

## **The Rampion Community Benefit Fund at Sussex Community Foundation**

### **Fund outline and focus for 2026**

The Rampion Community Benefit Fund at Sussex Community Foundation was set up by Rampion Offshore Wind Ltd and is managed by Sussex Community Foundation. The Fund supports organisations working for the benefit of the people of Sussex, within the Fund area of benefit.

The Rampion Community Benefit Fund also includes an endowment fund for the long-term benefit of Sussex communities.

For the 2026 programme, the Fund will focus on supporting projects that benefit local communities and those with links to environment and ecology, climate change and energy. It seeks to support charities and community groups through the energy crisis and beyond, while tackling carbon emissions and climate change. **Priority will be given to projects that support long term initiatives that mitigate against an increase in energy costs and support sustainable buildings.**

### **Capital funding for community buildings/village halls**

The Fund will support new or improved community buildings/village halls through energy conservation (reducing energy use) and renewable energy generation to reduce CO2 emissions, raise awareness of energy solutions and provide lasting benefits to community organisations through annual energy cost savings.

Please visit our website to see the area of benefit defined on a map:

[www.sussexcommunityfoundation.org/rampion](http://www.sussexcommunityfoundation.org/rampion)

### **Who can apply?**

The Rampion Community Benefit Fund is open to charities, community groups and not-for-profit organisations which demonstrate:

- Their own bank account
- A constitution or set of governing rules
- Accounts or records of expenditure
- Relevant policies (such as Equal Opportunities, Safeguarding, Health & Safety)

### What size grants are available?

- **Grants of up to £10,000** for community projects in the Rampion area of benefit
- **Grants of up to £20,000** for capital projects to improve community buildings in terms of energy conservation/renewable energy generation in the Rampion area of benefit

For more information on capital projects, please see page 3 of the criteria.

### Fund Criteria

For the 2026 programme, we will focus on supporting:

- Initiatives that directly address fuel poverty and/or fuel conservation or those that help people manage increased fuel costs
- Projects that encourage the sustainable use of resources and assist in tackling climate change
- Projects with a focus on energy conservation and renewable energy generation in community buildings
- Energy audits to support applications for projects that focus on energy conservation and renewable energy generation in community buildings
- Support for marine ecology, nature conservation and environmental improvements

You can see more of the sort of work and projects we fund on our website.

### What projects are not eligible?

- Sporting activities that harm or degrade natural habitat or wildlife
- Beautification competitions (e.g., village in bloom)
- Events, unless they have a specific focus on the environment or sustainability and can demonstrate longer term impact
- Highways improvements
- Purchase or running of non-electric vehicles
- Promotion of specific religious or political beliefs
- Projects that are the statutory responsibility of a local authority (Parish Councils included)
- Schools (PTA's may be eligible providing resource will be available to the wider community and accessible outside of school hours)
- Organisations or activities which do not benefit communities in Sussex
- Organisations that discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, disability, age, gender or sexual orientation
- Projects which will be used to make awards to a third party
- Projects which only benefit animals
- Organisations who have not returned monitoring from previous Sussex Community Foundation awards
- Retrospective funding for activities or projects that have already taken place

## Capital projects guidance

For capital projects for community buildings, we recommend carrying out a building energy audit to inform your proposals. An energy audit helps to highlight areas where energy usage can be reduced by collecting energy information and analysing factors such as heating, lighting, and air conditioning. **Costs associated with energy audits can be included in your application.**

Capital applications can be for:

**Energy conservation** – could include insulation (roof, wall and floor), passive design (e.g. to reduce heating and cooling requirements in buildings through design), sustainable building materials (e.g. from reused, recycled or sustainable materials)

**Renewable energy generation** - onsite renewables such as solar PV for electricity or solar thermal, ground and air sources for heating and hot water

We offer a sliding scale of matched funding required for any capital applications between £10,000- £20,000

Organisational turnover	Project application value	Match funding required
£1m +	Up to 50% of the value of the project	50%
£250,000 - £500,000	Up to 70% of the value of the project	30%
£250,000 or less	Up to 80% of the value of the project	20%

*\*Most capital projects will be subject to certain conditions. We would expect all conditions to be met within 12 months of an award being made otherwise they are subject to an offer being withdrawn. The Fund will prioritise projects that are further developed and will be completed in a shorter time frame. For projects requiring planning permission and full working drawings, flexibility will be offered on a case-by-case basis.*

**N.B. If you intend to apply for a capital project, please arrange a call with our Rampion Fund Manager prior to starting your application, allowing plenty of time to complete your application.**

### For all capital projects we expect to see:

- Evidence that you have consulted with external agencies for advice and support on your project and (where possible) include an energy audit and carbon reduction calculation / ROI in your application
- Explanation of why a particular technology has been chosen

- Evidence that you have considered sustainable building practice, renewable energy generation, energy conservation and resource efficiency as part of your proposal
- Documents to confirm lease arrangements in place (**10 years minimum**) and provide written landowner consent where relevant
- Letters of support from relevant local authorities or stakeholder groups –we expect to see a good level of ownership in the facility. We would particularly encourage applicants to demonstrate how funding provides an opportunity to broaden the access to a wider range of groups and activities
- Written evidence that match funding (see table above) has been secured. **Match funding must be in place prior to making an application for a capital grant more than £10,000**
- Provision for maintenance and repair
- Three estimates for the proposed work or equipment and an explanation of why a preferred supplier has been indicated
- Capital budgets can also contain a contingency line to help cover unexpected or increased costs.

### How to apply

Applications can be made on our Rampion application form, which is accessed via our [funding portal](#). If you have not made an application to us via our funding portal, you will need to register beforehand.

The application form link will be displayed in the Grants pages of our website under the tab, '**Additional grants**'. If you have any questions about accessing and using the portal, please contact our grants administrators by calling 01273 409 440 or by emailing [grants@sussexcommunityfoundation.org](mailto:grants@sussexcommunityfoundation.org)

The **deadline for applications is 5pm on Tuesday 19 May 2026**. We are unable to accept applications after this deadline. Please make sure you leave plenty of time to complete your application to meet this deadline.

### What is the decision- making process?

Once we receive your application, we will check that you are eligible and have supplied the information we need. The application will then be assessed and presented to the Rampion Community Benefit Fund panel for consideration. The panel includes Trustees of Sussex Community Foundation and representatives of Rampion Offshore Wind Ltd.

This process takes about eight to ten weeks from the May deadline, and we will let you know the outcome of your application shortly afterwards.

## Am I eligible to apply?

These grants are awarded to not-for-profit volunteer-led organisations whose annual income **does not exceed £2m**. We define not-for-profit as those:

- Whose governing body (board or management committee) is entirely voluntary, although out of pocket expenses may be paid, and has a minimum of three unrelated people (if some are related, there must be at least three who are not)
- Whose members do not receive any financial benefit
- Whose income and assets are used exclusively for charitable purposes (and any remaining assets are transferred to a charitable organisation)
- That do not pay any dividend or distribute any surplus to shareholders or members.
- All organisations must have an equal opportunities policy in place – one that covers the Equalities Act 2010 and the nine protected characteristics.

## Your organisation does not have to be a charity, but it does need to have:

- its own bank account, with at least two signatories (who are not related to each other)
- a constitution or set of governing rules, with a minimum of three trustees/committee members as above
- accounts or records of expenditure
- relevant policies (such as equal opportunities, safeguarding, health & safety).

We can accept applications from social enterprises, CICs and Companies Limited by Guarantee carrying out activities which are charitable. However, these organisations must have:

- *Demonstrable public benefit and clear protection against private benefit*
- *A minimum of three unrelated directors, the majority of whom are not paid either as directors or for delivering activities of the organisation (if some are related then there must be at least three who are not)*
- *A majority of non-executive directors approving the salaries and benefits of any paid directors, which should be reasonable and proportionate to the work they do and the financial position of the organisation*
- *An asset lock body (in the case of CICs) with objectives which are charitable and similar to the CIC*
- *If you are a CIC, please **contact us prior to starting an application** to check you are eligible as we have specific criteria around CICs for this Fund.*
- *We are unable to accept applications from companies Limited by Shares.*
- *If companies house lists a person with significant control, we'll get in touch to check your organisation still meets our criteria.*

Please refer to the eligibility criteria for all our funded programmes before making an application. You can find the criteria [on our website](#).

This criteria applies to all of our funding programmes.

### **What is the payment process?**

If you are offered a grant award, you will receive payment up front, once you have agreed to our terms and conditions (these form part of the application form). In some circumstances where a capital or larger grant award is made, you may be paid in stages, following interim reports and/or evidence of expenditure.

We ask you to complete an online monitoring form once you have spent your grant/completed your project.

### **Where can I get more help?**

If you have any questions about this guidance or our application process, please contact us at [grants@sussexcommunityfoundation.org](mailto:grants@sussexcommunityfoundation.org) or call us on 01273 409 440 (option 1). We will be happy to help.

We are proud to partner with local VCSE Infrastructure Organisations (often referred to as Voluntary Actions) who provide a range of support for local charities and community groups. You can find the contact details for your local VCSE organisation here:

[VCSE](#)

### **Publicity**

Grantees will be required to mention the Rampion Community Benefit Fund at Sussex Community Foundation in all publicity, printed and online materials and through signage where appropriate. Both Rampion Community Benefit Fund and Sussex Community Foundation logos must be displayed alongside each other. There can be found at [www.sussexcommunityfoundation.org/resources/](http://www.sussexcommunityfoundation.org/resources/)