

# What a Charity Must Do to Get Community Benefits

By Tony Ware (03/05/2026)

“We missed out on community benefits from oil and gas. Let’s not make the same mistake again!”

From the communities

“See what we are doing for the people of Northeast Scotland!”

From the windfarm operators

# Criteria to be Fulfilled by the Charity to Get any Money at All.

1. The windfarm operator's management and investors must be convinced that donating will be good for its business.
2. They must be assured that the Charity will spend the benefit wisely and effectively.
3. They must be assured that the Charity can fairly apportion the benefits amongst competing donees

# Potential earnings

- The Charity would attempt to get benefit direct from the offshore windfarm operators.
- These are not obliged to pay anything, nor does the Government recommend any figure, unlike the onshore windfarms, where many are paying between £5000-£7500 per Megawatt-installed per year.
- At the level of £7500, a one gigawatt (1000 megawatts) offshore windfarm would pay £7.5 million per year into the 80 community councils (CC) in NE Scotland.
- For a Charity of 9 Community Councils, this would be  $9/80 \times £7.5M =$  about £840,000/year from a 1 Gigawatt farm.
- There are currently 24 Gigawatts of power being developed to come into NE Scotland, so that charity could potentially earn just over £20 million/year.
- The total benefits amongst all 80 CCs at £7,500 is £180 million/year
- This level represents 0.75% of the gross earnings from a typical windfarm and would be tax deductible

# A Typical Objection from a Windfarm

- “That is a lot of money! I don’t see why we should feel obliged to pay that. We are 75km out to sea from Aberdeenshire with just one cable coming ashore. It is not as if we were planning to install the 170 of our 18MW turbines on your green hills amongst you”.
- “Our job is to deliver 3000 megawatts of power onto the shore. What is done with it is someone else’s problem and we are sorry the resulting necessary infrastructure upsets so many people, but it’s not our fault”.

# What Charity Activities to Entice the Windfarm Operators to Pay-up?

- Actively highlight the benefits to the people of the communities as a result of the money earned from windfarm electricity imports.
- A seat in the Charity for the windfarm operator, as an advisor
- Giving the communities what they want and need
  - More doctors?
  - Better Food Banks?
  - More Hospice beds?
  - More childcare places?
  - Boosted District Nursing Services?
  - Augmented inter-village public transport?
  - More apprenticeships for key skills?