

Review 2024



Our pledge to communities



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The OnPath Promise

Kype Muir and Middle Muir Wind Farms in South Lanarkshire. A review of our commitments to our local communities.

In 2014, OnPath Energy (Formerly Banks Renewables) created our Connect2Renewables Charter as part of our wind farm developments in South Lanarkshire.

Our careful approach to sustainability ensured we committed to build a local supply chains, boost the local economy, and maximise the benefits to local communities.

This report reviews our performance against those commitments. The charter hereon in will be part of the OnPath promise, with the jobs and skills fund element with South Lanarkshire council maintaining the Connect2Renewables brand.



1. Foreword

Doing the right thing...

The OnPath Promise brings to life our approach to working with communities. It means showing respect and responsibility in the communities we work in.

It comes from a deep sense of care for the people and environment nearby our projects and is guided by our values towards each. Formerly Banks Renewables, the commitments within this promise to communities and the local economy was called the Connect2Renewables initiative.

In all areas of our business, we're committed to ensuring the benefits generated by our renewable energy developments are shared fairly with the communities that host our projects.

We do this by supporting the local supply chain and funding Community-led projects. In South Lanarkshire we took an even more tailored approach, also supporting local

people into employment and training through collaboration with the local authority.

We're extremely proud of how our Kype Muir and Middle Muir wind farms have supported local businesses, people, and community projects.

The OnPath promise could simply be defined as "doing the right thing", but we also believe it has a greater ambition to define our energy projects as truly sustainable developments.

Involving residents and local firms at every stage is good for business and the economy.

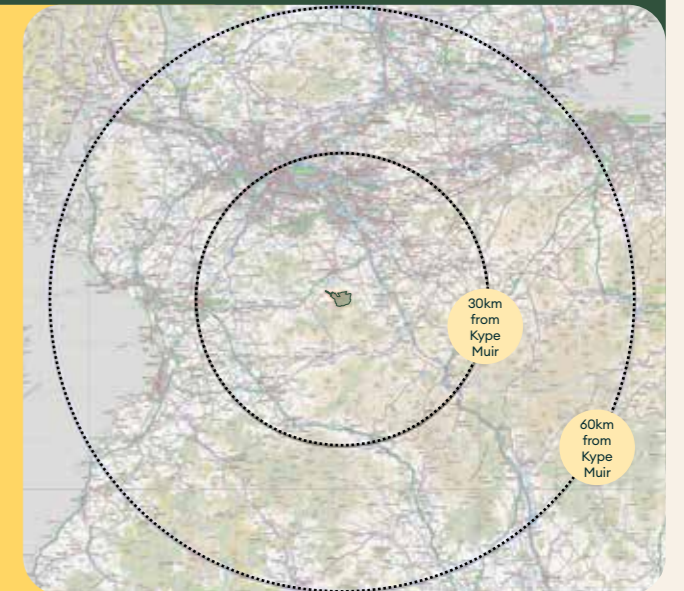
In the long run, every one of us benefits from the responsible development of clean energy projects, as we transition to a sustainable future.

2. Our South Lanarkshire wind farms

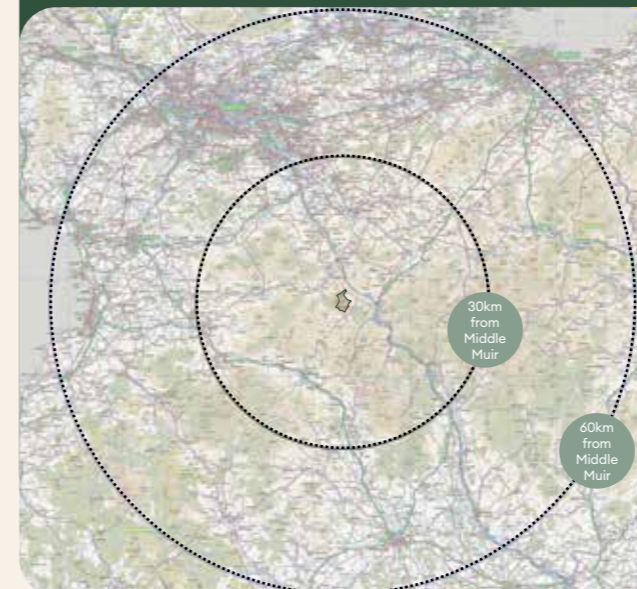
Our South Lanarkshire wind farms

Kype Muir

- Lifespan: 25 years**
- Generating: c88.4 Megawatts (MW)** - enough to meet the annual electricity needs of over 70,700 homes
- Turbines: 26 (132m high)**
- Fully operational since: 2019**
- Total UK construction and lifetime spend: £151.7m**, of which £25.9m is in the South Lanarkshire Council area
- Spend per MW within 30km of the site: £754,000**
- Annual community benefit fund: £442,000**



Middle Muir



- Lifespan: 25 years**
- Generating: c51 Megawatts (MW)** - enough to meet the annual electricity needs of over 40,800 homes
- Turbines: 15 (from 136m to 149.9m high)**
- Fully operational since: 2019**
- Total UK construction and lifetime spend: £97.8m**, including £28.1m in the council area
- Spend per MW within 30km of the site: £560,784**
- Annual community benefit fund: £255,000** administered through South Lanarkshire Council's Renewable Energy Fund

3. Executive summary

Executive summary

This report is a review of the commitments we made under The OnPath Promise charter.

The OnPath Promise has four branches:

- Directly supporting local contractors by encouraging them to join our supply chain
- To support the establishment and work of local Community Advisory Panels for individual projects, whose role will be to identify and advise on local good causes and charities for grant making purposes
- Supporting new employment, training, and education opportunities for local people in those same areas
- To maximise the benefits available from each of our wind farms for local people and for the local economy

In this review we set out the economic boost that the Kype Muir and Middle Muir wind farms have given South Lanarkshire and the wider region. We also present the achievements of our partners in the community and South Lanarkshire Council, and the difference they have made to the lives of people in the area.



The combined economic impact of the Kype Muir and Middle Muir wind farms:

- £368.2M**
Combined total spend
- £203.2M**
Combined spend within 60km
- 55%**
of total spend within 60km
- £1.46M**
Spend per MW
- £135.5M**
Gross value added
- 652**
Jobs during development and construction
- 58**
Operational jobs supported annually

OnPath Promise Key Objectives

Our performance so far

Make local benefits and the employment of local labour a material consideration when awarding contracts. Give priority to placing local businesses on tender lists wherever possible.

We adapted our tender assessment and contract structure to better consider contractors use of local plant, labour and materials. We gave this the same weighting as price, competence and health and safety and it has since become a key factor behind which businesses were successful in being awarded with contracts.

Develop direct training and employment opportunities for local people on our wind farm projects.

- Two full-time staff at contractor SiemensGamesa
- Our main civils partners spent over £5m (34% of total spend) between 50 local sub-contractors while building Kype Muir Extension, as a result of commitments they made to adhere to The OnPath Promise.
- On Kype Muir, this same partner also spent over £12m locally, just over 70% of their spend
- OnPath's Hamilton office employs 21 people who primarily live in the local area, approximately a third of those are directly involved in Kype Muir and Middle Muir.

Maximise contracting opportunities for local firms within 60km/37 miles of:

Kype Muir:
During construction we paid £55.5m to suppliers - 49% of the total project spend.
Construction supported 443 local job years
89% of all non-turbine spending was within the UK.
83% of all non-turbine spending was in Scotland

Middle Muir:
During construction we paid suppliers £24.5m - 41% of total project spend.
Construction supported 209 local job years.
Outside this area, more money was spent and more jobs were created in Scotland and the UK. Scotland - £29.5M and 254 jobs. UK - £33.2M & 457 jobs
100% of all non-turbine spending was within the UK.

Support the establishment and work of local community advisory panels whose role will be to identify and advise on local good causes and charities for grant making purposes.

We supported and funded the Kype Muir Community Partnership with £138,125 a year. The partnership has funded projects including a sensory garden and polytunnel for Hope Hub community centre and Renovation of Strathaven rugby club training facilities.
From both wind farms, we provided a total of £210,375 a year towards the council's Renewable Energy Fund (REF), funding projects including solar power for a village hall.

For the first five years of operation of Kype Muir and Middle Muir Wind work in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council to support improved access to further education, employment and training for local people.

With money from Kype Muir Community fund and Middle Muir Wind Farm, our OnPath Promise employment initiative has been supported since 2019 with an annual contribution of £348,500, aiming to help local people into employment and training:

- 425 local people received some form of financial support
- 351 local people received non-financial support from C2R? staff

Target overall minimum economic benefit to local economy of £500,000 per installed megawatt (MW) over the life of the project.

Within 30km /19 miles of the wind farms, an independent economic consultancy found we spent:

- £754,500 per MW at Kype Muir
- £560,784 per MW at Middle Muir

4. Policy environment

A strong policy environment

Community benefits

The policy environment in Scotland is the starting point for a large part of The OnPath Promise charter.

Scottish Government guidelines say wind farm developments should voluntarily provide a package of community benefits of a value equivalent to £5,000 a year per megawatt installed capacity. All our community benefit payments are linked to inflation, and we're continually assessing how we can deliver benefits for local people. Onshore wind energy is a mature renewable technology, which means it is uniquely placed to deliver huge benefits for communities and Scotland. Onshore wind farms are helping the whole country transition to net-zero, and further support the economy thanks to the world-class supply chain that now exists in the UK.

Energy security will come from renewable energy. South Lanarkshire Council is forward thinking and sees the need to bring forward quality projects. The area is a huge net exporter of renewable electricity and is helping the UK meet its energy needs.

At OnPath, we wholly support the principle that those who live close to these nationally important wind farm developments should enjoy added benefits. It's socially just and helps ensure our developments are sustainable.



“The way OnPath Energy developed Kype Muir Wind Farm, working closely with the local community in line with its development with care approach, is a perfect example of how onshore wind farms should be built.”

Michael Matheson MSP

ABOVE: Michael Matheson MSP visited our Kype Muir Wind Farm to launch the Scottish Government's consultation on onshore wind policy in November 2021

Funding innovation

The OnPath Promise is innovative in how we deliver these community benefits.

In collaboration with partners such as South Lanarkshire Council, we've thought carefully about our strategy for responding to local needs. We've listened closely to people in the communities. We're committed to creating and developing best practice in distributing these funds.

Some of the projects making the most difference to people's lives came about because of strong collaboration between local community councils, the local authority, and our development teams at OnPath.

Together we have put a strategic focus on community benefit funding, and we want that to continue and grow to a new level.

PICTURED: Middle Muir Wind Farm



5. Approach

Our approach

GORDON THOMSON: At OnPath, the leadership comes from the top – as company employees we’re expected to deliver real-world benefits for local communities. Whenever I speak to CEO Richard Dunkley, he asks me how we are applying our development with care ethos. Our teams have taken great pride in delivering our OnPath commitments.

Local input

I am really proud of how we approached this. We sought out different local people and worked hard to build trust, taking an open and honest approach.

For nearly two years, I travelled around South Lanarkshire and the communities around our wind farms consulting with national politicians, councillors, community groups and other local people. We held well-attended public events and conducted surveys. We met with local businesses of all sizes and devised a tendering system that worked for everyone involved.

Tailored community funding

Some of our community funding went into South Lanarkshire’s general Renewable Energy Fund, which is continually developing new ideas for helping community projects in areas close to wind farms.

However, we also wanted to offer tailored support to communities where it was wanted and needed.

Therefore, another portion of the money was allocated to the Kype Muir Community Partnership. This was a community council-led initiative to agree priorities for local projects that should be supported by awarding community grants.

Creative approach

The final tranche of money was set aside for something a bit different. Time and time again during my meetings with locals, they would bring up unemployment and varying barriers that local people face to getting a job.

South Lanarkshire council’s employability team was already working hard on this, but many of the existing funding pots came with restrictions as to who could benefit.

That meant some local unemployed people fell between the cracks and couldn’t access help – particularly older people who needed support getting back into work.

This sparked the idea to build a “safety net” of support for these people. Half of the community benefit money from Kype Muir and Middle Muir wind farms – a total of more than £340,000 a year - has gone towards creating a “fund of last resort” that fills in these gaps. The initiative was set up to run for the first five years of operation of each wind farm.

The South Lanarkshire council employability team works hard to get out and about in the community and understand different areas, whether rural, urban, affluent, poorer, well-connected, or otherwise. They find people; they listen to them; then they think creatively and flexibly about how to help them.

Learning from our experiences

Five years on, we realise the financial needs of communities have changed. The Covid-19 pandemic and the “cost of living” crisis has brought a new perspective. Energy insecurity and costs are having a direct effect on all of us.

We’re open to working with South Lanarkshire council and other stakeholders on how this money can now best be used to serve the local people. Based on our experience so far, we believe we can be even more ambitious and responsive with the community funding available.

“ We worked hard to build trust... For nearly two years, I travelled around South Lanarkshire and the communities surrounding our wind farms consulting with national politicians, councillors, community groups and other local people. ”

Gordon Thomson
OnPath Projects Director



6. Supporting the local economy

Supporting the local economy

Targeted tendering to boost local business

Using local suppliers is part of our company ethos. It's the right thing to do and it's better for everyone involved if local people benefit. Wind turbines are not manufactured in the area, so the main opportunity for the local economy is in the installation and operation of the wind farms.

From experience we know it's not as simple as advertising the contracts locally – it takes thought and effort to build a strong supply chain.

We identify local firms and encourage them to join our supply chain by talking them through the opportunities.

We then worked through the detail of the tendering process to obligate our big "tier one" suppliers to use local subcontractors:

- They had to consider and commit to issuing subcontracts to local firms, employ local people and buy local materials where practicable.
- They had to include a statement of local economic impact in their tender, to which

we attached the same importance as competence, health and safety and competitiveness.

- All contractors or firms we employed had to work with us to record how they performed against the commitments they made during the tender.

Economic benefits by geographical area – key figures

We commissioned a report from Bigger Economics an independent economic consultancy to assess the impact of the construction and operation of Kype Muir and Middle Muir wind farms.



Middle Muir Wind Farm



Cable laying at Kype Muir



Understanding the data

- We have grouped the data by geographical area.
- Operational expenditure is based on the average annual spend over 25 years.
- GVA stands for Gross Value Added

GVA is a measure of economic output commonly used to measure the net contribution of an organisation, sector or region to the economy. In the case of an organisation, it is calculated by subtracting the value of bought-in goods and services from total turnover.

For economic impact studies this avoids double counting (for example, when supply chain effects and direct effects are calculated separately).

Best practice is therefore to first highlight the level of expenditure, then the gross value added by this expenditure.

- Employment data

As construction contracts are short term, the employment impact for the development is measured in job years.

The construction contracts also support direct employment in these companies, which were estimated using turnover per employee ratios, and employment in the wider economy, which were estimated using employment multipliers. As the contracts were short-term, the employment impact is measured in job years.

The employment impact of operations is measured in ongoing job numbers. More detail on the methodology used is available in the Biggar Economics Report on Kype Muir and Middle Muir available at:

www.banksgroup.co.uk/core/uploads/2023/01/Bodinglee-WF-Initial-Economic-Impact-Assessment-7Sep22.pdf

Within South Lanarkshire

Project expenditure on construction and operations

South Lanarkshire	Kype Muir (c88.4 MW)	Middle Muir (c51 MW)
Total spend on construction and 25-year operations	£25.9m	£28.1m
Total spend per MW	£292,987 per MW	£550,980 per MW
Total spend in South Lanarkshire as a percentage of overall project spend	11%	21%

Community benefits and local taxes

In addition to project construction and operations expenditure, there are community benefits and local taxes. As a rule of thumb our projects generate around £7,000 per MW for business rates, and contribute £5000 per MW for community benefit funding:

South Lanarkshire (within 10km /approx. 6 miles of the site)	Kype Muir (c88.4 MW)	Middle Muir (c51 MW)
Business rates over 25 years	£15.47m	£9.625m
Annual community benefit funds	£442,000	£255,000
Total community benefit funds over 25 years	£11.05m	£6.375m

Economic impact, measured in Gross Value Added (GVA)*

South Lanarkshire	Kype Muir (c88.4 MW)	Middle Muir (c51 MW)
Total economic impact of construction and 25-year operations	£14.6m	£18.8m
Annual economic impact of operations	£0.4m	£0.6m

*See "Understanding the data" on page 13 for an explanation of how GVA is calculated and should be read along with the expenditure figures.

Employment

South Lanarkshire	Kype Muir (c88.4 MW)	Middle Muir (c51 MW)
Job years* supported during development and construction	66	36
Jobs supported each year of operations	9	10

*See "Understanding the data" on page 13 for an explanation of how GVA is calculated and should be read along with the expenditure figures.



Our View: This information highlights the opportunity to do even more in South Lanarkshire with respect to the supply chain. Fundamentally we believe we can further improve on these numbers by offering more joined up thinking with local authority, businesses, and other stakeholders.

Within 30km/19miles of the sites

Project expenditure on construction and operations

Within 30km/19miles	Kype Muir (c88.4 MW)	Middle Muir (c51 MW)
Total spend on construction and 25-year operations	£66.7m	£28.6m
Total spend per MW	£754,500 per MW	£560,784 per MW
Total spend within 30km/19miles of the site as a percentage of overall project spend	28%	22%

Economic impact, measured in Gross Value Added (GVA)*

Within 30km/19miles	Kype Muir (c88.4 MW)	Middle Muir (c51 MW)
Total economic impact of construction and 25-year operations	£38.5m	£20m
Annual economic impact of operations	£0.4m	£0.6m

*See "Understanding the data" on page 13 for an explanation of how GVA is calculated and should be read along with the expenditure figures.

Employment

Within 30km/19miles	Kype Muir (c88.4 MW)	Middle Muir (c51 MW)
Job years* supported during development and construction	266	44
Jobs supported each year of operations	15	11

*See "Understanding the data" on page 13 for an explanation of how GVA is calculated and should be read along with the expenditure figure



Our View: These figures show the success of our tendering programme in delivering benefits to the local economy. We have more than met our OnPath Promise charter commitments on spending more than £500,000 within the local area.

Within 30km / 19 miles of the site, over the course of the construction and operation of the wind farms, we have spent £754,500 per MW at Kype Muir, and £560,784 per MW at Middle Muir.

Within 60km/37miles of the sites

Project expenditure on construction and operations

Within 60km/37 miles	Kype Muir (c88.4 MW)	Middle Muir (c51 MW)
Total spend on construction and 25-year operations	£123.1m	£80.2m
Total spend per MW	£1.39m per MW	£1.572m per MW
Total spend within 60km/37miles of the site as a percentage of overall project spend	52%	61%

Economic impact, measured in Gross Value Added (GVA)*

Within 60km/37 miles	Kype Muir (c88.4 MW)	Middle Muir (c51 MW)
Total economic impact of construction and 25-year operations	£80m	£55.5m
Annual economic impact of operations	£1.7m	£1.5m

*See "Understanding the data" on page 13 for an explanation of how GVA is calculated and should be read along with the expenditure figures.

Employment

Within 60km/37 miles	Kype Muir (c88.4 MW)	Middle Muir (c51 MW)
Job years* supported during development and construction	443	209
Jobs supported each year of operations	29	29

*See "Understanding the data" on page 13 for an explanation of how GVA is calculated and should be read along with the expenditure figures.



Our View: This shows how high our expenditure has been in the region. The established manufacturers of wind turbines are located outside the UK and account for almost half of the project cost. Of the remaining contracts – for installation work, grid connection etc - the vast majority of spending has been within this 60km /37 mile radius around the sites.

Within Scotland

Project expenditure on construction and operations

Within Scotland	Kype Muir (c88.4 MW)	Middle Muir (c51 MW)
Total spend on construction and 25-year operations	£125.4m	£85.2m
Total spend per MW	£1.4m per MW	£1.671m per MW
Total spend within Scotland as a percentage of overall project spend	52%	65%

Economic impact, measured in Gross Value Added (GVA)*

Within Scotland	Kype Muir (c88.4 MW)	Middle Muir (c51 MW)
Total economic impact of construction and 25-year operations	£88.6m	£62.2m
Annual economic impact of operations	£1.8m	£1.6m

*See "Understanding the data" on page 13 for an explanation of how GVA is calculated and should be read along with the expenditure figures.

Employment

Within Scotland	Kype Muir (c88.4 MW)	Middle Muir (c51 MW)
Job years* supported during development and construction	513	254
Jobs supported each year of operations	31	26

*See "Understanding the data" on page 13 for an explanation of how GVA is calculated and should be read along with the expenditure figures.



Our View: These figures show how strong the Scottish supply chain is and are a credit to businesses who have worked with us for these opportunities.

Within UK

Project expenditure on construction and operations

Within UK	Kype Muir (c88.4 MW)	Middle Muir (c51 MW)
Total spend on construction and 25-year operations	£151.7m	£97.8m
Total spend per MW	£1.72m per MW	£1.9m per MW
Total spend within UK as a percentage of overall project spend	64%	75%

Economic impact, measured in Gross Value Added (GVA)*

Within UK	Kype Muir (c88.4 MW)	Middle Muir (c51 MW)
Total economic impact of construction and 25-year operations	£126.5m	£82.2m
Annual economic impact of operations	£2.5m	£1.9m

*See "Understanding the data" on page 13 for an explanation of how GVA is calculated and should be read along with the expenditure figures.

Employment

Within UK	Kype Muir (c88.4 MW)	Middle Muir (c51 MW)
Job years* supported during development and construction	851	457
Jobs supported each year of operations	41	30

*See "Understanding the data" on page 13 for an explanation of how GVA is calculated and should be read along with the expenditure figures.



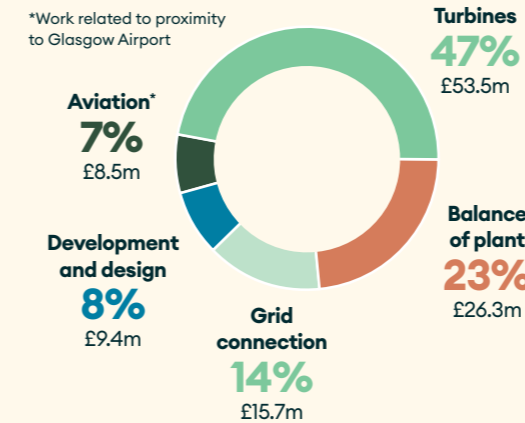
Our View: These figures show the great contribution onshore wind developments can make to the UK economy, on top of generating clean, renewable electricity within our own shores. We have established a systematic approach to developing local supply chains that we can apply to other areas of the UK.

What kind of businesses benefit?

Most established turbine manufacturers are based outside of the UK, so the main opportunities for local businesses during construction are in 'balance of plant'

This refers to providing the facilities and infrastructure such as access roads, crane pads and turbine foundations needed to install the turbines. Other opportunities were in development and design and the electrical grid connection, with long term local opportunities also existing in the ongoing operations and maintenance of both wind farms.

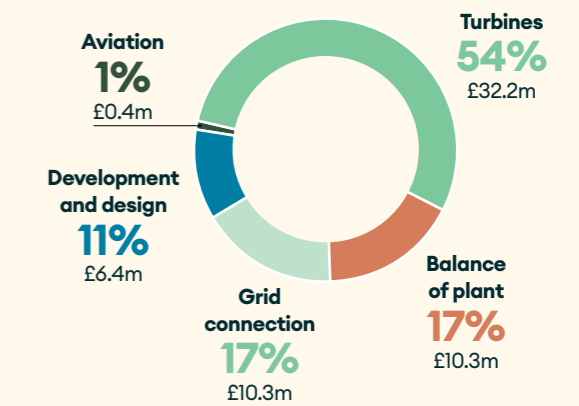
Kype Muir contract areas:



Excluding the turbine cost, the breakdown of the rest of the construction and development spending on construction and development of Kype Muir shows how effective our local tendering process was. The vast majority – 89% - of all non-turbine spending was in the UK. The area within 60km/37 miles of Kype Muir won 79% of this non-turbine spending. More specifically it attracted:

- 60% of the spend on development and design
- 74% of balance of plant spend (lower than may be expected because the land is owned by an overseas company)
- 92% of grid connection work
- 88% of the work related to aviation - with a new radar system being required for Glasgow Airport

Middle Muir contract areas:



All the non-turbine spending on Middle Muir was within the UK. The area within 60km/37 miles of the site won 71% of all the non-turbine spending. More specifically:

- 53% of spend on development and design (61% in Scotland, 100% in the UK)
- 100% of balance of plant spend
- 55% of grid connection work (95% in Scotland, 100% in the UK)

Of the aviation spending, 75% was in Scotland, 100% in the UK.

What local businesses say

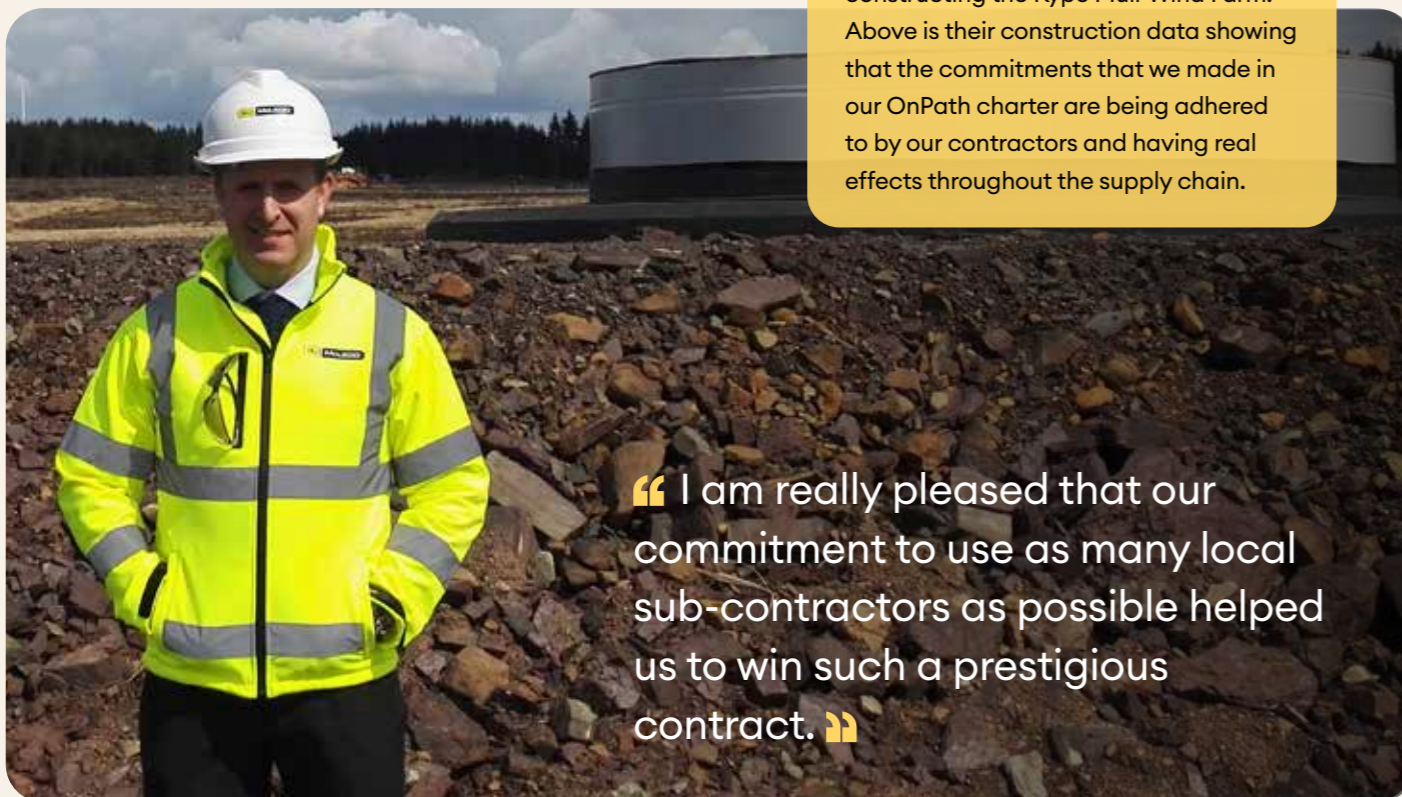
RJ McLeod Civil engineering and building contractors

In April 2018, we appointed local contractor RJ McLeod to carry out the construction works for the Kype Muir site.

RJ McLeod's headquarters are located in Glasgow. They employed 15 members of staff on the project, plus a further 20 on sub-contracts and another 85 as labourers, most of whom lived locally to the site.

Lorcan Hayes, site agent at RJ McLeod, said at the time: "It's a massive project for us. We were thrilled OnPath kept to its word and appointed local firms such as ourselves for a project that will deliver huge benefits to the local community."

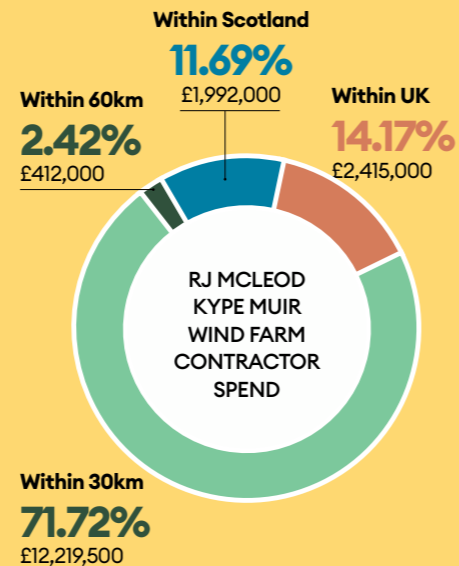
"As part of the tender for the contract OnPath required us to confirm details of the local supply chain. I am therefore really pleased that our commitment to use as many local sub-contractors as possible, and indeed that we ourselves are a local business, helped us to win such a prestigious contract."



Lorcan Hayes, site agent at RJ McLeod, on site at Kype Muir Wind Farm

“ I am really pleased that our commitment to use as many local sub-contractors as possible helped us to win such a prestigious contract. ”

LOCAL SPENDING



RJ McLeod were a major partner in constructing the Kype Muir Wind Farm. Above is their construction data showing that the commitments that we made in our OnPath charter are being adhered to by our contractors and having real effects throughout the supply chain.



L-R: Stuart Gardener and Jim Houghton from AB2000

AB2000 • Plant and crane firm

AB200 (part of the Quattro Group) is based in Cambuslang, near Glasgow, around 13 miles/20km from Kype Muir Wind Farm. They won one of nearly 40 contracts awarded to local businesses by the Banks Renewables at the wind farm. In 2018 they gained a contract to provide plant and mobile cranes to help to assemble the powerful turbines.

AB2000 Chief Executive Jim Houghton said: "In line with our values, and those of OnPath, we employ skilled local people to work on our projects throughout Scotland. A number of our skilled crane operators from South Lanarkshire have been involved in this important wind farm construction job. We think it's great that OnPath is delivering on its promise to ensure that as many of the contracts as possible go to local companies so the money stays in the local economy."

“ OnPath is delivering on its promise to ensure that as many of the contracts as possible go to local companies. ”

Hillhouse Quarry • Supplier of sand and gravel for concrete

Hillhouse Quarry is near Muirkirk in East Ayrshire, one of South Lanarkshire's neighbouring local authorities. In May 2018, they won a seven-figure contract, mainly through our supplier RJ McLeod, to provide sand and gravel for concrete for the turbine foundations at Kype Muir.

Around 15,000m³ of concrete was produced for the wind farm. It was a four-month job, with an off-site support team and four permanent employees making concrete on site.

When they won the contract, their commercial manager Gordon Campbell said: "It's good to see a developer prioritising local firms throughout the supply chain – and then sticking to their word. Our contract is principally with RJ McLeod, who likewise are committed to using local businesses wherever possible thanks in part to their agreement of The OnPath Promise framework.

"This is a very large contract for us and it is important to be able to secure the work for our teams – which in turn provides greater benefit to local communities."



L-R: Gordon Campbell, commercial manager and Mick Smith, quarry manager from Hillhouse

“ It's good to see a developer prioritising local firms throughout the supply chain – and then sticking to their word. ”

7. Funding

Funding for the community

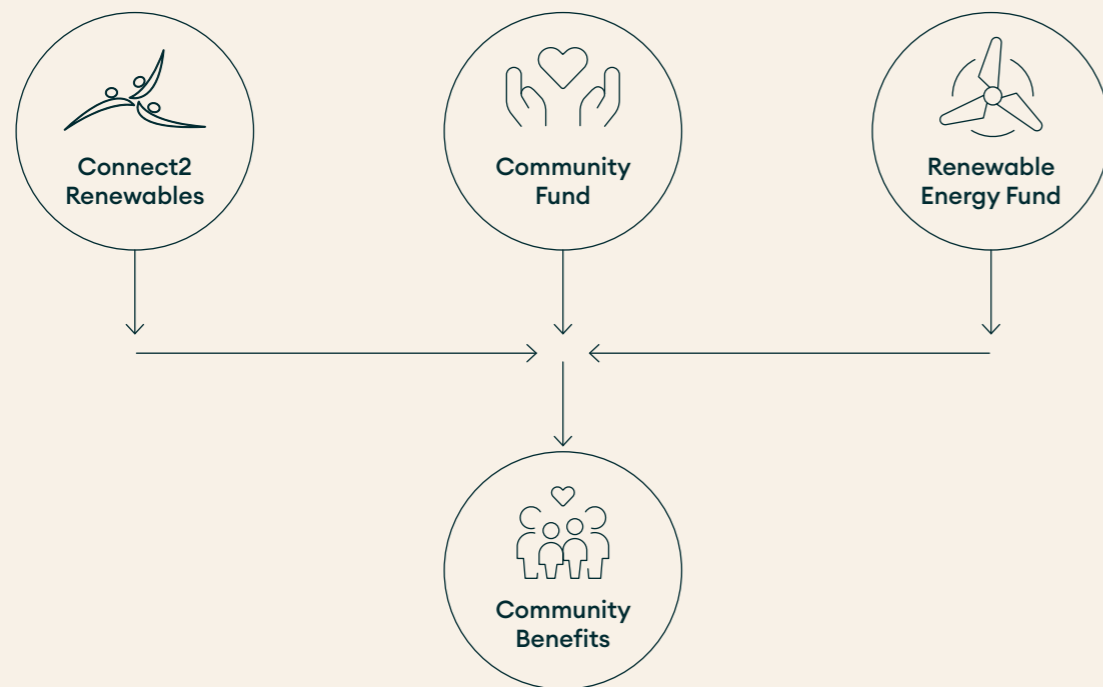
Under Scottish guidance, £5,000 per MW should be put towards providing a package of local community benefits.

SINCE 2019:

- Middle Muir has generated £255,000 each year (51 MW capacity x £5,000)
- Kype Muir has generated £442,000 each year (88.4MW x £5,000)

After listening to local people, we agreed to divide the Kype Muir funding between Connect2Renewables employment support, to be administered by South Lanarkshire Council, grants for community projects, to be administered by the council's Renewable Energy Fund and the Kype Muir Community Partnership.

Different streams of community benefit funding



How Kype Muir community funding was allocated 88.4MW, 25-year life, operating since 2019

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
C2R employment support	£221,000	£221,000	£221,000	£221,000	£221,000
South Lanarkshire Renewable Energy Fund	£82,875	£82,875	£82,875	£82,875	£82,875
Kype Muir Community Partnership	£138,125	£138,125	£138,125	£138,125	£138,125
TOTAL	£442,000	£442,000	£442,000	£442,000	£442,000

How Middle Muir community funding was allocated 51MW, 25-year life, operating since 2019

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
C2R employment support	£127,500	£127,500	£127,500	£127,500	£127,500
South Lanarkshire Renewable Energy Fund	£127,500	£127,500	£127,500	£127,500	£127,500
TOTAL	£255,000	£255,000	£255,000	£255,000	£255,000

How much community funding each initiative received

In 2023, Kype Muir Extension (75 MW) will generate a further £375,000 a year in community benefits on top of Kype Muir and Middle Muir. Each year for five years from 2023 this will give C2R employment support another £187,500, Kype

Muir Community Fund £117,187.50 and the South Lanarkshire Renewable Energy Fund another £70,312.50. This money is included in the table below showing how much each initiative has received from 2019-2023.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total - so far
C2R employment support*	£348,500	£348,500	£348,500	£348,500	£536,000	£1,930,000
South Lanarkshire Renewable Energy Fund*	£210,375	£210,375	£210,375	£210,375	£280,687	£1,122,187
Kype Muir Community Partnership**	£138,125	£138,125	£138,125	£138,125	£255,312	£807,812
OVERALL	£697,000	£697,000	£697,000	£697,000	£1,072,000	£3,860,000

*Total from all three wind farms **Total from Kype Muir and Kype Muir Extension.

2023 and beyond

Connect2Renewables funding from Kype Muir Extension has been allocated until at least 2027, with additional funding from our recently consented Mill Rigg project likely to come online in 2025. This is in addition to Kype Muir and Middle Muir which, between them, will continue to generate £697,000 a year in total community benefits. As more funds come online, this review will help to inform discussions about how that money is best allocated to continue delivering real benefits to local people.

Supporting local unemployed people into training and work

The C2R employment support is delivered in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council, and was set up to help unemployed people who live within 10km of the wind farms to get into work. The aim is to provide an “open door” encouraging the people who need it most to get in touch and take advantage of a flexible and responsive programme.

The council’s employability staff understand our local area, and within the goals of the initiative, they are allowed the freedom to take the initiative and create hyper local projects, tailored to residents’ needs and solving individual problems.

The C2R pot is the “fund of last resort”, paying for projects that fall through the cracks of other programmes.

As the funding pots are for people within 10km/6 miles of the wind farm, the C2R initiative has to be publicised at a hyper local level.

The funding has been used for five categories of support:

The employment incentive programme Since 2019, 59 employers have supported the programme by employing 80 unemployed people. A wage subsidy is paid to the employer for up to one year as an incentive to take on someone from the local area.

In total, this has supported jobs in sectors including leisure, hospitality, retail, joinery, building, and shop fitting.

Pre-employment support grant

This pre-employment support grant of £200 is offered to anyone moving into a job to help them overcome any barriers. The team also does an assessment of any other training or support that might be needed to help them sustain the new post.

Grant towards college living costs

This now stands at £500 for anyone starting college/ university for the first time who may need the additional support to overcome any barriers they may face. The grant can be used for travel, books, equipment for coursework, or IT equipment.

Tailored funding

Not everyone wants or needs a formal college place – or they may face less obvious barriers to employment. For example, when a local mother wanted to go back to work, the fund paid the first month of childcare costs. This enabled her to work until she was given her first pay cheque, at which point she had cash in the bank to start paying for childcare herself.

Other examples of tailored funding have included:

- College fees not covered by public funding
- Computer support in One Stop shop in the rural village of Coalburn, enabling local people without home internet access to look for work online
- Driving lessons for an apprentice mechanic who lived in a rural area and struggled with transport
- Funding for a pool lifeguarding course to provide employment and help solve a staff shortage at a local leisure centre pool
- Support for buying tools/PPE

Non-financial support from staff for CVs etc

Some of the funds go towards staff salaries. Having a reliable and consistent presence in the area creates a positive impact. These council staff give support on the ground to local people, for example CV advice. They also work in partnership with other local agencies to provide inclusive support, and to make sure C2R is not duplicating other available funding.



Key features:

- Flexible funding, administered by local council staff, with strong community connections and understanding of the hyper local challenges
- No age restrictions on funding
- “Fund of last resort” to ensure efficient spending, and to cover gaps between other pots of funding
- Includes a contribution to funding of the council staff team, who provide advice to individuals, and work with other employability partners such as charities

Key figures

The number of people supported by C2R employability funds – since 2018

	Kype Muir	Middle Muir	Combined
Supported into a job through the employment incentive programme	89	52	141
Pre-employment support grant	102	57	159
Grant towards college living costs	259	95	354
Tailored financial support	299	148	447
Non-financial employment support	236	227	463
Total people supported	687	482	1,169

Money spent so far

Cost Sept 2018 to 21/22	Kype Muir	Middle Muir	Total
Supported into a job through the employment incentive programme	£200,760	£152,031	£352,791
Pre-employment support grant	£17,300	£8,500	£25,800
Grant towards college living costs	£120,700	£43,300	£164,000
Tailored financial support	£142,018	£68,454	£210,472



How has the C2R employment support initiative helped people?



Of the 425 who were financially supported:



“People in different situations have such different needs. The C2R funding has meant we can tailor support.”

Wilma’s South Lanarkshire Council job has long involved understanding the local area and looking for new ways to help people into work. She works with partners including other council teams and charities to overcome hyper local and individual barriers to employment.

That often means tapping into different funding pots – which is where C2R has helped fill a gap.

“The support needed can be quite ‘bitsy’ because people in different situations have such different needs. C2R is our ‘fund of last resort’ and can cover any gaps in funding. It’s meant we can tailor support.”

“We provide a college grant of up to £500 because even for a young person with two parents working, the costs can be a barrier.

“Others don’t want to go to college. They might need a tool belt for a construction job, or a set of knives to train as a chef, so we’ll provide tailored support up to £500 to give this group the same level of support as someone going to college.”



Wilma Weir
SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL • VOCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER/CONNECT 2 RENEWABLES

She said consistency is key. “It’s the little things like being there to help someone with an application form at just the right time or building confidence and self-esteem. There’s no pressure and no hidden agenda. We give non-judgemental support and have a wide knowledge of what’s available in the area.”

“But what works in one area doesn’t necessarily work in another.”

For example, the Middle Muir Wind Farm catchment area is much more rural than the Kype Muir area.

A key part of this work is reaching the people who will benefit from this support.

Wilma’s approach is to get out and about to events and venues on a regular basis and build relationships in the communities – often with parents and grandparents who help spread the word.

In future she’d like to do more to connect local people with jobs in the renewable energy sector.



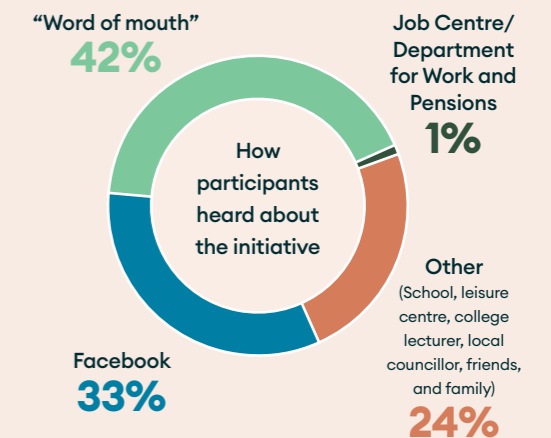
How is the C2R initiative promoted?

Many of those struggling with employment are far removed from the job market, and sometimes seen as “hard to reach”.

Not all, but many, will struggle with confidence or social isolation. Others will have problems with transport and internet access.

As well as general council marketing, a dedicated staff member visited community venues and groups to connect with local people.

The staff member also worked with partners such as local charities and other council initiatives.



What local people say



Fraser Clacher • Assistant Head Greenkeeper, Strathaven Golf Course

HELPED INTO WORK BY THE EMPLOYMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAMME

After Fraser Clacher completed an apprenticeship as a greenkeeper at Strathaven Golf Course, there was unfortunately no job vacancy.

“I really wanted to continue with this kind of work,” Fraser said.

He won a scholarship in America to study green keeping, with the added bonus of a chance to work at the US Open.

Three days before he was due to leave, Covid restrictions were brought in. The scholarship fell through and he was left without work for almost a year.

Thanks to a wage subsidy from the C2R Employment incentive, Strathaven Golf Course was then able to create a position for him.

Once the support finished, head greenkeeper Stephen Hunter persuaded the club to give Fraser a permanent job. He has now worked his way up to Assistant Head Greenkeeper.

Stephen Hunter said: “I was very pleased that the council and the club were able to work together to make it possible for Fraser to come back to work with us.

“The training and knowledge he had acquired over the last few years... are already making a big difference to our ongoing course improvements. We are delighted that through the funding programme we now have a highly valued member of our team.”

“After I finished my apprenticeship, I really wanted to continue with this kind of work.”

Tanisha Sandford • Student

FUNDED TO TRAIN AS A POOL LIFEGUARD

Funds generated by Middle Muir wind farm paid for 12 people, including teenager Tanisha Sandford, to train as pool lifeguards at Coalburn Leisure Centre.

It’s an example of the tailored, flexible community support South Lanarkshire Council has been able to create thanks to the C2R funding.

At the time Tanisha was in her final year of Lesmahagow High School. She’s planning to use her lifeguarding qualification when she’s at university to earn money and get valuable work experience.

The fund also paid for her disclosure checks after she was offered a part-time position with Coalburn pool.

Tanisha said: “Being able to train locally as a lifeguard has

been a real boost for me. It has not only provided a part-time job on my own doorstep; it is also equipping me with a career skill I can take anywhere.

“When I go to university, I will be looking for a lifeguard job at a local swimming pool. It is work that will fit really well around studying and help to keep me active.”

General Manager of South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Kay Morrison said: “The additional funding from C2R helped us deliver this lifeguard training programme at our Coalburn Leisure Centre.

“It benefits the individual but it also brings a community benefit by helping ensure we have the skilled staff on site to keep our customers safe.”



“It’s not only provided a part-time job on my own doorstep... it’s work that will fit well around studying.”



Isla performing on stage

Isla Macdonald • Music Student

SUPPORTED WITH COLLEGE FEES AND TRAVEL COSTS

“The funding has allowed me to attend the college that is best suited for me - and helps me pay for travel from quite a remote area.”

Isla McDonald, a talented 19-year-old from Coalburn, South Lanarkshire, has followed her music dreams thanks to C2R funding. She won a place on the HND in Music Performance at the Academy of Music and Sound in Glasgow – but she faced losing her spot because it was only part-funded by the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS).

Community benefit money from Middle Muir wind farm has covered the shortfall, part-funding her course fees and travel costs. Isla, a former pupil of Lesmahagow High School, said: “From a young age, I have been obsessed with music, I live and breathe it! After a careers event at my school where I met

some of the guys from the academy, I was determined to take my passion for music to the next level.

“The funding has allowed me to attend the college that’s best suited for me. As someone who has learning difficulties, I find larger classes and locations difficult and my college is the perfect size to allow me to get all the help I need. The fund also helps me pay for the travel costs from what is quite a remote area. I plan to finish my HND course this year and continue at the Academy of Music and Sound, to achieve my BA and receive my degree in music. I hope by then to be performing full time and making a living from something I love.”

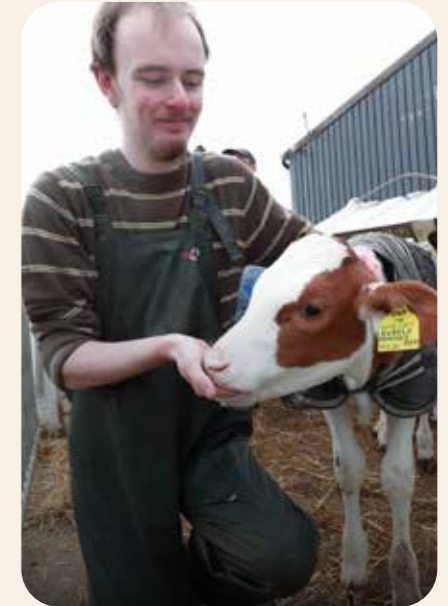
Ewan Finnie • Dairy Worker

SUPPORTED WITH COLLEGE FEES AND TRAVEL COSTS

Funding from Kype Muir wind farm helped Ewan Finnie get a job at a local dairy farm, close to his home. Farm manager William Bryson at John Bryson and Sons, Dykehead Farm, Lesmahagow, said: “I already knew of Ewan and that he was looking for work. I had wanted to take him on for a while, but he had no experience at all and would have required extensive training. I first became aware of the [wind farm] funds when a friend of mine from the council mentioned it to me. I decided to apply for the funding which would help with training and the other basic necessities that Ewan would need to get started.”

He described the C2R funding as a lifeline for the business. Ewan said: “When I heard about the opening at the dairy, which is just a few minutes’ walk from my house, I jumped at the chance. I have always enjoyed being outdoors so the chance to work and learn on the farm was just what I was looking for. I’m loving it so far. I’ve learned lots of new skills and really feel like part of the team.”

Ewan has become an asset to the dairy farm, working hard at all aspects of the job and has already proven to be a reliable member of the team. William added: “Taking Ewan on was a great decision and I’m very thankful to Banks for providing the funding which allowed us to do so. I have mentioned the incentive scheme to others in the area and would encourage anyone else to look into it. It’s been a complete win-win situation for us.”



“I’ve learned lots of new skills and really feel like part of the team.”

Laura Campbell • Beauty student

AWARDED A FIRST-TIME COLLEGE STUDENTS GRANT



Seventeen-year-old Laura Campbell left Strathaven Academy and was accepted to study Beauty Therapy at South Lanarkshire College. At the time, she had a part-time job to help pay for the cosmetics and equipment she needed during her first year. However, the covid pandemic left her without work and the money she needed to carry on with her course. She applied for the C2R first-time College/University students £500 grant, funded by Kype Muir Wind Farm.

Laura said: “I was very nervous when I looked into the programme as I am really not very good at IT and feared that I would never be able to complete all the forms. But the process couldn’t have been simpler. The online process was so straightforward that I managed to fill it out without any difficulties. I would recommend to anyone who is struggling with getting started on their career path to check this programme out.”

“It has helped me to stay at college, especially over the last two years and with all the problems that Covid has caused.”

Supporting community projects

On funding for local projects, we've taken different approaches for the two wind farms, in consultation with the local community councils.

Project funding from Kype Muir is split between two different initiatives, supporting the Kype Muir Community Partnership and South Lanarkshire Councils Renewable Energy Fund (REF).

For Middle Muir, all of the project community funding is paid into South Lanarkshire Council's REF initiative.

Across both wind farms' catchment areas, the money is making a difference to local people in many ways.

Renewable Energy Fund

South Lanarkshire Council's Renewable Energy Fund has four measurable themes to guide its grants. Every project funded should fit against one of these themes and they are reported against the main theme they represent.

Kype Muir has made 12 awards of a total grant value of £263,601 against project value of £693,351. Every £1 of Kype Muir grant has levered a further £2.63 of additional funding.

- Stronger Communities - £138,812 including two community-owned hall refurbishments
- Prosperous Communities - £4,905 including supporting Strathaven Balloon festival
- Healthy and Active communities - £18,817 including a sensory garden and Covid recovery
- Sustainable environmental communities £101,067 - including Community woodland purchase and energy efficient heating

Middle Muir has made six awards of a total grant value of £328,195 against project value of £1,864,110. Every £1 of Middle Muir grant has levered a further £5.68 of additional funding.

- Stronger Communities £26,499, including active travel support
- Prosperous Communities £149,250, including supporting for a community business hub
- Healthy and Active communities £27,752 including Covid recovery and development of sports activity
- Sustainable environmental communities £124,694, including photovoltaic solar power in Elvanfoot Community Hall



L-R: Michael Newton and Robin Winstanley from OnPath with Liz Steele, vice chair of the Crawfordjohn Hall Association

What communities say

Solar power for Crawfordjohn Village Hall

£124,694 • APPROVED MARCH 2021

The rural village hall installed 111 photovoltaic solar panels and four Tesla Powerwall batteries, using a grant that was mostly funded by Middle Muir wind farm REF. It replaced the old heating system, and they anticipate generating enough electricity to slash running costs by around 80%, with any surplus energy going back into the grid and providing additional income. They were granted £166,000, around £125,000 of which came from Middle Muir.

The hall was opened in 2000 and hosts everything from social functions and concerts to exhibitions and even dog shows. It's run by 12-volunteer committee members and has a large and small function room, and a fully equipped kitchen and bar.

“We're hoping that with lower energy bills, [we can] increase the number of events at the hall.”

Liz Steele, vice chair of the Crawfordjohn Hall Association, said: “To have received such a huge grant has made this possible. Not only will the hall save money and continue to host events, it will also be part of a much more sustainable future. We are still struggling to get the hall back to being used as it was pre-pandemic. We're hoping that with the boost to lower energy bills, it will enable us to increase the number of events at the hall so we can continue to offer the space as an important community facility.”

KEY ISSUES TACKLED: Environment, social inclusion, stronger community

SECONDARY ISSUES: Mental health, health and wellbeing

Refurbishing Coalburn Miners' Welfare Club

MORE THAN £65,000 • APPROVED SEPTEMBER 2021

Coalburn Miners' Welfare Charitable Society, which runs the town's social club, has played an important role in providing resources and leadership to the local community for more than 90 years. It has around 200 members and contains the only function suite and public bar in the town. All the profits made through the social club are fed back to the charitable society to enable it to continue to serve the surrounding community. The Middle Muir Wind Farm grant contributed part of the total £131,000 of funding they received overall from several funders. They've transformed their social club – renovating its upstairs and downstairs halls, two toilets, games room and lounge.

The club is extremely well-used and holds everything from weddings and parties to yoga and IT classes. George Greenshields, project manager at Coalburn Miners Welfare, said: "The social club was in need of a serious upgrade so we were over the moon to have received such a vital source of funding. The building really has become essential to the local community. The social club is a valuable space where plenty of good memories have been made."

KEY ISSUES TACKLED: Social inclusion, stronger community

SECONDARY ISSUES: Mental health, health and wellbeing



The refurbished club

“The social club was in need of a serious upgrade, so we were over the moon to have received such a vital source of funding.”



Rural charity's funding to encourage cycling

£19,000 • APPROVED JULY 2021

The Rural Development Trust (RDT) have been able to host a series of cycling courses, training days and bike safety workshops. They also provide a fleet of community bikes to encourage active travel for local people. Its goal is to improve accessibility in rural communities while encouraging residents to choose greener travel. Organisers held a public vote on how to spend the money.

RDT project officer, Sarah O'Sullivan, said: "As well as teaching children in the area about bike safety, we're also trying to highlight to them, and adults alike, the importance of sustainable active travel through leaflets, school visits and cycle days. We're so grateful to Banks and South Lanarkshire Council as the funding will help organise everything from map boards around the community to bike sessions for schools. This is hopefully going to have a big impact on keeping children and people healthy and cutting emissions around our rural communities."

KEY ISSUES TACKLED: Sport and recreation, environment, health and wellbeing

SECONDARY ISSUES: Stronger communities, mental health

“We're so grateful... This is hopefully going to have a big impact on keeping children and people healthy and cutting emissions around our rural communities.”

Ancient woodland secured for local children

£82,000 • APPROVED JULY 2020



L-R: Terry Wise, Trustee of Blackwood Estate Community Association, Robin Winstanley, Sustainability and External Affairs Manager at OnPath, Vicki Connick, Treasurer & Trustee at Blackwood Estate Community Association

More than 65 acres of ancient woodland – around the size of 49 football pitches - was secured by Blackwood Estate Community Association, funded in part by a grant from the Kype Muir Wind Farm Fund. The £82,000 REF grant, supported by funds from Kype Muir Wind Farm put them in the position to source more grants from other funders to buy the land.

The group is now hosting outdoor workshops for local children. The woodland provides an ideal opportunity for young children to develop a sense of responsibility, ownership, and interest in nature. Loch Wood in Blackwood Estate is a haven for protected species and popular with local walkers.

Treasurer Vicki Connick said: "Conserving the woodland is a massive passion. I'm so glad the kids are now able to get in and enjoy it safely."

"Once our outdoor learning programme is established, a longer-term plan is to strengthen links with local schools and agricultural students for climate change and environmental work. We're also investigating the options for wildlife re-homing, working under the advice of Scottish Natural Heritage."

KEY ISSUES TACKLED: Education, social inclusion, health and wellbeing

SECONDARY ISSUES: Stronger communities, mental health, health and wellbeing.

“Conserving the woodland is a massive passion. I'm so glad the kids are now able to get in and enjoy it safely.”

Kype Muir Community Partnership

The Kype Muir Community Partnership (KMCP) is made up of local people, including members of the community councils that are within 10km of the wind farm site. They took on the job of distributing £138,125 a year of the Kype Muir wind farm community benefit money.

KMCP set to work assessing and determining grants applications to grassroots projects. Grants have been awarded to support a range of key issues like health and wellbeing, community development and disability access and included responding to the difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The idea was to develop long-term projects that could help attract matched funding from other streams. The fund has been well placed to tackle issues that are sometimes missed by the traditional funding channels.

The KMCP grants panel has awarded more than £350,000 to local organisations and has pledged to be even more ambitious.

It's a pioneering example of how local people can work together to prioritise what matters most to their communities.

Key to this success has been the chairman of the KMCP, George Smith. He said: "It wasn't easy to get to this stage, and we are proud to have managed to help our communities take part in the Kype project which we believe has helped our villages with some truly brilliant projects.

Top three key issues:



£81,917
COMMUNITY SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT



£89,981
DISABILITY AND ACCESS ISSUES



£33,950
HEALTH WELLBEING & MENTAL HEALTH

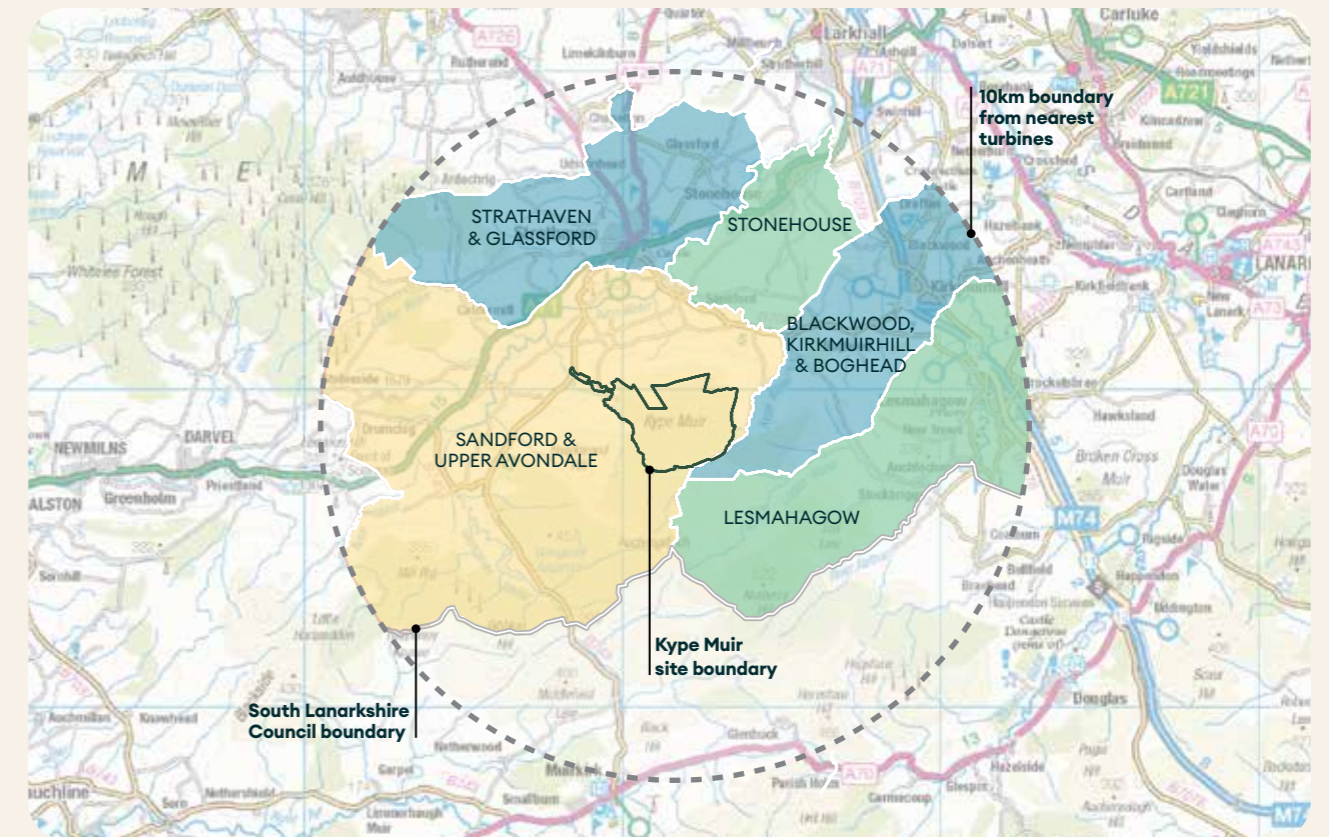
Money spent so far

Year	Grants Awarded	Amount Awarded	Paid into fund
2019	5	£25,300	£151,969.50
2020	26	£99,761	£156,176.03
2021	11	£59,730	£158,731.93
2022	20	£180,089	£173,162.10
Lifetime total	62	£364,880	£640,039.56



L-R back row: Mark Waugh, Lesmahagow Community Council; Michael Newton and Robin Winstanley from OnPath.
L-R back row: Moira Lewis, director and bar manager; Margaret Crow, Lesmahagow Community Council; Ruby Dyer, vice president; Aileen McLellan, president

The five local community areas involved in the KMCP



What Kype Muir Community Partnership says

A sensory garden and polytunnel for Hope Hub Community Centre

£12,500 • APPROVED JANUARY 2021



L-R: Cllr Mark Horsham; Michael Newton of OnPath; Matthew Jardine; Trevor Hadley; George Buckley; Ian Black; William Moyes and Robin Winstanley of OnPath in front of the raised beds

“We’re doing everything we can to create a space that can be enjoyed by as many people as possible in the community.”

Hope Hub in Kirkmuirhill was granted funding for a new community outdoor space. They are creating a sensory garden and they have invested in a large polytunnel and raised beds so they can grow vegetables. To create a relaxing space for visitors, they’re landscaping pathways, planting saplings, installing benches and fencing, and purchasing tools and supplies.

Volunteer fundraiser Willie Moyes said a great number of people in the surrounding area will feel the benefit. “We’re doing everything we can to create a space that can be enjoyed by as many people as possible in the community. This funding enables us to do so much. Raised beds and level pathways will make for easy access and there will be plenty to feel and smell for those that struggle with their sight. It’ll be a very quiet space too, so will be appealing to groups of all ages, from pre-school to the elderly. We hope that our polytunnels can be very productive too.”

KEY ISSUES TACKLED: Health, wellbeing and serious illness

SECONDARY ISSUES: Education, disability & access issues, environment and improved surroundings, mental health services

Renovation of rugby club training facilities

£7,500 & £3,250 • APPROVED DECEMBER 2019 & JUNE 2021

Strathaven Rugby Football Club, in partnership with the Whiteshawgate 3G Sports Trust, received funding to improve the training facilities at the club. They used a £7,500 grant to buy new training equipment and improve the quality of coaching available, with benefits for both players and supporters. Their collaboration with the Whiteshawgate 3G sports trust meant they also benefited from a £3,250 grant towards a new CCTV system. This will contribute the safety of players, staff, and supporters – and help protect the new equipment and facilities from damage and vandalism.

Margot McDonald, from Strathaven and Glassford Community Council, said: “We welcome all opportunities to ensure that the funds from Kype Muir have as extensive reach as possible in our community. There is no better way to ensure this than to support our... young people. They are our future, and their health and wellbeing are certainly included in our community priorities.”

KEY ISSUES TACKLED: Sport and recreation

SECONDARY ISSUES: Mental health, community building, health and wellbeing



Strathaven Rugby Football team huddle

“These young people are our future and their health and wellbeing are part of our community priorities.”



Lesmahagow Bowling Club - 1910



Before and after repairs

“The club is central to the vibrancy and vitality of our rural village.”

Upgrading Lesmahagow Bowling Club to improve accessibility

£15,000 • APPROVED DECEMBER 2020

Lesmahagow Bowling Club was founded in 1879 in a rural village. It used a £15,000 grant to upgrade its facilities and carry out some much-needed building repairs. The grant meant the club could afford to renovate their existing changing rooms and toilets. They also dramatically improved how accessible the grounds were. With the improved access and facilities, the bowling club is thriving, welcoming the community to its game days and tournaments and offering a chance to socialise and exercise.

Margaret Craw, Lesmahagow Community Council vice chair and bowling club member, said: “The upgrade to the Lesmahagow Bowling Club locker room has created a real sense of pride within the club. It’s super to have this improvement. The club is central to the vibrancy and vitality of our rural village and the improvement to the facility is appreciated by all.”

KEY ISSUES TACKLED: Disability and access issues, social inclusion and fairness

SECONDARY ISSUES: Stronger communities, mental health, sport and recreation services, health & wellbeing



8. Stakeholders

What other stakeholders say

“We’ve been able to tailor the OnPath grants to local needs, using the money to bridge gaps in funding. That’s empowered our team on the ground - who know the area inside out - to listen closely to locals, pilot new ideas and help different groups of people. ”



Kenny Lean
HEAD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AT SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

“To see the real-world impacts of these commitments is extremely encouraging. It is absolutely vital that local business and local people feel the socio-economic benefits that wind farms can deliver, and initiatives like this are a big step in the right direction towards achieving that.”

Ross Lambie LOCAL WARD COUNCILLOR, CLYDESDALE SOUTH

“On behalf of the Rigside Tenants and Residents Association I can honestly say that during our contacts with OnPath we have been treated with honesty and respect by nice people doing their best to do what’s right for the community. ”

Billy Hamilton RIGSIDE TENANTS & RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

9. A just transition

A just transition to a renewable future

As the renewable energy transition accelerates our renewable and flexible energy projects create an opportunity responsibility to have a broader impact, delivering high social and environmental value. We aim to create change at a local level and share the benefits with our local communities.

At OnPath, we believe we can work with partners to ensure that our renewable and flexible energy projects deliver the potential for sustainable growth within Scotland and the UK.

We know new projects have the potential to go further. They can tackle big-ticket items for communities that go beyond traditional models of community benefits, for example.

Good policy makes good projects.

We support the current legal environment in Scotland, which includes the Scottish Onshore Wind policy and the new National Planning framework.

These policies should help developers provide more reliable investment opportunities in onshore wind, the lowest-cost form of renewable electricity currently deployed in the UK.

This will keep our energy supply secure and drive down costs, at the same time as bringing investment and jobs to Scotland and the UK. A sensible policy for England is needed which supports the deployment of good projects in this market in a similar way.

It can also deliver more for communities living close to wind farms.

The data from this first review tells us that we have made a real impact with our commitments to the local

economy and communities. We have fulfilled and exceeded our promises on investment and impact per MW of capacity within the local and regional areas.

It also illustrates an opportunity to secure even more of the investment inside the council boundary - as opposed to 'local' area within 30km/19-mile of the project.

The jobs and skills programme delivered in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council has really made a difference. That's thanks to the council staff who are embedded in the community and have responded to local need, often in a creative and unconventional way.

Looking ahead, we are now delivering "net positive" projects and regenerative developments that help tackle nature loss, climate change and complex socio-economic issues together.

We are therefore using this review to take the first steps to answer the following questions...

What is next for The OnPath Promise?

And perhaps more importantly, what more can we do to create a more prosperous, greener, and just society with our projects?

We're confident this can be achieved with a good policy environment and collaboration with key partners.






Contacting Connect2Renewables

If you believe you (or someone you know) could benefit from the Connect2Renewables initiatives please get in touch with South Lanarkshire Council.

To find out where our drop-ins are or to make an appointment at a location near you, please contact us:

 **0800 952 0070**

 **www.shorturl.at/juvzO**

 **connect2renewables@southlanarkshire.gov.uk**

Get in touch

Durham | England

Chase House, 4 Mandarin Road,
Rainton Bridge Business Park,
Houghton-le-Spring DH4 5RA

Registered in England & Wales No. 02387216

Hamilton | Scotland

2nd Floor, Block C,
Brandon Gate, Leechlee Road,
Hamilton ML3 6AU



T: +44 330 335 8010

W: onpathenergy.com

E: hello@onpathenergy.com