

Orsted

Community Benefit Funds

Spring newsletter
2024





Our fourth Community Fund is now live!

As Ørsted continues its commitment to being the world's most sustainable energy developer, we are delighted to have launched our fourth Community Fund in the UK. This is possible, because we have taken Financial Investment Decision on Hornsea 3 which will be the world's single largest offshore wind farm, upon its expected completion in 2027.

We are really looking forward to hearing which projects the independent panel recommend to receive funding. GrantScape, the independent charity who administers our fund, will announce the successful projects and organisations in August.

For more information about the Hornsea 3 Community Fund and our other funds, please visit GrantScape's website: www.grantscape.org.uk.

In this edition of our newsletter, we are thrilled to feature a successfully completed project, as our spotlight story. The West Rhyl Young People's Project was awarded a grant from the Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund and has made a phenomenal difference to all those involved.

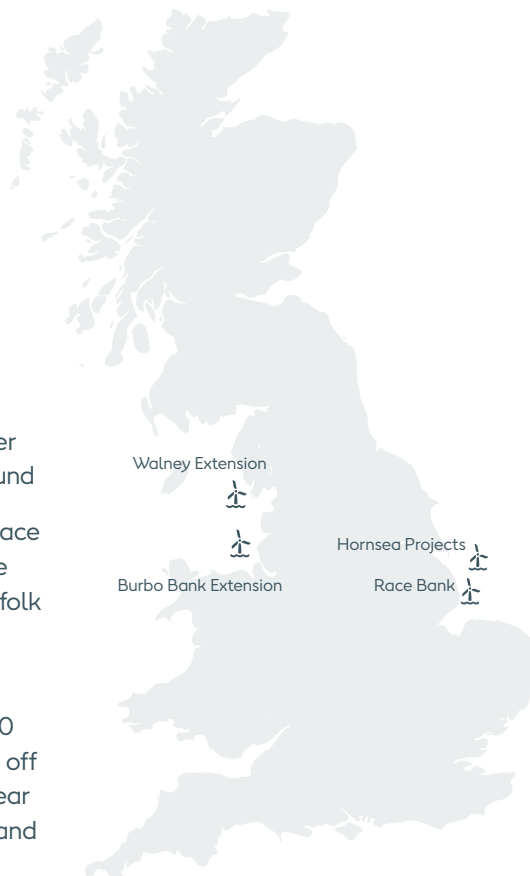
We are so proud that our funding has supported so many new and existing initiatives. We are also extremely grateful to the organisations who deliver these fantastic projects and the grant panel volunteers who bring their local knowledge and expertise to the decision-making process. Without you our funds would not be the success they are today and will hopefully continue to be into the future.

Imran Nawaz

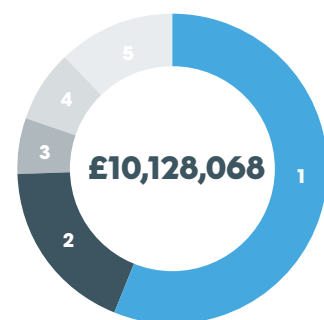
Senior Advisor & CBF Manager, Ørsted

Ørsted provides Community Benefit Funds for the following offshore wind farm projects

- Burbo Bank Extension in Liverpool Bay – £225,000 per year
- Walney Extension in the Irish Sea off the Cumbria coastline – £600,000 per year which includes £100,000 Skills Fund
- East Coast – Hornsea Projects and Race Bank located in the North Sea off the Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and North Norfolk coastline – £465,000 per year which includes £75,000 Skills Fund
- Hornsea 3 located approximately 120 km off the Norfolk coast and 160 km off the Yorkshire coast - £700,000 per year which includes £100,000 Skills Fund and £100,000 Legacy Fund



Funds awarded to date:



1. Community activities and services



2. Community buildings and facilities



3. Nature and public open space projects



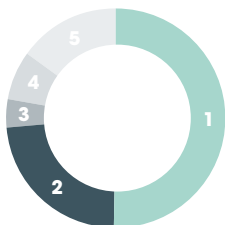
4. Sports, recreation and play



5. Skills Fund projects

East Coast Community Fund

The East Coast Community Fund is linked to the Hornsea projects and Racebank offshore wind farms and has £465,000 available each year. In the coastal areas of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and North Norfolk, 260 projects have been supported so far.



£3,453,876
awarded since
the fund launched
in 2016



Healthier, Happier Lives



Buglife was awarded £8,900 towards pollinator-focused school sessions. Today, only 10% of children spend time playing in nature, compared to 40% a few decades ago. Engaging children in this way enables them to re-connect with nature. Hands-on, interactive wildlife activities are essential to improving children's appreciation and love of the natural world, and will help them lead healthier, happier lives.

Buglife provides events that include fun creative activities (e.g. making bug hotels), pollinator identification, what plants to grow to attract pollinators and the creation of a 'Get Buzzing for Pollinators!' pack for the children to take home.

Paul Hetherington, Buglife Director of Engagement, said: "Thanks to this grant we have been able to engage with children in schools across Kings Lynn about the importance of and how to help, our vital pollinators."

A representative from Howard Junior School, Kings Lynn, said: "Our Forest Schoolers, eco councillors and pupils are all very keen to be involved in helping the environment, wildlife and nature so the opportunity to have Buglife in was very welcome. The students enjoyed learning about pollinators and the practical side of the sessions, planting bulbs, making seed bombs and were so excited to see what they had planted come through in the Spring. Thank you also to Buglife for the gardening tools, it is great that you come out to schools. We thoroughly enjoyed the whole day."



Active and Fun!



Sea Cadets, Wells-next-the-Sea was awarded £4,779 to purchase stand-up paddleboards. Stand-up paddleboarding is an all-inclusive paddlesport that is becoming increasingly popular and is now a recognised discipline for British Canoeing awards. The addition of stand-up paddleboards to the Unit's paddlesport resource has increased the opportunities on offer to young people and adult volunteers. The paddleboards provide another outdoor activity and the multi-person stand-up paddleboards promote and help practice working as a team.

Commander (SCC) Noel Wheatley MBE RNR, Sea Cadets Wells Commanding Officer, said: "Thanks to the grant received from the East Coast Community Fund, we have enhanced our paddlesport offering to include stand-up paddleboarding. This has enabled young people to experience a new type of water-based activity and increased opportunities for gaining qualifications, having fun on the water and adding to the variety of outdoor activities available."



Skills Fund

Each year, up to £75,000 of the East Coast Community Fund is set aside for the Skills Fund. The aim is to provide educational and learning opportunities for people within the fund's benefit area to help improve their skills and employment opportunities. The fund so far has awarded over £500,000, supporting nearly 30 projects across the funding area.

Promoting Renewables Career Paths

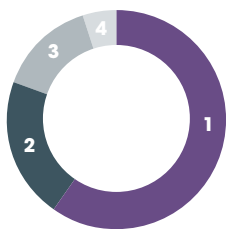
TEC Partnership was awarded £24,005 to provide Key Stage 2 and 4 students with a learning experience about career opportunities in the renewable energy sector. Lessons explained different sources of renewable energy and how to reduce the impact of climate change.



The students were given an opportunity to apply their knowledge to scale models and equipment in TEC Partnership's exciting Renewables Centre, including a life-sized nacelle of a wind turbine. They were also introduced to additional local training courses in the region. The children responded very positively to the event and are still talking about it.

Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund

The Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund provides £225,000 each year and has so far awarded 200 grants across Merseyside and North Wales.



£ 1,918,141
awarded
since the fund
launched in 2015



European Protected Species



The National Trust was awarded £16,425 to replace nearly 600m of dilapidated fence protecting a small freshwater lake. Great crested newts were recently found to occupy the lake and being a heavily protected species, they had to create a mitigation strategy to allow the work to go ahead. Contractors did not disturb any newts by avoiding the removal of buried timber posts, where the newts were likely to be hiding. Instead, they offset the new fence posts to sit between or away from the old, buried timbers. They were successful in doing this, with the result that they did not encounter a single newt during the operation.

Kate Martin, Lead Ranger for the National Trust at Formby, said: "We are really pleased to be able to complete the replacement fencing around Wicks Lake. This area has a special place in the heart of many of our local residents and we are very grateful to the Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund for providing the funds to make this project possible. The new fencing will allow people to enjoy the lake safely and help to protect the wonderful wildlife that calls the lake, and its surrounding areas, home. The reduction of disturbance in and around the lake is even more crucial since the exciting discovery of great crested newts, a European Protected Species, in the lake earlier this year."



Re-establish, Redefine & Upskill



The L20 Hub was awarded £17,368 to develop a youth and community focussed hub based in St Mary's Complex in the centre of Bootle. The objective was to provide the community with consistent, sustainable, and impactful leisure, social, educational, health focussed services/ activities plus bespoke diversionary youth opportunities and services. Eloise Robinson, The L20 Hub CEO, said: "Our charity was hit hard by the Covid pandemic, and this funding gave us the leg up we needed to set us firmly on our road to recovery. We have been able to re-establish our core services and redefine who we are. With canoeing, forest school and community growing projects alongside community choirs, youth projects and parent groups we are making a significant and sustainable difference to our community."



Golden Time

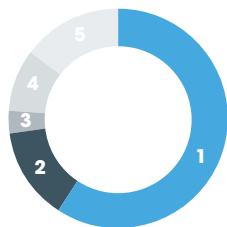
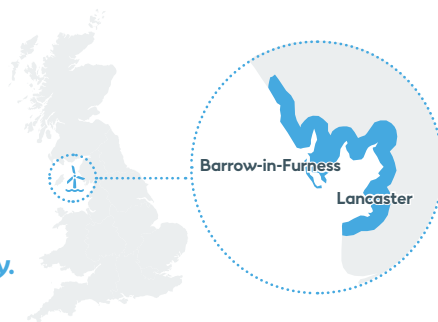


Crea8ing Community CIC was awarded £20,000 towards the delivery of Psychosocial Education Programmes and support. The project worked with disadvantaged, vulnerable families that have experienced trauma through childhood, struggle with mental health, have children with additional needs, and issues with substance/alcohol misuse, domestic abuse, criminality, deprivation and low income.

ZK, a family accessing support from Crea8ing Community said: "I've literally accessed all courses since coming to CC. My relationship with my children is amazing now! My teenager talks to me more, we spend golden time together every week and he offloads to me. He couldn't before because I was so wound up and emotionally disconnected due to my trauma through childhood but now things have improved significantly! CC has given me the tools to appreciate different perspectives and empathise in a way I'd never understood before. I'm much more laid back and my support network is absolutely amazing. I've made so many friends here and I feel blessed."

Walney Extension Community Fund

The Walney Extension Community Fund is linked to the offshore wind farm off the Walney Island coast in Cumbria and has £600,000 available annually. To date, 258 local projects have been supported.



£4,756,050
awarded since
the fund launched
in 2016



Emotional Wellbeing



Lancashire Youth Challenge was awarded £7,800 towards a 12-month mental health and emotional wellbeing project for young people experiencing challenges and vulnerabilities, taking place in Lancaster City Centre and at various locations across the Lancaster district. Facilitated by mental health practitioners, wellbeing practitioners, horticultural practitioners and supported by the Youth Work Team, the group provided weekly participatory workshops including: mindfulness & emotional wellbeing training sessions, horticulture workshops, healthy eating workshops, mental health awareness sessions and outdoor education opportunities.

Guy Christiansen, Lancashire Youth Challenge CEO, said: "Thanks to the investment from Walney Extension Community Fund we have been able to deliver a 12-month programme of life skills training and emotional wellbeing activities for young people in the Lancaster District. Providing them with the skills and tools needed to better understand themselves and the world around them, while helping them to develop the confidence, resilience and self-efficacy to craft the lives they wish to lead."



Improving General and Physical Wellbeing



Age UK Barrow & District Limited was awarded £13,552 towards encouraging older people to re-engage with their community after the pandemic. The group's service has now evolved into an activities programme for older people experiencing loneliness and isolation, enabling them to connect with their community.

Graeme Neale, Business Development Manager, said: "Thanks to the grant from the Walney Extension Community Fund, we were able to support people who were socially isolated and lonely, back into social groups and physical activities following the pandemic. People attending those groups reported an improvement in their general and physical wellbeing."



Skills Fund

Each year, up to £100,000 of the Walney Extension Community Fund is set aside for the Skills Fund. The aim is to provide educational and learning opportunities for people within the fund's benefit area to help improve their skills and employment opportunities. The fund, so far, has awarded nearly £700,000 supporting 30 projects across the funding area.

Design and Build a Wind Farm in Virtual Reality

3D Web Technologies Ltd was awarded £24,020 towards the development and delivery of 12 high-impact, in-depth STEM sessions for over 360 pupils at 12 schools. The sessions include team work activities involving Maths, IT, Engineering, Graphic Design & Presentation Skills using innovative and engaging Virtual Reality technology.



The project will be based upon a resource package developed and utilised by 3DW under a previous workshop delivery series created to support Ørsted offshore projects. This proposed project titled 'Design and Build a Windfarm in Virtual Reality' aims to give students an engaging, balanced and educationally valuable insight into the complexities of offshore wind farm design.

Hornsea 3 Community Fund

The Hornsea 3 Community Fund provides £700,000 each year and is now open to applications. The first closing date is 8 May 2024.

Ørsted are delighted that the Hornsea 3 Community Fund opened to applications in February 2024. We have committed to a Community Fund worth approximately £700,000 each year for the next 10 years

Each year, £100,000 of the fund is ring-fenced for a 'Skills Fund' and a further £100,000 for a 'Legacy Fund'. The Skills and Legacy Funds operate differently to the main Community Fund with different processes, eligible funding area (in the case of the Skills Fund) and closing dates.

Fund Overview

- The main Hornsea 3 Community Fund has two rounds of funding each year, usually six months apart.
- Grants from **£500 up to £75,000** are available.
- There are two levels of grants (detailed below) and groups can apply for both revenue and capital costs in the same application.

Small grants between £500 and £5,000

(no match funding required)

Main grants between £5,001 and £75,000

(20% match funding required)

- To be eligible to apply for a grant your project must be located, and be for the benefit of communities, within the funding area (see below and the interactive map on GrantScape's website). Please note the area of benefit also includes the coastal tidal zones and marine area directly in line with the onshore areas.



Project Purpose

The Fund will support projects that meet at least one of the following themes:

- Community buildings and facilities. For example: capital improvement works to village halls, community centres, museums, heritage centres and community cafes. Projects that help transition to lower carbon operations, are particularly encouraged.
- Community activities and services. For example: projects addressing health and wellbeing, social isolation, community cohesion, access to amenities, young and older people's projects and projects providing support for local clubs and groups.
- Environmental, green initiatives and public open space projects. For example: projects involving habitat/species conservation, community growing schemes and public parks.
- Sports, recreation and play. For example: playgrounds, skate parks, climbing walls, sports equipment and sports field drainage projects.

Eligible Organisations

Applicants are required to have a written constitution, a set of rules, or a governing document and a bank or building society account, held in the name of the organisation, in place before applying for a grant. Organisations that can apply for funding include:

- Voluntary and community groups, and local charities
- Parish and Town Councils
- Local Authorities (if they are applying on behalf of a community)
- Social Enterprises and Community Interest Companies operating on a non-profit-distributing basis

These are defined by Social Enterprise UK as 'businesses that trade to tackle social problems, improve communities, people's life chances, or the environment. They make their money from selling goods and services in the open market, but they reinvest their profits back into the business or the local community'. These organisations must have a minimum of three unrelated Directors.

Judging Criteria

The criteria used when assessing applications received will be:

- The level of community support for and involvement in the project *This must be clearly evidenced in the application and groups, particularly those with a base outside of the funding area, **may** be asked to provide relevant letters of support.*
- The local community benefit which will result from the project
- The environmental benefit which will result from the project and how any negative environmental impact has been mitigated. Is the project 'Inspired by Green'?
- How the work will be continued after the project has been completed, i.e. its sustainability and legacy
- The ability of the applicant to deliver the project
- Value for money

For full details about the Hornsea 3 Community Fund and how to apply, please visit GrantScape's website: <https://grantscape.org.uk/?p=10082>.

Pixel Voice – Creative Multimedia

Spotlight

West Rhyl Young People's Project received a grant of £19,819 from the Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund to provide a creative multimedia experience. Eighty-one talented, young individuals immersed themselves in what, for many, was a completely new experience and made the project a resounding success.

Two centre-based sessions on Monday evenings and Wednesday afternoons, plus one street-based session on Thursdays were introduced. Following concerns of anti-social behaviour occurring on a small green space adjacent to homes, the street-based sessions focussed on re-engaging groups of young people in the same area.

The street-based sessions quickly found a primary focus around sports, and this provided opportunities to engage in photography and film-work. The students learnt how to use digital cameras, and edit photographs. From the outset, the sessions were very lively and well-attended, reaching a broad age-range of 11-25 year olds. The majority of the young people that attended these 'sports sessions' hadn't had access to digital media equipment before.



The centre-based sessions began with taster workshops which included podcasting, music production, photography and filmmaking. Early on, the attendees of the Monday sessions decided to focus on songwriting and music production. The Wednesday sessions took longer to become established, several of the attendees faced additional challenges of neurodiversity, including autism, ADHD, and or adverse mental health. They eventually favoured filmmaking and podcasting.

One group developed an original script which focused on their personal experiences of the issues of bullying, poverty and their family relationships breaking down. After learning the fundamentals of camerawork and sound recording, they filmed their own drama.

One young person created a podcast about their experiences of being autistic and bullied in school. By creating this content, it allowed them to finally express feelings that they felt they had suppressed for too long and benefitted them hugely.

Another young person learnt a multitude of skills and excelled at music production. Using music as an outlet to express himself, he wrote and recorded all aspects of a song from scratch, describing his experience as 'life changing'.

With guidance, a talented young woman was able to identify the suitable chords and key for her musical ideas and composed two original pieces of music. She wrote and recorded several songs of her own and said that when she played her recordings for her musician father for the first time, he was moved to tears.

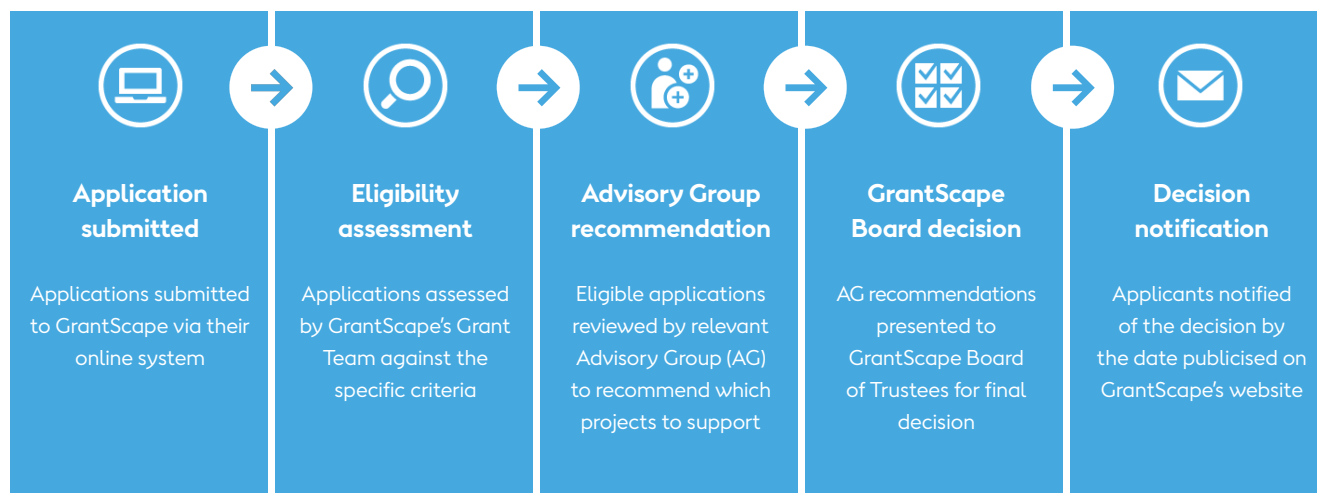


During the project, a number of trips and excursions were provided, to help broaden horizons for the participants, many of which had never previously travelled very far outside of Rhyl.

In addition, the project has brought about increased levels of engagement from young people in positive and beneficial activities, right in the heart of a community where they were perceived to be involved in anti-social or problematic behaviour. The highly visible and well-attended street-based sessions, in particular, have played an important role in reducing anti-social behaviour in a particular neighbourhood, drawing adult residents in to become more positively and actively involved.

Chris Coyle, Lead Youth Worker at West Rhyl Young People's Project, said: "Thanks to the generous support of the Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund, Pixel Voice has successfully engaged young people in creative multimedia activities, empowering them to express themselves, become more community-aware, and actively participate in local initiatives. This grant has had a beneficial impact on the community, by fostering positive community involvement and improving perceptions of young people."

Applying to the Community Benefit Funds



Next closing dates:

Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund

25 September 2024
(decisions mid-December 2024)
9 April 2025
(decisions end June 2025)

East Coast Community Fund

31 July 2024
(decisions end October 2024)
12 February 2025
(decisions early May 2025)

Hornsea 3

27 November 2024
(decisions end February 2025)
4 June 2025
(decisions end August 2025)

Hornsea 3 Legacy Fund

27 November 2024
(decision end February 2025)

Walney Extension Community Fund

3 July 2024
(decisions end September 2024)
10 January 2025
(decisions early April 2025)

Get Involved - Hornsea 3 Offshore Wind Farm Community Event Interest Form



Ørsted is dedicated to connecting with the communities in close proximity to our projects. Community engagement is at the heart of our commitment and we are currently exploring the possibility of hosting some information events around the funding area. We would welcome the opportunity to be able to share information, in person, about the work we are undertaking during the wind farm construction phase.

Please scan the QR code above to complete the form and let us know if you would be interested in finding out more about biodiversity, archaeology, community benefit funding or anything else in relation to the Hornsea 3 Offshore Wind Farm development.

How the funds are managed

Independent grant-making charity, GrantScape, administer Ørsted's Community Benefit Funds. GrantScape is committed to enhancing the environment and strengthening local communities through its grant programmes. Their experience stretches back to 1997 and they have awarded grants totalling around £90 million to deserving projects over this time.

The decision-making process is supported by a local Advisory Group (AG) established for each Community Benefit Fund. Their help and

advice in the process is absolutely vital in prioritising projects at a local level. The AG members have been carefully selected to ensure all areas that can benefit from the Fund are well represented by people with good local knowledge of the community and environment.

Each fund has its own specific funding criteria and eligible funding area, available on GrantScape's website. Please contact the team at GrantScape with any queries.