

Achany Community Fund Application Guidelines

Before you begin

Please note: this form is only for applications to the Achany Community Fund. Application forms can be requested from your Community Fund Manager using the details below.

All sections of the application form must be completed, and you must send us the other documents we ask for. In order to give your application, the best chance of success, please provide as much information about your project as possible. Incomplete applications will be returned.

Key information

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

David Shearer
Community Funds Manager
07823 783 404
david.shearer@sse.com

How much is the overall fund worth?

£104,000 per year (approx.)

How much can I apply for?

There are two levels of grant: between £2,000 - £10,000 and above £10,000. Applications where efforts have been made to explore other possible sources of grant funding and/or where *reasonable* efforts have been made to raise money through local fundraising activity will generally be looked upon favourably.

Where does this money come from?

SSE Renewables operates a 19-turbine wind farm at Achany in the Highland region. SSE Renewables Achany Community Investment Fund has been established as a means of enabling us to contribute to the communities located around the wind farm.

Which areas can benefit from the fund?

The community council areas of Ardgay and District, Creich and Lairg. The fund is proportionally split between the three communities.

How are decisions made?

A local advisory panel, made up of local residents and representatives from the community council areas of Ardgay and District, Creich and Lairg make decisions on grant awards.

When are decisions made?

Deadline	Panel meets
30 st April	Mid-June
31 st October	Mid-January

- We'll contact you within two weeks of the panel meeting date to let you know whether your application has been successful or not.
- Applications received after the deadline will automatically be submitted for the next round.
- You can apply for more than one grant per year, but not in the same round and not towards the same expense.



What can grants be used for?

Community-focussed or charitable activities which:

- Encourage community activity and promote community spirit.
- Ensure adequate access to services for all community members.
- Improve local transport infrastructure.
- Build the local economy.
- Build community capacity and cohesion between groups; and/or
- Develop or maintain community assets.

The Fund's priorities also include a particular emphasis towards projects that are identified in the Ardgay, Creich & Lairg Community Action Plan.

For revenue projects, it is important to bear in mind that there is no guarantee of ongoing support. A key focus of the fund is sustainability and as such we would encourage groups to be working towards being self-sustainable where possible.

Who can apply?

- Groups or organisations which need funding to support projects or activities consistent with the purposes listed above may apply for a grant.
- 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, contact us for advice.

Are there any activities you're unable to support?

- Projects which do not benefit people living within the community council areas of Ardgay and District, Creich and Lairg.
- 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 purchase of second-hand vehicles
- The purchase of firearms
- Costs of energy consumption ((instead we encourage funding to be used to provide energy efficiency measures which help reduce energy consumption)
- The repayment of loans or payment of debts
- Trips Abroad
- 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.
- 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.
- Anti-wind farm/renewable energy activities, including activities contrary to the interests of SSE and its subsidiaries.

When must grants be spent by?

- Any grant received should be spent within one year of being awarded. Although there is potential for multi-year awards at the discretion of the panel

Help completing the application form

General guidelines

- All sections of the application form must be completed. A separate sheet may be included.
- Please don't write 'see attached' on any part of the form as a substitute for information – although if you wish to include other documents (besides your constitution and accounts) with which to support and supplement your application then you are welcome to do so.
- Please round figures up to the nearest pound.

Section 1

- Make sure the main contact is someone who is familiar with both the workings of the group and the grant application, as this person may be contacted for a short telephone interview. Please make sure they will be available in the six weeks following the next deadline and let us know if they are away for any time during this period.
- We can only consider applications from constituted groups. The name of your group should be the name written on your constitution (or governing document). You must send us a copy of your signed constitution with your application.
- Your type of organisation will be the legal status of your organisation e.g. a company limited by guarantee, a charity etc
- You don't have to be a registered charity, but if you are, please supply the Charity Number.

Section 2

- A copy of your most recent annual accounts must be included with your application. They should be signed by a member of your management. We will be unable to process your application if you do not send these or if your accounts are out of date.
- Groups who have not yet completed one full year must provide a projection of income and expenditure for the group's first year of operation, this is just an outline of where you anticipate receiving funding from and what you will be spending this on. Please include any evidence you can of funding pledged or secured, and include details of all your group's income and expenditure, not just that which relates to this application.
- Please tell us what the difference was in your last year's accounts between the money coming in and going out (your surplus or deficit). Please also tell us about any unrestricted reserves you have and tell us if these cannot be used for the project you are applying for help with. (Unrestricted reserves are general funds held by the organisation, as opposed to restricted reserves which will have been provided by a funder or donor only for a particular purpose or project.)

Section 3

- Please describe your project – its background, overall aims and the activities involved.
- Your project should address a current need or gap in community provision.
- Please give an accurate list of the costs involved in the work, service, project or items for which you need the grant. If the grant requested does not cover all the costs, you should make clear which costs it will cover or go towards and go on to show how you intend to meet the other costs to ensure that the project will go ahead.
- We require quotations if your grant request is for equipment, vehicles, or refurbishment work. Please supply at least two competitive quotes for work between £1,000 and £10,000 and at least three competitive quotes for work above £10,000. If this is not possible or appropriate, please tell us why.
- Tell us where any other funding for this project is coming from, for example local fundraising or other grants. Please indicate whether the funding has been received or pledged. If you are awaiting a decision on a funding application, tell us when you expect to hear the outcome.
- If your project is time specific, then please make sure your application is made in plenty of time to receive a decision before the project takes place.
- If the grant being requested is to cover salary costs, then please tell us what the hourly rate to be paid is. SSE is a Living Wage Friendly Funder; therefore we would expect any roles paid for through a grant to

meet or exceed the Living Wage. If it does not, then we can work with you to find a solution to this. Please see the Living Wage website <http://www.livingwage.org.uk/friendly-funders>.

- Please note that 'account name' should give the exact name in which your account is held. We expect this to be the same as the name of your group (as shown on your constitution) and if it isn't we may not be able to give you a grant. We cannot deposit money to bank accounts in the name of an individual.
- We expect groups to require at least two unrelated people to authorise cheques from their account. If this is not the case, we may not be able to award you a grant.

Section 4

- Safety is our key priority. Please give evidence that you have considered the safety implications of your project, if applicable, and provide evidence of this by providing documentation to show the correct policies are in place i.e., Child Protection/ Vulnerable Adults policy, insurance certificates or licences.
- Please do not provide your original constitution as we will not be able to return it to you. A photocopy or scan is acceptable.
- We require competitive quotations for equipment, vehicles, or refurbishment work. Please supply at least two competitive quotes for work between £1,000 and £10,000 and at least three competitive quotes for work above £10,000.
- We are happy to accept any business plans, drawings, or photographs or other to support your application.

Sending your application to us

- Don't forget to sign and date the application form. If you need a decision within a certain timescale, make sure you meet the relevant deadline
- We cannot assess an application without a copy of a signed constitution (or other governing document) and we also need a copy of your most recent audited accounts or, for new groups, a projection of the first year's income and expenditure.
- We require at least two competitive quotations for equipment, vehicles, or refurbishment work. Please supply these. If this is not possible or appropriate, please tell us why.
- Please check you pay the correct postage for the size and weight of your application. We do not take responsibility for the return or non-delivery of applications sent with insufficient postage.

Please return completed forms to david.shearer@sse.com or, if you don't have access to the internet, by Royal Mail to: David Shearer, SSE Depot, Thurso Road, Wick, KW1 5LE

What happens next?

In most cases, we'll contact you by phone to ask for any additional information needed, sometimes this isn't necessary. It's important that you will be available during the six weeks following the deadline. If you will be unavailable for any time during that period, please include a note to that effect attached to the application, as your application may not be considered if we can't contact you. You'll be notified of the Advisory Panel's decision in writing by the dates stated above. Any grant received must be spent within one year of award.

