

## RWE Community Funds in Action

Bad á Cheò Onshore Wind farm Education and Training fund is open to residents living closest to the wind farm and aims to build skills and increase job opportunities. It provides bursaries to local people to access training and education opportunities that better equip them with the range of skills required to enter into, or retain, employment in key sectors. 21 local people have received funding towards courses as diverse as sports massage, deer stalking, welding inspection and accountancy.

The Lairg and District Learning Centre aims to provide or assist in providing local facilities and resources designed to support lifelong learning and skills development. Rosehall Wind Farm Community Fund has contributed towards the salary of the Manager for multiple years. The Manager's role is essential to the ongoing success of the Learning Centre. Over the last three years, the Centre has grown in user numbers, has widened the range of classes offered and is able to facilitate training in a larger number of outreach locations.

Rampion Offshore Wind Farm Fund has a specific climate change theme, with the twin goals of raising awareness of climate change and empowering community groups to do something about it, whilst also saving them money. For example, the fund provided a significant grant towards a 100KW solar roof panel scheme to the Care for Veterans charity. As well as saving carbon, the scheme will also save the charity money on their energy bills worth £20-30K per year for the next 20 years.

Dalavich Improvement Group (DIG) applied for a grant from the local An Suidhe Wind Farm Community Fund, to support the development of the Awesome Energy Ltd community hydro scheme. The panel that make decisions about the An Suidhe Wind Farm Community Fund proposed to DIG that an investment in equity (share ownership) in the project was preferable to a grant, providing financial support to the project while enabling a return to the An Suidhe Wind Farm Community Fund, anticipated at around 4%. The shares are held on behalf of the community by Foundation Scotland (the fund administrator) and any returns from them will go back into the fund for further investment into the local community.

As part of the Community Fund at Gwynt y Môr Offshore Wind Farm a five year partnership with the RNLI in North Wales. The funding package supports training for all the volunteer crews along the five North Wales lifeboat stations throughout the partnership. A new rescue support vehicle was also supported which can be deployed to incidents across the region and further afield when required. The vehicle has already proven to be invaluable during flooding in Cumbria in December 2015. The vehicle was called upon by the RNLI's Flood Rescue Team to assist those communities and families in need with over 200 people being evacuated.

Gwynt y Môr Wind Offshore Farm contributed towards a £1.2 million revamp for Y Shed putting the Grade II heritage building firmly back into the heart of the village community, and drawing down significant match funding. The project was spearheaded by charitable housing association Grŵp Cynefin and Meliden Residents Action Group and Y Shed is now an exciting new space and home to a café, retail area, heritage exhibition and meeting room. Jobs have been created including a centre manager role. Additional Gwynt y Môr Community funding was provided to Y Shed during the first COVID-19 lockdown enabling the conversion of an unused shipping container into *Dave's*, an ice cream parlour.