Ørsted

Community Benefit Funds

Autumn newsletter
2026





Creating Opportunities, Strengthening Communities

It's always inspiring to see the many different ways our Community Benefit Funds are making a difference, and this latest newsletter is a great reflection of that.

Across the Ørsted funds administered by GrantScape, we have now reached an exciting milestone, with almost £15 million awarded to more than 1,000 projects to communities across the UK.

Behind those figures are local organisations turning ideas into action. In this edition, you can read about projects bringing families together, improving health and wellbeing, creating greener community spaces and opening new opportunities for sport, education and skills.

There is also a strong focus on the next generation. From children exploring future STEM careers in Cumbria to young people learning coding, robotics and sustainable technology, it is fantastic to see funding helping people develop skills that can support them now and in the future. Our Spotlight feature takes us to Lancaster, where Escape2Make's Makers Club is combining creativity with technology and giving young people the chance to experiment with everything from 3D printing and coding to laser cutting and design.

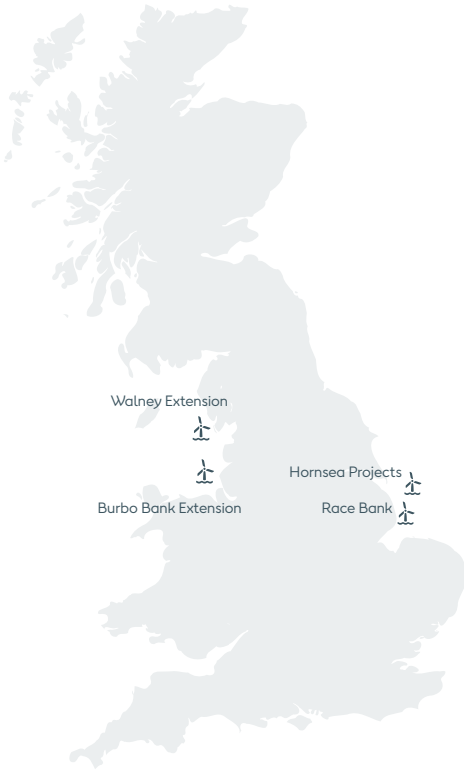
Thank you, as always, to the community groups, volunteers and partners whose commitment makes these projects possible. I hope you enjoy reading about some of the fantastic work taking place across our fund areas.

To find out more about the funds and how to apply, please visit GrantScape's website at **www.grantscape.org.uk**.

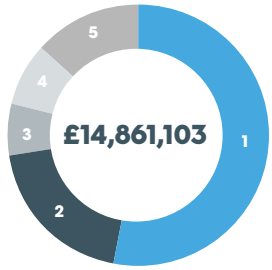
Imran Nawaz
Senior Advisor & CBF Manager, Ørsted

Ørsted provides Community Benefit Funds for the following offshore wind farm projects

- Burbo Bank Extension in Liverpool Bay – £225,000 per year
- Walney Extension in the Irish Sea off the Cumbria coastline – £600,000 per year which includes £100,000 Skills Fund
- East Coast – Race Bank project located in the North Sea off the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire coastline – £465,000 per year which includes £75,000 Skills Fund
- Hornsea 3 located approximately 120 km off the Norfolk coast and 160 km off the Yorkshire coast - £700,000 per year which includes £100,000 Skills Fund and £100,000 Legacy Fund



Funds awarded to date:



1. **Community activities and services**
2. **Community buildings and facilities**
3. **Nature and public open space projects**
4. **Sports, recreation and play**
5. **Skills Fund projects**

East Coast Community Fund

The East Coast Community Fund is linked to the Race Bank Offshore Wind Farm and has £465,000 available each year. In the coastal areas of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, 328 projects have been supported with grants totalling almost £4.5 million so far.





£4,498,792 awarded since the fund launched in 2016

Bringing Generations Together in Winthorpe



A £10,000 grant has helped Winthorpe Community Partnership provide free activities supporting health, wellbeing and social connection for local residents.

Three programmes were delivered, including Upbeat singing sessions, fitness classes and Eat and Play activities for families during the school holidays. The latter gave children the opportunity to take part in outdoor activities and enjoy fruit and a hot meal, without cost being a barrier to participation.

Around 265 people benefited, with participants reporting improved mood, mobility and wellbeing.

"This grant has made a huge difference to our local community, young and old. These three different sessions have brought so much joy to so many people." - Jodi Bradbury, Winthorpe Community Coordinator

Growing Wellbeing in Grimsby



A £21,680 grant from the East Coast Community Fund has helped Green Futures Greater Grimsby continue supporting local people through its 3.5-acre community garden.

Funding for an Administration and Project Manager helped deliver volunteering, workshops and activities, providing a welcoming green space where people can build skills, confidence and connections. Over the year, 979 people benefited, including volunteers, activity groups, school visitors and event attendees. Produce grown on site was also donated to East Coast Homeless Outreach (ECHO) and Nunsthorpe Family Hub, helping feed people experiencing homelessness.

"The support has enabled us to stay open and continue supporting our volunteers and visitors with their physical and mental health." - Charley Taylor, Admin and Project Manager, Green Futures

Skills Fund

Each year, £75,000 is allocated to the Skills Fund to support education and training opportunities in the local area. So far, £750,000 has supported 38 projects, improving skills and boosting employment prospects for individuals across the fund's benefit area.

Inspiring the Next Generation of Green Innovators



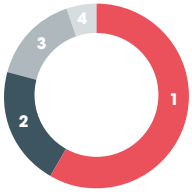
A £47,381 grant from the East Coast Skills Fund will help Lab Rascals bring hands-on sustainability and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) learning to communities across North East Lincolnshire and the East Riding of Yorkshire. Working with eight primary schools and local libraries, activities will explore climate change, greenhouse gases and renewable energy through planetarium shows, experiments and LEGO® wind turbines. The project expects to engage at least 2,300 children, parents and carers, while six new STEM loan kits will provide a lasting resource for local groups.

"We're thrilled to receive this funding, which will help us bring hands-on STEM and sustainability learning to even more children and families." - Katie Norman, Project Lead, Lab Rascals

Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund



The Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund provides £225,000 each year and has so far awarded almost £2.5 million to 260 projects across Merseyside and North Wales.



£2,480,529 awarded since the fund launched in 2015

Fighting Parkinson's Through Fitness



A £4,000 grant from the Burbo Bank Community Fund has helped Parkinson's Ninja Community Interest Company (CIC) introduce a new high-intensity exercise class for people living with Parkinson's.

Combining boxing and martial arts-based exercises, the 45-minute sessions challenge participants to improve their fitness while supporting their physical and mental wellbeing. Twenty people now regularly attend the high-intensity programme, with the class also giving members progressing through lower-intensity sessions something to work towards.

Parkinson's Ninja now offers four weekly classes, attended by more than 60 people overall.

"The grant has been absolutely priceless in helping us establish the new high-intensity class, supporting 20 people in a positive and fun environment." - Paul Williams, Volunteer Fundraiser, Parkinson's Ninja CIC

Helping Birkenhead Families Learn, Connect and Thrive



A £12,500 grant from the Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund helped North Birkenhead Development Trust deliver its Family Calendar, providing free activities for local families. From story time and family cooking to music sessions and community picnics, the programme created opportunities for families to connect, learn and enjoy time together. Around 412 local people took part, 80% of them children and young people. Among the project's memorable outcomes, five babies took their first steps and eight children spoke their first words at the centre during 2025.

"It just feels like somewhere that actually gets families round here." - Project participant

Growing a Greener, More Resilient Bootle

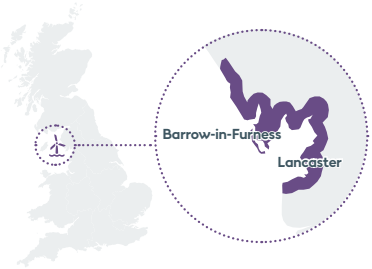


A £4,960 grant from the Burbo Bank Community Fund has helped Lotus Brook develop a community allotment where local people can learn about climate-resilient gardening.

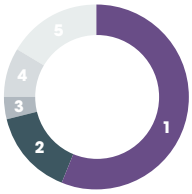
Through regular guided sessions, volunteers created a herb spiral, improved the pond, built a hugel bed and introduced habitats for insects, while learning how planting can respond to flooding, drought and changing weather. Forty-six volunteers have engaged with the project so far. The project achieved a Level 3 – Advancing Award in its first Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) It's Your Neighbourhood entry and was also among the sites showcased as part of Bootle in Bloom's third consecutive Gold award.

"We aim for the site to become a learning resource on climate-resilient planting, bringing learning to the community." - Christine Leung, Director, Lotus Brook

Walney Extension Community Fund



The Walney Extension Community Fund is linked to the offshore wind farm off the Walney Island coast in Cumbria and has £600,000 available annually. To date, 328 local projects have been supported by grants totalling over £6.1 million.



£6,111,295 awarded since the fund launched in 2016

Sharing Joy Through Live Music



A £6,000 grant from the Walney Extension Community Fund has helped Music in Hospitals & Care bring professional live music to patients and residents at Furness General Hospital, Croft Nursing Home and Station View Nursing Home in Barrow-in-Furness.

The project reached people living with dementia, serious illness and other complex care needs, with sessions tailored to encourage participation, connection and self-expression. Patients were seen smiling, singing and dancing, while families shared meaningful moments with loved ones and staff reported improved morale and a more positive atmosphere. The project was rated as having exceeded its original aims.

"We have seen patients who would not normally engage smiling, singing and even dancing, and families sharing precious moments with their loved ones." - Music Delivery Team, Music in Hospitals & Care

Lighting Up Sport in Thornton-Cleveleys



A £12,000 grant from the Walney Extension Community Fund has helped Thornton Cleveleys Sports Club transform a previously underused grass area into a 3G Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), complete with fencing and floodlights. The completed project cost £21,780.

The new facility is helping bring the club's football teams back to train at their own site, while opening up opportunities for the wider community. The floodlights mean the pitch can also be used during evenings and darker winter months, creating more opportunities for year-round activity. The club estimates that around 1,000 people will benefit each year.

"Thanks to the grant, we have been able to bring some of our football teams back to train at our facility. We have also expanded its use to local schools, schools with special education needs, walking football, disability football and the local community." - Thornton Cleveleys Sports Club

Skills Fund

Each year, £100,000 from the Walney Extension Fund supports skills and training projects. Almost £1 million has been awarded so far, funding 41 initiatives that give local people access to learning, qualifications, and career development opportunities across the benefit area.

Inspiring the Next Generation of STEM Talent

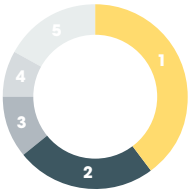


A £24,970 grant from the Walney Extension Skills Fund helped Furness Education & Skills Partnership deliver its third Children's Skills Conference at Furness College. Through hands-on workshops, children explored teamwork, communication, problem-solving and creativity, while discovering how classroom skills connect to future STEM careers. The three-day event benefited 518 children, alongside 96 teachers, business partners and other professionals.

"The conference has gone from strength to strength and is now a firm favourite in the annual calendar for many local schools." - Deb Parkinson, Programme Manager, Furness Education & Skills Partnership

Hornsea 3 Community Fund

The Hornsea 3 Community Fund is associated with the Hornsea 3 Offshore Wind Farm and has £700,000 available annually. The fund supports projects that benefit the coastal and cable route communities in Norfolk & Suffolk. So far, 99 projects have received almost £1.8 million in funding across the eligible areas.



£1,770,487 awarded since the fund launched in 2024

Singing for Wellbeing in Sheringham



A £4,850 grant from the Hornsea 3 Community Fund has helped Sing Your Heart Out continue providing free singing workshops to support mental health and wellbeing in Sheringham.

Led by professional tutors, the sessions give adults a welcoming space to sing, socialise and build friendships. Around 40 people benefited, with participants growing in confidence and some taking on volunteer roles after key organisers stepped down due to ill health. The project was rated as having exceeded its original aims.

"Having funds in place enabled us to establish a new team, by coaching members and developing their confidence to take over the roles." - Lyn Forde, Trustee, Sing Your Heart Out

Learn more about Sing Your Heart Out at **www.syho.org**

Connecting Generations Through Theatre



A £5,481 grant from the Hornsea 3 Community Fund has helped Reflex Theatre bring young people together through theatre, storytelling and creative workshops across North Norfolk and coastal East Suffolk.

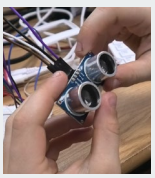
Participants explored local identity, shared stories and built confidence through drama and discussion. As many as 251 people took part in the workshops, exceeding the project's original aims and helping to strengthen social connections and reduce isolation. Their experiences have also contributed to plans for an East Anglian scrapbook celebrating local lives.

"This grant has made a real difference to our ability to connect with young people through creativity, conversation and shared local stories." - Callan Durrant, Artistic Director, Reflex Theatre

Skills Fund

Up to £100,000 is reserved annually for the Hornsea 3 Skills Fund, aimed at improving skills and employability in the local area. Since the fund started, almost £300,000 has been awarded to 18 different initiatives.

Coding for a Greener Future



An £11,599 grant from the Hornsea 3 Skills Fund will help Crea Norfolk Community Interest Company (CIC) expand its popular Coding and Robotics Club for young people aged 7–25 in King's Lynn. Across 60 sessions, participants will explore how robotics can support environmental monitoring and renewable energy. They will collect local data such as air quality, humidity and temperature, and programme solar-powered systems to create optimal growing conditions for plants. The project aims to reach 120 young people, building STEM skills, confidence and friendships.

"This funding will enable us to give more young people access to technology, while showing how coding and robotics can help tackle real-world environmental challenges." - Kirsten Murray, Director, Crea Norfolk CIC

Making, Creating and Building New Skills

Spotlight

What happens when creativity meets technology? For young people in Lancaster and Morecambe, the answer has included everything from 3D printing and graphic design to coding, laser cutting and programming.

With an £11,975 grant from the Walney Extension Skills Fund, Escape2Make (E2M) partnered with Lancaster & Morecambe Makers (LAMM) to establish a free Makers Club for 11 to 18-year-olds. Over a full year, young people were given the chance to experiment, create and develop practical Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) skills using specialist equipment they may otherwise never have had access to. Sessions took place at both the E2M Centre and Lancaster and Morecambe Makerspace, where participants could turn their own ideas into reality. Thirty-seven young people joined the fortnightly Makers Club, with many becoming regular attendees and going on to take part in other Escape2Make activities.

But the project's reach extended beyond the club itself. Five targeted outreach sessions engaged a further 40 young people through partnerships with organisations including Cancer Care and The Zone. These sessions helped bring high-quality creative STEAM opportunities to young people experiencing challenges including bereavement and socio-economic disadvantage.





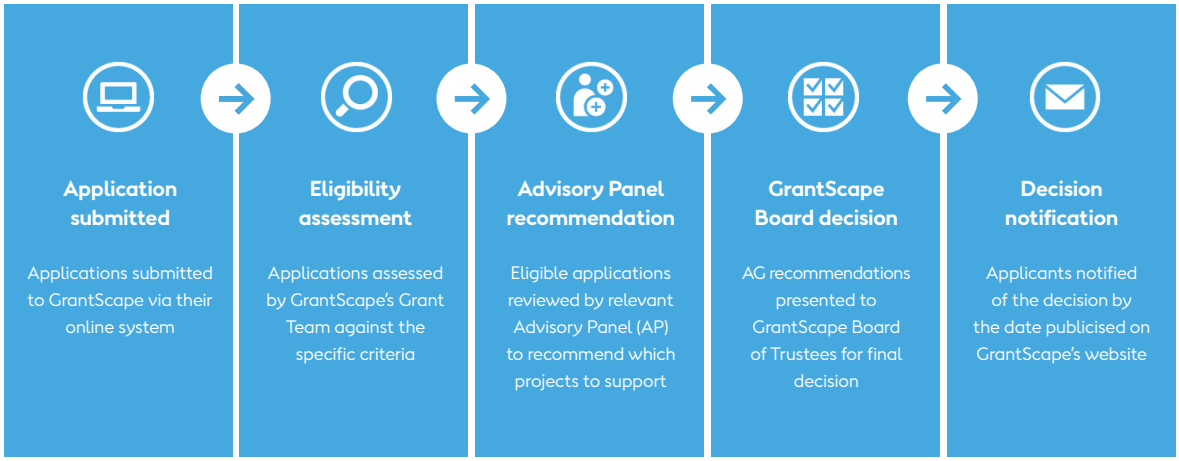
For Escape2Make, the project was about more than learning how to use technology. Its original vision was to help young people develop confidence, friendships and an understanding of how things are designed and made, while encouraging sustainable approaches such as using recycled 3D-printing filament and reclaimed wood.

The response from partner organisations shows the difference those opportunities made.

"E2M did a brilliant job of engaging the young people, and they all had such a great time... it's probably one of the best nights we have had." - Emma Wareing, Refresh Leader, Cancer Care



Applying to the Community Benefit Funds



Next closing dates:

Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund
31 March 2027
(decisions end June 2027)
22 September 2027
(decisions mid December 2027)

East Coast Community Fund
3 February 2027
(decisions end April 2027)
4 August 2027
(decisions end October 2027)

Hornsea 3 Community Fund
2 December 2026
(decisions early March 2027)
2 June 2027
(decisions end August 2027)

Hornsea 3 Legacy Fund
2 December 2026
(decisions early March 2027)

Walney Extension Community Fund
8 January 2027
(decisions end March 2027)
23 June 2027
(decisions end September 2027)

STEM Skills Fund - Walney Extension, East Coast and Hornsea 3
2027 Annual Round -
24 March 2027
(decisions end May 2027)

Did you know?

Ørsted community funds support projects that help local communities thrive alongside renewable energy developments.

From environmental initiatives and community facilities to skills programmes that inspire the next generation, these grants are helping groups deliver projects that create lasting social and environmental impact.

Since launching, Ørsted funds administered by GrantScape have supported hundreds of projects, helping communities develop new opportunities, strengthen local connections and build a more sustainable future.

Visit the GrantScape website to check eligibility, view current funds and find out how to apply.

How the funds are managed

The independent grant-making charity GrantScape administers Ørsted's Community Benefit Funds. Since 1997, GrantScape has awarded over £120 million to environmental and community-focused projects across the UK. Each fund is guided by a local Advisory Group (AG), made up of individuals with strong knowledge of the area to ensure funding decisions reflect local priorities. Every Community Benefit Fund has its own eligibility criteria and funding area, which are detailed on GrantScape's website. For advice or questions, the GrantScape team is always happy to help.

GrantScape

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Information correct as 27 August 2026

Cover: Furness Education & Skills Partnership's third Children's Skills Conference at Furness College