**Clyde Windfarm Extension Microgrant Guidance**

# Purpose of microgrants

Microgrants are intended to make the Clyde Extension Fund available to individuals and local groups who need small amounts to pursue their objectives. The process of applying for and receiving a microgrant is intended to be relatively quick and light touch.

Microgrants can support a range of activities and groups who may not be eligible to apply to the main fund, for example:

* small unconstituted groups who would be ineligible to apply to the main fund
* individuals undertaking specialist training e.g. music or athletics fostering local ability or talent
* travel costs to participate in events out with the area
* support participation of local community in activities not available in the local community

# Application process

* Applicants should apply in writing/via email directly to the CC secretary/appointed office bearer
* Applications will be discussed at the next available CC meeting
* Note of decision minuted by CC
* Applicant informed of the decision in writing by the CC
* Grants issued directly by CC
* Any reduction or rejection reasons must be detailed in the letter e.g. no beneficiaries in the area or only a partial fit with the criteria

It normally takes 4 – 6 weeks to process a microgrant application. Please make sure that you apply well before you need the money. It may be possible to process applications more quickly, but this cannot be guaranteed.

# Micro grant criteria

Clyde Extension microgrants are available for community-focussed or charitable activities which have any of the following objectives:

• Encourage community activity and promote community spirit;

• Ensure adequate access to services for all community members;

• Improve local transport infrastructure;

• Build the local economy;

• Build community capacity and cohesion & between groups

• Develop or maintain community assets.

Biggar Community Council Clyde Extension micro grants cannot be used for the following activities:

• Projects which do not wholly or mainly benefit people living within the Biggar Community Council area

• The advancement of religion or politics (including requests to support the core activities of religious or political groups)

• The purchase of second-hand vehicles

• The purchase of firearms

• Costs of energy consumption (but funding can be used to provide energy efficiency measures which help reduce energy consumption)

• The repayment of loans or payment of debts

• Trips abroad

• Costs already incurred or activities which will take place before we have made a decision on an application (retrospective funding).
• Payments towards areas generally understood to be the primary responsibility of statutory authorities.
• Applications that are for the sole benefit to flora and fauna unless they can demonstrate direct benefit to the local community and/or service users.
• Anti-wind farm/renewable energy activities, including activities contrary to the interests of SSE, its subsidiaries and partners.

# Additional guidance

* The application should not be for more than £500.
* Applicants may only submit one Clyde Extension microgrant application at a time (but can apply for other microgrants administered by Biggar Community Council at the same time).
* If an application is successful, the applicant will not normally be able to reapply for another Clyde Windfarm microgrant for 12 months, although in exceptional circumstances the Community Council may decide to waive this.
* Microgrants are generally intended to be used for ‘one off’ projects or emergency funding. Where a group/individual needs ongoing funding for the same project year on year, it would be appropriate to apply to [the main Clyde Extension fund](https://www.sserenewables.com/communities/community-fund-locations/great-britain/clydehttps%3A/www.sserenewables.com/communities/community-fund-locations/great-britain/clyde-extension/-extension/) for a multi-year grant instead.
* Similarly, it is not normally expected that projects would be funded by multiple microgrants from different Community Councils. In this case it would be appropriate to apply to [the main Clyde Extension fund](https://www.sserenewables.com/communities/community-fund-locations/great-britain/clyde-extension/) for a grant covering activity across a wider area instead.
* Microgrant awards should always be given in full where the project meets the fund criteria. A reduced grant should only be dispensed in a situation where the project is only a partial fit with the fund criteria or if insufficient funding is available to make a full award.
* Microgrants must normally be used within 6 months of being awarded. Please keep us updated on the progress of your project. In particular, please let us know of any delays, as depending on the circumstances we may be able to grant a time extension.
* Biggar Community Council may ask to for evidence that projects have been completed including receipts relating to the project and may ask for any money which is unspent by the agreed completion date to be returned.

# THE APPLICATION FORM:

We hope that most of the information requested is self-explanatory, but if you have any questions please get in touch.

Reserves are money held by a charity or a group that has not been awarded for a specific purpose and can on be freely spent to meet that group’s objectives. Where money has been provided to the group on the basis that it can ONLY be spent on a specific project or purpose this are classed as Restricted Reserves. Therefore, to calculate Unrestricted Reserves do the following:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| TOTAL GROUP FUNDS | *minus* | RESTRICTED RESERVES | *equals* | UNRESTRICTED RESERVES |

Where the Unrestricted Reserves are larger than the grant that you are applying for, please explain what you plan to use your unrestricted reserves for and why these cannot be used to fund the project that you are applying for the microgrant for.

BCC will, from time to time, publish details of successful grant applications including, but not exclusively:

* In the minutes of BCC meetings
* On the BCC webpages and social media
* At public events organised by or attended by BCC
* In Newsletters

*BCC takes seriously its obligations under the Data Protection Act/GDPR. Our full privacy statement can be found on our website at the following link:*

*https://biggarcc.weebly.com/*