



## **Spirit of Lanarkshire Wind Energy Cooperative (SOLWEC) Community Support 2022/23**

SOLWEC Community Fund aims to support communities in the vicinity of West Browncastle and Nutberry wind farms to pursue projects which reduce greenhouse gas emissions or improve the environment and benefit the people who live in the immediate vicinity of the windfarms.

The SOLWEC Board allocate a proportion of profits every year towards a Community Fund. We have expanded this fund to include funding organisations to carry out energy audits for community buildings and feasibility studies particularly for ideas which link to the aims of the fund. Up to £100,000 is available for this fund, of which £50,000 will be targeted at energy audits for community buildings and feasibility studies particularly for ideas which link to the aims of the fund.

In addition to the above, we are currently operating a Warm Welcome support scheme which offers funding to assist with the cost of heating community-owned buildings which are offering a warm space to people during the cost of living crisis. Please contact us at [info@spiritoflanarkshire.coop](mailto:info@spiritoflanarkshire.coop) for further details if you think this may apply to your organisation.

### **About the Fund**

The Board invite applications for between £1000 up to £10,000.

The closing date for applications will be the 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023.

The types of projects which we particularly aim to support include: energy efficiency, energy advice, community 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 at their March Board 2023 meeting. The Board is not able to enter into discussions about their decision.

### **Eligibility**

- The fund is available to constituted groups in South Lanarkshire, East Ayrshire and East Renfrewshire within a 10 mile radius of the two Wind Farms (see map below).
- 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.

## **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. i.e 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.
- The SOLWEC Community Fund is 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. However, our Warm Welcome support scheme can provide funding towards the cost of hot food and drink at Warm Welcome venues.
- Promotion of religious or political views.
- Projects where the main beneficiaries reside outwith 10 miles of the SOLWEC windfarms 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 will ask you to provide a report on the project with 3 months of completion. We may ask to see proof of expenditure and/or invite you to give a presentation about your project at our AGM.
- 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](mailto:info@spiritoflanarkshire.coop) by the 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023.

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 mid-March 2023.

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 <http://spiritoflanarkshire.coop/>  
**SOLWEC catchment area map**

