



NORTH ARGYLL VOLUNTEER CAR SCHEME

Carraig Gheal Wind Farm
Community Benefit Fund Case Study

Carraig Gheal Wind Farm is jointly owned by GreenPower, a Scottish renewable energy company and Railpen, the railways pension fund.

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What difference is the fund making to local communities?

Since the inception of the Carraig Gheal Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund in October 2013, over £449,000 has been paid into the fund by the wind farm.

“£449,650 has been paid into the fund”

The Community Benefit Fund is divided between two funding schemes:

Micro-grant: with grants of up to £500. There have been 84 approved micro-grant applications totalling over £25,700.

Main grant: with grants of up to £10,000 available. To date, 72 main grants have been approved by the Steering Group totalling over £350,900.

A summary of the main and micro grants awarded can be found on the website carraigghewindfarm.co.uk. The grants have helped a wide range of projects to go forward. The following information goes into further detail about one of these projects, the Kilmore and Kilbride Village Hall.

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In March 2022 the Steering Group unanimously agreed to award NAVCS £2,000 from the remaining micro grant funds that had not been spent. This was used to help recover from the pandemic as passengers caught up with hospital appointments, essential medical journeys, shopping and hairdressers (most popular!). This was in addition to a main grant of £5,967.00 awarded in 2019.

NAVCS organises volunteer drivers to use their own cars to help people who are unable to make use of public transport to access essential services. Transport can also be provided to day care and to social events such as lunch clubs. The car scheme covers the Community Council areas of Seil, Luing, Kilniver and Kilmelford, Glenorchy, Innishail, Taynuilt, Kilchrenan and Dalavich.

“ NAVCS objectives are:
“The relief of social isolation and inequality of access to essential services caused by an absence of suitable means of transport for those affected by ill health, age, infirmity or other disadvantages.” ”



“ and,
“The relief of those in need by reason of age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.” ”

Interested in applying for a grant?

Allocation of the Fund is decided by the Carraig Gheal Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Steering Group. The members are drawn from five local communities around Carraig Gheal Wind Farm. The Chair of the Fund's steering Group, Mr David Mudie, said ‘... the Fund is in a unique position to support and encourage existing and new community operations both large and small. We recognise that new ventures often have problems with fund-raising and we can provide the seed corn to get things started. Through our relationship with Community Councils our micro grants up to £500 can be quickly released to enable a wide range of local activities.’

Micro grants can be applied for at anytime, with main grants application rounds opening several times a year.

For application forms and any queries, please contact Jennie Cowley at jennie@greenpowerinternational.com

Further information is available on the Carraig Gheal Wind Farm website:

[www.carraigghéalwindfarm.co.uk/
community-2.html](http://www.carraigghéalwindfarm.co.uk/community-2.html)