



Spirit of Lanarkshire Wind Energy Cooperative (SOLWEC) Community Fund

SOLWEC Community Fund aims to support communities in the vicinity of West Browncastle and Nutberry wind farms to pursue environmental projects which benefit the people who live in the immediate vicinity of the windfarms.

The SOLWEC Board will allocate a proportion of profits every year towards the Community Fund.

This year, a total fund of up to £20,000 is available.

About the Fund

The Board invite applications for between £500 up to £5000 with the intention of making several smaller grants per year in order that the maximum number of people can benefit from the Fund.

Applications for contributions to larger projects are welcome but we would expect you to tell us who else would be contributing to make the project happen.

The closing date for applications will be 31st October 2022.

The type of projects which we would aim to support, includes energy efficiency, energy advice, energy generation, conservation, biodiversity and wildlife, environmental education and information, environmental campaigns or similar projects.

Projects will be considered by the SOLWEC Board and assessed against the aims of the Fund. The Board is not able to enter into discussions about their decision.

Eligibility

- The fund is available to groups in South Lanarkshire, East Ayrshire and East Renfrewshire with priority given to constituted groups in a 5 mile radius of the two Wind Farms.
- Groups must have an up-to-date Constitution or Governance Document.
- Applicants must have a Bank, Building Society or Credit Union Account in the name of the organisation.
- Any grant received must be spent within one year of award.
- Groups will not be eligible to make application for another grant from the fund until all monitoring and evaluation reports have been completed.
- In order that we can ensure that the maximum number of people can benefit from the Fund, applications from organisations that have previously received grants from us may be treated as a lower priority.

We will not fund the following:

- The repayment of loans or payment of debts.
- Payments towards areas generally understood to be the responsibility of statutory authorities including schools. ie. projects that take place in school, during school hours and/or only for the benefit of the pupils will not be considered. PTAs/Parent Councils can apply if appropriately constituted but must provide evidence that the project has genuine wider community benefit.
- Groups who will then distribute the funds as grants, prizes or bursaries.
- General fundraising appeals or activities.
- We are not able to support year on year revenue funding for projects.
- The purchase of food, alcohol, tobacco or drugs. There is no restriction on having food, alcohol or tobacco at funded events, but the grant should not be used to purchase them.
- Promotion of religious or political views.
- Projects where the main beneficiaries reside outwith South Lanarkshire, East Ayrshire and East Renfrew even if the organisation's address is within those areas.
- Activities which are critical of renewable energy.
- Costs which have already been incurred at the time of application.
- Activities which might bring Spirit of Lanarkshire Wind Energy Co-operative into disrepute.
- Activities which could be funded by the existing unrestricted reserves of an organisation unless there is an explanation for this.

Payment of Award

- Grants will be paid to a Bank, Building Society or Credit Union Account in the name of the organisation.
- Payments will be made shortly after the awards are announced.
- If your application is successful, we ask that you provide receipts and a report on the project within 3 months of completion.
- Any unspent grant must be returned to the SOLWEC Community Fund unless otherwise agreed.

Application Procedure

Please complete the SOLWEC Community Fund application form and return to SOLWEC, c/o Energy4All or email to info@spiritoflanarkshire.coop by the 31st October 2022.

You should include any supporting material that you think will help us to understand your idea better. We may ask for more information.

The Board will acknowledge your application within 21 days and announce awards by 30th November 2022.

Final decisions will be entirely at board's discretion and the board reserves the right not to award any funding if, in its opinion, no suitable applications are received.

Grant recipients should acknowledge the grant in any publicity related to the project. SOLWEC may publicise grant awards and invite grant-holders to give a presentation on their project at its AGM or Board Meetings.

For more information about us, see <https://spiritoflanarkshire.coop/>