

## innogy launches flexible wind farm fund to increase employment potential

- **Bad á Cheò Wind Farm Education & Training Fund created to benefit local residents**
- **£133,250 fund per annum now open for applications from residents and community groups**

Perth, 26 September 2019

Following extensive local consultation on the use of the renewables community fund associated with Bad á Cheò Wind Farm, innogy Renewables UK is delighted that local community councils have agreed to increase its flexibility by distributing the monies not only to community groups but also to individual residents for the purposes of increasing their employment potential.

Now open for applications, the Bad á Cheò Wind Farm Community Fund, valued at £133,250 per annum and index linked to the Retail Price Index (RPI), will enable the funding of local community projects as well as bursaries to access training and education opportunities for individuals living within the community council areas of Latheron, Lybster & Clyth, Halkirk District and Watten.

A small set of drop-in sessions will take place in the next few weeks to enable residents to find out more about accessing the fund. All residents are invited to attend and speak to Foundation Scotland representatives to discuss any opportunities relevant to them. Further dates will be arranged in the coming months.

- Watten Hall: Thursday 26th September 3pm - 6pm
- Scotscalder Hall: Tuesday 1st October 4pm - 7pm
- Latheron Hall: Wednesday 2nd October 3pm - 6pm

Katy Woodington, innogy Renewables UK's Community Investment Manager, said: "During the Caithness Conversations held in 2013, and subsequent discussions with community council representatives, many residents have highlighted the need for locals to have access to bursaries to fund education and training, that could provide them with the range of skills required to enter into, or retain employment in key sectors in Caithness.

"We are delighted that the panel has agreed to make access to the fund more flexible and in doing so, to address a key aspect of the local consultation on fund distribution. This innovative approach provides an opportunity for both the local community and potentially the wider area to benefit from this significant investment."

The Bad á Cheò Wind Farm Community Fund will be managed by Foundation Scotland on behalf of the funding panel. Caithness-based Foundation Scotland Development Manager, Eilidh Coll, said: "This scheme will hopefully give people a helping hand who are planning to do a course or undertake some training. It could help people improve their life chances and potentially help them gain new or different employment.

- Deadlines for applications to the Community Fund will vary across the areas and can be viewed at <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/bad-a-cheo/>

## Press Release

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- To contact Eilidh Coll please email: [eilidh@foundationscotland.org.uk](mailto:eilidh@foundationscotland.org.uk)
- Further information about Bad á Cheò Wind Farm can be found at [www.innogy.com/badacheo](http://www.innogy.com/badacheo)
- You will find a download of this media release at: [https://news.innogy.com/link\\_from\\_presspage](https://news.innogy.com/link_from_presspage)

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**ENDS**

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### **About Bad á Cheò Wind Farm**

Consented in May 2014, and awarded a CfD in February 2015, innogy's 26.65MW Bad á Cheò Wind Farm at Achkeepster, Caithness is now fully exporting to the grid with the capacity to provide sufficient renewable electricity to power up to 22,000\* average homes each year. In addition, fulfilling our commitment to investing in the communities around our onshore wind farms, innogy is delighted that a community fund of £133,250 will be available each year for the operational lifetime of the project. The fund has been calculated in line with the Scottish Government's Good Practice Guidelines at the rate of £5,000 per MW of installed capacity and payments will be index linked.

*\*Based on a decreasing average annual household electricity consumption rate, innogy's Bad á Cheò Wind Farm potentially provides electricity to 22,000 homes in Scotland. This number is calculated using average consumption rates that are on a downward trend from 4,100 kWh in 2005 to the current 2017 average of 4,100kWh and is supported by recent domestic electricity consumption data available from The Digest of UK Energy Statistics and household estimated and projections from the UK Statistics Authority. This potential number of homes therefore is significantly less than if sites were calculated using 2017 figures.*