

VATTENFALL 



Foundation  
Scotland

# Vattenfall Unlock Our Future Fund

Part 1: Impact Evaluation  
2019 to 2023



**VATTENFALL** 



**Foundation  
Scotland**

**Produced by Dr Bea Jefferson on behalf of Foundation  
Scotland and the Vattenfall Unlock our Future Fund Panel.**



## Contents

<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. The Vattenfall Unlock our Future Fund 2019-2023</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 Fund Priorities	6
2.2 The Fund Panel	10
2.3 Fund Distribution	10
2.4 A Theory of Change for the Fund	11
2.5 Grant Awards 2019 to 2023	13
2.5.1 Application Numbers and Success Rates	13
2.5.2 Geographical Location of Applicants and Awards	15
2.5.3 Overview of Projects Funded	18
2.5.4 Panel-led Research Studies	21
<b>3. Fund Impact</b>	<b>22</b>
3.1 Foundation Scotland Monitoring Data	22
3.1.1 Impact Indicators	23
3.1.2 Qualitative Impact Evidence	27
3.2 Survey Findings	28
3.3 Case studies	31
3.3.1 Bettridge Centre (Newtonhill Community Hall Association): Thermostatic controls and lighting upgrade	31
3.3.2 Community Energy Scotland: Community Energy Futures Programme	35
3.3.3 Meldrum Amenities Improvement Group (MAIG): Electric utility vehicle, solar panels and seed propagators	39
3.3.4 Strachan Village Hall: Air source heat pumps	43
3.3.5 Aboyne and District Men’s Shed: Aboyne and Mid-Deeside Community Shed solar panels	46
3.3.6 Inverurie Loco Works Football Club: LED Floodlights	50
3.3.7 Camphill School Aberdeen: E-cargo bike, composting system, solar panels and battery storage, and refitting costs related to a new zero-waste shop	52
3.3.8 Bonnymuir Green: sedum living roof	56
3.4 Projects Not Achieving Anticipated Outcomes	60
3.5 Impacts of Panel-led Activities	61
3.6 Fund Impacts – Conclusions and Implications for the Future	62
<b>Annex: List of Awards</b>	<b>65</b>

## 1. Introduction

The Vattenfall Unlock our Future Fund supports projects in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire contributing towards a climate smart future.

The fund is provided by the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre, which is owned and operated by Aberdeen Offshore Wind Farm Limited, a subsidiary of Vattenfall.

Vattenfall contributes £150,000 per year to the fund (as at 2019) rising in line with the Retail Price Index for the life of the wind farm, which is expected to be at least 20 years. Ten percent of the overall value of the fund is set aside for project activity in line with the fund priorities in Blackdog, the community hosting the substation for the wind farm.

The Unlock our Future Fund panel make decisions on grant awards and undertake reviews of the Fund Strategy annually. The fund is administered by Foundation Scotland, an independent grant-making charity.

In late 2023, after five years of grant-making, the panel and Foundation Scotland commissioned an evaluation and review of the fund. The objectives were to:

- Review the value and impact of projects funded to date in terms of climate and community benefits.
- Ascertain if the fund's priorities are still in line with the priorities of the communities and stakeholders in the area of benefit – and recommend any changes if they are found to be inadequate.
- Assess the effectiveness of delivery arrangements and, if these are still fit for purpose, make recommendations for improvements where possible.
- Assess the likelihood of the fund achieving a lasting legacy for the area and what changes might be required to better enable this.

The evaluation and review was carried out by Dr Bea Jefferson in early 2024.

Part one of the report begins by outlining the priorities and delivery arrangements which applied to the fund between 2019 and 2023.

It goes on to summarise what was funded in the first five years and examines the evidence of impacts of those projects. A series of case studies explores these impacts in more detail.

Part two covers the changing context in which the fund operates, the findings of consultations with stakeholders and recommendations for the fund going forward.



## 2. The Vattenfall Unlock our Future Fund 2019-2023

### 2.1 Fund Priorities

The overall purpose of the Vattenfall Unlock our Future Fund (UoFF) is to support charitable activity that addresses at least three of the following criteria:

- contribute to a climate smarter world with sustainability at its core;
- invest in community facilities and activities that are fit for the future and are environmentally sustainable, especially community spaces and transport;
- support creative solutions; and
- ensure a legacy and lasting impact, which clearly brings benefit to the local community

The fund area of benefit is Aberdeen City and Shire, with 10% of the fund contributions ring-fenced for the community of Blackdog, where the substation for the Aberdeen Offshore Windfarm is located.

The priorities and geographical boundaries of the fund area were developed through extensive consultation carried out by Vattenfall in early 2018 and an assessment and analysis of the consultation data by Dr Claire Haggett of the University of Edinburgh<sup>1</sup>.

For the first two years of the fund's operation, the third criterion above was worded '*support innovative solutions*' and applicants were required to meet all four conditions. However, a survey carried out at the end of year two (2020) by Foundation Scotland showed a low level of support for the 'innovation' criterion, and feedback from applicants and potential applicants suggested that 'innovation' was often interpreted as meaning technological innovation rather than the broader definition taken by the panel. Therefore, the wording was revised to '*creative solutions*' and greater flexibility given to potential applicants requiring at least three of the criteria to be met.

---

<sup>1</sup> Haggett, C. (2018). EOWDC 'Community Benefits Feedback: Analysis and Review' University of Edinburgh.

The panel takes a number of other factors into account when deciding which applications to support. In the first four years of the fund, these were referred to as ‘cross-cutting themes’. For the first four years these were:

- Local procurement
- Strengthening community partnerships
- Capacity building locally
- Match funding/leverage
- Enhancing quality of life for all
- Taking a holistic approach which takes into consideration the ‘energy hierarchy’<sup>2</sup> (added in year three)

Following a survey carried out by Foundation Scotland at the end of year four (2022) and a discussion by the panel, the cross-cutting themes were renamed ‘additional criteria’ as this was felt to be more understandable for potential applicants. These additional criteria were reshaped, expanded and reworded, and for the fifth year (2023) these were:

- **Taking a holistic approach:** which takes into consideration the ‘energy hierarchy’. This emphasises the importance of reducing energy demand as well as investment in renewables in moving towards a low-carbon future. The most sustainable projects are those which conserve energy and reduce energy demand. In practice, this means that the panel is unlikely to support a project which is installing renewable energy generation in a building which has inadequate insulation where no actions are being taken to improve insulation.
- **Making good use of other funding sources:** while funding from other sources is encouraged, it is not essential. The panel is unlikely to support projects which could be fully funded through other sources, such as Local Energy Scotland’s ‘Let’s do Net Zero’ or Business Energy Scotland’s cashback scheme. However, the panel is happy to consider applications for the balance of funding required when other funders do not meet 100% of the costs or specific expenditure items which are not eligible for consideration in other funders’ programmes.

---

<sup>2</sup> See revised criteria below for further details.

- **Sharing knowledge and experience:** the panel is keen to support applications which demonstrate a commitment to sharing knowledge and experience gained through the project with other community organisations and the wider public, in order to encourage wider adoption of climate smart approaches.
- **Community impacts:** applicants should explain the range of expected direct and indirect impacts achieved by a project, beyond direct carbon savings. This could include, but is not limited to, addressing disadvantage, increasing health/well-being, increased resilience (particularly in isolated communities), addressing poverty and cost of living challenges.
- **Organisational impacts:** applications should show how the project applied for will help the organisation sustain its activities and/or grow, for example by reducing energy bills, developing partnerships, or demonstrating the feasibility of a planned future project.

In addition to the primary criteria for the fund and the additional criteria, the Fund Strategy (2023) sets out that the panel is unlikely to support:

- Projects which are not able to start within 12 months of an award.
- Contributions towards general build or refurbishment costs. The panel wishes to see applications which relate specifically to the 'climate smart' elements of the build/refurbishment, not the overall costs. This also applies to feasibility studies and applications relating to professional fees.
- Environmental improvement projects which have little, no or negative impacts on carbon emissions. For example, building new recreational paths or outdoor leisure facilities which would need to be accessed by car; litter picks and beach cleans; improvements to parks and open spaces unrelated to carbon saving or sequestration opportunities, such as playgrounds, skateparks and multi-use games areas.



- Salaries of core staff. However, staff costs or costs of freelance staff specifically related to project delivery can be considered.
- Improvements to the energy efficiency of buildings or installation of renewables where the applicant has not made use of professional advice on the most appropriate options, such as Business Energy Scotland's free building energy assessments.

These exclusions were informed by the experience of the panel related to issues which have arisen in applications which have been rejected. They have been reviewed and modified each year of the fund to provide as much clarity as possible to potential applicants.

Case studies have been published on the Foundation Scotland website to illustrate what the fund has supported.

In addition, there are a number of exclusions which normally apply across all Foundation Scotland managed funds, such as applications from non-constituted groups, businesses and individuals (with the exception of education and training bursaries); the advancement of religion or politics; and activities understood to be the responsibility of statutory authorities.

For the purposes of this report, the review of the fund's 'priorities' has been taken to encompass the primary and additional criteria and fund guidance on specific fund exclusions outlined above. Foundation Scotland's standard exclusions are outside the scope of the review as they reflect constraints on how Foundation Scotland distributes funds which arise from contractual obligations to funders and/or Foundation Scotland's charitable status.

The review of priorities has assumed that the fund will continue to have a focus on addressing climate change; that the area of benefit will remain Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire; and that the funding will be for activities which are charitable in nature. It is assumed that the current ring-fenced amount for Blackdog will continue.

However, this would need to be reviewed in future years if commitments from the ring-fenced Blackdog fund remain low in the long-term. The Blackdog allocation is discussed further in section 3.3 of part 2.

A key recommendation from Dr Haggett's 2018 report on fund priorities was that they should continue to be reviewed in discussion and consultation with the local community in the fund area.

## 2.2 The Fund Panel

The panel advises Foundation Scotland on which projects are to receive grants from the fund. It also advises on changes to the Fund Strategy and works with Foundation Scotland to promote the fund and to share more widely the benefits of the projects being supported.

Each panel member serves for up to four years, with members retiring on a phased basis to ensure knowledge and expertise are retained. The panel is recruited through an open recruitment process, apart from one place which is reserved for a representative of the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group (AREG).

## 2.3 Fund Distribution

The fund is, in the main, distributed through an open grant-making process, with applications being considered once a year.

There are two levels of award:

- Small grants of up to £2,000; and
- Large grants of between £2,001 and £15,000 in any one year, with a maximum award of £30,000 over three years.

Applications for large awards go through a two-stage process, with the application initially being assessed by the panel against the fund's strategic priorities. If shortlisted, the application then undergoes a full assessment by Foundation Scotland before being considered by the panel for an award.

There is no shortlisting process for small grants, with all applications undergoing a Foundation Scotland assessment before being considered by the panel, making the turnaround time for small grants quicker than that for large grants.

Repeat applications are permitted from organisations. However, if these are for the continuation of a project which has previously received funding, the Fund Strategy states that there will be a cap of £30,000 on the total awarded. If a repeat application is for a different project, applications up to the maximum of £30,000 over three years will be considered.

A small amount of funding (£2,900 over the first five years) has been allocated by the panel to supporting research projects (see section [2.5.4](#)).

Commissioning of projects is permitted under the panel's terms and conditions, though this is not explicitly stated in the Fund Strategy.

#### **2.4 A Theory of Change for the Fund**

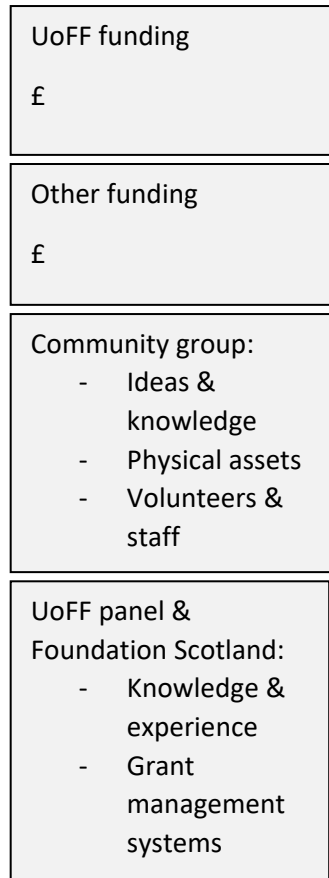
In order to inform the gathering of data for this evaluation and to feed into discussions of future priorities, the panel developed a 'theory of change' for the fund in January 2024. This sets out the wide range of outcomes and impacts the panel envisages the fund achieving. See figure 1 (below).

The theory of change makes clear that, even though the overarching aim of the fund is a 'climate smart' future, the impacts expected of the fund go well beyond reduced carbon emissions.

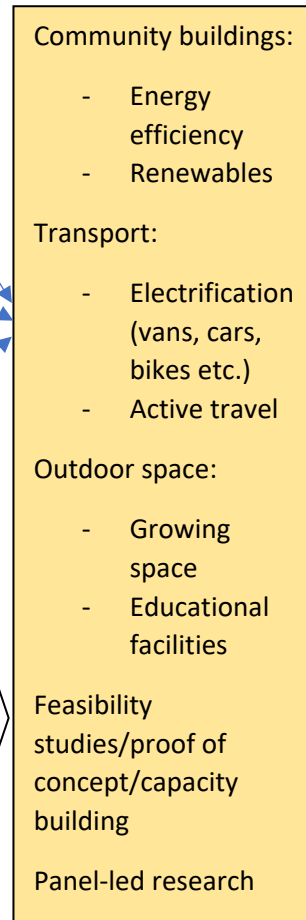
The multiple ways in which communities contribute to tackling climate change is explored further in section 2.2 of part 2.

Fig 1 Theory of Change

Inputs



Indicative funded activities

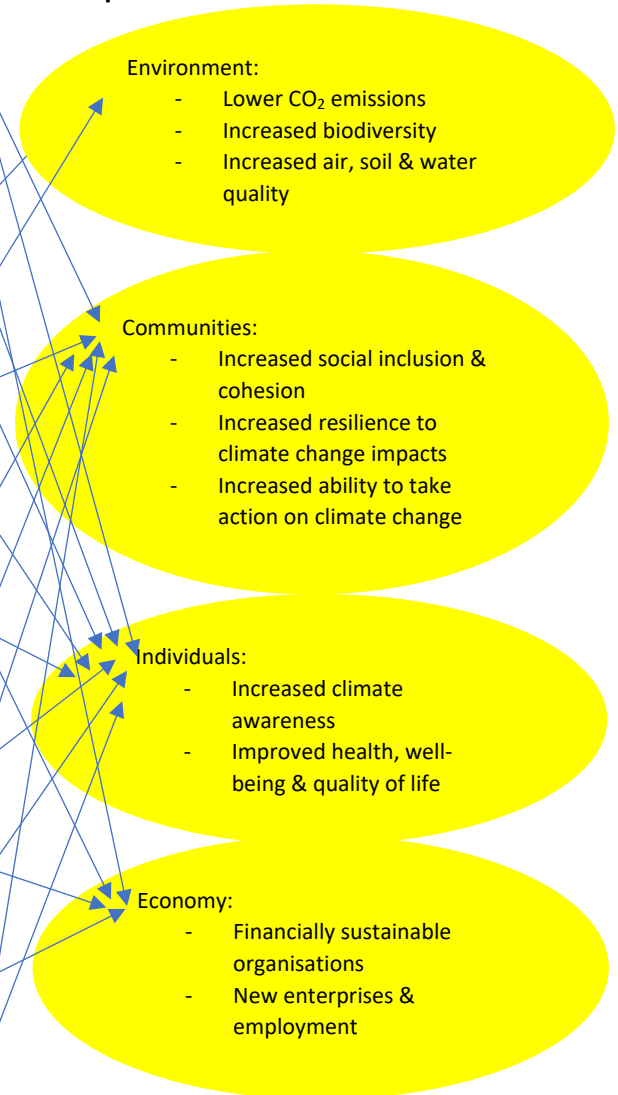


Approval & grant mangt

Outcomes



Impacts



Assumptions:

- Community groups are trusted messengers, able to influence and inform the wider community about climate change
- Activities of funded groups make a positive difference to users' health, well-being and quality of life (the mechanism for this will vary from project to project) plus social inclusion and cohesion within the community

## 2.5 Grant Awards 2019 to 2023

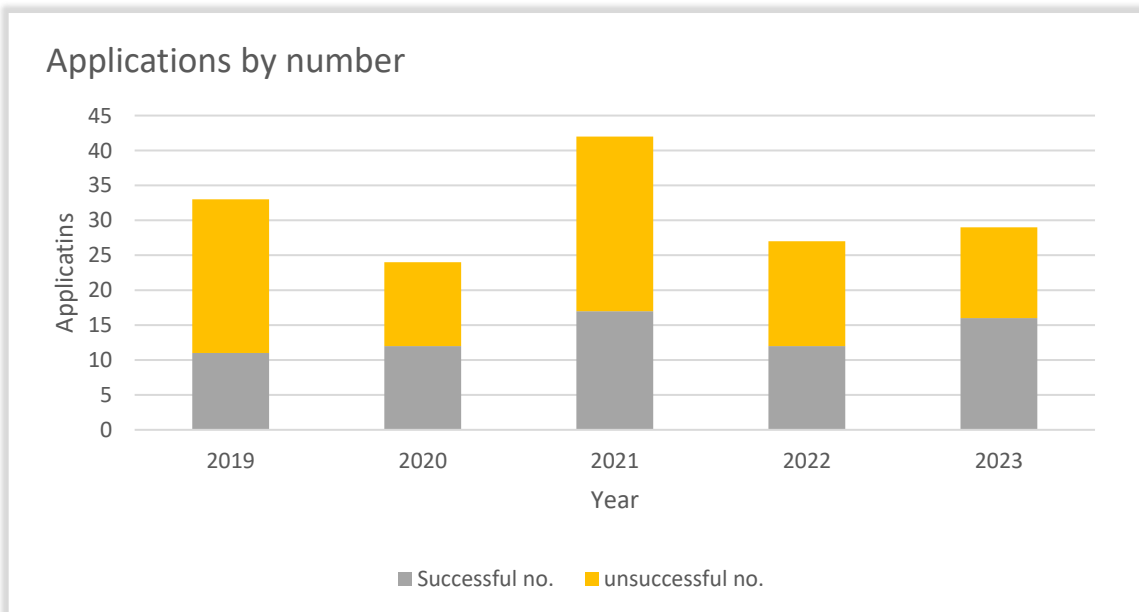
### 2.5.1 Application Numbers and Success Rates

During the first five years of the fund, a total of 155 applications was received, equating to £2.18 million in funding requests. Of these applications, 68 were successful and a total of £662,526 was awarded<sup>3</sup>. Applications and awards for each year are shown in table 1 and figure 2. 95% of funding available for the wider Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire area has been awarded, with a balance of £34,460 available at the end of year five. In contrast, 43% of the Blackdog allocation has been awarded, with a balance of £45,468 remaining at the year end. The allocation to Blackdog is discussed further in section 3.3 of part 2.

**Table 1. Applications and Successful Applications**

Year	Application no.	£k	Successful no.	£k	Success rate (no.)
2019	33	415	11	114	33%
2020	24	314	12	124	50%
2021	42	555	17	111	40%
2022	27	406	12	140	44%
2023	29	490	16	174	55%

**Figure 2**



<sup>3</sup> This includes three awards which were later withdrawn – see section [2.5.3](#). Costs related to panel-led research studies are not included.

The fund was very heavily oversubscribed in its first year of operation. The fund was launched with a series of well-attended face-to-face workshops for potential applicants organised in conjunction with funding and energy advice organisations and other funders and held across the fund area.

Plans for similar workshops in 2020 were disrupted part way through delivery by Covid restrictions, with support to potential applicants being switched to an online seminar and one-to-one support by phone and online from the Foundation Scotland Fund Adviser.

Application numbers saw a dip in 2020 which was likely to be the result of many organisations putting their plans on hold during the early stages of the pandemic. This would also explain the sharp increase in applications in 2021 as groups restarted activities and planning projects.

Support continued to be delivered remotely until 2023, when a series of drop-ins was held across the fund area, as well as an online seminar and one-to-one support by phone and online.

Success rates for applications on average over the five years have been 44% (by number).

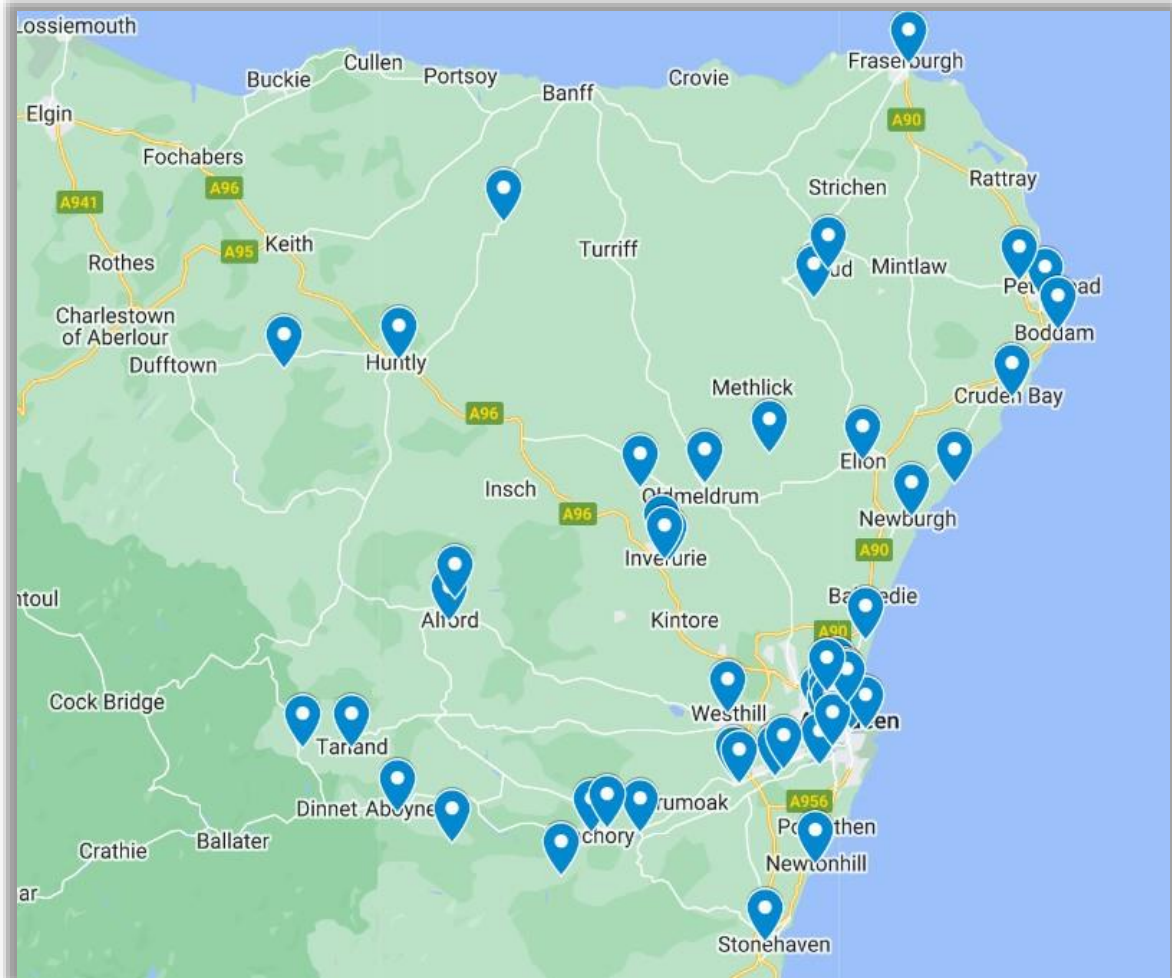
However, there is some indication from the last three years that success rates are increasing. This is possibly the result of potential applicants becoming more familiar with the fund priorities and fewer applications being submitted which are a poor fit with priorities.

An analysis of Foundation Scotland's records of success rates on all funds distributed through an open application process shows that there is a strong relationship between the size of a fund area of benefit and success rates for applicants. During 2023, the application success rate for funds where the area of benefit was a single local authority or smaller was 76%. This compared to Scotland-wide funds where the success rate was 43%. Hence, the success rate of the Unlock our Future Fund of 55% in 2023 is broadly in line with expectations, sitting between national funds and funds with a small area of benefit.

### 2.5.2 Geographical Location of Applicants and Awards

The geographical locations of successful and unsuccessful applications are shown in figures 3 to 6<sup>4</sup>.

**Figure 3. Successful applications (full fund area)**



<sup>4</sup> Repeat awards/applications by a single organisation are shown by a single pin. Successful awards include three which were subsequently withdrawn.



Figure 4. Successful applications (Aberdeen)

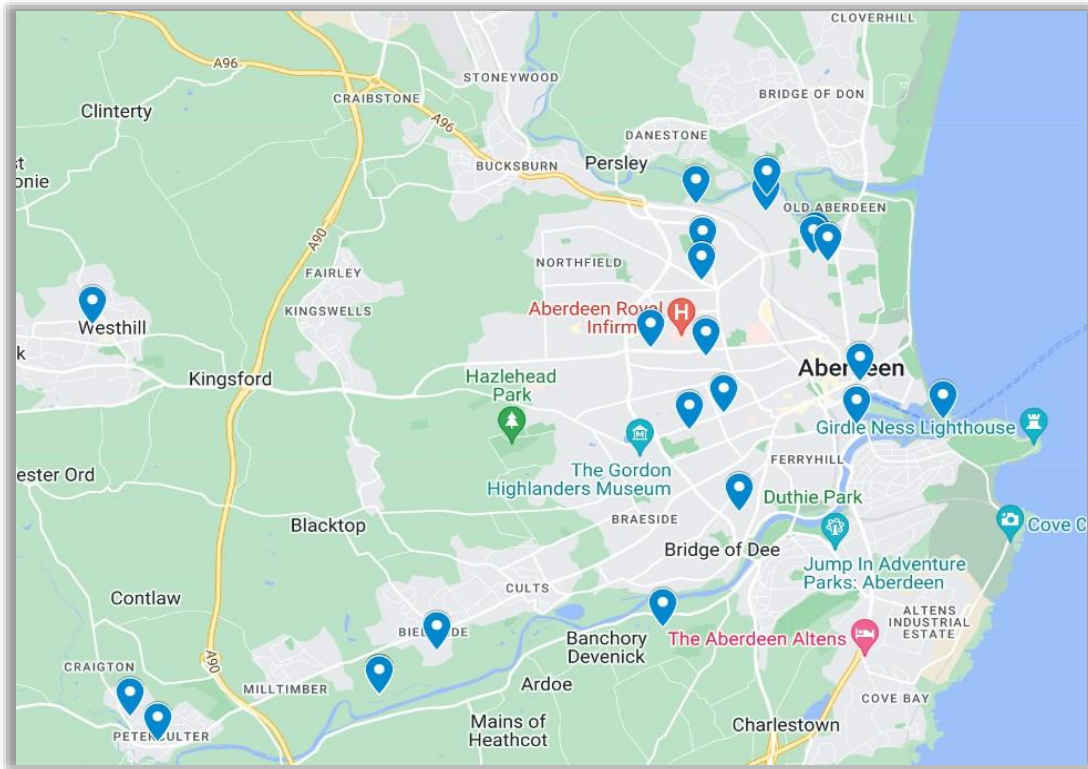


Figure 5. Unsuccessful applications (full fund area)

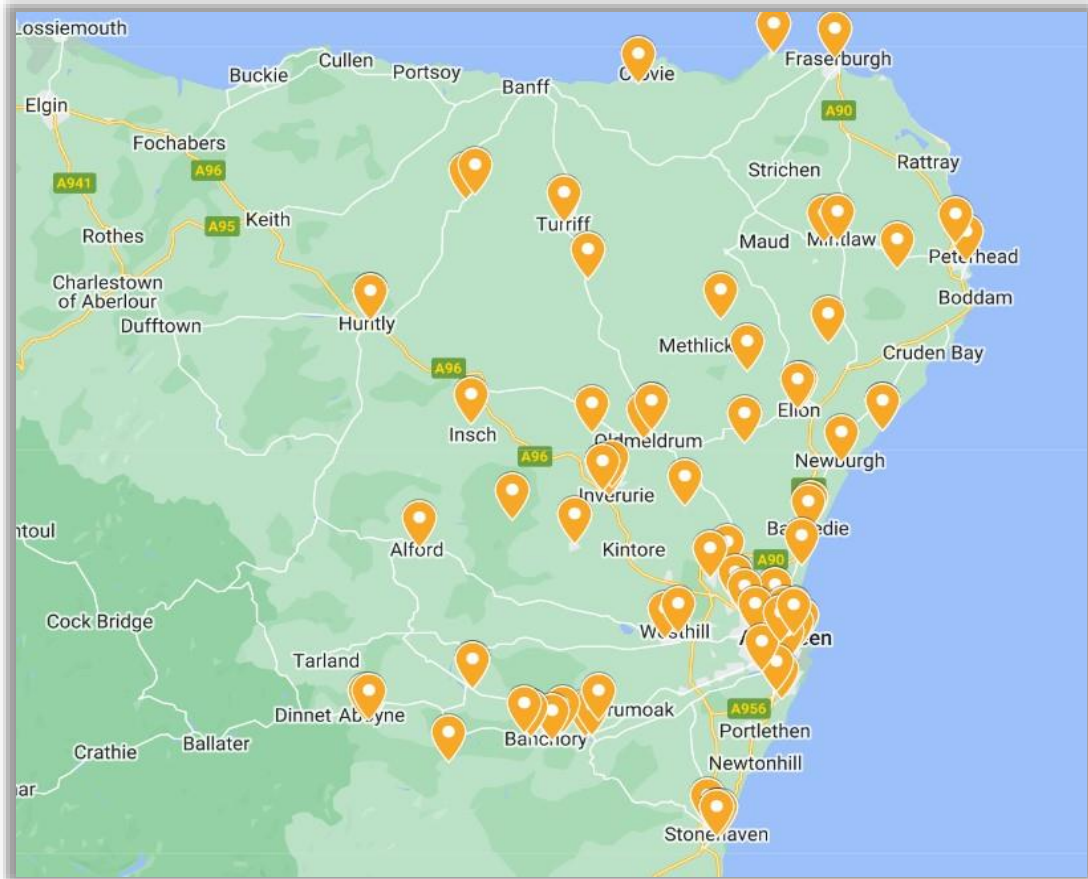
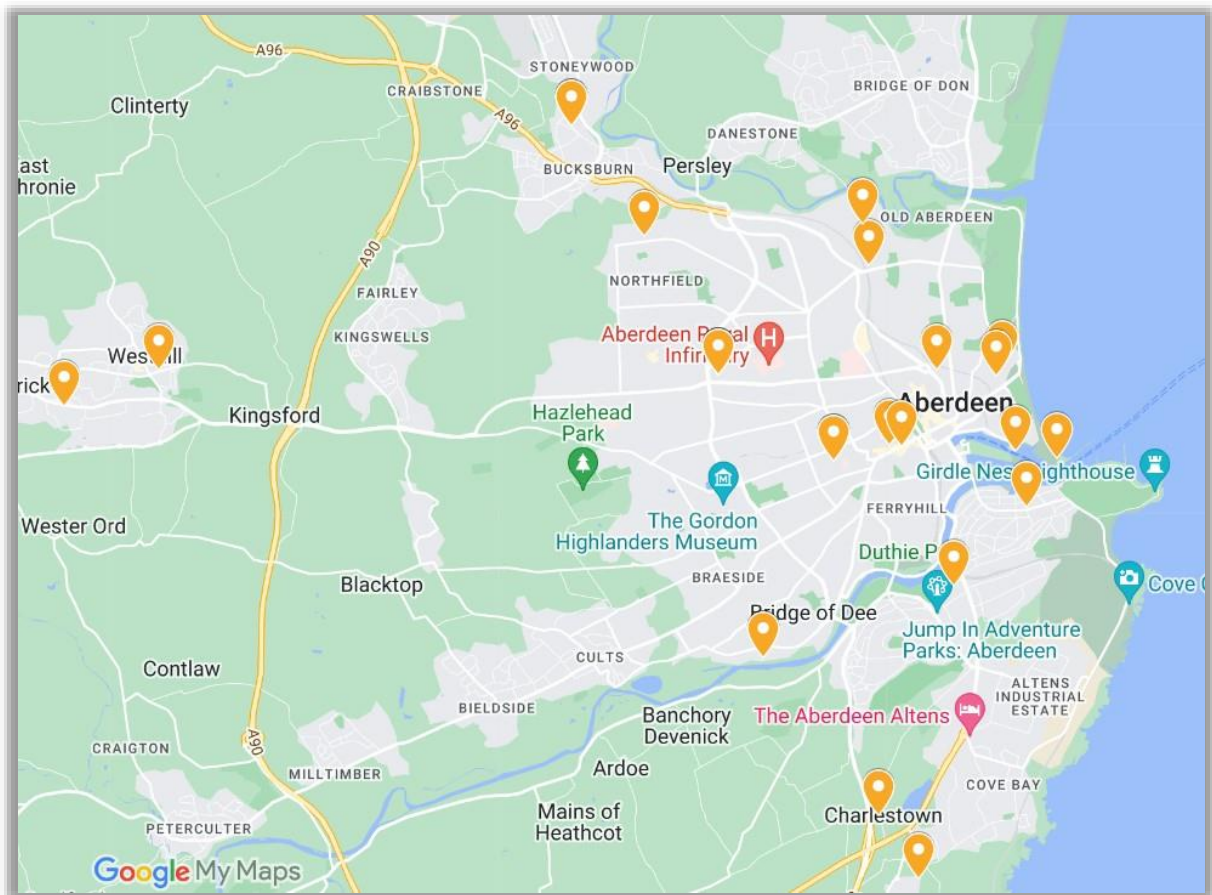




Figure 6. Unsuccessful applications (Aberdeen)



The geographical distribution of successful and unsuccessful applications suggests a relatively low number of applicants from Banff and Buchan in the north of Aberdeenshire. This is an area with a population of 35,782 (in 2021), which represents 14% of Aberdeenshire's population; yet organisations in the area have submitted far fewer applications than those from the Marr area which has 15% of the Aberdeenshire population. The Banff and Buchan area is relatively deprived, having higher unemployment and lower earnings than the average across Aberdeenshire<sup>5</sup>. The lack of applications from the north of the fund area is considered further in section 3.2.2 of part 2.

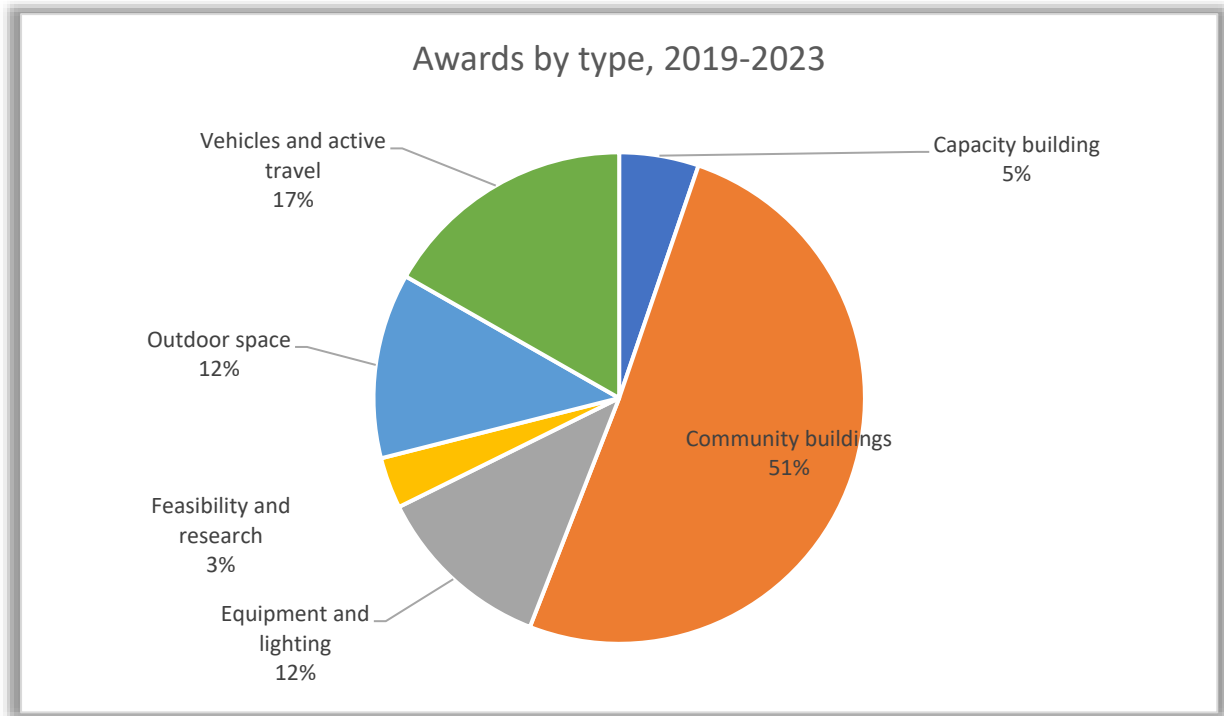
Some applications have been received from the Torry and Cove area of Aberdeen south of the river Dee, but no awards have been made. The challenges facing this area and the aspirations of the community are discussed further in section 3.2.1 of part 2.

<sup>5</sup> <http://publications.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/dataset/area-profiles>

### 2.5.3 Overview of Projects Funded

A full list of awards is given in the annex.

**Figure 7. Awards by type based on value of awards<sup>6</sup>**



Just over half the awards by value have related to community buildings. Awards have improved the energy efficiency of 17 existing community buildings, including installation of air source heat pumps, solar panels, battery storage, insulation, energy efficient glazing and green roofs. The community buildings are used for a wide variety of purposes including village halls, community hubs, a men’s shed, a sailing club and a restored railway station on a community owned heritage railway.

The fund has also contributed to the energy efficiency elements of five new community buildings, including specialist accommodation units and support centres, a men’s shed and an outdoor education building.

<sup>6</sup> A number of awards could be classified in more than one category. This is particularly the case with improvements to buildings located in community gardens or other outdoor spaces. Where the award was primarily to improve a building accessible to the wider community, it has been classified as a community building; if the award was contributing to the wider outdoor project (such as solar panels providing power to a community growing project) it has been classified as outdoor space.

One small award has been made in this category – which was for materials for men’s shed members to install insulation themselves. The average value of awards in this category was £12,672.

Vehicles and active travel have seen the next largest allocation of funds. Nine organisations have reduced their transport emissions through the purchase of an electric car, vans, multi-seater vehicle, cargo bikes and an electric utility vehicle ([see case study](#)). The vehicles and bikes have been utilised for a range of purposes including delivering food, second-hand goods, sailing equipment, horticulture supplies and a bowser for watering plants. The multi-seater vehicle was used to pilot an on-demand bus service (see section [3.4](#)). No small awards were made in this category. The average value of awards in this category was £12,333.

Projects involving enhancements to outdoor spaces made up 12% of awards by value. Eight outdoor spaces have been enhanced. This included providing power to site users through solar panels and batteries, enhanced facilities such as composting toilets, a ‘hot’ composter, seed propagators and water supplies and the funding of a bridge to improve access to Blackdog beach. The sites improved include community gardens, allotments, community farms and organisations providing a therapeutic environment to vulnerable users. Two small awards were made in this category: installing a water supply to a community garden and funding seed propagators. The average value of awards in this category was £10,095.

12% of awards, by value, funded equipment and lighting, covering a diverse mix of energy-efficient improvements including upgraded stage lighting, floodlights for sports clubs, lighting for a shop and a sports centre, electric outboard motors, repair equipment used by a men’s shed and water fountains at a Mosque. Three of the awards were small amounts under £2,000. These small awards were to fund men’s shed equipment, heating and lighting controls at a sports centre ([see case study](#)), and water fountains at a Mosque. The average value of awards in this category was £5,570.

Three awards have been categorised as capacity building, making up 5% of total awards by value.

These include a community engagement programme ([see case study](#)) a student project developing a prototype hydrogen vehicle and a programme of initiatives supporting sustainable food and active travel at a university. The average value of awards in this category was £11,563.

Six awards were made to conduct feasibility studies and research projects, making up 3% of awards by value. Four of these were awards of £2,000 and under. With an average value of award of £3,718, smaller awards were a feature of this category.

The studies undertaken included a feasibility study into a community-owned car charging network, site investigations for the bridge to access Blackdog beach, a feasibility study on retrofitting specific property types found in an Aberdeenshire village, a feasibility study on scaling up vertical axis wind turbines, specialist input to a proposed retrofit of a swimming bath and the design of a proposed Girlguiding centre. Eight of the projects awarded funding are described in more detail in the case studies in section [3.3](#).

Awards were made to three projects which subsequently declined the offer of funding:

- Panthers Basketball Club was awarded funding to install solar powered lighting on an outdoor court. This award was conditional on obtaining the landowner's approval and confirming whether planning permission was required. It transpired that planning permission was required, and the Club did not feel that it had sufficient capacity to pursue an application at the time.
- Woodside Sports Complex was awarded funding to upgrade lighting at the club. This was conditional on a change to the applicant organisation's structure to make it compatible with Foundation Scotland's eligibility requirements<sup>7</sup>. Although when the application was submitted the applicant was planning a change in structure, ultimately the organisation decided not to go ahead with the change and declined the award.

---

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/help-for-applicants/common-eligibility-criteria>

- Port Erroll Public Hall was awarded funding to part-fund solar panels and a battery for the hall. However, delays in securing the balance of funding and escalating costs made the project unviable and the applicant declined the award.

As of January 2024, there were eight awards totalling £116,267 where the applicant accepted the terms of the grant offer, but payment had not been made. These projects are still expected to proceed, but they include two projects awarded funds in 2022 and one awarded funds in 2020 which have experienced significant delays.

It is reasonable for the panel and Foundation Scotland to agree extensions when projects have not progressed as anticipated. However, as the Fund Strategy is explicit in stating that preference is given to projects able to start in the next twelve months, the panel should consider whether to limit the length of extensions granted. Where projects have a significant amount of funding to raise from other sources or other milestones where there is a degree of uncertainty that these can be achieved, it may be appropriate to word funding conditions in a way that makes awardees aware that the commitment can't be carried forward indefinitely. This issue is included in the recommendations in section 4 of part 2.

#### 2.5.4 Panel-led Research Studies

Three research studies have been completed in partnership with the University of Aberdeen. Two of these have been research projects conducted by students undertaking a master's degree. The other was a piece of work commissioned from a newly graduated student.

The topics for the research covered the use of batteries in optimising energy systems in community buildings; community resilience in the face of severe weather and climate change; and assessing the impacts of the fund (which is considered further in section 2.4 of part 2).

## 3. Fund Impact

This section draws together available evidence on the impacts of awards to date from Foundation Scotland monitoring data, an online survey carried out for this evaluation and qualitative case studies of a selection of projects. It also considers what might be learned from two projects which have not achieved their objectives and the wider impacts of the fund outside the direct funding of projects, including sharing information through award events and panel-led research projects.


### 3.1 Foundation Scotland Monitoring Data

In 2022, Foundation Scotland adopted a new impact monitoring framework, developed in conjunction with UK Community Foundations, which is used for all Foundation Scotland administered community benefit funds. This framework identifies a very broad range of potential outcomes of projects and impact indicators in an endeavour to capture some measure of organisation-wide impacts across a very diverse mix of funds. The outcomes and indicators most relevant to a specific fund's objectives are selected by Foundation Scotland for grantees to report against. The outcomes and indicators selected for the Unlock our Future Fund are shown in figure 8 (below).

During the application process, groups select the most relevant outcome areas for their projects within the menu of possible outcomes specified for the fund. They are then able to select indicators to report against when submitting project monitoring reports. It is not expected that the awardee should report against all indicators, just the ones of most relevance to their project. As well as reporting against these quantitative indicators, grantees are asked for text responses on what the funded project has achieved and lessons learned.

Prior to the introduction of the impact monitoring framework, grantees submitted a monitoring report which only provided a text update on progress and lessons learned.



 Funding Programme <b>Vattenfall Unlock our Future Fund</b>
<b>Current Outcome and Indicator Mappings (26)</b>
<b>IMPROVED COMMUNITY COHESION (10)</b>
Area (hectares) of natural space maintained or improved Area (hectares) of natural space restored or created Number of new community facilities or spaces created or improved Number of organisations working in collaboration Number of people reporting that the community facilities were improved Number of people reporting that they changed their behaviour to address climate change Number of people reporting that they feel able to have a say in the decisions that affect them Number of people using community facilities Number of people using more sustainable transport, e.g. public/community transport, cycling, walking Number of research/studies/plans/evaluations completed
<b>INCREASED ORGANISATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY (7)</b>
Increased amount of core funding Number of existing partnerships developed/strengthened Number of new partnerships established or existing ones strengthened Number of new staff employed as a direct result of the grant Number of new volunteers as a direct result of the grant Number of people reporting increased skills and knowledge Number of Strategic and/or Business Plans developed
<b>REDUCED CARBON FOOTPRINT (I.E. WASTE, EMISSIONS, ENERGY) (9)</b>
Estimated carbon saving (eg from ZWS report) Number of community facilities working to reduce their carbon footprint Number of electric vehicles/bikes or other low carbon transport in use Number of people accessing services to adapt or improve their home Number of people reporting a reduction in car use Number of people reporting that they have an increased ability to heat their home and stay warm Number of people using more sustainable transport, e.g. public/community transport, cycling, walking Number of units of energy (kWh) generated from renewable sources Number of units of energy (kWh) saved

**Figure 8. Outcomes and Indicators available to Grantees (2022 onwards)**

By January 2024, 37 monitoring reports were available for review, having been submitted by completed projects. Of these, 29 were prior to the introduction of the new framework, and eight had reported using the new impact framework, providing quantitative data on impacts.

### 3.1.1 Impact Indicators

The quantitative impacts reported by these eight projects are outlined below.

### **Energy savings**

Four of the eight projects which reported using the new impact framework stated that they had saved energy. Two were able to give accurate kWh savings based on before and after measures with Inverurie Loco Works saving 70kWh per evening session at the football club with the installation of LED floodlights ([see case study](#)) and the Bettridge Centre seeing a reduction from 97,000 kWh to 79,000kWh in gas consumption with improved controls ([see case study](#)).

One organisation which had purchased an electric van had made a calculation which attempted to quantify the energy savings when switching from a diesel to an electric vehicle. One other organisation reported the generation capacity of their new solar panels. These highlight the risk of the new framework encouraging grantees to enter some information for each indicator available rather than just picking the most appropriate indicators.

### **Energy generated from renewable sources**

Two projects reported generation of 5,576 kWh and 1,500 kWh respectively. The first had based their figure on actual data, but for six months. The second had based their figure on theoretical generation capacity over a year. This demonstrates a need for clarity in how indicators should be interpreted.

### **Number of strategic and/or business plans developed**

Two organisations reported the development of business plans. However, from the descriptions given, these outcomes appear to be related to the organisations' work overall and not directly to the funded project.

### **Number of research studies/plans/evaluations completed**

Two organisations reported the completion of plans. The explanations given indicate that one of these was a feasibility study which was a direct result of the award. The other was reporting that the grantee had been interviewed for one of the panel-led research projects.

### **Number of people using more sustainable transport**

One organisation reported 25 people using more sustainable transport. However, the description indicates that this was due to the wider organisation's activities and not a result of the grant award.



**Number of people using community facilities**

One organisation reported 250 users of the community hall which received funding to install renewables. None of the other grantees reported against this indicator even though several had awards which related to community facilities.

**Number of people reporting that the community facilities were improved; Number of people reporting increased skills and knowledge; Number of people reporting a reduction in car use**

Three organisations said that a total of 410 people had ‘reported’ improved community facilities; three organisations said that a total of 179 people had ‘reported’ an increase in skills and knowledge; one organisation said that 20 people had ‘reported’ reduced car use. However, the narrative supplied for all of these indicators suggest that these figures were based on typical user numbers and anecdotal evidence rather than reporting from beneficiaries. This, again, demonstrates the need for clarity in defining indicators.

**Number of organisations working in collaboration**

Three projects reported a total of 18 organisations working in collaboration. However, the narrative suggests that these are organisations that the grantees work closely with anyway, rather than being a direct result of receiving a grant.

**Number of new volunteers as a direct result of the grant**

Two organisations reported new volunteers as a direct result of the grant. One of these reported 20 new volunteers. However, this appears to be due to the activities of the organisation as a whole and only indirectly connected to the grant. The other organisation reporting one new volunteer has a clear rationale on how the grant enabled this through creating an opportunity for a volunteer driver for a new electric vehicle.

**Number of new staff employed as a direct result of the grant**

One organisation reported one new employee and provided a justification in that the electric vehicle funded had allowed it to expand its services and employ a delivery person.

**Number of new partnerships established or existing ones strengthened**

Three organisations reported a total of 18 new partnerships or existing ones strengthened.

The narrative given suggests that this measure reports on largely the same relationships as ‘number of organisations working in collaboration’ above.

### **Number of new community facilities or spaces created or improved**

Two organisations reported that their facilities improved. However, five of the awards directly created or improved facilities, suggesting that grantees, for some reason, have not perceived this indicator as relevant.

### **Number of electric vehicles/bikes or other low-carbon transport in use**

One organisation reported 25 low-carbon vehicles in use. However, only one of these is directly related to the grant. The rest relate to the wider operations of the organisation.

### **Number of community facilities working to reduce their carbon footprint**

Three organisations reported a total of seven facilities working to reduce their carbon footprint. Three of the seven reported appear to be the direct result of the grant. The others relate to the wider work by the organisation and are not connected to the award.

### **Increased amount of core funding**

One organisation reported an increase in sales of £47k. However, the narrative suggests that this is only partly related to the grant allowing the organisation to increase capacity.

### **Estimated carbon saving (e.g. from ZWS report)**

Four organisations reported carbon savings. One is based on estimates provided by Zero Waste Scotland before the project started. The other three used different estimating approaches. In total the projects estimate 1,524 kg of carbon saved. However, one of the calculations does not make clear what units are being used. The indicator also doesn't clarify the units used.

### **Limitations on Quantitative Impact Monitoring Data**

Only eight organisations have so far reported using Foundation Scotland's new impact framework. Review of the data provided to date highlights some issues with applying the framework in practice. In particular:

- The tendency for some organisations to try to report against as many indicators as possible rather than selecting the most relevant
- The tendency to provide information about the organisation's operations as a whole rather than activities specific to the funding award
- Different interpretations of what is being asked for or lack of clarity in definitions
- Overlooking some indicators which are relevant

These issues are discussed further in section [3.6](#).

### 3.1.2 Qualitative Impact Evidence

A narrative report on project progress, impacts and lessons learned was available for 37 funded projects. Common themes emerging from the reports are outlined below, with fuller case studies given for eight projects in section [3.3](#).

Several grantees mentioned how the funded project had acted to **demonstrate low-carbon technologies** to beneficiaries and the wider community. This could be through experiencing driving an electric vehicle for the first time, or seeing solar panels being installed on a community building.

Some organisations had been able to rethink the approach they took to **delivering a service**. For example, having e-cargo bikes alongside vans gave increased flexibility and reduced costs with the cargo bikes being used for smaller and shorter deliveries.

Many of the projects supported by the fund not only saved energy, but also provided a **better experience** for project beneficiaries and volunteers. Examples of this included the light from LED floodlights being brighter than the lights they replaced; electric engines and motors being quiet and not emitting exhaust fumes; volunteers who are undertaking deliveries finding e-bikes fun to ride; and new heating systems providing added comfort for users of buildings.

Those involved in projects relating to community buildings had learned a lot about the **complexities of energy systems in low-carbon buildings** – this was particularly the case where a project included multiple elements such as insulation, solar panels, batteries and heat pumps.

Phasing of work could be a challenge in the context of multiple funding sources and supply chain shortages.

**Batteries** were cited by a number of projects installing solar panels on community buildings as making an important contribution to energy efficiency as the usage of community buildings rarely coincides with periods when electricity generation from solar PV is highest.

Most projects experienced **delays**. This was partly due to the Covid pandemic, but supply chains were also an issue with long waits involved in purchasing electric vehicles and getting in contractors to undertake work.

Many projects ran into **unanticipated challenges**, these ranged from problems obtaining insurance for a specialist vehicle, to fixing an electric outboard motor battery, to a boat without blocking vents. This was seen as part of the learning when adopting a new technology.

### 3.2 Survey Findings

An invitation to take part in a survey on project impacts was sent out to all organisations receiving funding in years one to four. Only 11 responses were received, a 21% response rate<sup>8</sup>, despite reminders being issued.

The survey asked organisations whether the project had achieved any of the outcomes and impacts identified in the theory of change (figure 9 below). It also asked about any other impacts and other funding obtained by the project. The most frequently reported positive impacts of awards were:

- Less energy use and lower bills (88.9%)
- Improved experience for users, volunteers and staff (88.9%)
- Reduced emissions and pollution (87.5%)
- Lower carbon emissions (77.8%)
- Your organisation is more financially sustainable (77.8%)
- Development of new and/or expanded activities (66.7%)
- Local procurement and benefit to local supply chain (66.7%)

---

<sup>8</sup> The response rate does not take account of some organisations receiving more than one award. The survey form allowed for the reporting of multiple projects – but all responses related to a single project.

The least reported benefits were new enterprises or jobs (none), increased biodiversity (11.1%) and increased air, soil or water quality (11.1%).

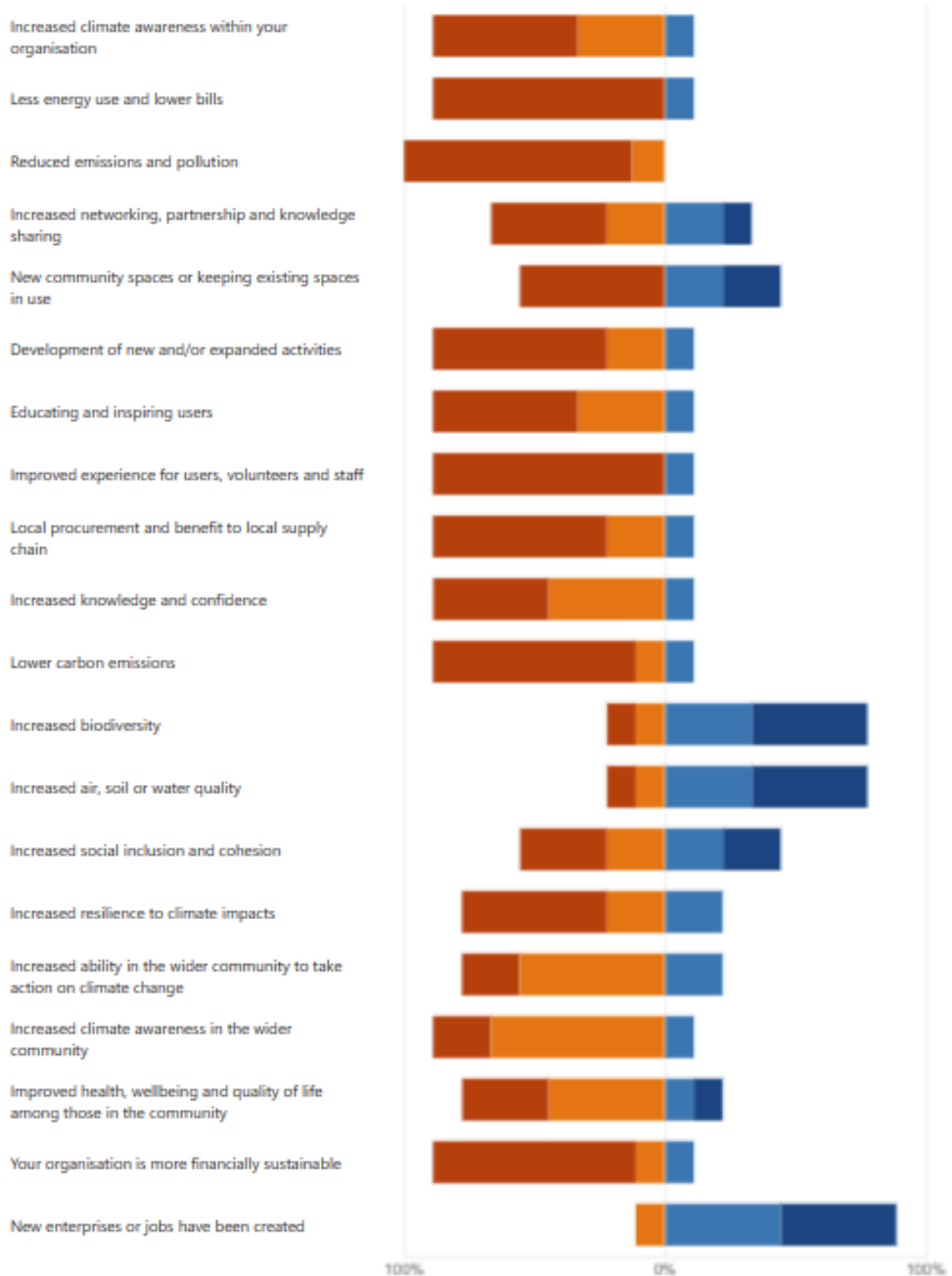
Only one respondent reported a positive impact not identified in the theory of change. This related to increased recycling of household and garden products. Eight of the eleven projects reported leveraging in funds from elsewhere. Despite the poor response rate, the survey provides some comfort that the impacts identified in the theory of change are generally consistent with those perceived by the funded projects.

However, it also shows that some impacts considered as important in the theory of change may not be forthcoming from the projects being funded at present, particularly biodiversity; increased air, water and soil quality; new enterprises; and jobs. This suggests that the fund priorities may need to be more explicit in encouraging applications which deliver these outcomes. This is considered further in the review of priorities in section 3.2.1 of part 2.

Figure 9. Impact Survey Findings

Has the funded project achieved any of the following to date...

■ Yes ■ Maybe ■ No ■ Not applicable



### 3.3 Case studies

#### 3.3.1 Bettridge Centre (Newtonhill Community Hall Association): Thermostatic controls and lighting upgrade



**In 2022, the Vattenfall Unlock our Future Fund awarded £1,922 to the Bettridge Centre to install a thermostat in the main sports hall, along with presence detection controls and LED lights. The thermostat, costing under £600, saved at least £2,000 in its first year of operation, showing the big difference that a small change can make.**

The Bettridge Centre is an independent community-owned and managed leisure centre in Newtonhill, open to both local people and visitors to the area. It offers a wide selection of sports, community, arts and social activities for all ages, abilities and interests.

Regular groups and activities at the centre take place every day and include dance, netball, yoga, fitness classes, library services, parent and toddler groups, scouts and cubs/beavers. The centre has received funding from the Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership to employ a coordinator to run the ReActive8 project, which provides social and physical activities which help support local people's mental and physical health.

ReActive8 activities include singing, line dancing, a coffee and craft group, pickleball and a lunch club.

The building has a main sports hall with a stage, a small hall and a lounge/kitchen area. An energy assessment of the building was carried out by Resource Efficient Scotland in 2018. Since then, a series of improvements has been implemented as funding has allowed including installing insulation, replacing windows and fitting LED lighting.

When an application was made to the Vattenfall Unlock our Future Fund, the priority for the centre was finishing the upgrade of lighting by putting in LED lighting in the toilets, stairs, kitchen, library room and stage area; installing presence detection; and adding thermostatic controls in the main sports hall. The latter is heated by AmbiRad gas powered radiant heaters. These radiators had to be switched on and off manually – which resulted in them sometimes being left on longer than was needed to heat the space to the required temperature.

**Bridget Scott, the Development Officer for the centre described the impact of the thermostat as ‘phenomenal’:**

*“We had no idea it would make such a huge difference. At a time when the centre's utility bills have more than doubled, putting our financial survival under threat, this has been very encouraging.”*

Gas usage was down by almost 20% between 2022 and 2023, saving the organisation at least £2,000.

The centre has plans to move away from gas heating in the future through installing infrared electric heaters powered by solar panels. In the longer term, improvements to the building are planned which could make it suitable for using air source heat pumps as part of the heating system.





*The Out of School Club Energy Champions*

The centre has been working with the Newtonhill Out of School Club on an Energy Champions project. As a result, the children are taking an active role in helping to check that lights are turned off and radiators are turned down – the youngsters enjoy being able to participate and spread the word about saving energy in the wider community.

The importance of the centre to local people was explained by Hazel, a local resident. Hazel is 73 years old and retired. The centre is an important part of her life:

*“When I retired, I needed to get out of the house ... I didn’t know what to do. I went to meet people and have a chat and a laugh. Everybody is so friendly!”*

Hazel joined the indoor bowling group, the diamond art club and goes to the library. She started helping out at the lunch club. Recently Hazel has had problems with her knee, so has had to stop bowling. However, she’s discovered chair yoga:

*“It’s perfect for me; I wish I’d tried it years ago!”*

She is about to have a knee replacement, and will be back at the centre just as soon as she can:

*“I will be back at the lunch club when I’m recovering. When I’m better I’m looking forward to trying pickleball, that’s a game with big bats and a plastic ball ... people are really loving it!”*

Hazel knows how important the centre is to local people:

*“I’m often promoting it; we should be glad it’s there. All the staff are wonderful; they go out of their way to help. I just love it. They also have events in the evening, all very reasonably priced, they have a pensioners’ event at Christmas. There’s a monthly coffee morning...it’s free...at first it was just the one table of people there, now there’s lots, it’s fairly grown!”*

**Impacts:**

- **Reduced energy use from a small investment**
- **Increased financial sustainability of a community-owned facility**
- **Educational opportunities for young people through energy champions project**

### 3.3.2 Community Energy Scotland: Community Energy Futures Programme



**In 2019, the Vattenfall Unlock our Future Fund awarded Community Energy Scotland (CES) £15,000 to deliver a workshop programme and tailored support to community organisations in the fund area. Five local organisations took part in the initial workshops, with four engaging in tailored support. All four of these groups have continued to play a part in developing and delivering initiatives addressing climate change since being part of the programme.**

CES developed the Community Futures Programme to help community groups understand the UK energy system and provide the knowledge and support they needed to develop innovative renewable energy and energy efficiency projects within their local communities.

The programme consists of six workshops which encourage interaction and discussion between participants. A case study approach is used which allows for an in-depth, multi-layered exploration of the complexities of energy-related projects in real-life settings. The workshops are followed by a tailored package of one-to-one support designed to help community groups to develop their energy project ideas.

In 2019, when they applied for funding, CES had delivered the programme to two cohorts in the central belt and was seeking to extend delivery to Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray.

The Vattenfall Unlock our Future Fund agreed to part-fund this work, with an initial target of supporting six groups in the fund area.

Delivery of the programme was delayed, as an application to fund the balance of the costs was unsuccessful. Then the Covid pandemic struck which had the impact of reducing the capacity of some groups to take part as their work was refocused on the pandemic response. It also meant that delivery had to move from face-to-face to online.

However, six sessions were run with a total of 17 participants from 13 community groups, including five from the fund area: Huntly and District Development Trust, Alford Energy Hub, Udney Climate Action, Torry Development Trust and Zero Carbon Daviot. Topics included Changes in the Energy System, Smart Homes and Buildings, Low-carbon Transport, Smart Energy Networks, Making Your Project Happen and Low-carbon Heat.

Five workshops had initially been planned, but CES developed and delivered an additional dedicated workshop on low-carbon heat due to the interest from the groups in this area and the many challenges of decarbonising the domestic heating sector. This was very well received and is expected to continue to be part of the programme when it is delivered in future.

Four of the local organisations went on to take part in the programme of tailored support. This included £2,000 grant funding to help communities develop their ideas, monthly networking meetings and support from CES staff.

The local groups were supported in delivering community briefings and local engagement activities, including providing leaflets and briefing materials, and input to the development of a new website for Zero Carbon Daviot. High level local energy plans were developed with each of the groups.

CES has an aspiration to run the programme again and has continued to receive enquiries from interested communities across Scotland. However, obtaining funding to repeat the programme has proved difficult.

If the programme were to run again, there were some useful lessons learned from delivery of this third cohort. In particular:

- A hybrid model mixing face-to-face and online delivery of workshops would be preferable as this leads to better engagement and makes it easier to incorporate networking opportunities which were very much valued by those taking part.
- There were different levels of technical expertise among those present. In future, pre-reading material in advance of the more technical workshops would be provided.

**Ken Gordon from Zero Carbon Daviot (ZCD), who attended the programme, explained how he got involved:**

*“We didn’t have a local group in Daviot at the time. Matt [Matt Clubb, ZCD trustee] found out about it and put a blast out on social media. I didn’t see it, but a family member pointed it out to me thinking I could be interested. I went to meet with Matt and we hit it off, we had similar backgrounds in mechanical engineering. We decided to form a local group and join the Community Futures Programme.”*

Ken found learning about what others were doing inspirational:

*“I was completely blown away by all the amazing success stories in front of our eyes. We saw what others had achieved. If they could do it, why couldn’t we? We set up a Facebook page and got word out to the community. We set up a website, people came forward as trustees, and we set up with help from Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action. We’ve never looked back!”*

Zero Carbon Daviot was formed, and is developing a wide range of projects, says Ken:

*“We are looking at everything, not just buildings. We were amazed by what has happened in Huntly [Huntly and District Development Trust also attended the programme]. We started small with e-bikes which we initially hired. That was a success, so we bought our own. We’ve now got funding for a community electric car from the Just Transition Fund Participatory Budgeting. We are looking at home retrofit and how we can best do it with the houses we have here. We’re working with the church, looking at solar panels, and we’ve spoken about regenerative agriculture and the importance of the soil after we visited Upper Wheedlemont Organic Farm in Rhyne.”*



Photo: Lucy Templeman (right) of Zero Carbon Daviot at the launch of the e-bike scheme with MSP Maggie Chapman (Source, Press and Journal, 4 April 2023)

Zero Carbon Daviot is also working with Udney Climate Action and Torry Development Trust, who met on the Community Futures Programme, on the North East Scotland Retrofit Hub (NESFIT), a community-led retrofit cooperative.

On a more personal level, the experience has changed Ken’s career path. When he started the Community Futures Programme, he was working in the oil and gas industry. He is now Chief Executive Officer of the Ground Source Heat Pump Association.

### **Impacts:**

- **Increased capacity of communities to address climate change**
- **Increased knowledge and skills of individuals**
- **Development of new projects including low-carbon transport and household retrofit**



### 3.3.3 Meldrum Amenities Improvement Group (MAIG): Electric utility vehicle, solar panels and seed propagators

**The Vattenfall Unlock our Futures fund has made three awards to MAIG: £15,000 to replace the group's old diesel tractor with an electric utility vehicle; £5,349 for solar panels to power the vehicle and water pump; and £1,576 for propagators to help with growing plants from seed for displays. These awards have supported the group's work which includes planting and maintaining floral displays, a Cycling without Age chapter, litter picking and Christmas lights.**



*MAIG volunteers using the electric vehicle to water floral displays*

**Their impact on the community in the town and their commitment to operating in an environmentally sustainable way have been recognised with an 'outstanding' It's Your Neighbourhood certificate from Keep Scotland Beautiful and by winning the Gardening in a Changing Climate award in 2023.**

When the Vattenfall Unlock our Future Fund opened, MAIG's diesel tractor was coming to the end of its useful life and becoming expensive to maintain. The committee decided to apply for funding to replace the old tractor with an electric utility vehicle – a bold decision since these were still quite uncommon at the time, and only available from a manufacturer in China.

Obtaining the electric vehicle from China proved a saga, with delays caused by a container ship breakdown, an error in the specification of the vehicle provided, and Covid shutdowns adding further delays to correcting the error. Insurance also proved to be a headache, with the Association of British Insurers not listing the vehicle type at the time. The insurance premium has been higher than was anticipated and may be even higher at the next renewal.

**However, Andrew McCartney of MAIG describes the electric vehicle as ‘a godsend’:**

*“...It has massively reduced our maintenance and running costs. Another benefit that we had not anticipated was that it has attracted more volunteers to join our watering teams. Our new electric water tank which sits on the EV was professionally kitted out to make it much easier for both genders young and old to operate complete with an operator safety cage. We have fitted an electric winch in the garage designed for a one-man operation to remove and restore the watering system onto the EV.”*

As well as providing ease of use for volunteers, the electric vehicle is quiet and does not produce exhaust fumes. This is important, as watering the numerous flower displays and hanging baskets in the town square takes a considerable time.

Operating costs were further reduced by a grant to install solar panels on the garage where the electric vehicle is housed. As Andrew explained:

*“This has allowed the group to display on the EV ‘This Vehicle is Powered by Solar Energy’. As a result, Meldrum folks and visitors to the town have made suitable comments on the topic of reducing our carbon footprint.”*

The panels have reduced, but don’t eliminate, the need to buy in energy. As a result, the group is investigating either further panels or battery storage. Aberdeenshire Council is now unable to supply sufficient plants for the town’s floral displays. Therefore, the group is starting to grow some of its own plants from seed with propagators funded by the Unlock our Future Fund. The group’s commitment to improving the town’s environment in a sustainable way is considerably wider than the directly funded activities:



- Storage tanks are currently being installed to collect rainwater from both the garage roof and that of the practice shed of the nearby golf club
- The group holds an annual 'spring clean' litter pick
- As well as formal floral displays, wildflower areas have been established at an entry point to the town which was previously considered unattractive
- The group runs a Cycling Without Age chapter which allows people with limited mobility to get outdoors using a low-carbon trishaw
- Planting cherry trees in the town's community garden
- Working in partnership with the local green spaces group

The work of the group has been recognised by Keep Scotland Beautiful with an 'outstanding' It's Your Neighbourhood certificate and by winning the Gardening in a Changing Climate award in 2023. The sterling work carried out by the group is clearly recognised locally:

**Jan, Secretary to the Community Council, explained how important MAIG is to the town:**

*"MAIG do so much! We think it's fantastic. Any time MAIG do anything they do it well...it's all in...those volunteers do so much."*

The group had adapted to new situations such as Aberdeenshire Council no longer supplying plants. As a result, the flower displays, which are very much appreciated by the town, will still happen:

*"Without them, we wouldn't have any of that. Their work ethic is fantastic. They work well as a group. All of them just get stuck in! But they don't like praise – they just get on and do it."*

The group is a very visible example of delivering community activities in a low-carbon way.

*"The green truck [electric vehicle] is out a lot. People notice it. At their open day people were interested in it and wanted to find out about it."*



*The Cycling Without Age trishaw drops in to a local distillery*

## Impacts

- **Reduced carbon emissions through replacing a diesel vehicle with an electric vehicle**
- **Reduced noise and air pollution**
- **Reduced operating overheads**
- **Attracting and retaining volunteers through easy to use and safe equipment**
- **Enhancing the attractiveness of the town for locals and volunteers**
- **Highly visible commitment to carbon reduction recognised locally and nationally**

### 3.3.4 Strachan Village Hall: Air source heat pumps

**In 2019, the Vattenfall Unlock our Future Fund awarded Strachan Village Hall £10,000 to install air source heat pumps. This was part of a major refurbishment project of a vital community facility in rural Aberdeenshire. The upgrade has allowed the hall to generate more income from commercial users and lowered running costs, making it more sustainable.**

Strachan Village Hall was originally built in 1927. It was updated in the 1960s and, prior to the refurbishment, was looking old-fashioned, rather dark and tired. The building had flat roofs which led to regular leaks.



The heating was supplied by infrared heaters and fan heaters.

A major phased refurbishment was undertaken. Phase one involved adding a pitched roof, new toilets, insulation of part of the building, new windows and the addition of larch cladding. Phase two added a further pitched roof, completed the insulation, improved lighting and added a new heating system with air source heat pumps. The refurbishment drew on a range of funding sources including European LEADER funding and various trusts.

Since the refurbishment, the make-up of user groups has changed, with more paying users such as a martial arts club being attracted by the good quality of facilities. This generates income for the hall. Nevertheless, there is still sufficient capacity for hosting community events.

Energy usage has definitely been cut by the refurbishment.

Putting an exact figure on this is difficult due to disruption caused by the Covid pandemic and changing usage levels, but it is thought that energy usage now is half what it would have been using the old heating system.

The hall is not normally heated. The air source heat pumps are used to raise the temperature when the hall is in use. The heat pumps heat the air quickly to reach a comfortable temperature for users.

The hall committee has found that the heat pumps work well and have needed little maintenance and are easy to use. The only minor issue encountered was with some users perceiving the new system as drafty and adjusting angles of air vents. User groups have had to be shown how the system works, and as users change over time, education of users has to be ongoing.

Discussion is taking place at the moment with the local community council around the hall's energy system in the context of resilience. In the event of a power outage, the heating would need to be sustained either by a generator or battery system if the hall were to be a space where the community could access warmth and power supplies. However, there are practical issues with either the generator or battery option. The roof is not suitable for solar panels, limiting the usefulness of a battery system outside emergency situations.

**The impact of the refurbishment on users was described by Robert Brown, of the Scottish Country Dancing Group.**

The refurbishment makes a big difference to first impressions:

*People come in and say "This is different! This is much nicer!"*

The improvements don't end there:

*The floor has been sanded, it now just glows! The toilets are nice, clean and fresh, we have more ladies' toilets, warm water and heaters in the toilets. It's fresh and it's bright!*

When it comes to the heating:

*We are no longer having to run in and out switching heaters on and off trying to get the temperature right. The temperature is controlled on a thermostat and the heaters just look after themselves.*



*Country dancing at the hall*

### **Impacts:**

- **Reduced energy use**
- **Increased capacity to generate income**
- **Greater comfort for users**



### 3.3.5 Aboyne and District Men's Shed: Aboyne and Mid-Deeside Community Shed solar panels

**In 2019, the Vattenfall Unlock our Future Fund awarded £8,967 to Aboyne and District Men's Shed to install solar panels on the newly constructed Aboyne and Mid-Deeside Community Shed.**

**The new building, which was built to high energy efficiency standards, provides a facility for a wide range of community activities.**



**It combines low running costs with high levels of user comfort, making it a popular venue for many local groups.**

The Aboyne and Mid-Deeside Community Shed is owned and managed by the Aboyne and District Men's Shed, whose activities include a workshop and informal meeting area where men can take part in practical activities, learn new skills or just socialise. It is also open to other local community groups which can rent space. In addition, the Mid Deeside Community Trust has its office in the building.

Prior to the Shed being built community facilities in this expanding village were very limited. The Men's Shed consulted with potential users in the development of their plans and discussed its operations with people from other community halls. This consultation highlighted the importance of heating costs, providing spaces which would not be cold in winter and space which would suit smaller groups.

The design of the building incorporated high energy efficiency, solar panels and air source heat pumps. The workshop on the ground floor is mainly used by the Men's Shed, but is open to other groups. Upstairs is a large social space, kitchen, office and arts and crafts area.

The Shed is on a brownfield site, close to the village centre and fully accessible to people with disabilities. Work was completed in 2021, following Covid-related delays.

The heating system offers high levels of user comfort and is cost-effective. The temperature can be controlled remotely via a separate secure network and can be heated up prior to use in around 15 minutes. Temperatures can be set at a level appropriate to the activity taking place (e.g. spaces can be cooled in summer, which is welcomed by exercise groups using the building).

In the first year of operations the cost of energy (net of proceeds of the feed-in tariff) was £264. This was for a 332-cubic-meter building operating six days a week.

A battery has recently been fitted which should cover the energy needs at night-time. The initial energy use by the Shed was closely monitored to inform the choice of battery size.

The building has received a number of visits from those keen to find out more about the building, particularly other Men's Sheds. The group's treasurer also shared his experiences of developing a low-carbon building at the Local Energy Scotland CARES conference.

Throughout the build, and in the ongoing operation of the building, volunteer input has been crucial, ranging from cleaning/maintenance to business planning and VAT advice. The Men's Shed treasurer described the 'shedders' as a group who 'like making things better.'

The low running costs of the building means that it is affordable for users. Different rates are charged, with lower rates given to local community groups and new activities getting started. Just under 500 people a month are using the building. This includes the pipe band, yoga, Well Woman, the Rotary Club, a book group, BSL group, Pilates, line dancing and artists.

The activities of the Men's Shed group bring about positive environmental impacts through their work fixing, repurposing, repairing and recycling.



**One of the shedders, Dave Plummer, is a retired electronic engineer aged 74.**

He started his career with the RAF and has worked all over the world with various companies, ending up as a senior engineer at Shell. He is particularly interested in projects involving electronics and computing. He explained more about what the Shed means to him:

*"I came along to the Men's Shed last August, and they soon gave me a corner well away from all the woodworking dust. I jumped right in on improving the [Wi-Fi] network, getting it secure and getting the workshop geared up with Wi-Fi. We linked the heating so we can run it remotely, and make the rooms cosy for users."*

The facilities in the workshop include woodworking and metalworking machines, computer-aided design and 3D plastic printers (which are the private property of shed members). Dave is always keen to show others how things work:

*"I've never been a 'secret squirrel'; I like to pass on information."*

It isn't just fellow shedders he helps. His work has included a project with local farmers constructing low-cost electric fencing units which run on solar power, PAT testing Christmas lights and a project with HorseBack UK teaching young people practical woodworking skills. Dave has had serious health problems, which the Shed helps him cope with:

*"I don't like taking painkillers; I would prefer to be doing something, so I haven't got time to think about the pain."*



*Photo: The Men's Shed weekly 'Fly Cup' (source: Aboyne and Men's Shed)*

Dave enjoys being part of a community where people help each other out. That can be with sharing practical skills, or just having others to talk to at the weekly 'fly cup'.

*"It's a nice place to be. I'm proud to be a member. It's quite an organisation!"*

### **Impacts:**

- **Construction of a low-carbon community facility**
- **Sharing knowledge on low-carbon buildings with other organisations**
- **Providing affordable and good quality space for community activities**
- **Supporting the development of new activities through subsidised rates**
- **Improving men's well-being through the activities of the Men's Shed**

### 3.3.6 Inverurie Loco Works Football Club: LED Floodlights

**In 2022, the Vattenfall Unlock our Future Fund awarded Inverurie Loco Works FC £15,000 to replace its floodlights with energy-efficient LED floodlights. The new floodlights have saved costs and improved the experience for players and spectators. The bulbs no longer require regular replacement, reducing the need for club staff to work at height.**

Inverurie Loco Works FC was founded by employees of the Great North of Scotland Railway Company and has played continually at Harlaw Park in Inverurie since 1902. When the locomotive works closed in 1969, the club negotiated to buy the ground. It is a semi-professional football team and is a member of the Scottish Football Association.



The club plays in the Highland league. They also have an under-18 team which plays in the Highland Under-18 league and an under-21 team, which plays in the Aberdeenshire League. In 2022, the club established a women's team. The old floodlighting which used metal halide lamps was installed over 30 years ago. These required a lengthy warm-up period and bulbs had a short life, requiring regular replacement.

The new LED floodlights provide instant light and are brighter, providing better quality illumination.

The club estimates that the cost of running the lights is less than half the previous figure, even after increases in energy costs. As a significant expense for a community-based club, this saving helps the club's long-term sustainability.

The benefits of the new lights are not just lower running costs. Replacement of the old bulbs involved ground staff working at height, which required careful management with regard to health and safety issues. The new bulbs have a long life, reducing the need for this procedure.

The replacement cost more than was initially envisaged as the stanchions supporting the lights needed to be replaced. It was initially thought that the existing supports would be adequate, but this was not the case.

The new lights mean that the ground can be used for matches and training throughout the evenings in winter months. This provides important capacity for a club with a commitment to developing youth teams.

The club has a strong focus on its place in the local community and has won Scottish Football Association community engagement awards in recognition of this.

**Impacts:**

- **Reduced energy costs**
- **Improved quality of lighting for players and spectators**
- **Improved safety for ground staff**



### 3.3.7 Camphill School Aberdeen: E-cargo bike, composting system, solar panels and battery storage, and refitting costs related to a new zero-waste shop



*Construction in progress of Murtle Market*

**The Vattenfall Unlock our Future Fund has made four awards to Camphill School Aberdeen: £5,500 to purchase an e-cargo bike for students to deliver food and household products to the school’s residential sites; £5,074 to purchase a ‘hot’ composting system; £12,500 towards solar panels and battery storage for a new residential building for young people; and £6,926 to contribute towards the cost of refitting of the Murtle Marke zero-waste farm shop.**

Camphill School Aberdeen was established in 1940. It supports children and young people, many with additional support needs, to meet their fullest potential. The school offers a kindergarten, a school, and a life skills training centre on a day and residential basis for children and young people aged three to 25 years.

The school is located on the outskirts of Aberdeen and is a community of 450 people, including students, staff and volunteers, with around 200 living on site. The school is part of the international Camphill Movement which consists of 119 Camphill communities in 27 countries.

Caring for the land and environment is a central part of Camphill's ethos, having an onsite farm and organic garden. Camphill School Aberdeen is accredited as an Eco-School under an international scheme delivered in Scotland by Keep Scotland Beautiful.

However, maximising the sustainability of the school is far from a straightforward task. The school has 57 properties of varying ages and energy efficiency, spread over three campuses, as well as a fleet of vehicles to transport students and loads, such as produce grown on site. The school has been gathering data on energy usage as a basis for an ambitious carbon reduction plan and route towards net zero.

The awards from the fund have supported important aspects of the school's journey in improving sustainability.

The e-cargo bike was the first to be purchased by the school. Following the success of the bike, the school has increased its fleet to seven e-cargo bikes, plus two trailers. The bikes have proved to be an effective and low-carbon approach to transporting goods round the campuses which has reduced reliance on vans. They will be a key part of the approach used by the Murtle Market in delivering produce (see below).

The Ridan 'hot' composter was thought to be easily large enough to deal with the school's food waste and provide compost for the garden.

**However, according to Nico Nino-Ramirez, the Sustainable Development and Social Enterprise Lead at the school:**

*"We realised how much more we could do, we thought it was big, but it grew small very quickly!"*

The school's ambitions to deal better with food waste are now extending to looking at the potential for a local composting group involving the wider community.

The new residential unit is currently under construction and due to be completed in October or November 2024. The new building is both fully accessible and designed to Passivhaus standards. It will provide additional residential places to deal with increased demand.

In contrast, the Murtle Market is making use of an existing building, but upgrading it through improved insulation, glazing, air source heat pumps and LED lighting. Murtle Market will be a zero-waste organic farm and produce shop, refillery and heritage hub. It will provide training and work experience for young people, as well as providing a service to the wider community. E-cargo bikes will be a central part of the delivery service used by the shop to deliver produce to the local community. These bikes can be used safely by young people working in the shop and on placements from a local school.

**Jammie Camphill is a young man who was a Camphill student, using the day service, for three or four years before gaining a paid job with the School last month.** He currently works in the gardens and the ‘tattie shed’ where veg is stored. He also helps out with deliveries.

Jammie likes being at Camphill:

*“Camphill is really good. Everybody knows me round the estate. They give me a chance to help out. I do things independently.”*

Jammie has learned lots of new skills and is continually trying new things. When Murtle Market opens he hopes to be doing deliveries on one of the cargo bikes:

*“I can already ride a butcher’s bike. They are going to teach me to use a cargo bike. I’m looking forward to that.”*

Jammie likes working outdoors, particularly when the sun is shining. Camphill has provided Jammie with paid work in a supportive environment where he can do a job he clearly enjoys. He summed up what his job means to him by saying:

*“It’s given me a new lease of life!”*





*The former Chair of the UoFF panel trying out the e-cargo bike*

### **Impacts:**

- **Reducing carbon through using e-cargo bikes to reduce van journeys**
- **Testing of an e-cargo bike leading to wider adoption**
- **Turning food waste into a useful product via composter**
- **Developing a Passivhaus standard residential building**
- **Repurposing an existing building to a high environmental standard**
- **Establishing a social enterprise, Murtle Market**
- **Training and employment opportunities for young people**
- **Spreading benefits to the wider community through a shop and delivery service**

### 3.3.8 Bonnymuir Green: sedum living roof



**In 2021, the Vattenfall Unlock our Future Fund awarded £10,000 to the Bonnymuir Green Community Trust to repair the roof of the former bowling clubhouse and add a sedum roof. The clubhouse building is at the heart of a thriving community garden and provides a café and space for social events, art exhibitions and classes. The garden is very much valued by the local community in an urban area of Aberdeen. Its role in providing safe open space came into its own during the Covid pandemic.**

Bonnymuir Green is a community-owned green space in the Midsocket area of Aberdeen. It is on the site of a bowling club which closed in 2015, leaving the bowling green and clubhouse derelict. A group of local residents came together to form the Bonnymuir Green Community Trust and initiated a Community Right to Buy, purchasing the land in 2018. This was the first urban Right to Buy in the North East, and only the second in Scotland.

Now the Green is a community garden with an orchard, wildlife pond, wildflower area, flower beds, play area, soft fruit area, raised beds accessible to people with disabilities and the Bonny Café. The Trust also hosts regular social events, art exhibitions, gardening, workshops and well-being classes. The Green strives to be a beautiful, calm, educational, inclusive and fun place, built by volunteers for the whole community.

At the heart of the Green is the former clubhouse which dates from 1924.

Rather than taking the option of knocking the building down and starting afresh with a building more suited to modern standards, the Trust took the decision to refurbish it in line with their vision promoting sustainability and carbon reduction.

The roof of the clubhouse is partly pitched and partly flat and needed repair. The Trust's approach to repairs was one which combined necessary work with enhancements to the sustainability of the building through installing a sedum roof on the flat part and solar panels (funded by JTF Participatory Budgeting) on the pitched roof.

The sedum roof was laid by volunteers from the community on an EPDM rubber membrane. As part of the work, the roof was strengthened to hold the weight of the new roof using locally based suppliers.

The roof is now thriving and has made a positive difference to the biodiversity of the community garden, attracting bees, birds and other insects.

The community garden is very well used, attracting over 20,000 visitors a year. Volunteers play a big part in the Trust's work, with 12,000 volunteer hours recorded between 2022 and 2024. Since opening, the Green has hosted 49 events, 19 workshops and 17 art exhibitions.

Not long after Bonnymuir Green opened, like every other organisation, the Trust faced the disruption of the Covid pandemic. **However, as John Wigglesworth of the Trust explained:**

*"We made the decision not to 'lock down': we did the opposite. We wanted to be there for our community as we had the open space they needed. We had a booking system so that people could come into a safe space...people came here to watch the sun set. That's important when people live in flats without gardens. Covid was a step change for us in our connection to the community."*

As restrictions allowed, the Trust introduced outdoor events before being able to return to a mix of indoor and outdoor activities.

The experience of the Trust is now being shared across Scotland to support re-purposing of former bowling greens. The Trust is aware of seven locations where community organisations have drawn on their experience.

The Trust has an annual survey to get feedback from its members and ideas for the future. In the survey which took place at the end of 2023, 99% of those responding said that Bonnymuir Green had functioned as a positive space to support the mental health and well-being of the community and its visitors.

### **Community views of Bonnymuir Green**

(sourced from the annual survey conducted by Community Enterprise on behalf of the Bonnymuir Green Community Trust).

*“Thank you for all you do! What a welcoming space, thoughtful and dedicated staff and community gem!”*

*“Fabulous space - calm, peaceful, welcoming - keep going :)”*

*“Precious to have this amenity when there are so few safe places where parents can come and allow their children to play with freedom of knowing they’re within sight but getting a little independence.”*

*“We are grateful to belong to this community and proud that Bonnymuir is located in our neighbourhood.”*

*“Your purpose has inspired other communities in Aberdeen and Shire to follow your example.”*

*“Lovely staff, and such a beautiful productive growing space which supports biodiversity and wildlife.”*

*“Great team and special volunteers powering a simple but inspirational ethos.”*





*Craft and chat at Bonnymuir Green*

### **Impacts:**

- **Increased biodiversity through a living roof**
- **Repairing a well-used community building**
- **Local procurement of building services**
- **Providing an open space which supports mental health and well-being**
- **Providing a programme of workshops, classes, exhibitions and social activities**

### 3.4 Projects Not Achieving Anticipated Outcomes

The Unlock our Future Fund Strategy makes it clear that the fund will support creative and/or innovative approaches. In trying something new, there is always the risk of failure.

To date, only two projects which have received awards have not achieved the benefits hoped for when the awards were made.

Buchan Dial-A-Community Bus received an award of £15,000 to fund a seven-seater electric vehicle for use in an innovative 'on-demand' transport service which was known as Be-Link'D.

The Be-Link'D service was discontinued due to poor take up. An independent evaluation was carried out of the service by FJA Consulting Ltd in 2022 to determine why the project was unsuccessful and the lessons learned. The evaluation identified several issues in the design and delivery of the service. These included:

- The design of the service being influenced by receiving funding early in its development which assumed a particular model of delivery, rather than looking at all the potential options to address local needs
- Limited operating hours for services
- Users having to be referred to the service

Nevertheless, the funded vehicle continues to be used for Buchan Dial-A-Community Bus's other services which provide transport to vulnerable people in the fund area.

The Be-Link'D bus was the first electric vehicle purchased by the organisation. The Chair of Buchan Dial-A-Community Bus has stated that the experience of using an electric vehicle encouraged the organisation to electrify its fleet<sup>9</sup>. This process was aided by a successful bid to the Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund which secured £50,000 for an electric bus.

Girlguiding Kincardine and Deeside received an award of £2,000 for specialist input into revising the design of a proposed Girlguiding centre in Braemar.

---

<sup>9</sup> Telephone communication carried out as part of the evaluation.



The study was completed and showed striking results. The revised design showed that a building could be constructed at a similar cost to the original proposal, but reduce the energy needed for heating by 90%.

Unfortunately, the applicant decided not to progress with the new building. The trustees of Girlguiding Kincardine and Deeside held an all-day workshop to consider their options, and decided that the escalating costs of construction along with a difficult fundraising environment meant that the build was no longer feasible.

### 3.5 Impacts of Panel-led Activities

The delivery of the fund has had impacts beyond the individual projects being supported.

Face-to-face award events were held in 2019, 2022 and 2023. All previous awardees were invited to the 2022 and 2023 events. Presentations were given by projects, and grantees had the opportunity to network. At the 2023 event, presentations were also given by organisations which offer support services. These events gave projects the chance to share ideas and learning, as well as providing opportunities to publicise the fund.



The research studies undertaken (see [2.5.4](#)) have provided useful opportunities for the two students and early career researcher carrying out the studies to gain practical experience and enhance their CVs. Though the outputs of each study were interesting, and have explored issues of relevance to the fund, it is hard to see any direct impact of the work to date on shaping the fund.

Continuing with these research projects is very much compatible with the fund's objective of creating a legacy. However, when developing proposals for research projects, the panel may wish to place a greater emphasis on how the outputs could be utilised by the fund.

### **3.6 Fund Impacts – Conclusions and Implications for the Future**

The review of monitoring evidence submitted by funded projects to Foundation Scotland shows some strong qualitative evidence on the multiple impacts of the fund, which include demonstrating new low-carbon technologies, delivering services differently, creating better quality experiences and learning.

However, the initial reporting of quantitative data through the newly introduced impact framework raises some issues regarding the quality of the data provided. This is to be expected in a system which is attempting to capture a very wide range of impacts from a diverse set of funds. Foundation Scotland is aware of these limitations and is working on revising and reducing the number of metrics and considering how better to support grantees in reporting impact and learning.

Future monitoring of quantitative impacts has to capture a wide range of outcomes being achieved by the fund beyond carbon savings. To an extent, this is already reflected in the selected indicators in figure 8. However, comparing the current indicators available to grantees to the Theory of Change reveals some gaps, specifically in indicators reflecting:

- Increased climate awareness
- Reduced pollution
- Development of new or expanded activities
- Improved experience for users, volunteers and staff
- Local procurement and supply chains

- Increased biodiversity\*
- Increased air, soil and water quality
- Increased resilience to climate change impacts
- Increased ability to take action on climate change
- Financial sustainability – increased income and/or lower costs
- New enterprises and employment\*

*(\* denotes indicators currently available as part of the impact framework but not selected for the fund)*

The outcomes and indicators for the fund may need to expand further if the fund priorities change (see part 2), in particular to include metrics on skills/employability. Good practice in monitoring is considered further in section 2.4 of part 2.

The eight case studies presented provide more detail on the multiple benefits of the fund being felt by organisations and the communities they serve: The Bettridge Centre has shown how a very small improvement in heating controls made a big difference to the energy bills and financial sustainability of a community-owned leisure centre.

Community Energy Scotland's Community Futures programme provided early-stage support to inspire and support communities to come together and develop projects addressing climate change.

Meldrum Amenities Improvement Group has demonstrated that a low-carbon approach to delivery has helped to grow their team of volunteers who keep the town looking beautiful.

Strachan Village Hall has renovated an old building to a high standard, reducing costs and increasing income through attracting new users.

Abyone and District Men's Shed has established a new building which has very low running costs and provides a facility for both the men's shed and the wider community.

Inverurie Loco Works' new floodlights show that energy-efficient lighting is cheaper, safer and better quality.

Camphill School Aberdeen has an ambitious and wide-ranging programme of sustainability improvements supported by the fund which benefit young people at the school and the wider community.

Bonnymuir Green demonstrates the importance of green space in a city and offers a solution to fixing a leaky flat roof which also enhances the biodiversity of this well used community garden.

Not all funded projects have succeeded. However, as the fund explicitly encourages creative solutions and innovation this is to be expected. Learning has been generated by the two projects which didn't deliver their expected outcomes.

When it comes to assessing whether projects have achieved a lasting legacy, it is clear that many have, in terms of providing new community facilities. The legacy created by sharing knowledge and influence is harder to ascertain. However, many of the case study projects have been active in promoting and sharing what they have done with the wider community.

On the question of how the legacy of the fund can be enhanced, experience of the funded projects to date suggests that the following aspects should be considered when prioritising funding:

- **Community Wealth Building.** The importance of investing in community-owned assets, including income generating assets.
- **Sharing knowledge and learning.** Demonstrating the success of low-carbon projects is key to wider take up.
- **Skills and capacity building.** The capacity of third sector organisations, particularly those reliant on volunteers, needs to be supported to successfully deliver projects which can be complex and challenging.

Priorities for the fund and resulting recommendations are considered further in part 2.

## Annex: List of Awards

(awards subsequently withdrawn are greyed out)

2019	In 2019, the Fund received 33 applications totalling £415k – 11 awards were made	
Westhill and District Men's Shed	To purchase an electric arc welder, hydraulic mobile lift table and steel storage cupboard, to help in their work in recycling lawnmowers.	£1,000.00
Strachan Village Hall	To contribute to the cost of installing three wall-mounted air source heaters.	£10,000.00
Meldrum Amenities Improvement Group	To replace the group's old diesel tractor with a suitable electric utility vehicle.	£15,000.00
Aboyne and District Men's Shed	To contribute to the building of the Aboyne and Mid-Deeside Community Shed through the provision of solar panels.	£8,967.00
Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust	To contribute to the purchase of an electric vehicle to tow the group's boats and move equipment and staff between venues.	£15,000.00
Community Energy Scotland Limited	To fund community engagement sessional staff who will work to build the capacity of six local community organisations across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire to develop innovative community energy projects and build the sustainability of local community facilities.	£15,000.00
Fittie Community Development Trust	To contribute to the purchase and installation of an environmentally sustainable heating system in the community hall.	£8,536.00



Tarland Development Group	To contribute to the development of an education facility in a walled garden just outside Tarland which will benefit several local groups which lack sufficient facilities at present.	£15,000.00
PrototAU	To contribute to costs associated with the group's participation in the Shell Eco-marathon 2020 and improving the hydrogen-fuelled vehicle's performance.	£5,000.00
Tigh a'Chomainn Camphill Limited	To contribute to the purchase of an electric vehicle.	£10,000.00
Huntly and District Development Trust	To fund a feasibility study into the development of a network of community-owned electric car charging points.	£10,000.00
		£113,503.00
<b>2020</b>	<b>In 2020, the Fund received 24 applications totalling £314k – 12 awards were made</b>	
Aberdeen Association of Social Service (VSA)	To part-fund solar panels for a new residential mental health care facility in Aberdeen.	£10,000.00
Alford and District Men's Shed	To optimise the renewable energy system for Alford Men's Shed by installation of a solar thermal and battery storage, enhancing a community facility used by older men and the wider community.	£15,000.00
Buchan Community Farm Ltd	To fund a switch to renewable energy through installation of Solar PV, supporting the Community Farm's work with vulnerable young people.	£5,500.00
Buchan Dial-A-Community Bus	To fund the purchase of a new seven-seater electric vehicle which will be used to provide free-of-charge, accessible and suitably timed transport to those who cannot afford public transport or who find it difficult to access public transport for a variety of reasons.	£15,000.00



Camphill Rudolf Steiner Schools Ltd	To fund the purchase of one cargo e-bike to create a new and environmentally sustainable transportation method for the students to deliver food and household products to the school's residential houses.	£5,500.00
Community Food Initiatives North East	To fund the purchase of a new electric cargo bicycle as part of CFINE's 'Vegaroonitooon' service providing access to fresh food for people in Aberdeen who experience food poverty, are isolated, and/or experience health, mobility or other barriers.	£5,500.00
Newburgh Public Hall	To upgrade the hall heating system through installing an air source heat pump, supporting a community facility.	£13,860.00
Peterhead Sailing Club	To fund installation of solar panels, a battery and an electric car charging point, to support the work of the sailing club with a range of groups, including young people and those with disabilities.	£13,822.00
ProtoTAU	To contribute to the development and build of the prototype hydrogen car taking part in the 2021 Shell Eco-marathon and the travel costs of the ProtoTAU team of students from Aberdeen University.	£1,690.00
Tarland Development Group	To contribute to the costs of constructing an education facility, in particular funding the added cost of a living roof.	£8,404.00
Tarves Parish Church	To fund an air source heating system as part of the redevelopment of Tarves Youth Hall.	£15,000.00
The Barn (Woodend Arts Ltd)	To replace and upgrade stage lighting and house lights from halogen to LED in a community arts space.	£15,000.00
		£124,276.00

2021	In 2021, the Fund received 42 applications totalling £555k – 17 awards were made	
Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust	To fund an electric outboard motor, battery and charger for the Trust's small rescue boat based at Peterhead, replacing an 8HP conventionally fuelled outboard.	£9,316.00
Blackdog Residents Association	To fund the first phase in site investigations, including a topographical survey and utility scan, required for the design and construction of a pedestrian bridge to access Blackdog beach.	£4,440.00
Bonnymuir Green Community Trust	To fund the repair of the clubhouse roof, including the installation of a sedum matting living roof to the main flat roof section to reduce energy losses and increase biodiversity.	£10,000.00
Camphill Wellbeing Trust	To fund energy-efficient lighting in the sports hall of the Compass development.	£4,200.00
Camphill Rudolf Steiner Schools	To introduce a hot composting system which would eliminate the need to purchase compost from external sources, significantly increasing the sustainability of the Murtle Estate organic food and herb production.	£5,074.00
Culter & District Men's Shed	To fund the purchase of materials to insulate the gable ends of the men's shed and so improve the energy efficiency of the building.	£1,341.00
Earth & Worms	To provide greener facilities and improve access for volunteers by installing a compost toilet in the community garden for the benefit of the local community.	£5,000.00
Fittie Community Development Trust	To fully insulate the community hall and replace the windows in order to reduce energy consumption, maximise the effectiveness of the air source heat pump and raise climate awareness in the community.	£5,000.00

Girlguiding Kincardine & Deeside	To part-fund a feasibility study relating to the new Sheiling#2 Girlguiding residential centre in Braemar. The objective is to further the development of an exemplar zero-carbon building providing facilities for Girlguiding groups and the wider community.	£2,000.00
Meldrum Amenities Improvement Group	To fund a solar PV system to provide the power for the electric utility vehicle and its water pump for maintaining floral displays.	5,349.00
Newburgh Public Hall	To fund the purchase and installation of an 8kW photovoltaic array, linked to a Tesla Powerwall 2 battery unit, to improve energy efficiency and demonstrate the technologies to the wider community.	15,000.00
Panthers Basketball Club	To fund solar lighting on the outdoor basketball and netball courts at Mineralwell Park in Stonehaven to allow for greater access and usage by club members and the wider community.	£2,000.00
Port Erroll Public Hall	To part-fund the installation of solar PV and battery storage and at Port Erroll Public Hall, and hence reduce the running costs of the hall.	£7,262.00
Stella's Voice	To fund the purchase of an electric Nissan E-NV200 delivery van for use in Aberdeenshire and the surrounding area for the collection and delivery of larger items of furniture and household goods and the collection and distribution of food provision to those in need.	£15,000.00
University of Aberdeen	Feasibility study exploring the potential of scaling up microgeneration from Vertical Axis Wind Turbines (VAWT) retrofitted into existing public and private infrastructure.	£1,872.00

Woodside Sports Complex	To fund upgrades to the internal clubhouse lighting and floodlighting, replacing all current lighting with LED and replacing mobile floodlights with fixed LED floodlights, in order to improve energy efficiency and the effectiveness of the lighting.	£5,853.00
Zero Carbon Daviot	To fund a feasibility study into retrofitting three property archetypes found in the Daviot area, as a precursor to the development of a community-led retrofit programme.	£2,000.00
		£110,707.00
<b>2022</b>	<b>In 2022, the Fund received 27 applications totalling £406k – 12 awards were made</b>	
Aberchirder Village Hall	To part-fund insulation, air source heat pumps, PV and battery to improve the energy efficiency of the village hall.	£15,000.00
Aberdeenshire Sailing Trust	To fund an electric outboard motor and spare battery for the Trust’s rescue boat at Loch of Skene, replacing a 6HP petrol outboard, to support the delivery of sailing activities and reduce carbon emissions.	£3,028.00
Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action	To fund the upgrade of lighting in the Magpie shop to improve energy efficiency and the customer experience.	£2,324.00
Alford Valley Community Railway	To part-fund energy efficiency improvements, in particular double glazing, of the Alford Valley Community Railway station building, as part of the initiative to bring the railway back into use and establish the station building as a community facility.	£15,000.00
Camphill Rudolf Steiner Schools Ltd	To contribute to the cost of the installation of PV Panels, including a battery storage system on a new residential home for young people with complex additional support needs.	£12,500.00

Charlie House	To part-fund insulation and solar PV on a new specialist support centre for children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions.	£30,000.00
Inverurie Loco Works Football Club	To part-fund the replacement of floodlights with LED to improve energy efficiency and illumination levels on the football pitch, in order to reduce costs and help to increase usage during the winter periods.	£15,000.00
Logie Coldstone Trust	To part-fund solar PV and batteries to reduce energy costs and increase the resilience of the village hall.	£15,000.00
Newton Dee Store	To part-fund the purchase of a Citroen e-Dispatch with a drawer storage system for deliveries from the Newton Dee Store.	£15,000.00
Seed Box Ltd	To fund solar PV panels and battery storage at the relocated and expanded horticulture and outdoor therapy centre.	£13,606.00
Bon Accord Heritage	To fund a retrofit energy appraisal of Bon Accord Baths, to inform the development of an energy-efficient refurbishment, and ultimately to bring the baths back into public use.	£1,995.00
Newtonhill Community Hall Association	To fund thermostat controls, lighting sensors and upgrades to LED lighting in the Bettridge Centre, to reduce energy usage.	£1,922.00
		£140,375.00
<b>2023</b>	<b>In 2023 the fund received 29 applications totalling £490k – 16 awards were made</b>	
Meldrum Amenities Improvement Group	To fund seed propagators to grow flowers for community displays.	£1,576.50
SEChange- Slains Environmental Action for change	To install a water supply and create raised beds and an access gate for a community garden area.	£2,000.00

Beannachar Ltd (operates as Beannachar Camphill Community)	To fund repairs to the greenhouse and polytunnel to increase food growing, and to purchase an electric mower and cargo bike to reduce carbon emissions and facilitate work experience for trainees.	£14,709.00
Grey Street Aberdeen Allotment Association	To fund a compost toilet, shed and solar panels with battery for the benefit of allotment users to improve facilities, save water and reduce the need to travel.	£4,593.00
Aberdeen University Student's Association	To support sustainable food and active travel initiatives for three years for students and the wider community.	£13,000.00
Inverurie Environmental Improvement Group	To part-fund an electric van to be used for local horticultural projects.	£15,000.00
Aberdeen Mosque and Islamic Centre	To fund two water fountains at Aberdeen Mosque.	£1,700.00
The Boddam Hub	To insulate the Hub and install solar panels to improve comfort and the energy efficiency of the community building.	£9,460.00
Granite City Taekwondo	To upgrade Tillydrone Community Centre with improvements to insulation, heating and lighting to reduce carbon emissions, save money and create a better facility for users.	£15,000.00
Culter and District Men's Shed	To install solar panels and air source heating for the Men's Shed to reduce carbon emissions and bills and make the group more sustainable.	£15,000.00
Glass Community Association	To install insulation, ventilation and contribute to the cost of solar panels to reduce costs and improve comfort for users of the community hall.	£15,000.00



Crathes Public Hall Trust	To upgrade the community building's single-glazing as part of wider refurbishment work to improve energy efficiency.	£7,500.00
Fraserburgh Football Club	To contribute to the costs of installing LED floodlights at the football stadium.	£10,000.00
King George V Memorial Hall	To contribute to the costs of insulation and solar panels to save energy and reduce fuel bills to make the facility more sustainable.	£12,200.00
Camphill Rudolf Steiner Schools Ltd (operating as Camphill School Aberdeen)	To contribute to the costs of retrofitting a disused building into a zero-waste shop, including the costs of insulation, LED lighting, triple-glazed windows and an air source heat pump.	£6,926.00
Blackdog Residents' Association	To construct a bridge to improve access to the beach from Blackdog village.	£30,000.00
		£173,664.50
	<b>Total – all years</b>	<b>£662,525.50</b>

VATTENFALL 



**Foundation  
Scotland**

