

Fund Report



EDF Renewables Dorenell Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund

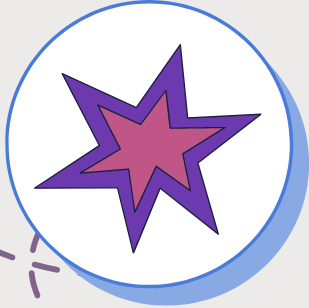
**Year 5 Report
April 2023 - March 2024**



**Foundation
Scotland**



The Year at a Glance



**18 grants
awarded, to a total
value of £433,415**



**External fund review
completed to
evaluate first three
years of grant making**



**Community action
plan priorities
updated following
local consultation**



**£1,623,651 awarded
to local projects since
fund opened in 2020.**



Highlights

Dorenell Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund has now delivered four years of grantmaking activity since its launch in 2020, with five years of donations from EDF Renewables.

This report covers activity from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 when three rounds of grant making resulted in awards for 13 organisations, delivering 18 projects. Awards include activity in each of the four fund communities – Cabrach, Dufftown, Glenlivet and Glenrinnes – along with several projects which will benefit the wider fund area, from the Cross Area sub-fund.

This includes an award of £161,400 (with a further £108,000 committed in 2025) for the second stage of the panel commissioned footpath project which aims to link the fund communities with walking trails over a two-year period, following on from the feasibility and design study work carried out last year.

General grant making awards ranged from smaller scale projects to provide sports equipment and football strips to youngsters, to larger capital projects to improve a range of community facilities such as Dufftown Community Centre and Dufftown Bowling Club.

A wide range of activities was also supported including a two-year programme of cycle training and the continuation of a project delivered by the Cabrach Trust to engage the community with local heritage.

There was continued funding for Dufftown & District Community Association's development staff member for a further two years, to ensure this role continues to provide support for a number of key local projects including the Clocktower and a plan for affordable housing.

There was also support for vulnerable families dealing with autism with an award for Autism & Neurodiversity North Scotland to begin delivering services in the fund area.

An evaluation consultant conducted an external review of the fund's first three years of grant making, to update the fund strategy which details how the fund is managed, and to review the priorities in the community action plan which were originally compiled in 2018 and have now been brought up to date.

The new fund strategy will be adopted in the coming year, as the panel of local decision makers continues to ensure that the fund delivers community benefit and value for money across the fund area.

Key changes to the strategy include the setting up of an emergency funding process where short notice decisions can be made by the panel outwith the usual funding rounds, and the option for groups to apply for longer term strategic funding awards and ongoing staff posts. Strategic awards are large, multi-year projects designed to bring about transformational change in the fund area.

All awards should be in line with the refreshed priorities in the Dorenell community development plan.



Smart new football strips for Dufftown Under 12s

Fund Strategy Review complete

A Fund Strategic Review was carried out between August 2023 and January 2024. The aim was to assess and learn about what the fund is achieving in the communities it serves, ensuring that the distribution methods remain fit for purpose for all the community sub-funds in order to effectively meet community aspirations over the next three to five years.

An external evaluator was contracted to ensure this was done in a thorough and impartial manner. As well as reviewing information on awards made in the period, an online survey, stakeholder interviews and workshops and public consultations were carried out to inform the study.

Case studies were prepared on a range of projects to demonstrate funding impact and lessons learned. The proposed revisions to the fund strategy and to the list of community priorities were considered by members of the fund panel and Dorenell Forum in February 2024 and amended to reflect the feedback received. The full report can be found on [the fund webpage here](#).

In the three years covered by the review, £1,273,764 was allocated to 61 projects throughout the fund area, with a further £57,964 paid to the community associations in each community to distribute as microgrants (awards under £1,000 generally to smaller local groups and projects).

Of the 61 awards in this initial period, 53 in number, 85% in value, relate specifically to indicative projects in the 2018 to 2023 Dorenell Community Development Plan.

Of the eight awards which are not indicative projects, six are directly relevant to the themes and priorities in the plan. The priority theme of community and recreational facilities, groups and activities received most funding in the period with 44% of all awards relating to building improvements and equipment, and 18% relating to staff costs in this category.

The review work has led to an updated list of community priorities and indicative projects and this will be used to guide grant making and commissioning going forward.

The study has also led to the following changes in fund distribution, while keeping the main grant programme on a similar basis of maximum £30,000 awards:

- **Applications over £30,000** will be considered for strategic awards and ongoing staff posts. Strategic awards are large, multi-year projects designed to bring about transformational change in the fund area, and in line with the priorities in the DCDP.
- **Commissioning projects and offering repayable grants** will still feature and be promoted more widely.
- **A new category of funding emergency awards** will be set up where the panel can agree to make awards outside normal grant cycles in the event of an emergency or unexpected occurrences severely impacting on the communities in the fund area. Applicants will contact the fund adviser in the first instance and applications will then be decided by email if possible or short notice online meeting if more complex.

Fund Innovation

Footpath project update – large scale strategic funding confirmed for Stage 2

The Dorenell Community Links Footpath project took a considerable stride forward with the delivery stage of the project approved by the panel. A total award of £269,400 over two years was approved to manage the project and deliver on the capital works required. This is the first major work to be commissioned by the Dorenell Panel and represents a significant partnership project between communities and other key stakeholders.

This stage of the project is to implement the findings from the first phase which investigated the potential to develop a network of footpaths connecting communities in the fund area, and produced a designed and costed plan. The steering group put this delivery stage out to tender and has now contracted Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland (OATS) to take this work forward. Over the next two years, OATS will work through the prioritised action plan, liaise with landowners, fundraise for additional capital costs, manage contractors to create the path network, as well as plan for path maintenance and route promotion in the longer term.

The project steering group includes Moray Council Access Officer, EDF Dorenell Ranger team, Crown Estate Scotland, the Glenlivet Development Officer (a post funded by the Dorenell Community Fund) and two of the Dorenell panel members who are also representatives of local community groups, with support from the Foundation Scotland Community Fund Adviser. The steering group will oversee and manage this project, reporting back to the panel, with contracts and invoicing etc managed by Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust on their behalf.



EDF Ranger and paths steering group member Stephen Reeves

Cross area event – Communities Working Together

On Saturday 20th April 2024, the first cross area event was held to bring community groups throughout the Dorenell Fund area together. The idea to organise the event came from a meeting of local development staff in Dufftown, Glenlivet and the Cabrach. The aim was to raise awareness of the benefit that the EDF Renewables Fund has already brought to the area through sharing information and experience about local projects and activity delivered to date, and encourage communities to work together on future projects.

The event took the form of a bus tour around the four communities. Around 20 participants, representing a variety of community groups, had plenty of opportunities to network and chat as well as hearing from a range of local projects at various locations over the course of the full day.

Beginning with breakfast rolls at the Acorn Centre in the Cabrach, there was a presentation on the work of the Cabrach Trust and the collaboration with Cabrach Reconnections art project. Moving on to Dufftown, where the community association is developing an ambitious affordable housing project, there was a session from the Communities Housing Trust about the support that they can offer rural communities who are tackling this key issue.



Lunch at Glenrinnies Community Centre was followed by a facilitated network session, delivered by tsiMoray which helped participants focus on potential for future collaboration between the various glens and villages, and begin to share ideas for potential projects. Finally, the bus headed to Glenlivet where participants enjoyed a short stroll from the distillery to Blairfindy Castle to hear about the community efforts to celebrate and promote local heritage and dark skies, before heading back to the Cabrach. A final optional stroll there around the Discovery Trails rounded off a brilliant day of ideas and inspiration, with new contacts made and future plans hatched.

Hearing about heritage projects in Glenlivet

Making a Difference

Case Study #1

Dufftown Community Centre – Fit for the Future

Dufftown Community Centre (DCC) was awarded £29,500 in May 2023 to upgrade flooring and kitchen units, install acoustic sound panels and create additional storage space to improve the centre for groups and hirers.

Since taking on full community ownership of the centre in 2020, the committee have managed to make it a going concern with sufficient income from hall rental to cover core costs (primarily energy, insurance and cleaning). DCC has carried out improvements with support from this Fund and others - installing insulation, new boiler and LED lighting with an award of £19,207 in 2020, and upgrading toilets and storage in 2021 with an award of £27,506.

The 2023 award marked the completion of planned improvements and transformation of the facility. As a result energy bills have decreased and hall usage and hires have gone up.

Committee member Amanda describes the work done and the impact of the project:

“We used the grant money to get a new sports floor in the hall, new flooring in the lobby and also in the kitchen and lounge area. The floor in the hall has made such a difference to the groups using it. Not only is it better for sports etc but it looks clean. We also painted the hall which has totally transformed it. The soundproof panels have made a big difference, you can now have a conversation even if the young people are playing sport and shouting. We got the lobby roof lowered which then became a storage space with an easy access ladder. Doing this not only gave us a much-needed storage space but will help with lowering our heating bills. We also painted the lobby, so it looks brilliant with its new flooring. The lounge area has carpet tiles and also looks fantastic. The beauty of the tiles is if there happens to be a large stain we can just change the required tiles.”

“We also had another grant which was just short on getting our kitchen replaced so with your top up this was achieved. Since we have had our improvements, we have managed to get three new user groups which has helped keep our numbers up. I feel that this is because the centre is more inviting with its new look.”



Speyside Youth enjoy an indoor snowball fight!

Further spin off benefits have been more volunteer input and other facility improvements:

“During the project the volunteers rallied together and gave all the areas a paint. This made the whole project complete and totally transforms the centre. The centre is well used and is fit for purpose for the future. As long as we have regular user groups, we will continue to be a vital part of the community. We successfully applied for a micro grant to put electricity in to the garden so that we could offer that area to users all year round. We have just had internet installed into the building which mean we can get an app to control the heating which will make it more efficient and help the user groups deliver their activities. We will also be able to offer Wi-Fi to people that wish to use the centre for training etc.”

There has been a lot of positive feedback from users of all ages. The Beaver Scouts leader reports:

“We have been using the community centre for a number of years. Before the upgrades the centre was dated. The biggest improvement for us as a user group is the flooring and soundproofing that has been upgraded in the hall. Having 16 children between the age of 5 and 8 things could get very noisy and the echoes before were deafening when they would be playing and doing activities however this has been greatly reduced by the flooring and soundproofing panels that have been fitted. The community centre now has a welcoming feeling and is a pleasure for us to run our group from. The newly refurbished kitchen is hygienic, bright and allows us to do cooking with our group which they love. “Having access to two toilets is also a huge benefit as when we use the community centre for sleepovers it gives space for our young people to change in privacy which is important. The improvements to the space outdoors mean that we can access the garden even in wet weather due to the covered area which has also been used on several sleepover events we have ran. Overall the community centre improvements have been welcomed by us as a user group and the parents of the young people we cater for. It is fresh, bright and very welcoming for anyone who wishes to use it.”



New kitchen and lounge facility looking sharp!

And from slightly older residents:

“The B.A.L.L group is really pleased with the new floor for our activities. Keep fit is much easier now the floor is nonslip and even our games we play have improved because the floor does not have an uneven slope.”

Case Study #2

Outfit Moray – Action in the Outdoors

Outfit Moray is a charity based in Lossiemouth, whose aim is to make a positive difference to the lives of young people, families and communities in Moray through the provision of a wide range of outdoor learning programmes, a bike recycling project and residential respite breaks. They work with local schools, charities, youth organisations, community groups and families, and use outdoor activities as a tool to build confidence, improve wellbeing, and increase independence and resilience. They have a focus on supporting young people in Moray aged 8-18 who are vulnerable or disadvantaged in some way. They also run a bike recycling project and offer a range of work placements and volunteering opportunities.

Outfit Moray was awarded £17,130 in 2022 to deliver a one-year programme of cycling activity. This project demonstrated a range of positive impacts for children and adults alike and is estimated to have benefitted 281 people in the fund area. Through this work, Outfit Moray staff realised that there was a higher-than-average proportion of children, particularly those who lived rurally, who could not cycle at all. Rural residents are not necessarily "outdoorsy" and the lack of quiet tarmac areas to practice cycling can be a barrier to learning to ride a bike at all.

One of the findings from year one was that it takes time to build relationships with local groups and that schools in particular need a long lead in time to plan activity and a reassurance that groups can provide long term support rather than one off events. Having developed relationships with the schools, OM was keen to build on that trust and continue to support them.

In 2023 the group was awarded funding of £48,780 over two years to build on the success of the initial project, to deliver more cycle training and activity sessions for children and adults, to increase skills and confidence, encourage people to make the most of their local outdoor area and develop a culture of cycling and active travel in the area.

The project is at the halfway stage, so Outfit Moray recently reported on activity to date, working with local partners such as primary schools, youth groups, rangers and community organisations.

Feedback from teaching staff highlights the added benefits of outdoor activities, as well as the basic skill of learning to ride a bike.

“The children developed their social skills, developed teamwork and worked with new people.”

“During the off-road cycling sessions, the children were able to think more for themselves and solve problems.”

“Working outside and moving is very helpful for their mental health. One child noted that it helped with their anxiety.”

“From my point of view, I think the sessions planned for 2024/25 will build on the skills they have already developed and I like that Outfit Moray are using the facilities in the local area. From the children's comments, it is clear that they really value the input and it is good to see them link the activities to other aspects of their learning and lives.”

“The class were delighted with themselves to be able to see their skills and experience grow with cycling over a week and see it consolidated with the challenge of cycling around the local area.”

The young people themselves, reported that the sessions were fun, educational and gave them fresh perspectives on thinking through risk and coping with challenge in a resilient way.



An additional element of project delivery which had not been planned for originally was to work with the local on-site nurseries – the Cabin and Mortlach. This was a great opportunity to start introducing skills to younger children, with the added benefit of providing the staff with training too.

"The biking sessions had a significant impact on both the ability and confidence of our 18 young bikers. With input from Outfit Moray, the Cabin staff were able to experience first-hand how to progress each stage of our bikers onto the next level. All the helpful and insightful tips and tricks of the trade really made a difference and we were amazed at how quickly the bikers took them on and progressed."

"It gave staff the confidence to know what to do next and we felt empowered and excited to put the skills and knowledge into practice. Big thanks to Outfit Moray for the input and for showing us how to progress onto the next stage."

Some of the community activity for adults did not go ahead as anticipated due to some planned partnership working falling through. Instead, there are plans to deliver activity days in Glenlivet and Dufftown over the summer with other community partners.

Tony Brown, CEO of Outfit Moray sums up the first year of activity:

"The programme that has been generously supported by EDF Dorenell Windfarm, has created fantastic opportunities for young people in the catchment area to learn new skills, deepen their understanding of the amazing natural environment surrounding them, enhance resilience and actively develop their potential through outdoor learning and adventure. The programme built on the foundations laid in the previous year, that focussed on cycle training and expanded horizons to enable an appreciation of the full range of outdoor opportunities in the area, whilst positively impacting mental health and wellbeing. We look forward to continuing this development into a second year, with a full and exciting programme."

Fund Distribution

There were three rounds of grant-making, with application deadlines at the end of March, July and November. A total of 22 grant applications were received.

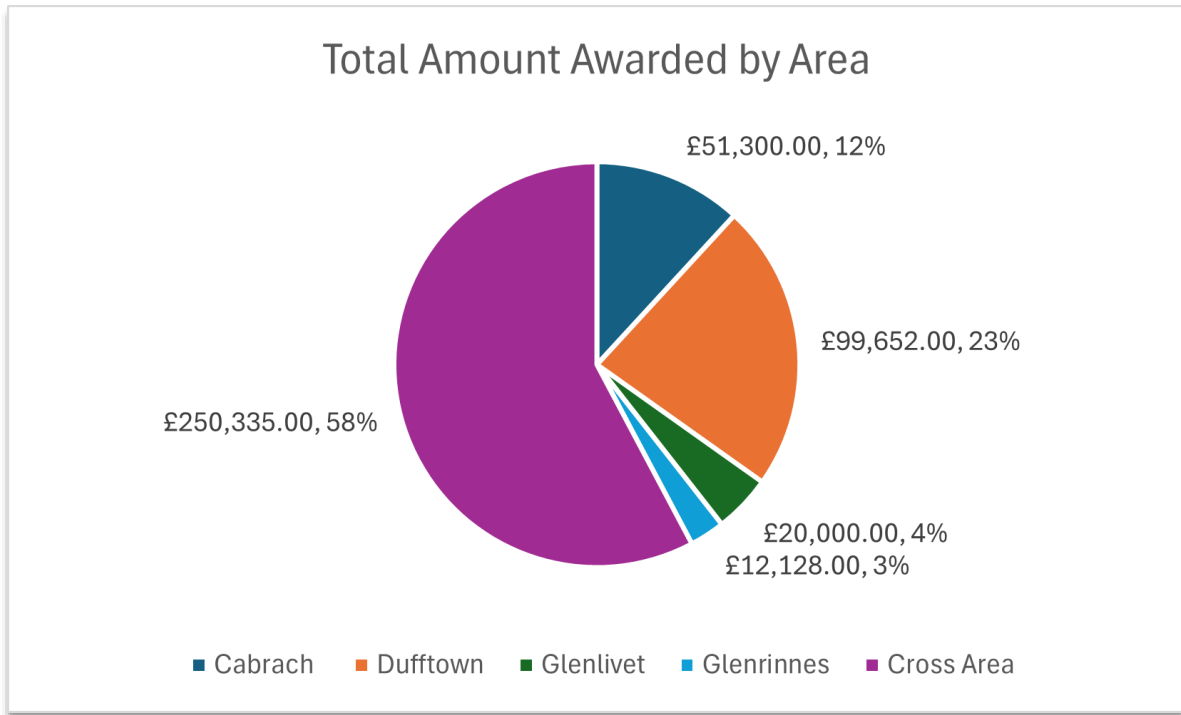
Three applications were subsequently withdrawn by applicants prior to decisions being made – two related to a change in capacity of the group which was going through major committee member changes, and one due to a change in priorities for the organisation. One application was rejected due to insufficient evidence of local demand for the project. 18 applications were successful in being awarded a grant. Excluding the withdrawn applications, this gives a conversion rate from application to award of 95%.

A total of £433,415 was awarded to support 18 projects, from a total of 13 organisations, giving an average award of £24,079. The smallest award made was £650 to a martial arts club to contribute to cost of equipment, specifically floor mats, head and body protectors and sparring pads.

The largest award was £161,400, to fund the delivery stage of the Dorenell Community Links Path project to improve access in the fund area, and provide a budget for initial capital works to create the path network.

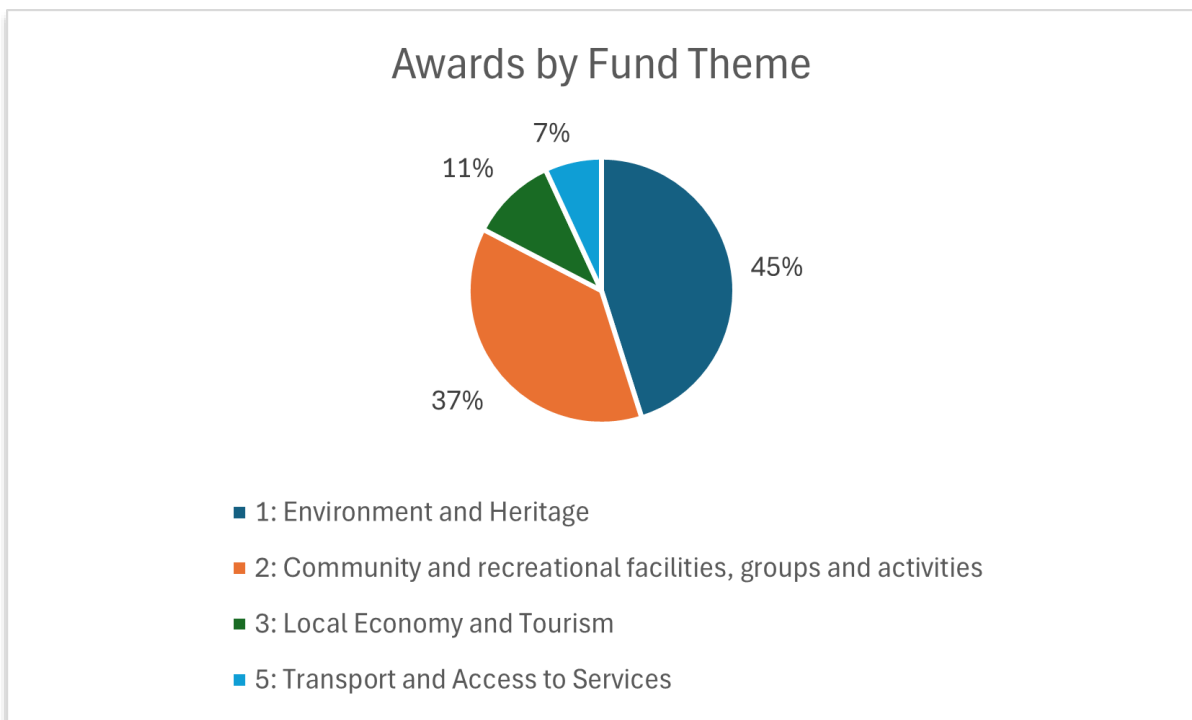
This project is the second phase of a panel commissioned project to create a footpath network connecting the Dorenell communities. Additional funds have been committed from the Cross Area sub fund in 2024 and 2025 making this the largest project funded to date.

Awards were made for projects that will benefit each of the four communities served by the Fund, as well as for several projects that will provide benefit across all four communities. The chart below shows the amount and percentage of funding awarded in each area. A total of 13 different organisations received awards, all of which were not-for-profit groups. Details of all awards are provided on the following pages.



Awards were made for projects contributing to four of the five themes highlighted in the Dorenell Community Development Plan 2018 - 2023.

The chart below shows the proportion of funding awarded by theme, according to the primary theme addressed by each project. It is recognised however that many projects will deliver against more than one theme.



Awards Summary

Cabrach

Reference	Applicant	Project Summary	Project Cost	Award	Theme
FR-0070601	The Cabrach Trust	To continue the Cabrach Lives project for a further two years, employing professionals to engage the community and create resources focussing on the present and future for local residents, building on the heritage focus of the initial project.	£30,000.00	£30,000.00	1: Environment and Heritage
FR-0073537	The Cabrach Trust	To fund professional fees to upgrade Inverharroch Cottage to improve tourism infrastructure in the Cabrach.	£21,300.00	£21,300.00	3: Local Economy and Tourism

Dufftown

Reference	Applicant	Project Summary	Project Cost	Award	Theme
FR-0070062	Dufftown Bowling Club	To upgrade the toilet facilities to improve the safety, hygiene and accessibility of the club pavilion for members and visitors.	£33,994.00	£25,000.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
FR-0070475	Dufftown Community Centre	To upgrade flooring and kitchen units, install acoustic sound panels and create additional storage space to improve the centre for groups and hirers.	£39,606.00	£29,500.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
FR-0073534	Mortlach Memorial Hall Dufftown	To contribute to professional fees relating to a hall extension, and to upgrade the main hall heating system with a new boiler, to improve energy efficiency and provide a better community facility.	£24,085.00	£18,063.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities

FR-0073378	Sansum Martial Arts Speyside	To contribute towards the cost of equipment for the club, specifically floor mats, head and body protectors and sparring pads.	£3,309.51	£650.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
FR-0073424	Dufftown and District Community Association	To part fund Community Development Leader post for two years to deliver projects and events to support community development in Dufftown and District.	£99,862.00	£24,183.00	3: Local Economy and Tourism
FR-0071611	Dufftown Football Club Under 12s	To purchase 50 new football kits for all players in Dufftown Under 12s Football Club to facilitate participation in sport.	£2,655.00	£2,256.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities

Glenlivet

Reference	Applicant	Project Summary	Project Cost	Award	Theme
FR-0076850	Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust	To fund a feasibility study on options to upgrade Glenlivet Hall to improve energy efficiency and facilities to create a more sustainable and functional community space.	£15,000.00	£15,000.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
FR-0076811	Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust	To purchase a ride on mower to maintain the grounds around Glenlivet Public Hall.	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities

Glenrinnnes

Reference	Applicant	Project Summary	Project Cost	Award	Theme
FR-0071428	Glenrinnnes Community Centre	To fund a pool/table tennis table and seating to encourage social and recreational activities to improve health and wellbeing.	£8,000.00	£8,000.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
FR-0073390	Glenrinnnes Community Centre	To restore and reinstate the historic roadside fountain in Glenrinnnes to conserve local heritage.	£4,128.00	£4,128.00	1: Environment and Heritage

Cross Area

Reference	Applicant	Project Summary	Project Cost	Award	Theme
FR-0070447	Outf!t-Moray	To deliver a 2-year long programme of cycle training and events for children and adults to encourage more people to be active in the local area.	£24,390.00	£48,780.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
FR-0070085	Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust	To deliver a shared learning event for community groups in the fund area to share good practice and develop ideas for collaborative projects.	£3,800.00	£3,800.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
FR-0076859	Autism & Neurodiversity North Scotland	To provide tailored support to individuals and their families to improve outcomes for autistic and neurodivergent people in the fund area.	£38,085.00	£29,925.00	5: Transport and Access to Services
FR-0076394	Roths Tennis Club 2021	To contribute to costs of resurfacing three tennis courts to help sustain the recreational facility.	£56,305.00	£2,500.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities

FR-0076631	Speyside Children's Arts Festival	Towards hire costs of a stretch tent with matting and festoon lighting to facilitate weather proof festival activity including performances, workshops and creative sessions for the benefit of young people and their families in Upper Speyside.	£52,784.00	£3,930.00	2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities
FR-0077286	Tomintoul & Glenlivet Development Trust	To fund a project officer for two years to implement the Dorenell Community Links Path project to improve access in the fund area, and provide a budget for initial capital works to create the path network.	£369,275.00	£161,400.00	1: Environment and Heritage

Finance

Fund Statement (Summary): 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024

	Cabrach	Dufftown	Glenlivet & Inveravon*	Glenrinnnes	Cross Area	Total
Balances brought forward	£182,151.61	£76,041.52	£182,462.64	£350,432.11	£209,699.64	£1,000,787.52
Income						
EDF Renewables	£115,136.23	£115,136.23	£115,136.23	£115,136.23	£115,136.21	£575,681.13
Interest	£5,537.08	£2,102.62	£6,634.47	£10,389.33	£5,301.00	£29,964.50
Repayable Grant	£0.00	£0.00	£6,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£6,000.00
Expenditure						
Grants awarded - paid	£80,361.33	£120,310.65	£96,468.97	£19,628.00	£146,606.80	£463,375.75
Grants awarded - pending	£15,000.00	£31,851.00	£0.00	£31,880.91	£189,515.00	£268,246.91
Fund expenses	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Grants returned/cancelled	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£8,000.00	£14,148.40	£22,148.40
Balances carried forward	£207,463.59	£41,118.72	£213,764.37	£432,448.76	£8,163.45	£902,958.89

* £48,000 of £60,000 repayable grant to be repaid (at £6,000 per year til 2032)

Panel

The community fund panel met three times in the year in order to make decisions on applications. Panel members continue to give generously of their time and local knowledge to ensure that all grants made reflect the community priorities. Further time was committed to the review process including involvement in stakeholder groups and attending a specific panel session where the review findings were presented and discussed before being finalised.

There was also a separate meeting held in the autumn to discuss the different levels of demand within each community. The Panel acknowledged the varying levels of demand within each area and which reflects the different capacities and infrastructure within each community, but there was a continued general agreement in favour of the principle of equal shares across the four areas. All areas are confident that projects will come forward over time.

There was also recognition that different areas had different issues to address - rural disadvantage and lack of services in some areas versus a high demand to upgrade several neglected community facilities in the area of higher population. The discussion from this meeting was fed into the wider review process, and the issue will continue to be monitored over time.

Publicity

Ongoing promotion of the Fund was achieved through various methods, with a key focus on press and social media channels that have strong local followings. Regular adverts and articles have been placed in the one current community newspaper – the Dufftown Speirins. Thistledown, which focussed on Glenlivet and Inveravon is not currently in publication.

Regional press coverage was achieved as below with regular press releases sent to the Press and Journal and the Northern Scot in particular, to promote approaching Fund deadlines and highlight recent awards.

There was additional publicity generated by the fund review work which included a range of stakeholder meetings and an online survey.

Press coverage:

Date	Publication	Headline
13.7.2023	Northern Scot	Dorenell windfarm gives £145 to local groups
15.11.2023	Northern Scot	Thousands distributed to Moray organisations in latest round of awards from Dorenell Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund
27.2.2024	Northern Scot	Path project is given a £270k boost by Dorenell Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund
Summer 2023	Dufftown Speirins	Latest Dorenell Awards Boost Community Activity Plus article on Speyside Youth
Autumn 2023	Dufftown Speirins	Dorenell Community Fund Third year of awards
Winter 2023	Dufftown Speirins	From fountains to football strips Plus articles on Speyside Youth and Dufftown Community Centre
Spring 2024	Dufftown Speirins	Big Step Forward for Dorenell Footpath Project Plus articles on Cabrach Reconnections and Speyside Youth

Foundation Scotland

EDF renewables

**DORENELL WIND FARM
COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND**

APPLY
Grants up to £30,000

For community projects in
Cabrach, Dufftown & District,
Glenlivet & Inveravon or Glenrinnnes

Deadlines
31st March; 31st July; 30th November

Visit
foundationscotland.org.uk

Contact
Marion McDonald
Tel: 07912 759524

Email
Marion@
foundationscotland.org.uk

Scottish Charity No: SC022910
foundationscotland.org.uk

The Fund also has a dedicated page on Foundation Scotland's website which includes information on how to apply as well as details on Fund balances, Panel members, projects funded, case studies and recent news items.

During Year Four, the webpage page had a total of 821 visits of which 389 were unique individual visitors.

You can read more on the fund page which links to case studies and news stories.

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/funding-available/dorenell>

Conclusion

This year marked a milestone for the fund with the first three years of grant making complete and the external review of the fund impact and strategy carried out. It was shown that 85% of all awards made related to projects identified in the initial community plan demonstrating the relevance of the fund to local priorities. Updating community issues for a new community development plan was a useful exercise and, though not dramatically different, the themes and priorities identified will now inform grant making for the next three years.

The review highlighted the importance of the fund to date in supporting improvements to community buildings with 44% of all awards relating to local facilities. Local halls and community centres in all shapes and sizes are fundamental to community activity, wellbeing and connection and all have been hit particularly hard through the combined impact of the pandemic and the cost of living crisis, in buildings which in many cases have been long neglected, despite their essential role. Supporting these projects in the early years will provide a good foundation for further development activity going forward.

The major commissioning work for phase two of the footpath project was also a significant award, demonstrating the panel's ongoing commitment to delivering strategic and meaningful change through funding. There will be scope in the coming year to consider the updated community priorities and review further potential to commission work where projects are not coming forward, and to address other needs when community facilities have generally been improved and made fit for purpose.

Further Information

For further information please contact:

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Appendix 1: Background to the Fund

Dorenell Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund is a charitable fund provided by EDF Renewables, the majority owner of Dorenell Windfarm Limited. The Fund exists for the benefit of residents living in the areas served by the following community associations:

- The Cabrach Community Association
- Dufftown and District Community Association
- Glenlivet and Inveravon Community Association
- Glenrinnes Community Centre

EDF Renewables makes donations into the Fund annually, starting in April 2019, when the Wind Farm was fully commissioned. Approximately £447,000 was paid into the Fund in the first year. This is equivalent to £2,525 per Megawatt of installed capacity. The annual donation amount rises each year in line with the Retail Price Index.

Each of the areas served by the four community associations is allocated 20% of the annual donation value to support projects benefiting people in that area. The remaining 20% is available for projects which benefit all four communities. The Fund is open to applications from not-for-profit groups and organisations, statutory bodies, and private businesses that meet with the criteria set out on the Fund webpage.

Foundation Scotland is an independent grant making charity that manages the Fund under contract to EDF Renewables. The Foundation's costs in managing the Fund are provided for by EDF Renewables, over and above its annual donation to the Fund.

Decisions on grant awards under the main grants programme are made by a Community Panel comprising up to twelve people who live, work or actively volunteer in the area served by the Fund. The panel is made up of three members from each of the four areas, two from each community association and a third recruited from the wider community.

Following the launch of the Fund in July 2020, and an initial period of remote meetings during the pandemic, the award-making Panel can now meet face-to-face, and has been running hybrid meetings, giving members the option of joining remotely, if preferred.

Under the main grants programme, the minimum grant award is £1,000 and the maximum is normally £30,000. Applications for more than £30,000 are considered on a case-by-case basis for projects that demonstrate significant community benefit. Awards can support a wide range of costs and activities including equipment costs, staff or sessional worker costs, consultations and feasibility studies, maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities and so on. Funded projects must be community led and charitable in nature, and must contribute towards the themes and priorities identified in the Dorenell Community Development Plan. Themes from the 2018 - 2023 plan which directed initial grant making are summarised below, with these priorities having been updated in 2024 (see webpage for details).

Theme	Priorities
1: Environment and Heritage	Walking and cycling networks Museum, visitor and heritage centres Preservation and enhancement Village and town enhancement
Theme	Priorities
2: Community and recreational facilities, groups and activities	Community halls Recreation facilities Opportunities and facilities for young people
3: Local economy and tourism	Access to ICT Tourist accommodation and hospitality Tourist attractions, events and promotion Training and enterprise Partnership work between communities and estates
4: Housing and sustainable development	Housing initiatives ICT Low carbon and green initiatives
5: Transport and access to services	Transport (includes gritting where not covered by local authority) Health and care Access to education Childcare Support for vulnerable children and families

The Fund also provides for a micro-grant scheme, under which each of the four community associations can receive an annual amount to then make grants of up to £1,000 to groups or individuals for charitable activities within their area. The community associations report on micro-grants awarded to Foundation Scotland before the next tranche of funding is released to them.

Appendix 2: Special Projects Fund

The Special Projects Fund is an additional contribution from EDF Renewables of five annual donations, equivalent to 100% of the donation to Dorenell Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund in Year 1, 75% in Year 2, 50% in Year 3, 25% in Year 4 and a final payment of 12.5 % in Year 5 (2023). The use of the Special Projects Fund is determined by the Dorenell Community Benefit Forum, a group of representatives of the four community associations established to negotiate the community benefit settlement with EDF.

The Forum decided to invest the Fund into a long-term endowment for the benefit of the communities. They selected the Foundation Scotland EQ Impact Portfolio which is managed by EQ Investors. An initial sum of £1,024,377.08 was invested in September 2021, comprising the first three Special Projects donations plus the interest accrued whilst the monies were held on deposit by Foundation Scotland.

The Foundation Scotland EQ Impact Portfolio has a dual mandate; financial returns and social impact. Financial returns are monitored against six comparator indices as well as the Consumer Price Index + 3%. Social Returns are annualised and are shown below along with the carbon emissions associated with the investments.

The Fund's carbon footprint is currently 55.72% lower than that associated with an equivalent sum invested in the FTSE 100 index. Forum members can access all the endowment details, including transactions, fees and returns, live at any time via an online portal.

During the year returns from indices were skewed by the huge outperformance of what is often referred to as the Magnificent 7 of US Technology companies, which account for a significant proportion of US and therefore global markets. The remainder of the US market and particularly the smaller companies that EQ invests in globally performed less well during the period and produced minimal returns.

This background has made it difficult for most fund managers to match the performance of the world indices and EQ, with its focus on socially impactful companies, has not been an exception.

During the period EQ have reassessed some of the funds held and reorientated the portfolio. Recent performance has been more encouraging. The longer-term challenges of climate change and issues that arise from rapid AI adoption, both positive and negative, are where the EQ portfolios are focused.

These issues are not going away, but this does not always synchronise with short term moves in markets, particularly when, for example there is a rise in the oil price as the portfolios are not exposed to fossil fuels. However, investing in companies that are on the right side of history and look after their shareholders should be beneficial over time.

We are aware that the financial performance over the last three years has not been satisfactory and are monitoring this closely.

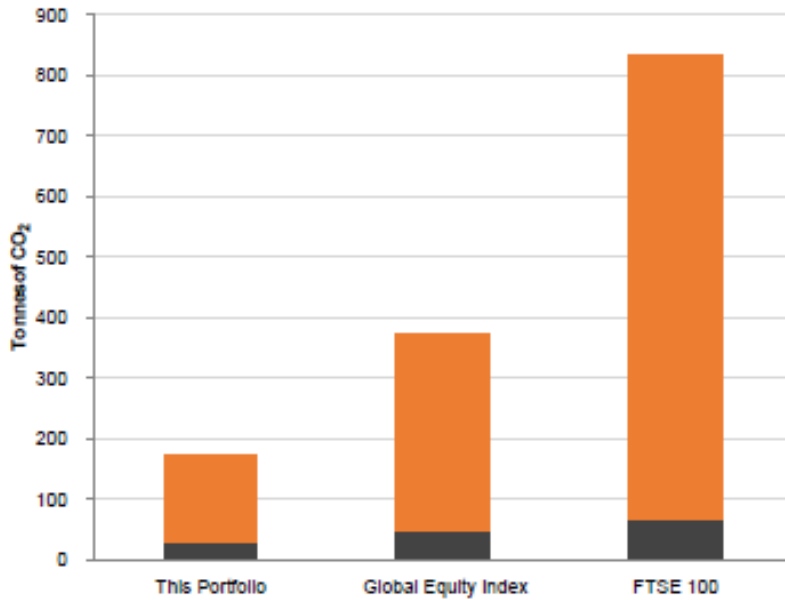
Special Projects Fund Statement

Opening Balance at 1st April 2023	£1,015,079.41
Contributions	£71,960.14
Withdrawals	(71,960.14)
Investment Income	£1,610.00
Foundation Scotland Fees	(£0.00)
EQ Fees	(£3,602.16)
Transaction Expenses	(£0.00)
Capital Growth	100,531.34
Closing Value at 31st March 2024	£1,113,618.59

£73,384.69 is held in cash at Foundation Scotland, as requested, and is not included in the figures above. The total value of the Fund is therefore £1,187,003.28.

Social and Environmental Impact

Carbon Emissions






The carbon footprint of your portfolio is: 79.67% lower than the FTSE 100 index

Direct Scope [Scope 1 & 2]
 Indirect Scope [Scope 3]

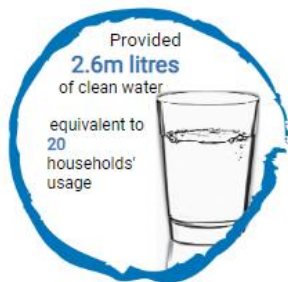
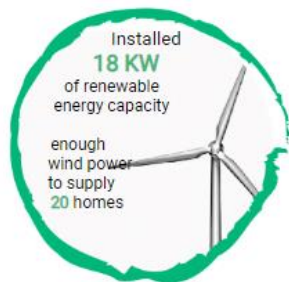
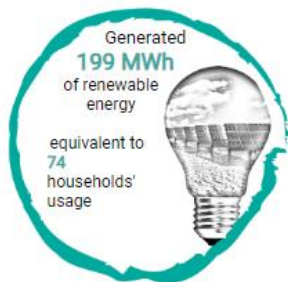
**Scope 1 & 2 represents direct emissions as well as indirect emissions from electricity usage, Scope 3 represents other indirect generation*

That's equivalent to...

-  taking 144 passenger cars off the road or
-  saving 164 UK household's total energy use or
-  preventing 74 thousand gallons of gasoline from being burned

Social and Environmental Impact of the Special Project Fund

Environmental impact



Social impact



For further information please contact:

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