

Wind farm fund addresses isolation in rural Argyll communities

- **£5,320 to purchase and install defibrillators in two village halls**
- **£10,000 to match fund Scottish Land Fund monies for Furnace**

Perth, 12 December 2018

Community buildings and assets in five rural Argyll locations have been provided a lifeline to enable them to address rural isolation. Thanks to substantial awards made from innogy's An Suidhe Wind Farm community benefit fund, five communities will benefit from the awards as noted below.

The most significant award for £10,000 is to the Furnace Community SCIO who would like to purchase the Furnace Village Store for the community. This money will contribute towards the £30,000 needed to match an application to the Scottish Land Fund for further monies to meet the purchase price of the business.

Andrea Henderson, Furnace Community SCIO, explains: "A village shop is its hub, both practically and socially, and when the owners of Furnace Village Store and Post Office announced that they would have to close at the end of 2018, Furnace Community SCIO decided to try to buy it for the community.

"In addition to applying to the Scottish Land Fund for the major part of the funding needed, it was also necessary to raise more than a further £30,000. We very much appreciate the An Suidhe Community Fund offer to contribute £10,000, if our application to the Scottish Land Fund is successful. This commitment, and the confidence it demonstrates in our project, is both vital and motivating."

Katy Woodington, innogy's Community Investment Manager said: "Financial support that provides a lasting legacy and utilises match funds to finance the purchase buildings for community use that enable is, for innogy, an inspiring use of our renewables' project community funding. We are also delighted to see the fund being used for practical, quality of life enhancing, workshops."

Inspire Inveraray	£5,200.00	To contribute to the cost of updating the structural survey of the community hall, erecting security fencing, analysing community evaluations and publicity/printing costs.
South Loch Awe-side Community Company	£5,320.00	To purchase and install two public access defibrillators in Portsonachan Village Hall and Ardbrecknish.
Portsonachan Village Hall	£5,227.73	To purchase 60 chairs and a chair trolley
PBC Foundation	£1,411.00	To fund a self-management workshop in Argyll & Bute which will support the group's 10 registered users in the area and members of their support circle.

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Furnace Community SCIO	£10,000.00	To contribute to the purchase of Furnace Village Store and Post Office
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Since 2011, the An Suidhe Community Fund has provided benefits to people living in the areas covered by the Community Councils of Glenorchy and Innishail (Eredine only), Inverary, Furnace, and by Dalavich Improvement Group. An annual amount of £ 28,500, rising in line with the retail price index, is paid into the fund for the operating life of the wind farm.

Decisions as to how the fund is spent are made by a panel of local representatives, with Foundation Scotland administering the fund. The next deadline for applications to An Suidhe Community Fund is 7 October 2019.

For further information on how to apply to the fund and an application form visit:

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/an-suidhe/>

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