



Spirit of Lanarkshire Wind Energy Cooperative (SOLWEC) Community Support 2024/25

About the Fund

SOLWEC Community Fund aims to support communities within a 10 mile radius of West Browncastle and Nutberry wind farms.

The SOLWEC Board allocate a proportion of profits every year towards a Community Fund. Approximately £15,000 will be available in the 2024/25 funding round. The Board invite applications for between £500 and £10,000. We expect there to be competition for the available funding and applications will be assessed against our funding priorities, with awards more likely for those which are a close fit.

Funding priorities are:

- Projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions including improving energy efficiency; installing micro-renewables on community buildings; active and low emission travel.
- Projects to support conservation, biodiversity and wildlife
- Projects which provide environmental education and information

Funding can be provided for feasibility studies to develop projects on these themes.

Other projects which benefit communities in the target area may be considered if funds allow.

The closing date for applications will be midnight on the 28th Feb 2025. Late applications cannot be considered.

Projects will be considered by the SOLWEC Board and assessed against the aims of the Fund at their March Board 2025 meeting. The Board is not able to enter into discussions about their decision.

Please contact us at <mailto:info@spiritoflanarkshire.coop> for if you have any questions or need further advice on completing your application.

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). Applications will be considered from groups based outside this area if the activity benefits communities within the area.
- 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 an application for another grant from the fund until all monitoring and evaluation reports relating to any previous awards have been completed.
- Applications to carry out feasibility studies for projects with fit with the aims of the fund will be considered.

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.e.g educational 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.
- Activities which are likely to produce significant greenhouse gas emissions.
- Groups who will then distribute the funds as grants, prizes or bursaries.
- General fundraising appeals or activities.
- Year on year revenue funding to cover general running costs, although we can fund revenue costs for specific projects.
- The purchase of food, alcohol, tobacco, vapes or drugs. There is no restriction on having food alcohol, tobacco or nicotine products 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 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.
- If your application is successful we will ask you to provide your group's bank details via a secure link or other secure means.
- 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 within 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, Unit 26, Trinity Enterprise Centre, Furness Business Park, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, LA14 2PN or email to info@spiritoflanarkshire.coop by the 28th Feb 2025.

You should include any supporting material that you think will help us to understand your idea better including quotes and a copy of your group's constitution. We may ask for more information.

The Board will acknowledge applications within 21 days and announce awards by mid-March 2025.

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

