

About Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) community benefit funding

The Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) offshore wind farm is now fully operational, and its owners have committed to providing community benefit funding of £270,000 per annum, rising with inflation, for the expected 25 year lifespan of the wind farm. This funding will be administered by Foundation Scotland.

In recognition of the particular disruption experienced during wind farm construction (including onshore works to connect to the National Grid) and initial operations, communities within the East Lammermuir Community Council area will benefit from 68% of the funding (£183,600 per annum plus inflation) for the first three years, whilst communities along the Fife and Berwickshire coast will benefit from the rest. This will be reviewed in 2028 to inform arrangements for year 4 onwards.

Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) funding plans in East Lammermuir

Working in partnership with others, East Lammermuir Community Council will be proactively spending its share of the NNG community benefit funding on activities to achieve priorities laid out in its [Local Place Plan \(LPP\) 2024-2034](#). In years 1 -3 (2025-2028) this will particularly include:

- All properties within one kilometre of construction works, haul roads or access routes on public roads should be brought up to a minimum of EPC band C, with any appropriate micro renewables included.
- A useable, effective Active Travel Network of segregated paths should be planned, designed and built – to include at least one safe crossing over or under the A1 and mainline railway towards the coast and Dunbar
- A public or community transport service should be re-introduced to link the villages with Co'path and Dunbar
- An ambitious biodiversity gain plan should be devised, agreed and implemented with maximum use of developer support for local volunteers and other relevant aspects of the plan.

The wider East Lothian and Berwickshire areas will also benefit, as the impact of many of these will not be contained to community council boundaries – like biodiversity, active travel and transport developments for example.

East Lothian Community Benefits SCIO (ELCB) is not directly involved with the fund at this stage. However, Foundation Scotland and East Lammermuir Community Council are working closely with ELCB to shape how this funding may be used, in whole or in part, in future years to benefit a wider agenda across the whole of East Lothian. ELCB is fully supportive of the current arrangements.

Funding bids are being directly invited by East Lammermuir Community Council, rather than via an open grant fund process. Allocations are being decided by a local panel, encompassing the Directors of East Lammermuir Community Benefits Fund Ltd plus a participant from each of four [Community Priority Workshops](#), held in the autumn / winter of 2025/26, focused on the four community priority themes from the LPP (Energy Efficiency, Active Travel, Biodiversity and Community Transport).

Any groups interested in partnership working to help shape and contribute to implementation plans to achieve the goals above should contact info@elcc.scot

Funding decisions to date

The first decision panel was held on 19th November 2025 and the following funding allocations were decided in relation to the energy efficiency priority (the only priority for which a community workshop had been held at this point in time) - all bids were submitted by Lothian Heat CIC

1. Personal visits from skilled Heat and Energy experts to domestic properties within the 1km boundary, using thermal imaging cameras to help identify where homes lose heat and to help property owners plan for energy efficiency improvements - £3365
2. Feasibility study for bringing heat from the Oxwellmains Viridor Incinerator and Tarmac Cement Works under the A1 to Innerwick and Thurston Manor - £8992
3. Kickstarting the first Lothian Heat CIC employment - £21875 - anticipated to unlock significantly greater funds from keen partners