

Press release

Wind farm fund benefits locals' lives during pandemic

- **An Suidhe Wind Farm Community Fund distributes over £31,000 locally**
- **Over £15,500 for projects to help improve health and wellbeing of local people**
- **Repairs to key community facility enables social hub to continue**

Perth, Scotland: 03 December 2020

RWE is committed to investing in and supporting the needs of local communities that neighbour its renewables projects. In 2011, the company set up an annual fund of £28,500 (index linked) to operate throughout the operational lifetime of An Suidhe Wind Farm, expected to be around 25 years. Funding decisions are locally made to ensure awards are best suited to the needs of the local communities, and so are made by a panel of representatives from the Community Councils of Glenorchy and Innishail (Eredine only), Inveraray, and Furnace, and the Dalavich Improvement Group.

In the latest 2020 funding distribution round, the funding panel has announced grant awards of over £31,000 to community projects within those four areas.

Katy Woodington, RWE Renewables' UK's Community Investment Manager: "RWE is delighted with the innovative and flexible use of wind farm funding that the An Suidhe Wind Farm funds provide. It is always exciting to recognise and celebrate the diversity of projects that are funded every year, and this year, more than ever, we are proud to be supporting local groups in their response to, and recovery from, the pandemic."

One of the recipients, Upper Loch Fyne Coastal Rowing Club, has been awarded £1,848.00 towards the purchase of a trailer and a cover for the club's boat so as to enable participation in events and protect the boat from the elements. The club was formed two years ago and is building its own skiff locally.

Local volunteer Derrick Anstee, who is leading the build, said: "The help from An Suidhe Wind Farm Community Fund is a lifeline. It means we will be able to finish the Upper Loch Fyne Coastal Rowing Club's skiff this year and be on the water for the next season."

Other significant awards made this year will enable and encourage people to socialise and exercise outside during times of Covid-19 restrictions, and include:

- £8,022.60 to Inveraray Community Council to fund outdoor gym equipment in the local park, to improve the health and wellbeing of young people in Inveraray and surrounds.
- £3,041.60 to Inveraray Shinty Club to purchase, among other items, the furnishings for a multi-purpose storage container that will provide a changing room for female players.
- £4,500.00 to Cairndow Community Council to fund the development of two outdoor play areas so as to enhance outdoor play opportunities for users of the childcare centre



and the local community.

The An Suidhe Wind Farm Community Fund is managed by independent charity Foundation Scotland on behalf of the funding panel.

Foundation Scotland's Community Funds Manager, Tom Black, said: "The range of projects supported this year very much reflects local needs and opportunities to get outside, exercise and connect with others. With these grant awards we hope people will be able to see the tangible benefits that the Fund can bring for their community. Groups seeking a grant are very welcome to contact Foundation Scotland and we can talk them through the application process."

The Community Fund makes awards in November each year. The next application deadline is 4th October 2021. More information and an application form can be found at <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/an-suidhe/>

ENDS

Please direct enquiries to: Louise Fyfe
RWE Renewables UK
M 07557 198207
louise.fyfe@rwe.com

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 £10 million in 2019-20.

Its developmental approach, partnerships with communities of interest and place, and in-depth knowledge of the charitable and community sectors ensures that funds entrusted to Foundation Scotland for distribution make a real difference to people's lives. The Foundation also holds around £60 million in charitable endowments.

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.

In 2019, Foundation Scotland was shortlisted in the 'Best Engagement' category in the Scottish Green Energy Awards. The awards provide recognition and celebration for professional excellence in the renewable energy industry.

For more information visit www.foundationscotland.org.uk