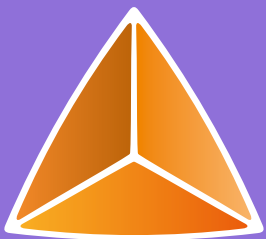


Flash Report

April - June 2023



Foundation
Scotland



Welcome to our Flash report for April to June 2023

Over the last few months, we have had much to celebrate at Foundation Scotland, welcoming some new philanthropists and funds, and reaching significant milestones with others. We have worked with several new donors, setting up bespoke programmes with and for them, and we have also established a new fund on behalf of the Scottish Building Society, more of which later.

But one of the highlights of the last quarter for us here at Foundation Scotland has been our annual Staff Conference, where we came together as a team of colleagues and friends to hear about the impact of some of the projects we support, discuss some ideas together about future developments for our organisation, and throw some shoes through a hula hoop. That's called team building, the Foundation Scotland way.

In the meantime, of course it has been business as usual, and our experienced team continues to provide support, advice and expertise to donors, individuals, projects, and communities alike.

Our work includes supporting philanthropists to help their personal giving make the most difference in ways that matters to them, working alongside communities to ensure that local funds are distributed by communities themselves, and offering social investment opportunities to enable social enterprises, community organisations and charities to grow and deliver positive social impact. And so much more.

[You can find out more about our work here](#)

In this Flash Report, we take a quick snapshot of the last three months, to reflect on our own work as well as that of the projects, funds and donors we work with across the country.



Community-Led Funding

All over Scotland, local groups and charities have brilliant ideas for how to make their communities happier, fairer, and more sustainable. We work with communities to bring these ideas to life, and work with our donors to invest in community action that enables people to make decisions about the places they live.

As part of this work, we administer over £6 million in community benefit payments every year, linked primarily to renewable energy projects. We work with more than three hundred communities across Scotland, supporting the set-up and on-going activities of over sixty community benefit funds.

Spotlight on.... Vattenfall Clashindarroch Community Benefit fund

“Clashindarroch Wind Farm Community Fund passing the £1 million mark is a great milestone, and the impact it is having locally is testament to the work of dedicated members of the local community who make the fund a success. The variety of projects that have been supported ranges from small grants to transformative projects – all of which play an important part in supporting the local communities hosting the wind farm to thrive.”

Berry Jordan, Business and Community Investment Advisor for Vattenfall

In May, the Vattenfall Clashindarroch Community Benefit fund reached a significant milestone in their eight-year journey, as they officially passed the million-pound mark in support to local initiatives.

The fund, which was launched in 2015, has supported 131 projects across the local area with £1.2 million in funding to date. During that time, there has been a strong focus on preserving and enhancing the natural environment, promoting rural regeneration and celebrating the area's heritage.

Clashindarroch Wind Farm Community Fund has also helped to generate a further £9 million into the local area since its launch, via match funding, which has supported local heritage and environmental projects. These include the new hide at Inverharroch Farm for the Cabrach Trust and local facilities such as the Gordon Rural Action Hub, which houses joined-up services to those people most vulnerable in the community, including those hardest hit by the cost-of-living crisis.



Funding for the future

The Communities team continue to respond to requests and invitations to research and design new community funds linked to renewables projects that are contributing to achieving Scotland's net zero targets. This includes onshore and offshore windfarms, hydro schemes and battery storage projects.

In recent months, we have started working on behalf of a new donor who is developing a wind farm on Lewis. If consented, the project will help contribute just under a £1,000,000 to local communities. The team's work has also extended further into Argyll & Bute and Aberdeenshire, with new commissions to work with communities linked to new wind farm projects.

More immediately, the team is gearing up to receive the first two years tranche of funding for the South Kyle Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund that will help achieve transformative change for three East Ayrshire and one Dumfries & Galloway communities. As well as providing a £1,200,000 community benefit fund, the wind farm is also helping ensure [Scotland's favourite orange drink](#) has green credentials!

Find out more in this short [video](#).



Social Investment – a growing programme of support

At Foundation Scotland, we have a social investment team who can offer support and expertise to social enterprises, community organisations and charities who are looking for a new way to start or grow their business.

Like many businesses, social enterprises often need investment to start up and grow or develop and expand. Investment can help to buy equipment, purchase premises, or employ staff. The social investment that Foundation Scotland provides is a unique form of blended grant and loan.

We offer 25% grant with a 75% loan, and our interest rate on loans is not linked to the base rate.

Some of the initiatives we have supported include community hubs, creative, arts and cultural education projects, community recreation initiatives, climbing and bouldering centres, water sports enterprises, regeneration projects and an equine therapy and wellness centre.



A time of growth

Currently, we offer social investment support in eighteen local authority areas in Scotland. In the coming months, we will be growing our reach and offering this support to all thirty-two local authority areas across the country.

Our support creates unique value for social enterprises in Scotland by giving their owners the freedom to develop their businesses and be ambitious.

We want to continue to grow our social investment portfolio so we can support even more grass roots organisations to deliver social impact locally and develop a thriving, sustainable business.

We'll share more news as our plans develop. In the meantime, read about some of the diverse and thriving social enterprises that Foundation Scotland has supported over the years [in this short publication](#).

Get in touch: socialinvestment@foundationscotland.org.uk





Philanthropy News

We work with more than four hundred donors across Scotland, who contribute to over 250 funds. From supporting children's health and wellbeing in Aberdeenshire to tackling food poverty in Dumfriesshire, our donors address a range of challenges faced within Scotland's communities. In this last quarter, we have continued to build on our relationships with donors and communities alike, and have been working with new partners to establish new funds.

Spotlight on.... The Scottish Building Society Foundation

The Scottish Building Society is based in Edinburgh, is the oldest building society in the world and the only independent building society in Scotland.

As part of its 175th anniversary, Scottish Building Society (SBS) decided to launch a charitable foundation that will provide an initial £175,000 of funding into invaluable community services and organisations.

Delivered in partnership with Foundation Scotland, the Scottish Building Society Foundation will benefit an array of Scottish organisations, making a positive lasting impact in the communities in which it serves.

SBS are particularly looking to support:

- ▲ Community facilities and services, transport, open spaces, affordable housing, community development, reduction of poverty, and care for the elderly
- ▲ Community and/or local events
- ▲ Youth and education, providing training opportunities and support for vulnerable youngsters



Chief Executive of SBS, Paul Denton was delighted to host a press launch of the new fund, saying:

“Launching the Scottish Building Society Foundation comes at a very important milestone for us as we mark our 175th anniversary. It will enable us to build longer term relationships with various community groups and mirrors our values as a people-first business.”

The Foundation was officially launched in May, and aims to establish a best-in-class benchmark supporting community-based organisations across Scotland.

Individual grants of up to £5,000 are available to organisations across Scotland. While the current round of funding has already been fully allocated, another round will be opening soon. [Read more here](#)





Our publications

We update our publications page regularly, with a mix of downloadable reading that provides a broader and more in-depth look at the work we do here at Foundation Scotland.

We recently published our **Annual Report and Accounts**, which gives an overview of our work during the 2022-23 financial year, and takes a brief look ahead at our ambitions for the future.

In the last financial year, on behalf of our donors, we distributed over £20 million with award sizes ranging between £15 and £2.3 million.

Highlights for us have included our Revitalising Trusts Project, which is carried out in collaboration with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). Our project lead, Steff Bell, successfully worked with twenty-eight dormant charitable trusts across Scotland, helping them to unlock funds that had been long dormant (some funds were over one hundred years old) to better suit current-day needs. A total of £2.3 million was unlocked from lost and forgotten charitable accounts.

We also marked another milestone with the Education and Training funds we manage on behalf of the renewable energy sector. We now manage twenty-four Education and Training Funds across Scotland, and the total funds distributed reached the milestone of £1 million.

These are just a few examples of the many achievements we have to reflect on from the last year. [You can read more here.](#)



And our survey said.....

One of the key ambitions within our 2030 Strategic Plan is **'Achieving excellence through our people, practice, and systems.'**

To help us achieve this, we aim to embed a culture of continuous improvement across everything we do.

To help us understand areas for improvement and gather feedback on our services, we issued a number of digital surveys throughout 2022. We contacted grant applicants (both successful and unsuccessful), fund donors and community panel/board members.

One particular area of interest to us was the user experience of new technology we had adopted prior to issuing this survey, namely the launch of new online portals offering donors real time information on their giving and the impact it was having, providing fund applicants instant access to their accounts, and an easier system for panel members involved in fund assessment.

As always, we listen very closely to what our stakeholders tell us, and this informs how we develop in the future. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to share their experiences with us.

[You can read more here.](#)

APRIL- JUNE 2023



VALUE OF NEW DONATIONS:

£10,159,361



TOTAL NUMBER OF GRANTS PAID:

930



TOTAL VALUE OF GRANTS PAID:

£4,910,188



TOTAL VALUE OF LOANS PAID:

£357,500



TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW FUNDS:


5


Contact us

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Foundation Scotland

Scotland's Community Foundation