

Orsted
Community
Benefit Funds

Spring newsletter
2022





Protecting the environment is at the heart of what we do, by utilising the natural power of wind to create a vital renewable resource.

This edition of our newsletter is focussed upon the environmental projects we have supported across all of our Funds. With COP26 highlighting to all of us, the immediate need to support and protect our natural habitats for the future of our planet.

To date, Ørsted have awarded over £500,000 to around 50 'green' themed projects with a combined total project cost of c.£1.5 million. The range of supported projects is varied. Examples include natural flood management initiatives, establishing viewing platforms, beach clean-up schemes, installing water butts to harvest rain water and many others aimed at landscape and habitat improvements.

These important projects offer a range of benefits in supporting the natural environment. Please read on to find out more about those featured in this newsletter.

We are always encouraging groups to continue to submit their applications to future rounds of the Funds. Over the next 12 months we will also be looking at ways to encourage more groups to apply for grants across all our Funds that will further enhance our natural green spaces or support projects that innovate to improve environmental sustainability and CO2 reduction.

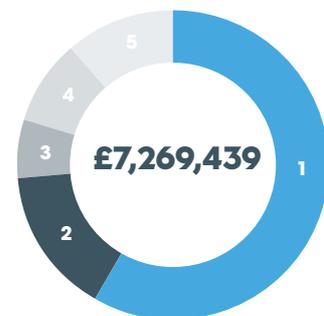
Imran Nawaz
Stakeholder Advisor & CBF Manager, Ørsted

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



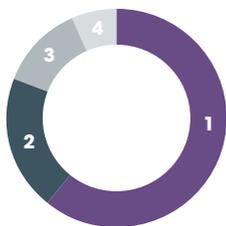
4. Sports, recreation and play



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 160 grants across Merseyside and North Wales.



£1,463,933
awarded
since the Fund
launched in 2015



Pond Restoration for Amphibian Conservation at Royden Park



Royden Park Ranger Volunteer Group was awarded £8,925, to restore a large pond to provide the necessary habitat in order to try and conserve the rare and protected Great Crested Newt. Alan Cruikshank, Royden Park Ranger Volunteer Group Chairman, said: "The Great Crested Newt is Britain's largest and most threatened Newt. Wirral's Royden Park contains a number of ponds which could be used as viable breeding habitats for Great Crested Newts and other Amphibians. Thanks to the Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund grant, this project aims to restore and enlarge an existing large pond to provide the necessary habitat. The pond, which has become overgrown by vegetation, will be restored to a condition suitable for Great Crested Newts by creating artificial hibernacula and refugia around the periphery of the pond and managing the surrounding habitat to ensure the Newts have areas for foraging and shelter, before they become locally extinct."



Boosting Big Pool Wood - For People and Wildlife Alike



North Wales Wildlife Trust was awarded £11,434 to make significant improvements to access facilities at Big Pool Wood Nature reserve, near Prestatyn. The existing boardwalk has been extended; paths upgraded; and specific improvements made for wheelchair users and others with reduced mobility – all allowing more people to see more wildlife, more often.

Dr Graeme Cotterill, North Wales Wildlife Trust's Fundraising Director said: "Thanks to the grant from the Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund and the incredible dedication of our volunteers, we are thrilled to finally offer good, all-weather access around the whole nature reserve. Visitors can enjoy our three bird hides, picnic tables and a pond-dipping platform – and, of course, being surrounded by wonderful wildlife!"



Beach Clean and Care Project - Crosby/Waterloo

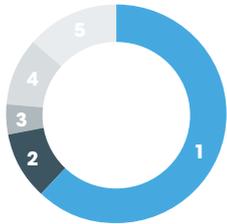


Friends of Crosby Beach was awarded £4,873 to support clean-up sessions at Crosby Beach. The grant was used towards the purchase of necessary equipment, to enable volunteers to safely and effectively contribute towards the clean-up effort, now and in the future.

Barbara Ramsbottom, Friends of Crosby Beach Chairperson, said: "We were absolutely ecstatic when we found out that our grant application had been approved. The extra equipment now enables us to run beach clean-up sessions from different locations along Crosby beach at the same time, which means we can cover a larger portion of the beach during our litter-picking sessions. More people than ever now come to Crosby beach, to exercise, for a walk, run or for a family day out. We want to make it safe and pleasant for everybody, and now we can! Thank you so much!"

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, 200 local projects have been supported.



£3,518,456
awarded since
the Fund launched
in 2016



Restoring Woodland Rides to Benefit Butterflies, Communities and Local Businesses



Image by Butterfly Conservation

Butterfly Conservation was awarded £29,068 to restore or initiate management, in the form of ride widening, scalloping and controlling scrub. These actions resulted in suitable breeding habitat being restored and facilitated dispersal of priority species throughout the woodlands for at least ten years. Martin Wain, Butterfly Conservation's North West Regional Officer said: "We are absolutely delighted to have received this funding, which will be used to help conserve some of the rarest and most threatened butterfly and moth species in the UK. We will also be working locally to stimulate wood fuel, timber extraction and coppice businesses and we can connect with local groups for training, up-skilling and developing volunteer opportunities in woodland management for butterflies. This is such an exciting project and we are particularly pleased to be working with the old foresters to inspire and train a new generation."



Greenheart Den Refurbishment Project



Marsh Street Arches and Gardens CIC was awarded £5,000 to help improve and maintain the Green Heart Den in Barrow in Furness. This area is a real oasis in the town centre and acts as a hub for many community activities. A pleasant, educative and fun community asset in an area which otherwise would have remained derelict. Adam Bearpark, Green Heart Den's Project Development Manager said: "Thanks to the capital investment provided by the Walney Extension Community Fund, Green Heart Den has been able to open its gates to volunteers and the local community for the first time since 2018. This beacon of the local community provides a platform for schools, Voluntary Community Sector partners and local individuals to generate mutually beneficial projects which will directly benefit some of the areas most hard to reach marginalised families."



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. The Fund so far has awarded over 500,000 supporting 23 projects across the funding area.

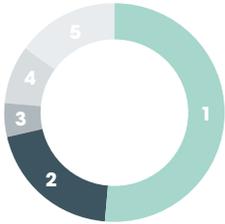
Defending the Docks STEM Recording Project

'Defending the Docks' is a military heritage community recording project rooted in STEM learning and skills development for young people. Working with young adults, schools and volunteers, this project will foster skills particularly in computer science, digital technology, coding, virtual reality, mathematical surveying, engineering design and study of materials to scientifically record World War archaeology remains.



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.



£2,287,050
awarded since
the Fund launched
in 2016



Oasis Garden Buddy Scheme Project



Favour Foundation Limited - Your Place was awarded £18,407 towards salary and running costs of the 'Garden Buddy Scheme' (which runs each weekday morning) for a further two years. The scheme is made possible through the skill, encouragement and supervision of the Garden Manager/Group Facilitator who has a very broad knowledge and expertise in gardening and a great ability to patiently teach new skills.

Chris Taylor, Your Place's General Manager said: "We could not do what we do - without people like you!"

Your Place is incredibly grateful for the funding we have received. Our Oasis Garden continues to thrive and so do our volunteers who love working together, forming great friendships and seeing their plants grow. During the pandemic our garden has been a focal point for our local community, who came to buy plants in great numbers (up to 100 people a day!!). They came to buy plants, get some gardening advice and were encouraged to lift their spirits by spending time in their gardens."



Easington Little Tern Protection Scheme



Image by feathercollector

Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Ltd, in Kilnsea, was awarded £22,880 to protect the only breeding colony of Little Terns in Yorkshire and the Humber. The Project, fences and warden sections of the breeding beach in order to prevent disturbance and predation at the colony, as well as monitoring the progress of the colony and reporting on it annually. Mike Coverdale, Spurn Bird Observatory Trust Ltd's Committee Member said: "Funding from the East Coast Community Fund helped us to continue to protect breeding Little Terns and Ringed Plovers at The Lagoons SSSI allowing them to have another successful season. Without protection whilst breeding, the amber listed Little Tern and red listed Ringed Plover are very unlikely to breed successfully at The Lagoons SSSI or indeed elsewhere in the UK."



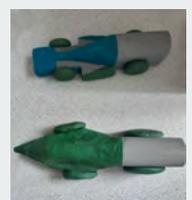
Skills Fund

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 £350,000 supporting 22 projects across the funding area.

Improving STEM Engagement Opportunities for 5–18 year olds in Boston

This Boston Enthuse Partnership leader engages with the local primary and secondary schools in the Borough to improve access to resources and support that are designed to open young people's minds to the opportunities within STEM.

This project is based on the established Formula 1 in Schools programme and will utilise existing kit alongside new resources to maximise reach and value for money.



Applying to the Community Benefit Funds



Next closing dates:

Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund

13 April 2022
(decisions early July 2022)
21 September 2022
(decisions mid December 2022)

East Coast Community Fund

27 July 2022
(decisions end October 2022)
1 February 2023
(decisions end April 2023)

Walney Extension Community Fund

29 June 2022
(decisions end September 2022)
6 January 2023
(decisions end March 2023)

STEM Skills Fund

Walney Extension and East Coast
27 April 2022
(decisions mid June 2022)

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.