West Lothian Development Trust Fund

What is the West Lothian Development Trust Fund

The West Lothian Development Trust fund is money received from windfarm developments in West Lothian. The purpose of the fund is to assist communities within 10km of any windfarm development.

The West Lothian Development Trust fund is administered through the West Lothian Development Trust, a Trust set up to administer and manage the funds. The trust comprises of members from the communities within 10km of the developments, West Lothian Council and the windfarm developers. West Lothian Council provides administrative support to the trust.

70% of all funding received will be spent in communities within 5km of any windfarm development. The remaining 30% will be spent within 10km. There are two income streams to the fund, one from the Black Law windfarm, owned and operated by ScottishPower Renewables, and one from the Pateshill windfarm. Each income stream has different area coverage. Eligible areas are contained within this paper.

Purpose of the fund

The fund is to support the development of projects in communities within 10km of any windfarm development. Projects should meet one of the following priorities:

- Relieve poverty, advance education or social purposes beneficial to an eligible community
- Promote and encourage environmental improvement or enhancement.
- Secure investment, create employment, implement training, promote or secure sustainable development.
- Provide or assist in the provision of renewable energy

Both capital and revenue projects will be funded by the Trust. Projects that meet more than one of the priorities will have a greater chance of approval.

Projects that are deemed to adversely affect or work against the interests of the windfarm will not be funded by the Trust.

WEST LOTHIAN development trust

Criteria

The West Lothian Development trust will fund up to 70% of eligible project costs per project.

Match funding can be provided by either public or private bodies, staff / volunteers' time or benefit in kind. European funding can be used as match funding for a project/ projects.

Funding is available for a maximum of three years; multiple projects can be submitted in one bid. On submission of a bid for multiple projects, a strategy/business plan for the designated period of funding must be produced by the applicant. The strategy/business plan should outline what capital and/or revenue projects they wish to carry out, estimated project costs and an estimated timeline for spending the required funding.

The Trust has two strands of funding, a small grants fund of up to £2,000 and a main grants fund of up to £25,000. Separate application forms exist for each fund.

Communities must lie within 10km of the relevant windfarm development. Areas within 5km are eligible for 70% of the funding; the remaining 30% is for areas within 10km.

Projects must demonstrate that they are supported by the community by which they will benefit.

Eligible Communities for Black Law windfarm funds

5km	**10km**
Fauldhouse	Fauldhouse
	Longridge
	Stoneyburn
	Breich
	Addiewell
	Whitburn
	Greenrigg

Eligible Communities for Pateshill windfarm funds

5km	**10km**
Stoneyburn	Fauldhouse
Addiewell	Longridge
Harburn	Whitburn
Breich	Blackburn
West Calder	Greenrigg

WEST LOTHIAN development trust

Who can apply?
The funds are accessible for community and public sector bodies within the 10km radius. Applications will be considered from out with the relevant 10km radius if it can be demonstrated that the beneficiaries live within the eligible 10km area.

General conditions

1. All awards will be conditional on the applicant securing all relevant statutory consents.

2. All match funding must be confirmed in a manner acceptable to audit standards before any work commences.

3. Work must not commence before confirmation by written acceptance of the award offer by the applicant.

4. Awards are not available for work already started or completed.

5. Payments of grants will be made six months in advance, project must complete a six monthly monitoring report including all original invoices before future funding will be released.

6. Capital projects must demonstrate the sustainability of the project once the funding has ended.

7. Revenue projects must demonstrate that adequate provision for financial management and human resources support has been put in place before any grant payment will be made.

8. The West Lothian Development Trust has the right to withdraw funding at any time.

9. Windfarm funds from another windfarm development can not be used as match funding.

How applications will be dealt with?

Small grant fund

On receipt of a fully completed small grant application form including all required information, the West Lothian Development trust secretariat will endeavour to process applications within 4 weeks. Applicants will be informed that the Trust has received their application. Applicants will be contacted by the Trust to let them know whether or not they have been successful.

WEST LOTHIAN development trust

Main grant fund

Main grants have a closing date for submissions every two months, the table below outlines closing dates for submission. On receipt of a main grant application the West Lothian Development Trust will meet to discuss all applications. Applications will be scored against a matrix designed to access the appropriateness of projects against the criteria.

Following the meeting applicants will be informed of whether their application was successful or not. If successful, projects will be allocated a Project Officer. The role of the officer will be to assist the applicant in providing further information, if required and proof of match funding.

On acceptance of the grant the Project Officer will meet with the applicant to provide guidance on monitoring and reporting information that will be required to be completed.

Closing date for applications
31st October
31st January 2011
31st March 2011

Reporting

During the period of funding, the Trust would monitor the applicant bi- annually. The applicant would be required to provide an bi - annual report highlighting progress to date, reporting on project milestones, as agreed on at the time of issuing the grant and providing financial evidence on how the funding had been spent during the year. This will be explained in detail to the applicant by their Project Officer.

How can you apply?

Anyone wishing to apply for funding can download an application form from: www.westlothian.gov.uk/windfarms

or

Contact: Clare Summers
Community Regeneration
West Lothian Civic Centre
Howden South Road
Livingston
EH54 6FF

Tel 01506 281100 or Email: clare.summers@westlothian.gov.uk