

ARDGAY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
BEINN THARSUINN WIND FARM
COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND
GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

These guidelines are for applicants seeking awards of £250 to £2000 from the Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund (BTWF) through Ardgay & District Community Council (A&DCC).

Background to the Fund

The Ardgay & District Community Council operates a share of the Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund. It is a fund designed to benefit residents within the boundaries of the areas served by the Community Council.

The fund is provided by Scottish Power Renewables who is the operator of the Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm and is managed through the local offices of the Highland Council. Groups and organisations working to benefit people within the area are able to apply to the A&DCC for awards from the fund. Currently, the application form must be downloaded from the Highland Council website. However, decisions on applications will be made by the A&D CC.

The annual fund available to A&DCC amounts to about £14,000 and consists of about 17.99% of the total Scottish Power Renewables community benefit fund paid out to 10 community councils throughout the area. A part of that amount is variable and is calculated on a production based formula. All payments by Scottish Power Renewables into this fund are index linked to inflation. Contributions will be made until 2032.

Objectives and Purpose of the Fund

Ardgay & District Community Council aims to fund activities, projects and initiatives that make a valid contribution to the community, thereby enhancing the lives of those who live and work in the area.

The Community Council will attempt to do this by making a mixture of capital and revenue awards that:

- Stimulate new ideas and innovative approaches that generate community spirit.
- Support the development and maintenance of community assets.
- Support the provision of services that improve the quality of life for members of the community.

Eligibility

Groups or organisations that need funding to support projects or activities consistent with the aims and purposes listed above are eligible to apply. Your group should normally have a constitution (governing document or set of rules), a bank account, and be set up on a not-for-profit basis. You don't need to be a registered charity to apply. *If you are unsure if your group is eligible, please contact the A&DCC for advice.*

Applicants should demonstrate that a percentage of the total project cost will come from other funding Sources. It must be demonstrated that the applicants have made an effort to match the Fund's contribution. Only in the most exceptional circumstances will 100% funding be considered.

Awards will NOT be made to support the following:

- Projects or organisations which do not benefit people living within the areas represented by the Ardgay & District Community Council. This does not rule out applications from groups not based in the district but with a membership including local people, nor local groups with a membership including those not residing in the district. It is A&DCC policy to allow up to 5% of overall awards

made to be allocated to non-resident groups, where there is evidence of some benefit to local residents.

- Support the advancement of commerce, religion or politics
- For the purposes of entertainment or hospitality as a reward for normal business activity
- The repayment of loans or payment of debts
- Costs already incurred or activities which have taken place before an application has been approved (retrospective funding).
- Payments towards areas generally understood to be the exclusive responsibility of statutory authorities.
- Applications that are for the sole benefit to flora and fauna. Applicants are invited to demonstrate the direct benefit to the local community and/or service users in cases where the application is concerned with flora and fauna.
- Activities which could be construed to be contrary to the interests of wind farm or renewable energy activities, including activities contrary to the interests of the fund provider.

Making an application

If you would like help with your application to the Fund, please contact A&D CC who will be able to help.

General Information

- Applications will usually, depending upon the time available, be considered by the A&DCC at the next scheduled meeting following receipt of the application. Applicants will be informed of the Council's decision within four weeks of that decision.
- Applicants should provide as much information as possible relevant to their project with the application form. If necessary you may present your application to the CC.
- You may only apply for one award from the Fund at a time. If your application is successful, you may apply for another award from the Fund in any subsequent round. However, it should not be for the same project/activity/cost for which you have already received an award during any one calendar year.
- If your application is unsuccessful, you may re-apply at any time. We would suggest that you take advice on the reasons for refusal from the A&DCC before applying again.
- Successful applicants will be asked to provide an audit trail (usually invoices) to demonstrate that their award has been used according to the conditions of the award.
- We are particularly interested to know the source of any additional funding which has been applied for or awarded for the project under consideration. Please give us a breakdown of the projected cost and any proposed or guaranteed sources of funding.
- Applicants should ensure that the award is acknowledged in any publicity that they use in connection with their project.
- A photo or short article which can be included in the CC Newsletter is desirable.

Application Form Completion

It is desirable and requested, though not essential, that proposals for funding reflect some of the following priorities with an example shown:

- Developing sustainable employment or volunteering opportunities within the community. E.g. "Our project would encourage self help volunteering by parents or members by XXX . "
- Helping local groups and organisations to be more effective. E.g. "Some funding would enable to buy necessary equipment or pay for the hire of premises to get us established."

- Working in partnership with other organisations that might be local, regional or national and that provide added value (financial or other) to the initiative. E.g. “We are part of the national organisation for XXX and they will be helping with XXX.”
- Connecting with wider sections of the community beyond the immediate target group. E.g. “Although we will be based in XXX hall membership is open to all and we will be able to offer transport for those who need it.”
- Ensuring that issues of access and sustainability have been considered. E.g. “This is our first application for funding to XXX. We propose to set membership at a sufficient level to ensure we can function without coming back every year, although we may come for specific items funding in future.”
- That a proportion of the total budget for the activity is raised from other sources. E.g. “We are asking for £XXX which is XXX% of the funding we will need. The rest of the funding will come from membership, club funds, our own fundraising, applications for other awards/assistance from XXX.”

You should tell us on the application form how your project will address some of these criteria. We do recognise that groups can only make reasonable efforts to – for example – raise funds locally, or build their organisations to be more effective, and that what is reasonable will be in proportion to the size of your group and project.

To apply for funding download the form from the Highland Council website at:

http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/13566/beinn_tharsuinn_grant_application_form

Email the completed form to: phil.tomalin@highland.gov.uk

Or post to:

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