

CREICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
BEINN THARSUINN WIND FARM COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND
GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

These guidelines are for applicants seeking up to £3000 grant from the Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund (BTWF) through Creich Community Council (CCC). Requests for grants of more than £3000 will be considered but discussions should be held with CCC before making an application.

Background to the Fund

The Creich Community Council operates a share of the Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund; it is a fund designed to benefit residents within the boundaries of the areas served by the Community Council.

The fund is provided by CRE Energy Ltd who is the operator of the Beinn Tharsuinn Wind Farm and is managed through the local offices of the Highland Council. Groups and organisations working to benefit people within the area are able to apply to the CCC for grants from the fund. Although the Highland Council will receive and process applications for grants, recommendations about grants and how the money is used will be made by CCC.

The annual fund available amounts to about £16,300 and consists of 18.6% of the total CRE Energy Ltd community benefit fund paid throughout the region. A part of that amount is variable and is calculated on a production-based formula. All payments are index linked to inflation. Contributions will be made until 2032. Full details of this account are available on request from CCC and are made available on their website.

Objectives and Purpose of the Fund

Creich Community Council aims to invest the fund within the area in activities, projects and initiatives that make a valid contribution to the community, thereby enhancing the lives of those who live and work in the area.

The council will attempt to do this by awarding a mixture of capital and revenue grants that:

- Stimulate new ideas and innovative approaches that generate community spirit.
- Support the development and maintenance of community assets.
- Support the provision of services that improve the quality of life for members of the community.

It is desirable, though not essential, that proposals for funding reflect some of the following priorities:

- Developing sustainable employment or volunteering opportunities within the community.
- Helping local groups and organisations to be more effective.
- Working in partnership with other organisations that might be local, regional or national and that provide added value (financial or other) to the initiative.
- Connecting with wider sections of the community beyond the immediate target group.
- Ensuring that issues of access and sustainability have been considered.
- That a proportion of the total budget for the activity is raised from other sources.

You should tell us on the application form how your project will address some of these criteria. We do recognise that groups can only make reasonable efforts to – for example – raise funds locally, or build their organisations to be more effective, and that what is reasonable will be in proportion to the size of your group and project.

Making an application

If you would like help with your application to the Fund, the CCC will be able to assign you an assistant, who will guide you through the process. In the case of applicants requesting more than £3000 you should make contact with the CCC before completing an application to allow the application to be considered in more detail.

General Information

- Applications will usually be considered by the CCC at the next scheduled meeting following receipt of the application detail. Applicants will be informed of the Council's decision within four weeks of that decision.
- Applicants may be offered the opportunity to present their case to the CCC. This will not be an essential requirement and it will be perfectly acceptable to submit a written application only. In any event, applicants should provide as much information as possible relevant to their project with the application form. Where possible three quotes should be given for costs included in the application, e.g. materials, fees, etc.
- You may only apply for one grant of up to £3000 from the Fund at a time.
- If your application is successful, you may apply for another grant from the Fund in any subsequent round. However, it should not be for the same project/activity/cost for which you have already been awarded a grant during any one calendar year.
- If your application is unsuccessful, you may re-apply at any time. We would suggest that you take advice on the reasons for refusal from the CCC before applying again.
- Any grant received should be spent within one year of being awarded.
- Successful applicants will be asked to provide an audit trail to demonstrate that their grant has been used according to the conditions of the award.

Eligibility

- Groups or organisations that need funding to support projects or activities consistent with the aims and purposes listed above.
- Your group should normally have a constitution (governing document or set of rules) and be set up on a not-for-profit basis. You don't need to be a registered charity to apply. If you are unsure if your group is eligible, please contact the CCC for advice.

- Applicants should demonstrate that a percentage of the total project cost will come from other funding sources. For applications of less than £3000, the percentage amount need not be prescriptive, however, it must be demonstrated that the applicants have made effort to match the Fund's contribution. Only in the most exceptional circumstances will 100% funding be considered. For applications of over £3000, it will be expected that matched funding will be achieved.

Grants will NOT be made to support the following:

- Projects or organisations which do not benefit people living within the areas represented by the Creich Community Council.
- The advancement of religion or politics
- For the purposes of entertainment or hospitality as a reward for normal business activity
- The repayment of loans or payment of debts
- Costs already incurred or activities which have taken place before an application has been made (retrospective funding).
- Payments towards areas generally understood to be the exclusive responsibility of statutory authorities.
- Applications that are for the sole benefit to flora and fauna. Applicants are invited to demonstrate the direct benefit to the local community and/or service users in cases where the grant application is concerned with flora and fauna.
- Activities which could be construed to be contrary to the interests of wind farm or renewable energy activities, including activities contrary to the interests of the fund provider.