Community Benefit

Find out more about the possibilities









VATTENFALL

These are just some of the ways that local communities are using wind farm funding

What can it do for your community?

Tourism & Recreation



Wildlife & Gardening



Shops & Cafes



New Facilities









Health & wellbeing

Skills & Training







Business Start Ups







You can find out more here:

Finding the right community benefit package



Developing ideas and finding the right opportunities

The conversation about community benefit is separate from the consultation about the design of the wind farm.

The key questions focus on the area, to find out what local priorities and needs could be supported.

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Once the needs and priorities are clearer, work can start on developing a tailored package.

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In the case of funding streams, such as community benefit funds and shared ownership, a legal agreement is put in place to secure the benefits agreed over the long term.

Shared ownership

Vattenfall offers shared ownership on all its projects at present.

You can find out more here:



Tailored to local priorities

Working with Foundation Scotland to set up South Kyle's community fund, a local conversation brought together people of all ages. With several other wind farm funds already in operation, what was missing?



Local priorities

Through this conversation an unique structure was put in place with five funding streams:



Education & Training Schemes

to train local people in the skills they needed to thrive



Flagship Change Projects

to support ambitious, transformative projects locally



Local funds for community

pots of funding for each village to support their local, smaller scale needs



Paid support for each community

funding to access additional support - time, resources and expertise - to stimulate faster delivery and provide additional capacity for local people to get projects off the ground

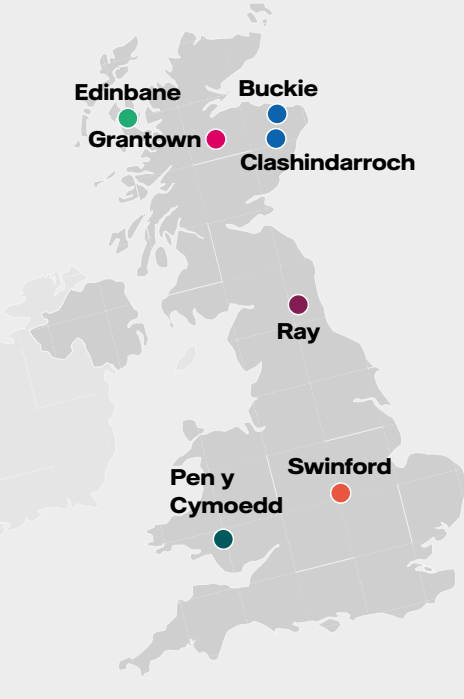


Understanding and building our community wealth

to create more wealth building opportunities in the communities



Across the UK



Looking ahead

Edinbane CIC has been working locally for almost 15 years with support from Edinbane Wind Farm.

As well as supporting apprenticeships and training for local people, the fund invested in developing the Atlas of Edinbane. The 'atlas' explores the past, present and potential future ideas for the community, setting out of a series of ten key ideas for a future Edinbane.







Youth projects

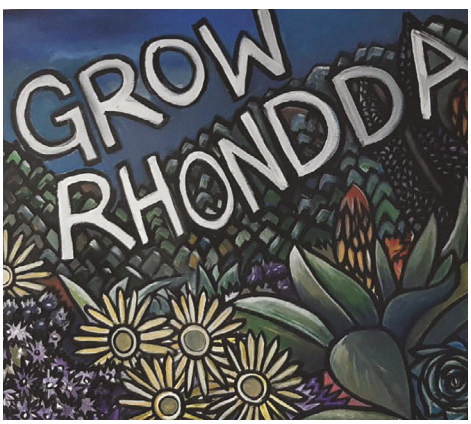
During the construction of Swinford Wind Farm, young people worked with the team to experience the wind farm. As well as picnics onsite during construction and helping to develop the community fund, a local art project saw them design flags to celebrate the construction of the wind farm.

At Clashindarroch, local school children developed a book telling the story of each turbine – from Gusty Gordon to Super Swirl.

Bike trail

Blade Mountain Bike trail in South Wales was part of the package of benefits agreed for the wind farm.







Renewable Energy

Pen y Cymoedd

The construction liaison committee at Pen y Cymoedd decided on a number of projects supported through construction – creating local allotments and new outdoor facilities for schools.





Power in the Valleys

Over three years, Power in the Valleys was a campaign to talk to local people about its future. More than 4000 local people, businesses and organisations took part - working together to develop a prospectus to guide Pen y Cymoedd fund's decision making.

Ten years on

To celebrate ten years of Swinford wind farm, a community open day celebrated the success of the project.

Local Partnerships

Research in the North East showed support for renewables across the board, with local people wanting to know more about renewables and climate change.

A partnership was developed with the Discovery Museum to support the Steam to Green exhibition – aiming to connect 100,000 people every year with the area's energy story.

The partnership will see local schools and communities around Ray Wind Farm benefit from new learning opportunities.

Virtual reality learning

Over a hundred school children in Buckie and Grantown were able to learn about wind energy through a virtual reality STEM programme.



Today hundreds of school children take up the opportunity to **visit their local wind farm, and virtual reality experiences** give young people the chance to really understand what it's like to work in the renewables industry.

Funding - of all shapes and sizes



Purchasing community facilities

Some communities choose to buy local facilities such as pubs, shops and sport clubs and run those facilities.

At Edinbane, the local community purchased their village shop to run it as a community hub.

Grant giving

Many communities choose to provide local grants – from £283 to purchase bird boxes, to over £100,000 to provide mental health services for young people.

Business loans

At Pen y Cymoedd, with the community's number one priority the creation of local jobs, the fund offers business loans to help start ups and existing businesses to grow.

Targeted funding streams

Targeted funding streams can help a community focus on specific challenges or opportunities, such as the Education, Skills Training and Fund at Ray Wind Farm.

Revenue funding

Some communities wish to raise equity to share ownership of an asset, such as a wind farm, to see if they can secure a second income stream.

When developing an onshore wind farm, Vattenfall offers local communities and organisations the opportunity to invest in the project itself.

Match funding

One of the big opportunities from wind farm funding is the chance to use it to attract further match funding. At Pen y Cymoedd, in its first five years, £11.2million in funding has leveraged an additional £8.8 million into the local area.



Training a future workforce





Building Resilience in Communities

This award winning project spotted an opportunity to train young people and help them to gain practical experience and skills through the renovation of empty properties in the area.

With mentors and support in place, 61% moved directly into further learning or a job.

“I was really worried that my disabilities would stop me from learning on the project, but the tutors have been so helpful.”

“You guys helped me massively. I wouldn’t be working now if it wasn’t for your perseverance and help.” (BRiC Participants)

MacKenzies bakery

“I’ve always worked in kitchens but I when suddenly found myself out of work my mental health took a dip. A year on, I was still unemployed and still really struggling. My dream was to work offshore as a baker. There’s loads of work offshore in this part of the world, but it costs a lot to get your training and your tickets, and I just couldn’t see how I’d find the money.”

With wind farm funding he successfully gained the qualifications needed.

Paul worked offshore for almost two years, before deciding to return to shore. He now runs the recently refurbished and highly popular MacKenzies bakery in Portree on the Isle of Skye.



Rhondda Netball

Just one year after its launch, Rhondda Netball became the largest female sports participation initiative in Wales.

It has used wind farm funds to invest in its Community Coach and Role Model Development Programme. 26 community coaches have received training, qualifications and experience to help their development and make sure Rhondda Netball can go from strength to strength.

"This really is a watershed moment for Rhondda Netball as we seek to develop a more sustainable business model over the next five years, and to say we are grateful would be a huge understatement."

Jody Barnes, Operations Manager

Training

Tourism

Boosting the innovators and businesses that are developing local tourism.



Sisters of Send

Sisters of Send launched in 2022 as the first all-female mountain biking festival in Wales with the support of a £16,000 grant.

“Mountain biking is predominately a male dominated sport, which can put women off from ‘having a go’. The festival is designed to be a place where women can receive coaching advice and support from female experts and have a go at the sport or try out new trails without being intimidated by more confident male riders. Thanks to the Fund, we are on our way to creating the foundations for a pivotal event in the mountain biking calendar.”

Emma Hawkins, Event Co-founder

“...thanks to The Fund, we are on our way to creating the foundations for a pivotal event in the mountain biking calendar.”



Wild Northumberland Glamping

Wild Northumberland Glamping installed three glamping pods with £20,000 of funding from Ray Wind Funds. The pods also created a part time employment opportunity.

“We’re pretty much fully booked during the school holidays and are nearly full most weekends. The Gun at Ridsdale pub has found it has been great for them also with I’d say over half of people staying in the pods going to spend money there on food and drink”. Will Robson, Wild Northumberland Glamping.

The Gun at Risdale

When a village pub – the Gun at Risdale – came up for sale, local residents decided to join forces to secure its future. With support from wind farm funds, they were able to undertake the necessary early work to launch the local community benefit society, which now owns and runs the pub.

Local Tourism



Hetti the horsebox

Hetti the horsebox has a new lease of life thanks to wind farm funds. It underwent a complete transformation and is now a popular local accommodation option for visitors.



Tea on a Train

Tea on a Train is located at Bellingham Heritage Centre. Visitors can enjoy a selection of light meals in old railway carriages on the platform of the old Bellingham Station. Funding from Ray wind farm's fund helped towards refurbishment and upgrade of equipment.



Sgwd Gwladus

Sgwd Gwladus is a popular restaurant located in the Waterfall Country of Wales. Popular with visitors and locals alike, it applied for support to create an outdoor seating area for guests to enjoy the stunning local views.



Treorchy

Treorchy is a thriving local town which recognised the importance that marketing, and a strong online presence, held to attracting visitors. It used its funding to launch a new website "Visit Treorchy" which is now a one stop shop for visitors to find out where they can stay, eat and visit locally.

Nature

Communities across the UK have led their own local nature effort with support from a local wind farm.



Cynon River

Otters have returned to the Cynon River following a volunteer effort to clean up the river.



Northumberland Wildlife Trust

Northumberland Wildlife Trust used funding from Ray Wind Farm towards the cost of a red squirrel ranger.



Water Voles

A major study into Water Voles is being led by the Initiative for Nature Conservation Wales, completing vital and innovative research to improve understanding of how we can help Water Voles in upland landscapes.



Restoration

Groundwork North East's funding of £10,000 was used to restore forested land to peat bog. The "extensive" area of rewetted deep peat created in Harwood Forest will help store carbon, filter water, and increase biodiversity.



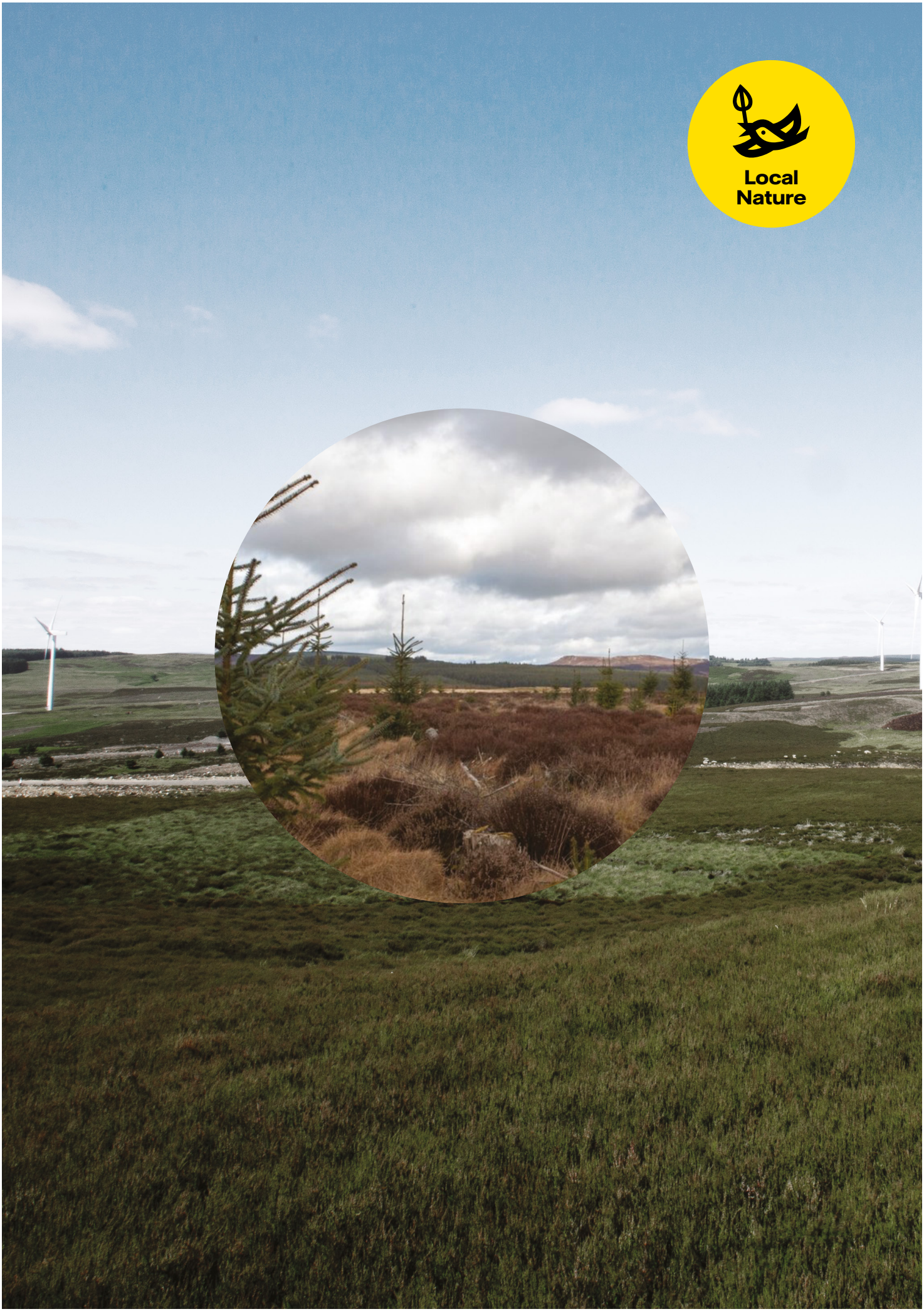
Nature Hide

A new Nature Hide, interpretive panels and boardwalk are now in place on the Cabrach Discovery Trails to enhance the community and visitor experience.



Transformation

Swinford Parish Council, assisted by a team of volunteers, set out to transform an overgrown and disused paddock at the rear of an existing play area, into a community green space to be enjoyed by all residents, including a pond, play tunnel, logs for climbing, and picnic benches.


Local
Nature

Exploring the options

Starting conversations early are one of the most important aspects of our work to develop the right community benefit package.



“This is the start of the conversation, let’s keep talking”

In Moray, Scotland, the team worked with Foundation Scotland to develop a workshop where 18 different local organisations – from community councils to local trusts and business organisations – came together to find out more.

Fact or fiction

A fact of fiction task got the workshop going – clearing any misunderstandings or misinformation on community benefit.

Sharing experience

Representatives from Cabrach Trust shared their experiences of community benefit – as a member of the decision-making group at Clashindarroch Wind Farm Community Fund and also as a group that have received funding.

Developing ideas

A long list of ideas came together on the night of ways that funding could benefit the local area.

Pros and cons

Different fund set ups were explored, looking at the pros and cons of different models.

Reflections

There were a range of long-term ambitions that the communities share – alongside more localised, shorter-term goals. Some of the long term ambitions of the community included:

Preservation and development of community buildings.

Environmental improvements.

Capacity building in communities including employing community development officers, and developing and supporting volunteers.

Provision of training and employment for young people – including apprenticeships.



A snapshot from Clashindarroch Wind Farm's Community Fund

£2million provided to date

178 funding awards

For every £1 awarded from the Fund £6.79 was brought in from other sources to support local projects and activities in the four communities that the Fund serves.



Town Centre Regeneration

Formerly a Department Store, No.30 has been turned into a vibrant multipurpose facility.

It is home to a cinema, a theatre, a workshop and co-working spaces, as well as a café and visitor information point.

Elsewhere in the town, Gordon Rural Action have transformed a disused workshop in The Bikery. Now a renovated workshop and cycle shop in Huntly, The bikery sells new and recycled bikes, parts and cycling equipment – aiming to make cycling affordable for the whole community as well as offering apprenticeships and employment.



Looking after the environment

Over £150,000 has been spent in total on projects to improve the local environment.

The Cabrach Trust installed a publicly accessible hide on an all-ability nature trail at Inverharroch Farm, overlooking the river Deveron.

Wildlife sightings in the area include herons, dippers, swallows, swifts, buzzards, red kites, and otters.

Bird feeders near the hide will attract smaller species, bringing viewing, photography, and wildlife painting opportunities.

Funding has also supported Huntly's Community Sensory Garden, as well as staff and equipment costs to help young people to learn how to observe and record wildlife.



Community Benefit



Skills for the future

Rural Steps provides long-term support to young people with a focus on developing skills.

A grant from Clashindarroch allowed Barnados to buy ten laptops, which were loaned to young people.

As well as working on their CVs and work skills, they were able to take online courses – completing courses on topics ranging from Marine Conservation to Cyber Security.



Improved facilities

Glass Hall has received from £264,700 from the fund. Today, the modern facility includes an outdoor area with a community orchard as well as an accessible ramp and path. New LED lighting has reduced energy consumption by 60%, and the new car parking surface is made from recycled plastic instead of concrete.

24-hour accessible bathrooms, and solar panels with battery storage will further reduce electricity costs complete the renovation.

Plans to complete the renovation also include opening a new coffee servery in the meeting room and upgrading this room into a 'warm hub' when required.



An active lifestyle

The fund has supported young people in a number of ways to be active. As well as a £100,000 contribution to a new 3G pitch locally, the wind farm's funding has helped to establish girl football teams, as well as covering the costs of transport for swimming lessons for local schools and supporting a Development Officer post at the local rugby club.

Local walking and cycling routes have also received funding, which has improved access to the outdoors.

New equipment – from pump tracks to canoes – are now available to the local community.

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