

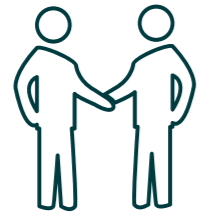
# Beatrice Offshore Wind Farm Ltd

Sharing the benefit of offshore wind





**73**  
rural jobs  
funded



**361**  
projects  
supported



**22**  
projects  
supported  
a net zero  
future



**£6m**  
donated



**64**  
community  
assets  
enhanced

*"The Beatrice Community Fund enabled the community to become empowered about what happens with the land we live on."*  
(anonymous – surveyed grant recipient)

*"The Beatrice Community Fund has been critical in helping us bring better facilities to our area"*  
(anonymous – surveyed grant recipient)

*"Offshore community funding is a kickstart to greater and good projects in the community making an everlasting legacy."* (anonymous – surveyed grant recipient)

## About the Beatrice Community Fund

The Beatrice Community Fund (BCF) was established during the construction of Beatrice Offshore Windfarm Ltd (BOWL). The 84-turbine site is one of Scotland's largest operational wind farms and provides electricity to power 450,000 homes.

The BCF was established in 2016-17 and supported the coastal communities of Caithness, Sutherland, and Moray. The purpose of the fund was to support activities that enhanced local communities and helped build stronger local economies. The fund had two components:

- Partnership Fund – The fund supported larger projects which provided a lasting impact across the coastal regions. The funding decisions were made by a regional panel of experts.
- Local Funds – This was focused on the community council areas nearest to the BOWL infrastructure. These funding decisions were made by panels of local people.

## Training young people

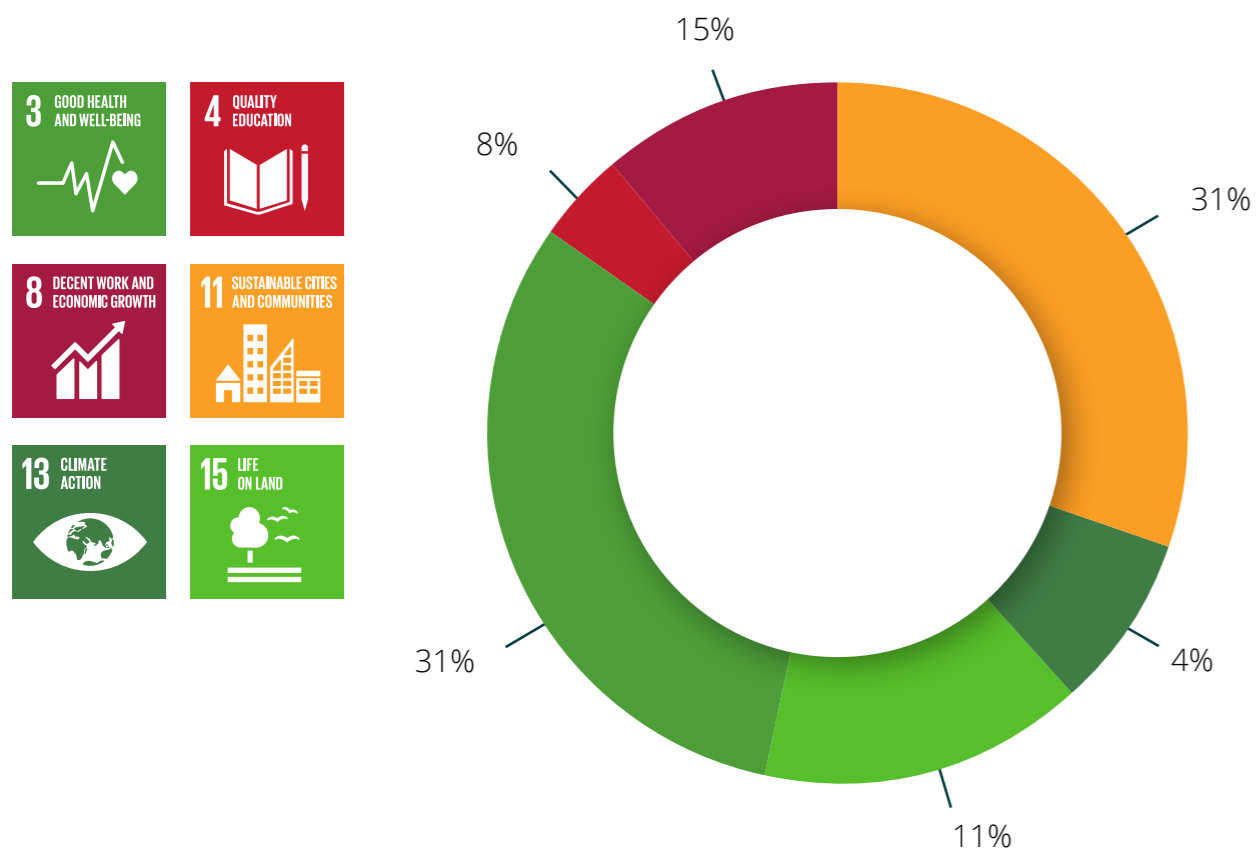


The Gordonbush Apprenticeship Programme received £35k to support 18 young people to find sustainable employment within the local area. The provision is vital in reducing de-population in Sutherland with projections showing a potential 21% population reduction by 2041. The apprentices have started in careers as varied as roofing, hairdressing, and greenkeeping.

# Understanding the impact

The BCF prioritised projects which leave a legacy in the local areas such as improvement works to the Nigg Slipway. The funding also helped to enhance the capability of 16 local development trusts and community companies. Social impact research conducted by NEF Consultancy in 2017 showed that for every £1 invested from the Beatrice Partnership Fund, £3.21 in wider value was generated. The impact of the funds demonstrates a substantive contribution to the local region with 73 local jobs supported, including two apprenticeship programmes. The infrastructure of coastal areas has been enhanced with 64 local assets improved, including Latheron Hall in Caithness, Embo Trust in Sutherland, and the Cullen Heritage Centre in Moray.

The BCF has supported the prosperity and growth of the region and has helped local achievement against the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We have chosen the UN Sustainable Development Goals as the primary impact focus for the BCF as it is an internationally recognised blueprint for promoting prosperity, tackling climate change and encourage economic growth.



# Supporting the hardest to help



A key success of the BCF has been responding quickly to local needs. Caithness CAB received £10k in June 2022 to support people impacted by the rising cost of living. Two expert advisers provide impartial advice on income maximisation and energy for 150 cases over a 6-month period. The service helps people to improve their well-being by reducing the stress caused by financial difficulties.



# Developing community initiatives



A £50k donation to Dornoch Area Community Interest Company transformed a derelict police station into a thriving community hub with creative artist studios, childcare centre, remote working facilities and a community gym.

# Supporting a net zero transition



The Moray Baby Bank received £27.6k to purchase an electric vehicle to reduce the carbon impact of their services. The group is a lifeline to local parents in financial distress by ensuring they receive up-cycled equipment and baby essentials for children under two. The service supports 150 families a year.

# Consulting stakeholders

A consultation with grant recipients and panel members in May 2022 has further demonstrated the significant impact of the funds with:

**92%**

of projects funded have had a positive impact on the local community.

**60%**

of projects utilised Beatrice funding to attract additional funding sources for their project.



**91%**

of funded projects are still supporting the local community.

**100%**

of grant recipients would recommend offshore community funds to other groups and communities.

*"BCF really took the time to understand how important this award would be for the community"* (anonymous – surveyed grant recipient)

*"Without funding from the Beatrice Community Fund a lot of projects would never have got off the ground."* (anonymous – surveyed grant recipient)

# Sharing learning

The consultation captured learning from the wind farm developers, grant recipients and panel members to share with learning for other regions considering offshore community funding.

Our reflections – BCF highlighted the capability coastal communities have to develop strong and lasting social projects that help achieve ESG commitments. On reflection, the fixed short term time frame of the BCF did not meet the needs of communities, and the term of the BCF was extended to reflect that. Developers must adapt to respond to the changing needs of communities as shown by the emergency funding released from BCF during the pandemic.

Panel reflections – BCF communities confirmed that building open relationships with the developer and determining clear priorities for the funding is vital. Experience from BCF showed the importance of having clear goals of what the wider community wants the funding to achieve. They also highlighted that it can take time for both the funds and the projects to develop.

Grant recipient reflections – BCF grant recipients highlighted that offshore funding can be an excellent kick start to achieving local priorities. They suggested testing new ideas with pilot funding can help projects organically grow. 'Have a clear plan for what you are trying to achieve so that you can be "funding fed" rather than "funding led".' (anonymous – surveyed BCF grant recipient)

# Helping an ageing population

The impact of an ageing population is a key concern in Caithness with 34.5% of residents over the age of 60. BCF donations across five years have helped to enhance the capacity of the Dunbeath and District Centre. This has included support to increase the expertise of staff, and to help the organisation prepare for the development of a new centre which will be fit for future needs. The centre currently supports 250 local residents.



# Helping families

A £19k donation to Homestart Caithness established a Dad's support group. 15 men who have had adverse experiences receive expert guidance to maintain strong relationships with their children. The peer support nurtured by the group is vital in helping reduce isolation caused by the pandemic.

# Protecting local assets

The BCF has helped to safeguard local assets, including the East Beach Bridge in Lossiemouth which closed for safety reasons in 2019. This meant that local residents could no longer access its famous sand dunes. BCF provided emergency funding of £50k to Lossiemouth Community Development Trust to start a £1.8m infrastructure project to replace the beach access. The beach is estimated to bring £1.5m to the local economy each year.



Helping to protect the heritage and culture of local communities has been a priority for BCF. A £40k investment helped Covesea Lighthouse Community Company to develop a new tourism and heritage centre outside Lossiemouth which now attracts 1,300 visitors to Moray annually. The centre has a focus on education and provides tours for local schools.



## Showcasing culture and heritage



# Beatrice

Offshore Windfarm Ltd

To find an overview of all awards made by the Beatrice Community Fund please consult the SSE Renewables Community Investment Reviews. [www.sserenewables/communities](http://www.sserenewables/communities)

---

Beatrice Offshore Windfarm Ltd is a joint venture between:

