

Clashindarroch Community Fund Factsheet

What is the Clashindarroch Community Fund and who is it for?

The Clashindarroch Community Fund is provided by Vattenfall the developer and owner of the Clashindarroch Wind Farm in Aberdeenshire. The Fund supports projects located within or directly benefiting one or more of the three community council areas of Huntly, Strathbogie and Tap O Noth and the area of the Cabrach Community Association. The Fund's purpose, priorities and award levels have been informed by the Clashindarroch Conversation which community members contributed to in 2014. The results of the conversation are available at www.foundationscotland.org/clashindarroch

How is the Fund managed, and who makes decisions about it?

Fund administration is provided by Foundation Scotland, a national grant-making charity. The Foundation receives and processes applications and a community panel decides on grant awards. The community panel is made up of twelve members, three from each of the community areas. Each area has two community council representatives and a third member from the community who is not a community councillor. The panel is guided by terms of reference which is available online at www.foundationscotland.org/clashindarroch

How much is available and for how long?

The fund comprises a fixed index-linked annual payment that will start in 2015 at £185,000. This amount will be provided for the operating lifetime of the wind farm.

Who can apply for an award?

Applicants must normally fulfil the following conditions to apply to the fund:

- The proposal is for projects or activities consistent with the overall purpose of the fund and addresses one or more of the fund's current strategic priorities;
- Applicants have a constitution (governing document or set of rules) and are set up on a not-for-private-profit basis. However applicants do not need to be registered charities to apply;
- Applicants must provide their latest set of accounts signed by an independent third party, or if the group has been operating for less than one year, they should provide a cash-flow projection.

What sizes of awards are available?

Four levels of awards are available for activities that benefit the local community. The amount and type of information required from applicants differs depending on the size of application being made.

- **Micro grants up to £500**

This scheme, for awards up to £500, is administered directly by each of the Community Councils and the Cabrach Association. Applications are by a simple application form or letter and decisions are made on a rolling monthly basis. Micro grants will be available after August

2015 when you can contact your Community Council/Cabrach Community Association directly for further details.

- **Small grants of £500 – £5000, Standard grants of £5001 - £25,000**

These are available using a common application Form.

- **Large grants over £25,000**

There is a two stage application process for large grants, with an initial outline proposal required. The panel will review the proposal at its next meeting and then agree whether or not to invite a full application. Please be aware large applications will usually take longer to process as they will be considered across two panel meetings.

Standard and large grants may be awarded over a period of years, usually three but in some cases longer. This is called a 'multi-year' grant.

Occasionally application materials are revised or changes made to grants programmes. Please check the website at www.foundationscotland.org.uk/clashindarroch for information about any recent or forthcoming changes and to ensure you have the most up to date fund information and application material.

What will the Fund support?

The overall purpose of the Vattenfall Clashindarroch Community Fund is to support positive change by investing in a wide range of inspirational, community-led activity in the fund area that is strategic, positive and creative and helps create a legacy of lasting impact. Within this broad purpose, the fund will support activity that addresses the following five strategic priorities:

Improve community services and facilities

Increase participation in and access to contemporary culture, events and recreational activity

Preserve and enhance the natural environment for residents and visitors

Promote rural regeneration (including sustainable transport & active travel, employment, housing, tourism and business development)

Celebrate the area's cultural, historic and archaeological heritage.

Awards can support a wide range of costs and activities including equipment costs, running costs for local groups, staff or sessional worker costs, consultations, maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities. Activity doesn't have to be new activity although where an organisation is requesting grant support for an established activity or project, the applicant needs to clearly explain what has changed to mean that grant support is now required from the Clashindarroch Community Fund. The panel will welcome applications for new ideas and initiatives that either need trying out or where pilot activity has already been successful.

£185,000 is a large annual amount coming to the area. Will it all be treated in the same way?

No. £85,000 will initially be set aside each year to support the improvement and enhancement community buildings. This is in response to the consultation activity which identified significant levels of support for the fund to initially invest in spaces where community activity takes place. Grants from this part of the fund start at a minimum of £25,000 and are subject to the two stage process for any large grant from the fund as described below. These grants will be awarded to projects that fit the following criteria:

- The project will be for a capital project to improve or enhance the infrastructure of an existing community facility;
- The applicant can demonstrate a funding plan for achieving the target project cost whereby the a grant from the Clashindarroch Community Fund is just one source of funding;
- There is evidence to show that this facility is vital for community activity in the short, medium and longer term;
- The project has a business plan which demonstrates commitment to achieving a level of environmental and financial sustainability in the short, medium and longer term.

The fund area has a diverse collection of community buildings owned and/or maintained by a range of groups. Some may have current development plans for their buildings – others may not. But in establishing this dedicated 'legacy' component some assurance can be provided to the managing groups that, subject to a positive assessment and decision by the panel, a minimum level of £25,000 is available to improve and enhance the building.

The focus and value of this ring fencing approach is subject to change over time and will be determined by the panel in consultation with the local community councils and associations and wider community.

Do any other criteria apply?

Beyond the five strategic priorities, the fund will also require applicants to consider the following issues in an appropriate and proportionate way relative to their project. It is recognised that they may not all be relevant.

- **Local procurement:** That local suppliers of goods and services will be used, where appropriate (e.g., in terms of quality of products / services available) and feasible (in terms of availability and cost). The definition of 'local' will vary depending on the goods/services in question. In some cases it could be taken to mean within the area of benefit but in others Aberdeen or indeed the North East of Scotland might be most appropriate.
- **Partnership working:** Where appropriate, that the applicant has considered whether delivering their project in partnership with other organisations / groups will add value (financial, capability, or other). This could involve working with voluntary, private or public sector bodies that operate at local, regional or national level.
- **Building capacity locally:** That the applicant has considered if the project provides opportunities to build the skills and knowledge of group members or other local people connected with the project. This could be formal or informal and through some form of mentoring activity, peer support or buddying scheme and/or any other learning opportunity that could be created through the project.

- **Leverage or match funding:** That the applicant is seeking to secure match funding for the project (from local fundraising activity or other sources) and/or that the applicant can demonstrate what other funding may be secured as a result of implementing this particular project.

What cannot be supported through the Fund?

- The advancement of religion or politics (including requests to support the core activities of religious or political groups).
- Activities which are deemed to be the responsibility of statutory authorities.
- Projects benefiting primarily those residents out with the area of benefit.
- Grants to individuals (excluding micro-grant schemes which may award grants to individuals to implement projects of benefit to the community).
- Activities contrary to the interests of Vattenfall or its subsidiaries.
- Activities likely to bring the Foundation, Vattenfall or its subsidiaries in to disrepute.
- Anti-renewable energy / wind farm activities.
- The repayment of loans or payment of debts.
- Costs already incurred or activities that will take place before we have made a decision on an application (retrospective funding).

Will the Fund’s purpose, priorities and award levels be fixed now for the lifetime of the Fund?

For the next three years the fund will operate according to this outline. After three years there will be a review to look at what’s working and what needs changing. Over time the fund needs to reflect the changing needs and opportunities for communities across the fund area.

How can I apply?

Application forms and guidance are available to download from www.foundationscotland.org.uk or contact **Rosalind Becroft**, Programmes Administrator at Foundation Scotland on 0131 524 0300 or email rosalind@foundationscotland.org.uk. Completed and signed applications should be submitted to Foundation Scotland, 22 Calton Road, Edinburgh EH1 8DP.

What are the deadlines and timescales?

Closing dates for 2015/early 2016	Panel decision
4 May 2015	End June
5 Sept 2015	End Oct
1 Feb 2016	End March

What if I have more questions?

We welcome pre-application queries. For further advice or information on the fund or to discuss your project proposal informally, please contact the Foundation Scotland team on the number above.