

Beatrice Partnership Fund
East Coast Communities of Caithness and Sutherland plus the following Community Council areas in Ross-shire, Edderton, Tain, Inver and Tarbat
Guidance on accessing funds

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, your project must benefit communities that lie wholly within the East Coast Communities of Caithness, Sutherland and the following four community council areas in Ross-shire – Edderton, Tain, Inver, Tarbat, they must also be eligible to apply to the Coastal Communities Fund administered by the Scottish Government.

You don't need to be a registered charity to apply, but your organisation must have a constitution (governing document or set of rules) and not be set up for individual profit. If you are unsure if your group is eligible, please contact us for advice.

Key information

Who can I contact if I have any questions or need guidance?

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Where does this money come from?

Communities can access funds which we have made available on a voluntary basis by Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm Ltd (BOWL), who are currently constructing the 84 turbine Beatrice offshore wind farm off the Caithness coast.

For over ten years now SSE has established funds to enable communities to develop sustainably by funding charitable and community initiatives. SSE will therefore manage and administer the Beatrice Partnership Fund on BOWL's behalf. The Fund will be available for a period of five years.

The Beatrice Partnership Fund has been established to support projects that will bring transformational change and significant community benefits to the regions which are most directly affected by the wind farm.

How do I apply?

If your project meets the fund criteria, please complete and submit an application form, which can be requested from SSE or downloaded from www.sse.com/community/fundlocations/beatricepartnership

You will receive an acknowledgement of your application within 5 working days and will be advised on timings for the next decision-making panel or be given a reason why your project is not eligible for the fund.

If you are submitting an application, you must include a business plan with your application.

How much is the fund worth?
How much can I apply for?

In this round, the overall fund is worth £400,000. With the total fund worth £2,000,000 over the five-year life of the fund.

You can apply for funding from £10,000 up to a maximum of £50,000.

In exceptional circumstances, we may consider applications up to 100% of total costs but would encourage groups to leverage other external funding towards the project. This will



	<p>strengthen your chance of an award from the fund.</p> <p>Future rounds of the fund will open every 12 months, during the five-year period.</p>								
How are decisions made? Who makes the decisions?	The SSE Beatrice Partnership Fund Panel will review applications and determine which projects should receive funding.								
What is the timetable?	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Round opens</td> <td>20 January 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deadline for full applications</td> <td>22 April 2020 (12 Noon)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Panel decisions</td> <td>June 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Awards made</td> <td>June/July 2020</td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We'll contact you within four weeks of the panel meeting date to let you know whether your application has been successful or not. Applications received after the deadline will not be eligible. Applicants can only receive one grant award per round. Whilst subsequent applications can be made in future rounds, the funding cannot support repeat activity and should not be considered as core funding. 	Round opens	20 January 2020	Deadline for full applications	22 April 2020 (12 Noon)	Panel decisions	June 2020	Awards made	June/July 2020
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What can grants be used for? What are the aims of the fund?	<p>The fund is to be used to provide support for strategic projects in the regions in which we are investing. The following themes have been established for the Beatrice Partnership Fund and any successful application must meet one or more of the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating opportunities: Create or enhance opportunities for education and employment through activities that develop skills and improve an individual's chance of entering the workplace. Empowering communities: Empower communities to become more resilient and protect vulnerable residents through measures which demonstrate long-term social, environmental or economic improvements. Sustainable places: Stimulate meaningful regeneration to improve or enhance local infrastructure, landscape, biodiversity or heritage and make a lasting difference to the places we live, work and visit. <p>Successful projects will have the potential to make a significant and sustainable difference to people within this area. For example, initiatives which combat the effects of rural isolation, establishing an apprenticeship scheme, or projects which generate income to provide communities with long term revenue streams.</p>								
How will the panel assess my application?	<p>The panel will review the application based on its relevance to the priority themes identified above and appraise the social, economic and environmental impact it could have to the local area. This will be the primary form of assessment.</p> <p>It is important to bear in mind that the panel will be looking for projects with the potential for <i>transformational change</i>.</p> <p>Additional consideration will be given to projects that demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value for money – evidence that the project has a high impact for the amount invested Community involvement – evidence that the community is engaged in the development and implementation of the project. This may be in the form of surveys, service user involvement, community consultations, open days, letters of support or volunteering opportunities. Financial viability – evidence that the project will be maintained beyond the period of grant funding Evidence of need - demonstration of a real financial need for the application and evidence that the applicant has leveraged other sources of external funding 								
Who can apply?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups or organisations which need funding to support projects or activities 								

	<p>consistent with the priority area listed above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You don't need to be a registered charity to apply, but your organisation must have a constitution (governing document or set of rules) and be set up on a not-for-profit basis. If you are unsure if your group is eligible, please contact us for advice.
<p>When must grants be spent by?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any grant received should begin drawing down spend within one year of being awarded. Long-term projects (such as building work or multi-year projects) will be released in stages and must demonstrate progress within one year of award.
<p>What happens when the project is finished?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the key requirements of the fund is to comprehensively monitor and evaluate your project, track its progress and understand what the direct impact of the project has been on the local economy. At the end of the activity period you must submit a final evaluation report in which we will ask you to fully report on the project and its outcomes.
<p>What's the difference between this fund and SSE's local community funds?</p>	<p>This fund supports projects which take a long-term view and focus on the identified priority theme. Groups based within the East Coast Communities of Caithness and Sutherland and within the community council areas of Edderton, Tain, Inver, Tarbat, are eligible to apply.</p> <p>Local funds exist to support the community organisations closest to our wind farms to help them achieve their aims. Only groups from the immediate local area to the development are eligible to apply.</p> <p>Groups that are eligible to apply to SSE's local community funds are also eligible to apply to the Beatrice Partnership Fund.</p>
<p>Are there any activities you're unable to support?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects which do not meet the Beatrice Partnership Fund criteria Projects which do not benefit people living within the East Coast communities of Caithness and Sutherland and the community council areas of Edderton, Tain, Inver and Tarbat. Individuals, or groups without a constitution The advancement of religion or politics (including requests to support the core activities of religious or political groups) The repayment of loans or payment of debts Costs already incurred or activities which will take place before we have made a decision on an application (retrospective funding). Payments towards areas generally understood to be the primary responsibility of statutory authorities. Anti windfarm/renewable energy activities, including activities contrary to the interests of SSE and its subsidiaries

Please note:

Funding decisions are at the sole discretion of the SSE Beatrice Partnership panel.

