, Wales

About

Established six months beforehand, Cwmgwrach Amateur Boxing Club applied for funding to purchase essential equipment.

How the money was used

- Purchasing new equipment, kit, and safety gear
- Acquiring a boxing ring



Benefits

- **Pride** – the new facilities had a big impact on the local community, becoming a point of pride for many
- **Community cohesion** – it provided an avenue for people to channel aggressive behaviour
- **New relationships** – to strengthen their bid, the group engaged with local schools, rugby and football clubs, dance groups, Scouts, Age Connect, the Police, and the community council

How they are building on the project

- The group now runs boxing sessions for people of all ages and abilities, including dedicated sessions for young people, people with autism, and veterans
- They have also expanded their offering to include yoga classes
- The club holds regular open access sessions for the wider community, providing an additional place for them to socialise
- They have partnered with local sports teams – their members use the space as an affordable extension to their own fitness programmes



Case Studies

Transport and Connectivity

Solar flower power



Fund provider
Vattenfall



Administrator
Foundation Scotland



Grant recipient
Meldrum Amenities Improvement Group (MAIG)



Grant size
£20,349



Area
Meldrum, Aberdeenshire, Scotland

About

MAIG is a local community group set up to improve and enhance the facilities and local environment of Meldrum for local residents and visitors.

Vattenfall's community benefit fund helped them do this by providing an electric utility vehicle to maintain over 300 flower and plant containers across the town.

How the money was used

- Replacing old diesel tractor and water pump with an electric utility vehicle
- Installing solar panels on their garage to supply electricity to the utility vehicle and heat propagation beds for the flowers



Benefits

- **Wellbeing** – electric vehicle is quieter and less polluting, improving the quality of life for many people
- **Environmental** – the new solar panels will save an estimated 715kg of carbon savings a year, compared to charging the vehicle from the grid
- **Financial security** – the group have been able to reduce their energy costs and may generate additional income through selling surpluses back to the grid

How they are building on the project

- The group is planning to add graphics to the vehicle to make people aware that it is powered by renewables
- The vehicle has attracted additional volunteers to the group to help improve and enhance the facilities and environment in Meldrum

Electrifying local transport



Fund provider
The Scottish Government & Energy Saving Trust



Grant recipient
Newlands Community Development Trust



Grant size
£79,864



Area
Newlands, Scotland

About

Newlands Community Transport is a community led initiative to promote sustainable and affordable transport options for the local community. Grant funding supported a series of community initiatives designed to trial and deliver new and innovative transport options.

This included £71,864 from the Scottish Government's Community Climate Action Fund for an electric vehicle, and £8,000 from the Energy Saving Trust to install electric vehicle charging points.

How the money was used

- Purchasing a 13-seat zero-emissions, fully electric minibus
- Minibus driving courses
- Installing electric vehicles charging points at community hubs



Benefits

- **Inspiration** – the electric minibus acts as a positive example of how the community can travel sustainably through zero emissions vehicles
- **Training** – provides driver volunteering and training opportunities, with all volunteers being offered free minibus driving courses and registration to Scotland's Protecting Vulnerable People scheme

How they are building on the project


- Established a Newlands Electric Vehicle monthly meetup, bringing electric vehicle owners and other interested groups together to share knowledge and experiences of owning and running an electric vehicle in a rural community
- Encouraged attendance to its e-bike club




Case Studies

Transport and Connectivity


From tracks to trails




Fund provider
ScotRail Foundation




Administrator
Foundation Scotland



Grant recipient
I Am Bikes



Grant size
£4,650



Area
Cumbernauld, Glasgow

About

I Am Bikes supports cycling within its local community by recycling and refurbishing bikes, organising cycling groups, and running cycle maintenance classes. It provides skills training and employment opportunities for local people, with over 120 people visiting its workshop every week, and it works with local families, encouraging children to recycle their old bikes and think about the environment.

They successfully applied to the ScotRail Foundation for funding to set up a cycle hub and build a new café in the new premises, close to Cumbernauld and Greenfaulds Railway Stations.

How the money was used

- New benches and tables, kitchen flooring and units, and a chilled display case in the café
- Marketing materials and signage


**Benefits**

- **Improved community facilities** – the new Café Haus is a meeting hub which helps to connect the local community
- **Wellbeing** – improvements have helped establish the café as a base to use the local path network, which is ideal for cycling, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle
- **Community care** – improving the organisation's reach through marketing materials and signage has helped encourage active travel and provided support for more families to get outdoors and cycle

How they are building on the project

- I Am Bikes has expanded its volunteer network and provides training-for-work experience to local people
- It has created a local cycling network in partnership with the North Lanarkshire Council Roads Safety Team
- Working with the council's leisure department, it has also helped promote the international BMX Track


Accessible transport reducing isolation



Fund provider
Equinor



Administrator
Sheringham Shoal Community Fund



Grant recipient
North Norfolk Community Transport



Area
North Norfolk, England


About

North Norfolk Community Transport is a registered charity providing accessible transport to vulnerable and disabled users, and helps bring communities together who would otherwise be unable to access their local community services.

It wants to expand its transport network to make the service more accessible across the region and where possible electrify its vehicles.

How the money was used

- Bringing a new electric vehicle into the fleet
- Expansion of North Norfolk Community Transport's wheelchair accessible transport

**Benefits**

- **Empowerment** – the accessible transport provided invaluable new opportunities for those unable to travel by themselves or use traditional methods of public transport
- **Environment** – less pollution created from the electric vehicle compared to diesel or petrol-powered vehicles
- **Health** – helps meet the demand for the Access Car service, which supports people across North Norfolk get to medical appointments, without increasing its carbon emissions

How they are building on the project

- The charity is looking to expand its services across the region

Case Studies Lighting

Energy efficient street lighting



Organisation
Reepham Town Council



Area
Reepham, Norfolk

About

A carbon audit showed Reepham's carbon emissions per capita were 48% above the national average, so as part of Reepham's low carbon journey, a variety of projects are being developed and delivered to address this issue.

Reepham Town Council is part of this journey and one of the projects launched focused on replacing old street lighting in the town.



How the money was used

- Replace 35 old street lights with LED lanterns
- Focused on street lights required to be replaced as part of a long term replacement plan, as well as lighting around the Market Place and on four main roads into the town



Benefits

- **Environmental** – the new LED lanterns reduce energy use for street lighting by 65%, with associated carbon and cost savings
- **Economic** – reducing maintenance costs of street lighting by 90%
- **Wellbeing** – reduce light pollution across the town

How they are building on the project

- As part of Reepham's low carbon journey, several other lighting projects are being developed, including installing low energy lighting throughout business premises in Reepham.

Cutting electricity bills



Organisation
Necton Parish Council



Area
Necton, Norfolk

About

Necton Parish Council has been reviewing how it can reduce energy outputs and launched an environmental and cost-saving initiative reviewing streetlights in the village.



How the money was used

- Turned off the village streetlights between midnight and 5am
- Converting 133 older lights to be more energy efficient



Benefits

- **Environmental** – turning off the streetlights during this period and installing newer lights are more environmentally friendly
- **Economic** – the project is estimated to save the council £1,710 a year on its electricity bill, a cost saving of more than 30% on its previous electricity bill, £4,700 per year. The cost savings helped to pay for newer and more energy efficient lighting


How they are building on the project


- Continuing to look for opportunities for energy savings within the parish


Case Studies


Green jobs


Supporting education

**Fund provider**
EDF Energy Renewables (EDF-ER)

**Administrator**
EDF-ER and Foundation Scotland

**Grant recipient**
EDF Burnhead Moss Education & Training Fund

**Grant size**
£26,000 per year (up to £3,865 available per application)

**Area**
Blackridge, Avonbridge & Standburn and Limerigg & Slamannan, Scotland

About

The Burnhead Moss Education & Training Fund was set up in 2016 by EDF-ER and Foundation Scotland to contribute to improving local people's skills and prospects by providing annual financial support for education and training courses. The fund is open for applications from local residents to help them pursue further academic and professional qualifications.

How the money was used

- 28 applications for funding were received in the first year, of which 22 were awarded
- Courses funded ranged from electrical engineering, to education and childcare, to site management safety training
- Priority given to courses within the renewables and energy-related sectors
- Grants awarded ranged from £60 to support attendance at one day courses, to funding a laptop to complete coursework, to £2,400 grant for support with travel, childcare and study aids over a three-year period



Benefits


- **Education and skills** – the fund provided financial support for local residents to pursue further academic or professional qualifications, improving skills and employment prospects
- **Removing barriers** – the fund helps people to overcome financial barriers which might otherwise prevent them from starting, completing or participating fully in courses

How they are building on the project


- More courses will be funded as at a minimum, an annual amount of £26,000 will be paid into the fund each year for the operating life of EDF-ER's wind farm.

Growing local skills to sustain community woodlands

**Fund provider**
Greencoat Stroupster Community Fund

**Administrator**
Foundation Scotland

**Grant recipient**
Dunnet Forestry Trust

**Grant size**
£3,668

**Area**
Dunnet Forest and Heathfield Wood, Scotland

About

Dunnet Forest and Heathfield Wood, planted by the Forestry Commission in the 1950s and covering approximately 250 acres, is the most northerly community woodland on the British mainland.

The forest is now leased from Scottish Natural Heritage by the Trust, with a 25-year vision to be managed by the community with rich and varied wildlife and a place in which to learn about, respect and enjoy the natural environment.

How the money was used

- Train volunteers to use chainsaws for forest ecological management



Benefits

- **Skills** – seven volunteers received the certification to enable them to use chainsaws in the forest, with new skills which could be used to further employment opportunities
- **Maintenance** – enabled paths to be kept clear, windblown areas to be cleared and 'at-risk' areas to be felled
- **Community** – educational and recreational facilities have been created for local people and tourists
- **Financial security** – helped keep the woodshed stocked for monthly sales of firewood, the principal source of the Trust's income


How they are building on the project

- The training increased the local skills base, and the volunteers can use their qualifications to further their employment.


Case Studies

Green jobs


Supporting young people into employment and training




Fund provider
Clashindarroch Fund




Administrator
Foundation Scotland



Grant recipient
Barnardo's



Grant size
£4,369.90



Area
Huntly, Scotland

About

The Rural Steps employability project based in Huntly supports young people on an individual and group basis, focusing on employability and skills training. After the project had started, it became apparent that most of the young people taking part in the project did not have computer access at home, limiting their ability to apply for jobs or develop their employability skills.

The need for participants to have access to a computer at home became vital when restrictions came into place due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

How the money was used

- Barnardo's used the grant to purchase ten Chromebooks with SIM cards to lend to young people participating in the Rural Steps project
- The laptops allowed the recipients to access support sessions to work on CVs, employability skills and access free online courses such as through the Open University




Benefits

- Employability and skills** - the laptops purchased and then lent by the project allowed participants to improve their employment prospects and skills through online courses
- Education** - participants were able to access online educational courses, such as through the Open University, on topics ranging from Marine Conservation to Cyber Security
- Reducing isolation** - access to the internet helped reduce isolation during the Covid-19 pandemic, through individual and group sessions run by the project


How they are building on the project

- The project supported 15 young people during 2020/21 through work placements, taster days with third sector agencies, online learning, digital skills, and CV writing. 7 of the 15 young people have moved into work, while 3 progressed into further training


Helping primary school pupils




Fund provider
Blackridge Community Fund




Administrator
Foundation Scotland



Grant recipient
Blackridge Primary School Parent Council



Grant size
£4,000



Area
Blackridge, Scotland

About

Blackridge Primary School Parent Council supports the school to provide educational opportunities for its pupils and had previously raised just over £1,000 to improve the school's grounds, creating more green space with new planters and murals.

It aspired to continue improving the school grounds, resources and activities to give the children a more natural environment to play in and encourage them to think more creatively.

How the money was used

- Purchasing a secure container, fitting shelving and storage, allowed for resources and equipment to be stored securely
- This enabled part of the tarmac surface in the school grounds to be converted to a loose grassy play area containing tyres, ropes and various other activities



Benefits

- Stimulation** - enable stimulating activities and provide a nurturing environment to play, encouraging more creative thinking, working as part of a team and getting more enjoyment from outdoor play
- Skills** - it is hoped that the children will begin to transfer their skills and enjoyment outside of the school environment where it will have a positive impact on other areas of their lives

How they are building on the project

- The parent council would like to continue developing school facilities in line with best practice

Case Studies

Climate adaptation

Increasing rainwater storage capacity



Organisation
Rosamund Community Garden



Area
Guildford, London

About

Rosamund Community Garden is a 19-acre community garden used for growing food and flowers, and is a social and education space. The rainwater harvesting project was organised with Zero Carbon Guildford and Surrey County Council's "Green Social Prescribing Programme".

How the money was used

- A new water container was installed in the garden which increased the rainwater storage capacity to 1,110 litres, a six-fold increase



Benefits

- Local environment** – the rainwater storage accessible to the community garden has greatly increased, improving the group's ability to recycle rainwater while reducing dependency on fresh water

How they are building on the project

- Use the rainwater to continue growing local produce including fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers



Bee-friendly!



Fund provider
Ventient Energy Glenkerie Community Fund



Administrator
Foundation Scotland



Grant recipient
Local residents



Grant size
£1,517



Area
Skirling, Scotland

About

This grant was provided to a group of local residents who had expressed an interest in making their village more bee friendly, through the planting of certain types of flowers, and the establishment of a hive.

How the money was used

- Purchase and plant 500 wildflower plug plants
- Bees and beekeeping equipment
- Production of a bee-friendly plant list for communities



Benefits

- Education** – villagers can sign up for hive visits to learn more about the bees
- Honey** – the village now produces and sells honey from the hive
- Environment** – bees and all other pollinators have benefited from the wildflower areas and planting of pollen and nectar-rich plants

How they are building on the project

- Planting will continue due to education and increasing enthusiasm
- The production of honey has provided some additional income which will help make the project self-sustaining



Case Studies

Advice and support

Bringing a town together



Fund provider
Vattenfall



Administrator
Pen Y Cymoedd Wind Farm
Community Fund CIC



Grant recipient
Treorchy and District
Chamber of Trade



Grant size
£24,904



Area
Treorchy, Rhondda Valley, Wales

About

Treorchy and District Chamber of Trade wanted to deliver a 'Visit Treorchy' campaign, encouraging people to come and visit the town.

How the money was used

- Bringing community groups and businesses together to boost Treorchy's profile
- Developing a dedicated website for the town's local businesses and community groups
- Creating a promotional film
- Photographing every business, event, and place of interest



Benefits

- **Making a mark** - Treorchy's high street was named the best in the UK, achieving coverage in several national publications, including the Telegraph and the Guardian
- **Financial resilience** - it is now well positioned address future challenges
- **That festive feeling** - the grant also contributed to new Christmas lighting

How they are building on the project

- They now produce a quarterly 'What's On' guide







Case Studies

Advice and support


Creating a brighter future




Fund provider
Vattenfall




Administrator
Foundation Scotland



Grant recipient
Zero Carbon Daviot (ZCD)
zerocarbondaviot.org



Grant size
£2,000



Area
Daviot, Aberdeenshire, Scotland

About

ZCD, a community run organisation, was established to bring about radical reductions in carbon emissions while improving quality of life. They wanted to develop a retrofit programme for housing.

Vattenfall's community benefit fund empowered them to commission three studies of common types of property in the village, providing practical and place specific information to the local community.

How the money was used

- Commissioning a sustainability-focused architecture firm to survey typical properties occupied by volunteer households
- Modelling potential energy savings
- Developing a Whole House Retrofit strategy, using a 'step by step' approach




Benefits

- **Empowerment** – the organisation has provided a clear plan of action for people in Daviot who wish to live climate smarter lives


How they are building on the project

- ZCD are costing up proposed measures and investigating funding options for those unable to afford them, enabling a just transition
- The organisation is also looking into training local tradespersons to carry out retrofit work, ensuring it will benefit the area's economy
- They are investigating how to help establish a retrofit hub for the region


Building community confidence




Fund provider
Vattenfall




Administrator
Pen Y Cymoedd Wind Farm
Community Fund CIC



Grant recipient
Cwmparc Community Association
cwmparccommunityassociation.webs.com



Grant size
£21,280



Area
Rhondda Valley, Wales

About

Established in the 1980s to provide space for the community to use, Cwmparc Community Association has long provided education, training, classes, youth services, job placements, and volunteering opportunities. They wished to employ someone to address community confidence problems following the 'lockdown' periods, encouraging people to return to the centre.

How the money was used

Employing a Family Activity Development Officer to:

- Identify the type of activities and support the community wants
- Overcome barriers to engagement and participation
- Build relationships with community groups that could benefit from using the internal and external spaces
- Engage with younger people e.g. via social media
- Facilitate work with nearby schools



Benefits

- **Local recovery** – the project helped reassure the community, encouraging them to build new relationships while supporting the area's economy
- **Wellbeing** – it has got more people to get back into exercise, improving their quality of life

How they are building on the project

- The Association is working with local organisations to develop a more holistic approach to the provision of community facilities

