VATTENFALL

Foundation Scotland

Vattenfall Unlock Our Future Fund

Fund Report
Year 7 - 2025

Highlights

The Vattenfall Unlock Our Future Fund has now completed seven years of grant-making, supporting community-led climate action projects across Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. In its seventh year, the Fund reached **two major milestones**: supporting **more than 110 projects to date** and **surpassing £1 million in total funding awarded**, with £1,030,257 distributed since 2019.

This year alone, **24 projects in both urban and rural areas** received awards totalling **£213,803.** The overall **conversion rate for the whole fund in 2025 was 45%.** This reflects an increase in applications from 33 in 2019 to a total of 52 in 2025.

Projects addressed several key climate themes – energy efficiency in community buildings through retrofitting, renewables and smart tech, decarbonising transport and supporting waste minimisation schemes.

The **scale of projects also varied considerably**, with awards ranging from £600 to £18,190, from the smallest which provided LED lighting, to several larger awards for major building upgrades involving insulation, glazing, solar panels, battery storage and renewable heating.

A summary of all awards and more detailed case studies can be found in this report. Awards were made throughout the Fund area, with several new applicants supported in northern Aberdeenshire where additional promotional and support activity had been targeted in the past two years to address the historical issue of fewer applications from Banff and Buchan.

Award Celebration Event

The annual award event was held on 25th September 2025 and was hosted by the Aberdeen Science Centre. The event, which has become a popular fixture in the fund calendar, brings together awardees past and present to celebrate their achievements and share learning. Kerry Birse from Vattenfall opened proceedings and welcomed all to the event. There were a number of presentations from previous fund recipients, who provided updates on their projects and shared their valuable experience with the groups who are just starting out on their projects.

We heard from Ellon Community Allotments, Inverurie Environment Improvement Group, Granite City Taekwondo and King George V Hall about their climate action projects to date, sharing the highs and lows of retrofitting, installing renewables, securing electric vehicles and promoting food growing in their communities.

Finally, there was also a special word of thanks from Steve Mackison, Deputy Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire who came along to learn more about the Fund and the projects supported.

Feedback on the day was very positive. Attendees find it to be an informative and inspirational event with lots of practical networking and connections made as groups at different stages look to support each other.



Making a Difference – Case Studies

Remarkable Retrofits!

The Unlock Our Future Fund supports many renewable and smart tech projects – installing solar panels, heat pumps, batteries and smart energy controls. But Unlock Our Future always takes a fabric-first approach, and as a result, the fund also supports many retrofit projects to improve the energy efficiency and lower heat demand in a wide range of community facilities. With a specific focus on fund promotion in north-east Aberdeenshire in the past two years, it was particularly positive to see several new groups supported in this area, delivering practical projects of this kind – some modest and some very technical and ambitious - to reduce energy demand and improve the thermal comfort of several important community buildings. This section highlights just a few of the projects delivered in the past year, from funding awards made in 2024.

Strichen Town House SCIO – Insulation and Glazing

Strichen Town House is a Category A-listed former town hall, which has a prominent location in the village. Following an Asset Transfer from the local authority in 2016, Strichen Town House Trust SCIO was created in November 2019 to carry out the refurbishment of the iconic building on behalf of the community. The building was constructed in the early 1800s and consists of a ground-floor meeting space, a main hall upstairs and a tower containing a spiral staircase and belfry. The construction of the building is solid granite, with detailed elements in sandstone.

Funding for the first stage of restoration to re-slate and gutter the 200-year-old roof, repair the wooden windows, re-line and insulate the North Wall in the Upper Hall and insulate the ceiling space, was secured from the Aberdeenshire Council Place Based Investment Programme together with the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2023. However, delays in the procurement process, and the need for a higher specification for re-lining and insulating the North Wall, following a retrofit Energy Audit Plan by Matthew Clubb Ltd, resulted in the final quotes for the works being significantly higher than the secured grant allocation, with the required match funding being very significantly increased.



This prompted an application to the UOFF fund for £20,000 towards the shortfall of £25,000 for a total project cost of around £95,000.

The age and listing of the building meant that there were additional challenges for the group. They enlisted professional technical support from their architect on the project plans and sought additional specialist advice on retrofitting from Matt Clubb. They maintained a close working relationship with Aberdeenshire Council throughout the process, particularly regarding the specific issues around listed building consent and planning permission for the historic building.

The UOFF funding supported the costs of repairing the wooden windows, and the stripping out, re-lining, plaster boarding and insulation of the Upper Hall. This project represents the first phase of a wider plan to improve the whole building, but it has already made significant improvements for the benefit of the whole community.



Local volunteer, Gerald Banks, said:
"The Upper Hall has been brought back from a state of dereliction to a usable, large 6m x 10m meeting space, in the Grade A Listed building, for the whole community of Strichen. The 200-year-old building provided challenges to the contractors, but these were all easily addressed thanks to their experience of similar projects.

"Installing insulation to walls and ceiling was the first step in providing any such investment in the Town House, together with window repair and fitting secondary glazing. These actions have delivered a dry, warm, Community Asset that will be cost-effective to manage for the long term."

Fraserburgh Men's Shed – Insulation and LED Lighting

Fraserburgh & District Men's Shed SCIO (F&DMS) registered as a charity in 2019. It provides a safe, inclusive space and social hub for over 18's. The group aims to uphold the values of the Scottish and UK Men's Sheds Associations by encouraging friendships and teamworking on projects that benefit the community. They run cookery, art and singing classes; repair and supply playground equipment to local schools and nurseries; and work with FairshareGo to collect and redistribute food that would otherwise go to waste. The facility is currently used around 15 hours per week by approximately 70 people.

The group recently bought their premises, a former religious meeting hall, which they had been renting for a number of years.

As property owners, they intend to make some improvements to reduce energy requirements, keep the running costs down and improve the comfort of the building for members. They commissioned a free energy report from Business Energy Scotland and are now working through the recommendations.

The building was constructed in 1955 and has no insulation. As a first step to reduce heat demand, they installed a suspended and insulated ceiling to the meeting hall to reduce the space that needs to be heated and reduce heat loss from the building, and also to install LED lights. The group was awarded £4,700 to fully fund this project, working with local contractors to deliver the improvements in a coordinated and timely manner.



Committee member, Sandra Marshall, reflected: *"As the project took place in early spring, we have been unable to compare energy bills from the past winter period - however, the room now benefits from better lighting and acoustics, and it definitely feels warmer and brighter. By creating a more energy-efficient and welcoming space, we have strengthened our organisation's sustainability, ensuring resources are used wisely and costs are reduced. Foundation Scotland's support has been invaluable to our organisation. The Vattenfall funding has not only helped us improve our facilities but also strengthened our ability to provide a safe, warm, and inclusive environment for our community. This investment will have a lasting impact, enabling us to focus more of our energy on delivering our services and supporting the people who need us most."*

Mormond West Parish Church - Insulation

Mormond West is a Church of Scotland Parish Church, also in Strichen. The church plays an active role in supporting the wider community and the church hall is in daily use for a range of local activities. Since 2018, the church has established free community cafes targeting a range of ages with a focus on inclusion, health and well-being. Church volunteers operate a Sharing Larder and deliver Wellbeing Parcels with food donations from local businesses, farmers and local households. In response to the economic crisis, the church also provides food to Strichen Primary School Breakfast Club, which continues through the holidays.

They offer a warm space in the church hall for community cafes and a range of other activities, including the Baby Music Group, Mothers & Baby group, as well as providing quiet spaces and computer access for school-aged children and adult learners.

To improve the energy efficiency of the building and help lower running costs, the group applied for funding to install roof insulation. The group had also applied for a heating upgrade but as they had not taken independent advice on heating and other potential improvements, which is a criterion for funding, the group was given feedback to seek advice from Business Energy Scotland and reapply for this element of the project. Loft insulation, especially where there is none, is a basic improvement which would always be recommended, so that aspect was supported.

They were initially awarded £3,000 to insulate the church hall roof space, with the suggestion that they increased the specification of the insulation proposed from 200mm to 300mm which is the standard recommendation for this measure. An additional £552 was subsequently awarded to meet the extra cost of this work. The importance of warm and accessible community spaces should not be understated. In the applicant's own words:



"Our community cafe is open to all from in and around our community. We are particularly aiming at those who are carers, people living with dementia, disabilities or who live in single households who may feel isolated and alone. We hope to provide respite, build connections and strengthen friendships between those who attend and the volunteers. The fund's support enabled the installation of roof insulation in our hall where we hold community outreach events. We anticipate this will help to reduce our energy use, and costs which will contribute to sustaining our activities for the foreseeable future.

"There is an increased bond between people, they all enjoy their time, refreshments and homebakes. One of our regular attendees had her 90th birthday, we celebrated with her, presented a birthday cake and card to mark this milestone achievement which she very much enjoyed as she lives on her own."

Growing Climate Action

Community gardens and food growing projects are supported by the fund, recognising the importance of local production and reducing food miles, as well as the potential improvements to biodiversity and building community connection and resilience. Two examples are highlighted below showing the impact of different scales of project and the many additional benefits they can bring.

Ellon Community Allotments –Growing Community Spirit – and Veg!

Ellon Community Allotments (ECA) was set up as a SCIO in 2023 in order to develop an allotment site on the outskirts of Ellon in Aberdeenshire. The group received an award of £20,000 in 2024 to contribute to the cost of constructing a new allotment and community growing site on disused land at Balmacassie.

In 2020 Aberdeenshire Council conducted a community engagement survey on allotment need. It concluded that Ellon had the highest unfulfilled demand in Aberdeenshire. This was further evidenced through a 2021 survey focussed on Ellon to understand demand in more detail. The survey revealed that of 68 people who responded, 58 expressed an interest in having a plot in Ellon. Just under 50% of these were also willing to help to form and run a community allotment group. Being able to demonstrate these levels of support was important in helping the group raise the funding needed – around £200,000 in total to create the full site from scratch.

The Council identified a suitable location at Balmacassie which they will lease to ECA for an initial 20-year term with a peppercorn rent of £250 a year. The project combines the development of a community growing facility with a focus on the health benefits and climate-smart features which reduce carbon emissions, increase carbon capture and conserve water.

A key feature is that it is an inclusive allotment facility that includes plots with easy access beds for people with disabilities or physical conditions that would otherwise find ground-level growing activities challenging.

Initial works involved clearing the site, creating plots, paths, raised beds and a polytunnel. All plots were let out by June 2025, one month after the official opening. The strategy of offering three different sizes of plots has been largely successful. Some novice growers have struggled with a large plot (200m2), and as a result, the future policy will be to let larger plots to experienced growers and encourage beginners to start with small or medium units.

Committee member, Sandy McDougall said: *"Our beneficiaries have generally been in keeping with our strategy. We have attracted several members who have mobility issues. Half of our beneficiaries are female. We have members from various international communities in Ellon to add to our diversity. The interesting demographic is that 50% of members live on the adjacent housing development. We did not envisage that this would be the case, but it does mean that many can easily walk to the site and use our active travel links.*

"The greatest challenge we have faced this year has been the climate with a hot dry summer. There was not a water supply on the site until very recently and so people have had to carry water from home. We have recently secured a supply from a local brewery which will make a major difference in 2026, along with a range of water conservation measures like rainwater collection on site.

"All visitors and those passing the site have commented how amazed they are that we have come so far this year and the growing of produce is widely complimented. We have also been able to deliver a small quantity of surplus produce to our local community larder and these volumes will increase substantially in future years.



"We firmly believe this is just the start of allotment growing in Ellon and have been overwhelmed by demand. Our 20-year lease gives considerable security and the facility will be enjoyed by many who have discovered us since opening. We have plans to secure more land to enable us to meet demand and will pursue this ambition once the current development is complete.

"Foundation Scotland has been very supportive of our development and we would not be where we are today without them and the Vattenfall funding. The user-friendly application process and having an advisor on hand to provide guidance sets [Foundation Scotland] apart from other organisations. The focus on delivering outcomes rather than being overly involved in the How is refreshing."

Small grant – Big Impact at Gairn Community Garden

Gairn Community Garden was a brand-new group when it applied for a small grant of £2,500 in 2024 to regenerate a derelict allotment site in Aberdeen to create a community space to grow fruit and vegetables and increase biodiversity. The former allotment site had lain derelict for about five years before local people got together to convince the local authority to let them use the space for community growing and outdoor education.

The award contributed to overall project costs of around £9,000 to create raised beds and storage space, purchase soil and compost, as well as gardening tools and other equipment. Benches would be installed and 75 native trees would also be planted. Funding also included the costs of an instructor to provide support with initial gardening set up and deliver gardening training sessions.

In the words of local volunteer, Daniel Doherty: *"Our project has gone really well. We turned an abandoned 600m² allotment beside Gairn Terrace into a welcoming community garden. With Aberdeen City Council, local volunteer groups, the Refugee Council/New Scots, the Community Service team and neighbours, we cleared c.30 tonnes of waste and put in key infrastructure: a secure fence, two huts (one for nursery sessions, one for tools), four raised beds and a polytunnel. We ran one introductory gardening course and a second is underway to broaden involvement. Biggest change: year one became a set-up year focused on making the site safe and usable before running lots of activities.*

"Challenges included site clearance taking longer than expected and some materials delays, but teamwork and in-kind help kept us on track. Next we'll build on this foundation: more volunteer days, nursery visits, intergenerational sessions and food-growing for local families, with an aim to widen participation and harvests through 2025.

"Our project has made a meaningful contribution to increasing climate-aware consumption and production through the transformation of a previously unused, derelict space into a vibrant, productive community garden. We focused on sustainable, local food production by working closely with One Seed Forward, who delivered hands-on workshops teaching participants how to grow their own food organically. These sessions promoted awareness of seasonal growing, composting, seed saving, and responsible water use. We also collaborated with Harlaw Academy and Duthie Park Nursery, offering children regular access to outdoor learning.



"Nursery classes now visit every Tuesday, using the garden as a space to explore nature, understand where food comes from, and learn the basics of sustainability in an age-appropriate way. We provided gardening tools, toys, and safe infrastructure to support this learning.

"Through these activities, the project has not only increased access to local food growing but also educated community members of all ages about environmentally responsible practices. This supports the long-term aim of building a more climate-aware and environmentally engaged local community.

"The project has already fostered a deeper connection between people and their local environment, and we believe this will continue to grow. Children involved will carry forward lessons about nature, sustainability, and healthy living. The space itself will remain a community asset—encouraging outdoor activity, shared responsibility, and neighbourhood pride. Social links formed through volunteering and workshops have created a stronger sense of community that we expect will last well beyond the initial funding period.

"Foundation Scotland's support and Vattenfall funding has made a lasting difference to our community."

Fund Distribution

Year Seven Award Summary

Organisation	Project Summary	Award
1st Banchory Scouts	To contribute to the cost of installing insulation, air-source heat pump, solar panels and battery system to reduce energy costs and consumption.	£14,900.00
Aberdeen Arts Centre	To contribute to the cost of LED lighting for Aberdeen Arts Centre, enhancing energy efficiency, reducing costs, and improving visitor experience.	£4,370.18
Aberdeen Hindu Temple Trust	To install secondary glazing at the Hindu Temple's community space to reduce carbon and save on running costs.	£11,680.00
Aberdeen Science Centre	To contribute towards costs of installing a voltage optimiser at the Aberdeen Science Centre, improving energy efficiency and reducing associated carbon emissions.	£12,130.00
Aberdour Parish Hall	To contribute towards installation of an air source heat pump at Aberdour Parish Hall, improving energy efficiency and reducing associated carbon emissions.	£15,000.00
Culter Theatre Club	To contribute to the cost of upgrading the stage lighting system, enhancing safety, efficiency, and production quality.	£7,478.20
Ferryhill Railway Heritage Trust	To contribute to the cost of installing a ground source heat pump, enhancing the museum's artefact preservation, volunteer and visitor experience.	£8,000.00
Fraserburgh All Weather Sports Facility	To contribute towards costs of LED flood lighting, reducing energy consumption and maintaining affordable access to the facility for local residents.	£2,500.00
Friends of Stonehaven Open Air Pool	To contribute to the cost of insulating pipes and improving facilities at the pool, enhancing winter usability and improving energy efficiency all year.	£13,766.21
Glass Community Association	To contribute to the cost of insulating the hall, reducing heating costs and dampness, enhancing user comfort, and promoting energy efficiency education.	£5,800.00
Gordon Rural Action	To contribute to the cost of building upgrades, including new glazing, enhancing energy efficiency and supporting community services.	£10,540.00
Inverurie West Church (Acorn Centre)	To fund the cost of installing loft floor insulation at Inverurie West Church, reducing emissions and running costs.	£7,840.13
King George V Memorial Hall	To contribute to the cost of installing a new heating system, electric water heating, panel heaters, and replacing doors to enhance energy efficiency and reduce costs for community use.	£6,000.00

Organisation	Project Summary	Award
Newmachar Scout and Guide Association	To fund the purchase and installation of LED lighting within the main hall, toilets and campfire area to support the activities of the Newmachar Scout and Guide Association, and wider local community users of the facility.	£600.00
Newtonhill Community Hall Association	To contribute towards installing an air source heat pump as part of the Garage Project, increasing the capacity and energy efficiency of the Bettridge Centre.	£5,000.00
Peterhead Area Community Trust (PACT)	To purchase an electric robot mower to replace petrol-powered machinery and free up volunteers for other community park maintenance tasks.	£9,359.00
Peterhead Boys Club	To purchase an electric mower to improve the energy efficiency of the Ugie Park maintenance programme, supporting young people's participation in the sport of football.	£2,500.00
Scottish Sculpture Workshop	To contribute to the cost of an electric forklift and charging infrastructure, reducing carbon emissions and enhancing access to local community art facilities.	£16,575.00
Slains Environmental Action for Change SCIO (SEAchange)	To contribute to cost of ground source heat pump and solar PV system for a historic community building.	£18,190.00
Stuartfield Public Hall	To contribute to the cost of a solar and battery storage system to reduce electricity costs and CO2 emissions, benefiting all hall users.	£6,406.27
The Ice Rink Club (Curl Aberdeen)	To contribute to the cost of a new Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) control system at Curl Aberdeen, enhancing energy efficiency and ice quality, reducing operating costs.	£4,968.00
Tillydrone Community Campus SCIO	To fund tutor costs for sewing classes to encourage upcycling, reduce waste and increase local skills.	£2,460.00
Woodrecyclability	To install a 35.6kW array of solar panels to help sustain wood and plastic waste recycling project which supports adults with additional needs.	£15,210.00
Blackdog Residents Association	To fund battery-powered garden tools, mower and solar charging equipment for Blackdog Community Park, to help volunteers and improve environmental sustainability.	£12,530.00

Year Seven Applications

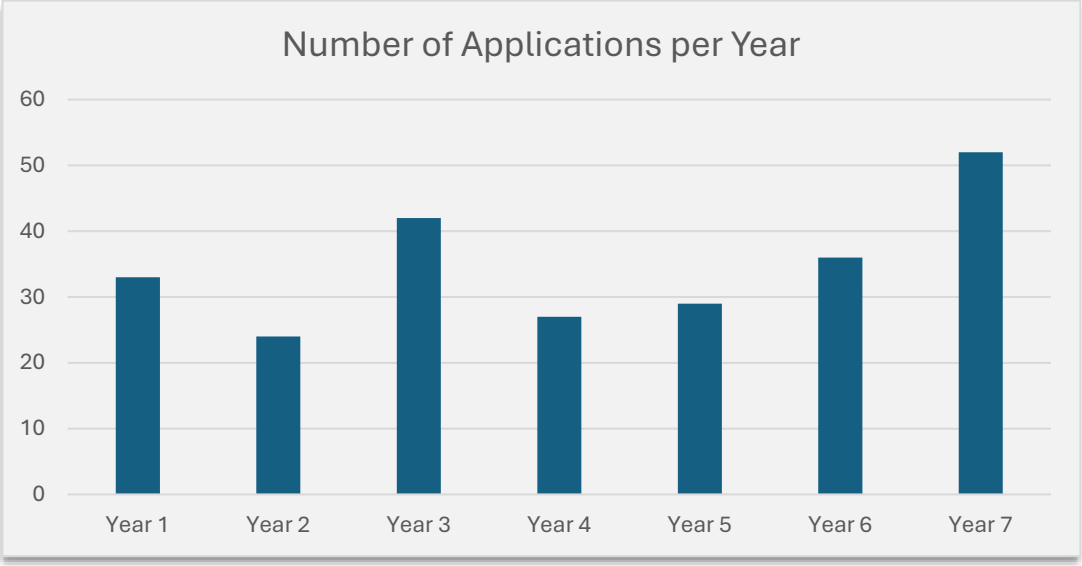
Small grant applications (for £2,500 and under) were considered separately from large grant applications (over £2,500). Seven applications for small grants were received, for a total combined request of £15,310 (compared to ten applications in the previous year, and three the year before that). Of the small grant applications in year seven, four were funded, totalling £8,060, a conversion rate of 57% (by number of applications). Generally, small grant applications were rejected because they did not meet the key fund criteria relating to direct carbon savings.

A record 45 applications for large grants were received (36 in 2024; see table below for total applications per year) for a total combined request of £807,193. Large project applications were assessed using a two-stage process. Initially, applications were shortlisted based on the projects' likely contribution to the Fund priorities, as well as their readiness to complete within 12 months in terms of project development, matchfunding, independent advice, quotes etc. 28 projects then underwent a detailed assessment. Of these, 19 were funded, totalling £197,027, a conversion rate of 42% (by total number of applications).

There was one application to the Blackdog sub fund with one award made of £12,530 to the Blackdog Residents Association (BRA).

The overall conversion rate for the whole fund in 2025 was 45%. This reflects an increase in applications from 33 in 2019 to a total of 52 in 2025, rather than any reflection on project quality (see table below). Generally average award size has been dropping in recent years as demand has increased and the panel has aimed to make meaningful levels of awards to as many groups as possible. The average application amount to the main fund was £17,938 with the average award size overall £8,908. This is lower than last year when the average award was around £10,000. (£10,875 in 2023; £11,698 in 2022).

Foundation Scotland was able to support some of the projects which could not be funded by UOFF due to this high demand. This meant that a further five projects received grants totalling £72,977 (see Appendix One). This brings the grand total of projects supported to £286,780 contributing to positive community climate action throughout the northeast.



The above graph indicates a general upward trend in the number of applications with the highest volume and value ever in 2025. The table below shows value of applications per year.

Fund Year	Value	Fund Year	Value
Year 1	£415,000.00	Year 5	£490,000.00
Year 2	£314,000.00	Year 6	£555,000.00
Year 3	£555,000.00	Year 7	£822,500.00
Year 4	£406,000.00		

The locations of successful applicant organisations in years one to seven, based on the postcode of the main contact, are shown in the map.



Orange represents awardees from previous years. 2025 awardees are shown in purple. This includes several new awardees in the Buchan area, as a result of continued targeted fund promotion in this previously underrepresented area. There remains a gap however in the communities along the north coast of the Shire, which will require further focus in 2026.

Finance

Fund Statements (Summary): 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025

Vattenfall contributes £150,000 per year to the Fund (as of 2019) rising in line with the Retail Price Index for the life of the wind farm, which is expected to be at least 20 years. 10% of the overall value of the Fund is set aside for project activity in Blackdog, the community hosting the substation for the wind farm with the remainder support climate action projects throughout Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire.

Main Fund

Opening Balance	**£181,993.67**
Income	
Year 7 Vattenfall	£207,826.86
Interest	£5,396.71
Grants returned*	£31,600.00
Total income	**£244,823.57**
Expenditure	
Grants paid	£326,850.99
Grants awarded but not yet paid	£51,890.00
Fund expenses	£827.40
Transfer to Blackdog sub fund	£18,288.76
Contribution to Foundation Scotland	£24,939.22
Total Expenditure	**£422,796.37**
Total funds available at 31 October 2025	**£4,020.87**

Blackdog Sub fund

Opening Balance	£57,646.15
Income	
Vattenfall Year 7	£18,288.76
Total income	**£18,288.76**
Expenditure	
Grants paid	£12,530.00
Grants awarded but not yet paid	£0.00
Total Expenditure	**£12,530.00**
Total funds available at 31 October 2025	**£63,404.91**

*The most significant returned grant was an award in 2022 of £30,000 for solar panels for the Charlie House project which was fundraising for a new specialist support centre for children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions. Due to the time taken to raise all funds necessary and the difficulty in meeting the project's significant funding target, Charlie House is redesigning this project overall and so the applicant finally withdrew the application in early 2025. The balance of £1,600 was returned by an applicant due to lower than expected project costs.

Unlock Our Future Community Champions Panel

The Unlock our Future Community Champions Panel is recruited locally to make decisions on how the Fund is spent, reviewing the Fund strategy on an annual basis, recommending grant awards, and helping to promote the Fund to local groups. There were two new members recruited to the panel in year seven, and a new chair, Guy Haslam . The panel met three times during the year: to plan for the year ahead and then to make decisions on fund awards.

Chair Guy Haslam said: *"It is a great honour to be on the Vattenfall Unlock Our Future panel and to be able to support so many grass roots community organisations in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire who do so much for their communities. I am continually impressed by the standard of applications that the panel receive, although this means that the panel has to make some difficult decisions as it is not able to fund some very deserving projects."*

As interest in the fund continues to grow, with a record number of applications in 2025, the panel members' role becomes more challenging as not all projects can be supported with the funds available. Panel members take a serious and thoughtful approach to their role and their time and commitment to the fund is noted and appreciated.

At the 2025 annual review meeting it was agreed to lower the maximum award level for 2026 to reflect the increasing demand on the fund. Given the experience of the returned grant from Charlie House, where the scale of project fundraising required meant that the project did not complete within 12 months, it was also agreed that smaller scale and retrofit projects will be favoured rather than ambitious new builds where the UOFF contribution represents a small proportion of a funding target.

Members for the year:

Guy Haslam (Chair)	Amy Gray	David Nicolson	Rose Lyne Roederer
Roy Cowie – new recruit	Steve Engwall – new recruit	Jean Morrison (Aberdeen Renewable Energy Group rep)	

Rose has now stepped down from the panel and was thanked for her contribution over the past few years. Further recruitment was carried out in late 2025 to fill remaining panel spaces for 2026.

Fund Promotion and Support to Applicants

The majority of Fund promotion work is carried out when the Fund opens to applicants which in 2025 was 3rd March, with the fund promoted widely to relevant groups and networks at that time.

Along with the Fund opening, support sessions for applicants were promoted, which were a mixture of online and face-to-face, with an online information seminar delivered on 17th March 2025 about the fund launch, and one-to-one, bookable advice sessions available on 24th and 25th March online. In addition, staff attended a very successful 'meet the funder' event organised by Aberdeen Council on 21st January and gave a presentation about the fund prior to the official launch.
The Fund adviser encourages applicants to get in touch and discuss project plans before applying which improves application quality and helps to manage applicant expectations.

Conclusion

2025 has been another successful year for the fund with a record number of applications and a record number of awards made and funds distributed – hitting the significant milestone of £1 million and over 100 projects since the fund began. The additional boost of a further £73,000 from Foundation Scotland has made this the most impactful year to date.

Interest in the fund has been greater than ever, and the fund continues to receive a high level of relevant and good-quality applications, making the decision-making process a challenging though positive experience. Maximum award level has been capped at £20,000 for the year ahead and the panel has agreed on a renewed focus on grassroots groups and projects where the level of funding intervention is high, with the continued aim of supporting as many groups as possible to deliver climate action projects in the northeast.

Appendix One

Additional projects funded by Foundation Scotland

Applicant	Offer Statement	Award
Daviot Community Trust	To contribute to the cost of installing a grid connection, solar array and battery storage, reducing carbon footprint and operational costs of grounds maintenance equipment for community facility.	£13,962.00
Ellon Community Allotments	To contribute to the cost of a second Polycrub and a solar water pump, enhancing year-round cultivation, supporting dietary, physical, and mental health, and aiding various beneficiary groups in the Ythan Community Council Area.	£20,000.00
Oldmeldrum Green Growing Space	To purchase and install a water-free composting toilet at the allotment site to reduce the need for additional car journeys (reducing carbon emissions) and increase school and community engagement.	£16,764.90
Station House Media Unit	To contribute towards costs of installing a battery storage system to store energy generated by solar PV, improving energy efficiency and reducing associated carbon emissions.	£20,000.00
NESCAN	To fully fund the cost of a solar-powered stage for Envirolution Festival, enhancing the event's environmental credibility and engaging attendees in sustainable practices.	£2,250.00

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