

04

Cronfa Gymunedol / Community Fund

£72.8m Invested in Local Projects

Llynfi Community Fund

The Llynfi Community Fund is a significant initiative designed to provide financial support to local charities, community groups, and social enterprises in the Llynfi Valley and Bridgend. Its primary purpose is to address and mitigate the impacts of, as well as leverage opportunities created by, the construction of the clean energy plant at Llynfi.

Key features:

- **Total Funding:** The fund will be provided with a significant percentage of the electricity sales of the plant.
- **Administration:** The fund is administered by the Llynfi Community Foundation
- **Purpose:** Grants are awarded for projects that promote the economic, social, or environmental well-being of communities most affected by the Llynfi construction and operation. The focus is to enhance quality of life, promote community cohesion, improve overall well-being, and maximise the opportunities presented by the project.
- **Geographical Focus:** Priority is given to communities located closest to the development sites within the Bridgend County Borough Council area.
- **Grant Programmes:** There are two main grant programmes proposed:
 - **Small Grants:** Up to £10,000 per year (maximum £30,000 over three years).
 - **Large Grants:** Over £10,000 per year, for up to three years (no set maximum amount, but subject to review).

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Eligibility:

- Voluntary and community organisations
- Registered charities
- Social enterprises (including Community Interest Companies)
- Groups of organisations led by a voluntary/community organisation or social enterprise
- County/Community Councils

Ineligible applicants include individuals, sole traders, and organisations based outside the UK, and those without at least three unconnected people on their board/committee.

Application Process: The fund is open for applications all year round, with four awards panels held annually. Closing dates for each round will be on the project website.

Types of Costs Covered: The fund covers both capital and revenue costs, including staff salaries, volunteer expenses, accommodation, overheads (up to 15%), meeting costs, consumables, and planning/legal fees.

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Priorities for Projects:

- Directly addressing the impacts of Llynfi Clean Energy Project or maximising opportunities it creates.
- Supported by the wider community.
- Inclusive and offering good value for money.
- Considering sustainability beyond the funding duration.

Decision-Making: An awards panel, comprising representatives from Llynfi Community Foundation, Community Councils, Bridgend County and Borough Council, Last Energy, and independent members with local connections, makes grant decisions.

Llynfi Community Fund

- All 4 units will generate a fund of £1 million per year
- The payments are indexed every year
- The fund will operate for the 42 year life of the facility
- Over the lifetime of the facility up to £73 million will be generated for projects in the community

