

Press release

Wind farm fund benefits locals' lives during pandemic

- RWE Renewables Bad á Cheò Wind Farm Community Fund distributes over £40,000
- Education & training fund enables residents to study online
- £6,211 to Lybster Golf Club to address a shortfall in income due to Covid-19

Perth, 28 July 2020

RWE is committed to investing in the communities around its renewables projects. In 2019, an annual community fund of £133,250 (index linked) was set up for the operational lifetime of Bad á Cheò Onshore Wind Farm, expected to be around 25 years. Funding is distributed to the local community following three local decision making panels, one of which, the Latheron, Lybster & Clyth Community Council area, has announced the distribution of over £40,000 to community projects and to individuals for the purpose of education and training.

The community project awards are to two groups:

- £6,211 to Lybster Golf Club to address a shortfall in income due to the coronavirus pandemic
- £20,000 over two years to Caithness Community Connections to deliver youth club sessions

Seven awards totalling over £14,000 were made through the Bad á Cheò Education & Training Fund. These included: ECITB Mechanical Joint Integrity training, BSc Biomedical Science, HNC Childhood Practice, Primary Education MA, BSc MSCI Zoology and BSc (Hons) Environmental Geography and Outdoor Education.

One local resident who is benefitting from this is Kieran Watts. He is studying BSc (Hons) Environmental Geography and Outdoor Education through the

RWE

University of Stirling and the funding he received will enable the purchase of a laptop and the necessary statistical and mapping programs software to enable online learning.

Kieran said: "Thanks to the support from the Bad á Cheò Education and Training Fund, I am able to continue my education with minimal disruption despite current events. I would normally do freelance work over the summer to provide funds for my education the following year, but as I work in the adventure tourism sector, Covid-19 restrictions have made that impossible this summer. The laptop the community fund has provided will enable me to continue studying at the level I need, whilst being home, and that is fantastic."

Katy Woodington, RWE Renewable UK's Community Investment Manager said: "RWE is delighted with the innovative and flexible use of wind farm funding that our Bad á Cheò Wind Farm funds provide. It is always exciting to recognise and celebrate that the education and training fund is changing local residents' lives by increasing their job opportunities and ability to access training opportunities in a remote part of Scotland. It is amazing how diverse and interesting the courses are that local people are undertaking, particularly accessing them online at this challenging time, highlighting that a funding mechanism like this is long overdue."

The Bad á Cheò Wind Farm Community Fund is being managed by Foundation Scotland on behalf of the funding panel. Caithness-based Foundation Scotland Community Coordinator, Eilidh Coll, said: "The more awards we make, hopefully people will be able to see the tangible benefits of applying for a helping hand to do a course or undertake some training. The application process is straightforward and as can be seen can be used to part fund a vast array of courses online and at learning hubs."

- Deadlines for applications to the Community Fund will vary across the areas and can be viewed at <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/bad-a-cheo/>
- To contact Eilidh Coll please email: eilidh@foundationscotland.org.uk
- Further information about Bad á Cheò Wind Farm can be found at www.rwe.com/badacheo

Bad á Cheò Wind Farm is 100% owned by RWE, the UK's second largest generator of electricity and third largest renewable energy company in Europe.

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About Bad á Cheò Wind Farm

Consented in May 2014, and awarded a CfD in February 2015, RWE's 26.65MW Bad á Cheò Wind Farm at Achkeepster, Caithness is now fully exporting to the grid with the capacity to provide sufficient renewable electricity to power up to 22,000* average homes each year. In addition, fulfilling our commitment to investing in the communities around our onshore wind farms, innogy is delighted that a community fund of £133,250 will be available each year for the operational lifetime of the project. The fund has been calculated in line with the Scottish Government's Good Practice Guidelines at the rate of £5,000 per MW of installed capacity and payments will be index linked.

**Based on a decreasing average annual household electricity consumption rate, innogy's Bad á Cheò Wind Farm potentially provides electricity to 22,000 homes in Scotland. This number is calculated using average consumption rates that are on a downward trend from 4,100 kWh in 2005 to the current 2017 average of 4,100kWh and is supported by recent domestic electricity consumption data available from The Digest of UK Energy Statistics and household estimated and projections from the UK Statistics Authority. This potential number of homes therefore is significantly less than if sites were calculated using 2017 figures*

RWE Renewables

RWE Renewables, the newest subsidiary of the RWE Group, is one of the world's leading renewable energy companies. With around 3,500 employees, the company has onshore and offshore wind farms, photovoltaic plants and battery storage facilities with a combined capacity of approximately 9 gigawatts. RWE Renewables is driving the expansion of renewable energy in more than 15 countries on four continents. For further growth a net investment budget of €5 billion is available until 2022. When adding in possible partnerships, the medium term investment budget could reach up to €9 billion. The focus is on the Americas, the core markets in Europe and the Asia-Pacific region. For more information visit: www.rwe.com/rwe-renewables-uk

About Foundation Scotland

Foundation Scotland distributes charitable funds on behalf of over 400 individuals, families, charitable trusts, companies and public bodies. As a registered charity, it provides cost effective and tax efficient giving and funding distribution services, distributing over £11 million each year. As part of this work, Foundation Scotland administers over £5 million in community benefit payments annually, linked primarily to renewable energy projects. The Foundation works with more than 300 communities across Scotland and a wide range of project owners, supporting the set-up and on-going activities of over 60 community benefit funds. The Foundation favours a long-term view, promotes and harnesses community strengths and supports decision-making processes that are inclusive, accountable and community led. For more information visit www.foundationscotland.org.uk

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