

RWE Bad á Cheò Wind Farm

Community Fund -Year 5: 1st June 2023 to 31st May 2024



RWE Renewables, the owner of the Bad á Cheò Wind Farm, makes an annual donation to this community fund. The Fund is split between the Community Council areas of Latheron, Lybster and Clyth, Halkirk District and Watten. This year, each area received £53,410.58. The Fund is administered by Foundation Scotland, an independent grant-making charity. A Community Panel, made up of local residents decides how grants are awarded.



Year 5 Highlights

- The fund launched in 2019 and has now completed five years of grant making.
- The Year 5 donation from Fund RWE Renewables for grant making in the Latheron, Lybster and Clyth area was £51,876.
- 4 community grants were made distributing £33,300.
- 14 busary awards were made distributing £21,309 to local people.
- 105% of the annual donation was awarded in grants this year.

Year 5 Finances

Bad á Cheò Wind Farm Community Fund (LLC) Financial Statements Year 5	
Opening balance 1 June 2023	£26,784.12
Fund Income:	
Year 5 RWE Donation	£57,640.30
Year 5 Interest	£1,265.76
E&T Grant returned	£2,048.00
TOTAL INCOME	£60,954.06
Fund Expenditure:	
Community awards	£33,300.00
Education awards	£21,309.00
Foundation Scotland contribution	£5,764.03
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£60,373.03
Closing balance 31 May 2024	£27,365.15

✉ eilidh@foundationscotland.org.uk

☎ 07801 530 218

The Year 5 community group awards:

The amount awarded by the Latheron, Lybster & Clyth Panel was £33,300 to the following four groups:

1	Association of Northern Trails Scotland	£10,000	To improve the infrastructure along the John o' Groats Trail through the construction of stiles, bridges and walkways within the Latheron, Lybster and Clyth Community Council area.
2	Caithness Broch Project	£8,300	To undertake survey work and pre-planning processes on the site selected to build a replica broch and visitor centre.
3	Caithness KLICS (SCIO)	£10,000	To contribute towards the salary of the Finance and Development Officer, facilitating the empowerment of young carers to access support in Caithness.
4	Highlands and Islands Blood Bikes	£5,000	To fund six months of running costs for volunteer medical transport services to improve health outcomes for residents.

The Year 5 Education & Training awards:

An educational grant can cover a number of costs linked to study. First time applicants can apply for up to £1,500, a second time applicant can apply for up to £1,000 and going forward a person will be able to apply for up to £300 for future courses.

The purpose of the bursaries is to improve local people's opportunities for employment. You don't have to be unemployed to apply. The process is quick with awards made usually within four weeks of receiving the application.

Latheron, Lybster & Clyth area made awards to 14 local people totalling £21,309	
£3,100	BA Hons Journalism at Edinburgh Napier University.
£2,500	Visual Communication/Graphic Design at City of Glasgow College
£1,450	Nebosh International Diploma for Occupational Health and Safety Management Professionals
£3,100	BA (Hons) History at Stirling
£1,000	CELTA course
£360	Category C Lorry test in Orkney
£850	Makeup artistry course Bridal Edition through Plouise Makeup Academy
£3,100	Humanities Articulation initially and Politics and Philosophy going forward
£1,500	PCCC Level 3 Coaching Certificate (The Pony Club Coaching Certificate)
£250	Women's Health Practitioner Diploma
£500	online Personal Development Course
£3,100	MA in Linguistics and Social Anthropology
£499	Laptop for studying online courses starting with 'Understanding Domestic Abuse'

Figures through the first five years:

Latheron, Lybster & Clyth Bad á Cheò Fund	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	TOTAL
Annual donation (after FS fee deducted)	£39,975.00	£40,389.68	£41,730.47	£46,596.03	£51,876.27	£220,567.45
No. community grants awarded	0	5	5	5	4	19
Value of community grants awarded	£0.00	£33,673.39	£35,798.00	£36,268.44	£33,300.00	£139,039.83
No. Education & Training bursaries awarded	1	12	7	11	14	45
Value of Education & Training bursaries awarded	£1,500.00	£20,399.00	£9,738.00	£24,774.85	£21,309.00	£77,720.85
Total awarded	£1,500.00	£54,072.39	£45,536.00	£61,043.29	£54,609.00	£216,760.68
% of annual donation awarded as community grants	0%	83%	86%	78%	64%	63%
% of annual donation awarded as Education & Training bursaries	4%	51%	23%	53%	41%	35%
Total % annual donation awarded	4%	134%	109%	131%	105%	98%

Feedback on a previous grant: Lybster Community Toilets:

Public toilets in Lybster were able to be re-opened thanks to an award from the RWE Bad á Cheò Wind Farm Community Fund. Latheron Lybster and Clyth Community Development Company (LLCCDC) took up a campaign with the Highland Council to have the toilets re-opened following a period of around two years closure. However, these attempts were unsuccessful and it became clear that the community group would have to spearhead the initiative to reopen the toilets themselves. LLCCDC had carried out a community consultation and the closure of the public toilets was one of the main areas of concern for the local community.

In 2021 LLCCDC produced a very detailed budget including to fit new PVC windows, electrical repairs, plumbing repairs and painting for both the interior and exterior. The total required to bring the toilet block up to a good useable standard was almost £9,000. The Panel opted to award £10,000 to enable any further works noted once the repairs had commenced, and to cover any increases in prices since the works had been quoted, and this did prove very helpful as it meant that items such as hand dryers could be replaced as well as the work that had been planned. The award was spent in full.

A lease is in place with Highland Council for 25 years, and the Highland Council will aid the group financially through the 'comfort scheme' for the ongoing running costs.

Tom Briscoe, LLCCDC's Local Development Officer said: *"The project has been welcomed and supported by the whole community. The toilets are being well used by local users, tradespeople, and tourists. We could not have continued with this project without the funding. It's made a big difference in being able to operate a basic service to the public, local users and tourists are happy and supportive regarding our community toilets"*.



A selection of comments from E&T awardees:

CAT C Driving: *"Due to the magnitude of the expenses, I would not have been able to fund the training without outside help, or at least not have been able to fund it anytime soon. I completed the training and passed the test within the expected timeframe. Very happy with the result."*

Personal Development Course: *"By doing the course I can put a different perspective when working with children from disadvantaged backgrounds and disabilities."*

Seal Rehabilitation and Welfare training: *"I think what motivated me initially was being able to help these defenceless mammals. Myself, developing my skills helps me to help them. Without this grant I wouldn't have been able to go ahead and do this."*

Woodland Activity Leader training: *"I felt ... would expand my knowledge of how to educate safely outside and also expand my remit to teach of Flora and Fauna identification and simple bush craft skills in a way that does not cause harm to the natural environment. With out the grant I would not have been able to afford the course."*

Community Panel:

The Latheron, Lybster and Clyth Panel comprises up to 14 local people with two funding rounds per year. The Panel had six members during Year 5: Aimee Millington, Andrew Falconer, Sheena MacLeod, Joanna Garrett, Alison Kirk and Maria Foulis.

There are currently vacancies for new volunteers to join the Panel.

Further information:

To apply to the community fund:

<http://bit.ly/BaCmainpage>

To apply to the Education & Training fund:

<http://bit.ly/BaCEdu>

To apply to join the Panel:

<https://forms.office.com/e/5zxfp1hrBq> or use

this QR code:

