

Maesgwyn Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund

Guidance Notes for Applicants in Glynneath Wards

What is the Maesgwyn Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund?

The Community Fund is an extra voluntary benefit offered by Green Energy South Wales Limited to the communities living closest to the Wind Farm operation. The fund will pay one hundred & seventy-five thousand pounds (£175,000.00) per annum for twenty-five (25) years or until the Wind Farm is closed within that time to the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. This amount will then be split on a 50/50 basis to special fund accounts in the names of Onwlllyn Community Council & Glynneath Town Council.

The Glynneath Town Council, overseen by the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council & the Welsh Audit Office, will administer their portion of the annual fund during the funds lifetime.

How to Apply for Grant Funding;

Please read these guidance notes to find out more about the Maesgwyn Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund & the type of projects we are able to fund.

- Check that the project you wish to fund via the Community Benefit Fund is eligible by reading these guidance notes. If you require/need clarification on anything within these notes, please contact the Administrator of the Glynneath Maesgwyn Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, (Clive Baker), on **01639720731**.
- Please ensure that all questions in the application form are answered & that all supporting documentation that has been asked for is provided. **NOTE: Incomplete submissions will not be considered & will be returned to the applicant.**
- Please adhere to the application deadline dates that will be set. The Steering/Assessment Panel will meet at least once a year (Dates, times & venue will be posted on notice boards at the Bethania Community Centre & the Town Hall). Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their bid within twenty-one (21) days of each meeting.

About the Grant:

The primary intent of the fund is to support projects that generate a genuine, long term community benefit under the following headings:

1. Recreation
2. Education
3. Health
4. Environment
5. Culture
6. Local Economy.

Eligible Applicants:

All voluntary/community organisations that are constituted with a Bank Account in the name of that Organisation (Note: Bank Account must have at least two (2) authorised signatories). Local Charities & not for profit organisations can apply. The Community Fund will not support projects that should be financed by statutory agencies. Grants will be awarded to constituted groups. Schools will be eligible to apply for projects that are not part of the traditional school day. The Community Fund will support applications from organisations within the Glynneath Wards only.

How much of a grant can organisations apply for?

Applications will be accepted for funding of between five hundred pounds (£500.00) & fifteen thousand pounds (£15,000.00). Applications for more than fifteen thousand pounds (£15,000.00) will only be accepted under exceptional circumstances & will require the applicant to provide additional supporting documentation to the Assessment Panel before being considered (please contact the Administrator of the Glynneath Maesgwyn Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund, Clive Baker, on 01639720731 for information relating to the additional documentation). The Applicant Organisation must indentify a significant element of "matched funding" in its application to the Maesgwyn Wind Farm Assessment Panel. **Note: The Community Fund will not support 100% of any total project costs over fifteen thousand pounds (£15,000.00).**

Note:

For projects of up to £14,999 no match funding is required

For projects of £15,000 and over, the Fund Panel will expect match funding of at least 20% of the project total project costs

There will be no retrospective funding.

All applicants should await the outcome of the decision of the Assessment Panel (applicants will be notified in writing within twenty-one (21) days of the panel meeting) before any contracts/work is started on the project to be paid by the grant from the Community Fund.

Applicants should note that if the project does not go ahead or is not completed then all monies advanced are repayable to the fund upon demand.

What can be funded?

Any project that will have a positive impact under the above mentioned criteria in terms of engagement and wider community benefit. The need for the project must be evidenced. The project must not duplicate existing provision but complement what is happening in the Glynneath community.

Projects that will “score” well in the assessment of a bid for funds might include new, additional or improved facilities or services. Projects that require funds for repair, maintenance, replacement or renewal will not be a priority for the Community Fund.

Organisations or individuals that apply for funding under this Community Fund must prove that their project is sustainable in the long term & that it will continue beyond the life of the grant.

Applications/bids for the following criteria will probably not “score” well in the assessment & therefore may be ineligible, might include those that required funding for:

- Refreshment, food, drink & fireworks.
- Day to day running costs e.g. affiliation/membership fees, repeat facility hire charges.
- Insurances.
- Trips & excursions that are not of educational or cultural value.
- Projects that impact upon & affect the sustainability of existing provisions in the surrounding areas of the Glynneath community.
- Religion and/or Faith Groups and the advancement of any religion (unless, for example, the building that is to be improved by the grant has benefit to the Glynneath community).
- Politically biased charities or organisations.
- Projects involving membership only organisations where the general public are unable to use facilities e.g. private members clubs.
- Projects that will require funding for more than two (2) consecutive years.
- Any reclaimable VAT on the project.

All project applications submitted will be assessed on merit. The Assessment Panel’s decision is final. Projects that conflict or adversely affect the aims, objectives or policy of Green Energy South Wales Limited or its associated companies will be ineligible.

Second & Subsequent Applications to the Fund.

Specific projects that have previously been awarded funding from the Maesgwyn Wind Farm Community Fund will not be able to make a subsequent application for the same project. **A second application can be made for a different project that offers different or complimentary outcomes. This is dependent upon the Assessment Panel receiving the Project Completion Report (PCR) from the earlier Maesgwyn Wind Farm Community Fund Grant. The PCR confirms that the earlier grant aid has been invested as intended & in doing so, the project has met its proposed outcomes.**

Assessment Criteria

It is envisaged that the Maesgwyn Wind Farm Community Fund for Glynneath will receive far more applications for grant aid than the Fund will be able to support. It is important that the applicant makes as strong a case as possible by answering **all** the questions in the application form. Applicants should be aware that project assessment will be based on the following criteria:

- **The project should benefit a wide range of users of all ages & abilities and improve community life.**
- **The project must make significant improvements to any facility, which will enhance existing activities or enable new activities to take place.**
- **There is clear evidence of need for the project & no other comparable facility existing within the Glynneath community.**
- **There is “matched funding” available for the project.**
- **Any project has support from the local community and other local organisations.**
- **Projects are self-sustaining once the initial funding has been invested.**
- **The project delivers value for money.**

It is not expected that every assessment criteria will be relevant to all projects however all applications must be able to demonstrate specific & measurable benefits for the local community.

Declaration

- **The Applicant(s) is/are to sign that to the best of his/her/their knowledge the information contained in the application is correct & that the person/people signing the application & subsequently the PCR is/are authorised to do so.**
- **If any information offered in the application changes or is subject to change the applicant(s) will inform the Assessment Panel/Fund Management immediately.**
- **If grant aid is awarded it will only be used for the purpose stipulated in the offer letter. The Assessment Panel/Fund Management reserve the right to recover grant aid that is inappropriately used or that has been advanced for projects that do not go ahead or are not completed.**
- **That if the project is not completed or does not go ahead, all grants monies advanced will be repaid to the fund upon demand.**
- **The applicant(s) will abide by the Terms & Conditions of Grant Aid & agree to complete any Project Monitoring Form as requested & the Project Completion Record (PCR).**
- **Any grant funding received by the applicant(s) is not to be used for any projects that conflict or adversely affect the aims, objectives or policy of Green Energy South Wales Limited and/or any of its associated companies**