

# Orsted

## Community Benefit Funds

Autumn newsletter  
2021





# We are very proud to have passed a significant milestone in our funding journey, having supported over 500 projects.

This edition of our newsletter celebrates the outstanding achievements of the groups we have supported across all of our Funds. Behind each successful project are countless individuals, often working voluntarily, dedicated to improving the communities where they live and work.

A special thanks also goes to our Advisory Group members who help us make the recommendations on which projects are to be awarded grants. Their local knowledge is invaluable when it comes to prioritising the applications for funding and they ensure that those supported are of substantial benefit to the communities covered by our Funds. To read more about how the Advisory Groups work and reach decisions, please read the section on the back page from one of our members.

Since 2015, when we supported our first project, we have committed to contributing towards a Community Fund for each of our offshore installations on the East and West coasts of England. With our help, thousands of people have already benefitted from improvements to their built and natural environments and their communities have become stronger and better places to live, as a result.

We are honoured to have had the opportunity to fund more than 500 projects and very much look forward to funding many more over the coming years.

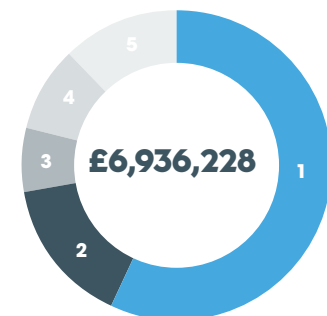
**Imran Nawaz**  
Stakeholder Advisor & CBF Manager, Ørsted

## Ørsted provide 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



### Funds awarded to date:

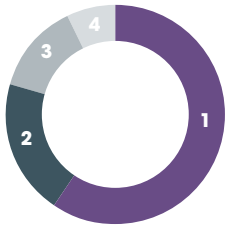


1. Community activities and services
2. Community buildings and facilities
3. Nature and public open space projects
4. Sports, recreation and play
5. Skills Fund projects



# Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund

The Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund provides £225,000 each year and has so far awarded 148 grants across Merseyside and North Wales.



**£1,351,111**  
awarded  
since the Fund  
launched in 2015



**Youth Engagement Activity and Wellbeing Project, Rhyl**



West Rhyl Young People's Project was awarded £20,160 to part-fund a full-time Youth Worker, for 12 months. Aimed at expanding horizons and removing the barriers to participation encountered by those experiencing social isolation and exclusion e.g. young people with ASD, social anxiety, adverse mental health conditions, young women, young people living in poverty, young people at risk of (or with active) involvement in crime.

Hannah Rowan, West Rhyl young People's Project, Project Manager said: "The grant has enabled us to provide young people in Rhyl with key contacts and safe activities during times when schools and youth centres were closed and when young people were being vilified for breaching Covid rules. This project helped young people to keep themselves safe and provided them with hope that they had not been forgotten and side-lined."



**The Next Level - Refurbishment Phase**



The Inclusion Network CIC was awarded a grant of £15,000 towards refurbishing Northfield Community Centre in Bootle, a converted football changing room building which had no central heating or up to date facilities. The Centre attracts over 18,000 attendances per year from all of the activities that take place at the site.

Colin Murray, The Inclusion Network CIC's Director said: "It was the Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund grant that got us over the line, allowing us to reach our funding target and complete the necessary improvements.

This newly refurbished Centre means we will now engage with approximately 500 new young people and adults per year as we are able to provide a safer, warmer and better resourced building. It is absolutely amazing!!"



**Making North Park Community Garden Disability Friendly**

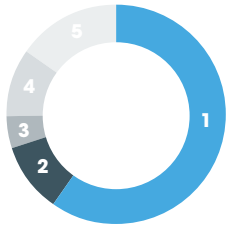
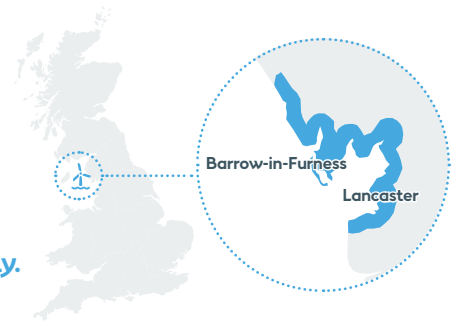


The Gateway Collective was awarded a grant of £11,475 to make North Park Community Garden more inclusive and accessible to all. The refurbishment included installation of a wheelchair accessible composting toilet, improvements to paths and access points and the introduction of more raised beds that can be used by those in wheelchairs and on scooters.

Ali Horton, The Gateway Collective's Community Worker said: "Thank you Burbo Bank! As a result of your funding, we have been able to make North Park Community Garden accessible to everyone. It can continue to be a valuable resource for all members of the community into the future."

# 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, 185 local projects have been supported.



**£3,290,537** awarded since the Fund launched in 2016



**Saving Morecambe Bay's Birds**



Morecambe Bay Partnership was awarded a grant of £25,555 to raise awareness and encourage communities to enjoy and conserve the Bay's birds at five sites where birds rest and breed. A part-time Project Coordinator was employed to visit sites, talk to people, monitor use, liaise with landowners/local authorities, manage volunteers and run an awareness raising campaign through community events, information and the media. Training and support was also provided for community volunteers (Natural Ambassadors) to talk to people and celebrate the important birds. Amy Hopley, Morecambe Bay Partnership's Nature and Wildlife Officer said: "This grant allowed Morecambe Bay Partnership to continue leading the way in connecting Morecambe Bay's locals and visitors to the wildlife on our shores, raising awareness of and helping visitors to protect the wildlife that seek refuge on our shores during the winter. It allowed us to reach out to new audiences and continue our awareness-raising work despite the challenging circumstances of Covid-19."



**Lightburn Park Playground Relocation and Refurbishment**



South Lakeland District Council was awarded a grant of £10,000 to redevelop the existing children's playground. The playground was successfully relocated so that the main footpath around Lightburn Park does not cut through the middle. This resulted in the removal of dogs from the playground area and provided a range of fun and challenging equipment for children aged 16 and under. Cllr Phillip Dixon, South Lakeland District Council's Customer and Commercial Services and People Portfolio Holder said: "We are very grateful to Ørsted's Walney Extension Community Fund for their grant to help us achieve this wonderful playground in the heart of Ulverston. Parks and open spaces are so important to communities."



**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 to improve their skills and employment opportunities. In June this year a significant milestones was reached as £500,000 has now been awarded across 22 projects over the past five years.

## Walney Extension Skills Learning Hydro Project

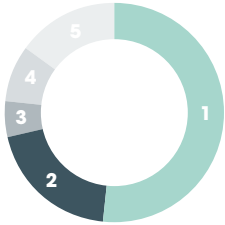
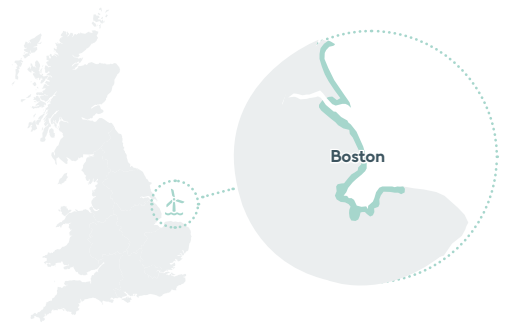
The latest round of Skills applications saw three projects receiving support. One of these is with Learning Hydro to deliver a series of single day training events to senior pupils across 12 schools and colleges within the Funds benefit area, in this academic year. The project aims to emphasise the application of STEM subjects in the context of designing small scale hydropower schemes. Gordon Black, Learning Hydro's Director said: "We are absolutely delighted with the award of the grant funding; it will enable us to deliver a set of 'one-day' hydropower designed training events for young students demonstrating the applicability of science, technology, engineering and maths in this branch of renewable energy."





# 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. 170 projects have been supported so far in coastal areas of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and North Norfolk.



**£2,294,580**  
awarded since  
the Fund launched  
in 2016



**Carbon Footprint Reduction Project**



St Andrew's Hospice Limited, in Grimsby, was awarded £37,944 to provide substantial energy cost savings, whilst also reducing its carbon footprint. The improvements included the replacement of the existing gas-fired boilers with a more efficient and environmentally-friendly heating system, provision of air conditioning, fitting of solar panels and solar window films. Lesley Charlesworth-Browne, St. Andrew's Hospice Deputy Chief Executive said: "We are extremely grateful for this support. The pandemic presented us all with income challenges and now more than ever we are building for a future that will see increasing demand for palliative and hospice care. In order to deliver this we are looking to minimise our costs so that we can 'make every day count' for many more in the future. Being more energy efficient is one way in which we will achieve savings and is an investment that will pay back for many years to come. Thank you East Coast Community Fund and Ørsted once again."



**Bridlington Youth Coalition  
- Young People's Outreach**



East Riding Voluntary Action Services (ERVAS) Ltd was awarded a grant of £28,890 to employ two Youth Outreach Workers over a two-year period. These skilled workers engaged with young people in outside locations such as parks, beaches, the promenade and residential areas across Bridlington. The focus being on those participating in risk-taking, anti-social and offending behaviour and supporting them to participate in positive and safe activities within their community. Detty Tyler, ERVAS's Children & Young People's Services Coordinator said: "The grant has made a real difference to the lives of young people living in the area. Working with local partners of the Bridlington Youth Coalition, ERVAS has been able to engage with young people who are out and about in their communities, delivering youth activities, keeping them informed about what is happening in their local area, finding out more about what they would like in the future and what concerns they may have."

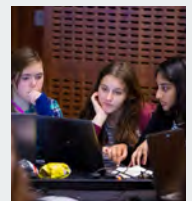


**Skills Fund**

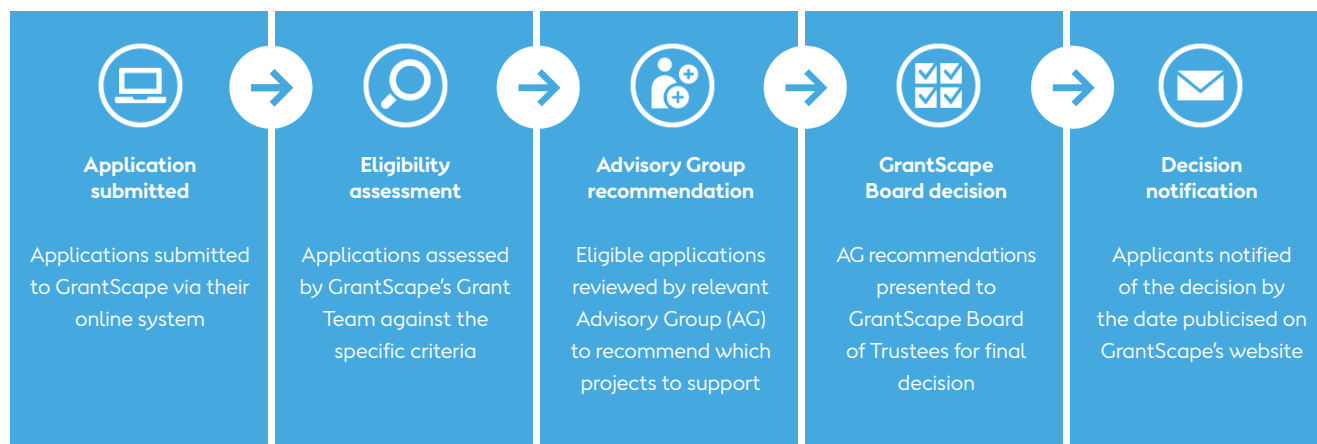
**Each year, up to £75,000 of the East Coast Community Fund is set aside for the Skills Fund. The aim is to provide educational and learning opportunities for people within the Fund's benefit area to help to improve their skills and employment opportunities. The Fund so far has awarded nearly £340,000 supporting 21 projects across the funding area.**

## East Coast Skills Stemettes

In June 2021, Stemettes, an award-winning social enterprise working across the UK and Ireland and beyond to inspire and support young women into STEM was awarded a grant of £39,000. The project aims to help engage, inspire and educate nearly 600 young women to show them the breadth of diversity and opportunities that exist within the Offshore wind sector, across 12 events throughout the Funds benefit area. Anne-Marie Imafidon, Stemettes CEO said: "We are delighted to be working with Ørsted on delivering their East Coast Skills Programme. The offshore wind sector provides significant job opportunities in STEM now, and in the future. Stemettes mission is to inspire the next generation of women and non-binary people into STEM."



# Applying to the Community Benefit Funds



## Next closing dates:

**Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund**  
13 April 2022 (decisions July 2022)  
21 September 2022 (decisions December 2022)

**Walney Extension Community Fund**  
7 January 2022 (decisions March 2022)  
29 June 2022 (decisions September 2022)

**East Coast Community Fund**  
9 February 2022 (decisions May 2022)  
27 July 2022 (decisions October 2022)



"I am the Partnership & Funding Officer at the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk and have been an Advisory Group panel member since the East Coast Community Fund first started, back in December 2016.

I really enjoy our panel meetings – we have a great group of people from different authorities and the voluntary sector, spread across the funding area. We score applications

as individuals first, and then meet as a group to discuss. That way we all bring our local knowledge of groups and our area to each meeting, which is a huge advantage as there will be groups and projects outside of our own area that we won't be aware of.

Once we have scored projects individually, we compare scorings at the panel. We are all open to discussion about each application and we all bring a different perspective, which makes for a good debate. Each application is considered carefully, one at a time. There are set criteria for applications to meet which helps us decide what should be funded. One of the biggest challenges we face as a panel is that there are so many good projects coming forward and of course only a finite budget! It can be a balancing act deciding which projects should be allocated a grant and of course, a meaningful amount. It is great to be able to go some way to helping some really good projects move forward."

**Sarah Dennis**  
Partnership and Funding Officer  
Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk

## 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.



**www.grantscape.org.uk**  
**Tel: 01908 247630**  
**E-mail: info@grantscape.org.uk**

*Information correct as 11 October 2021*

*Cover: West Rhyl Young People's Project - Youth Engagement Activity and Wellbeing Project*