



Sheringham Shoal

by Scira Offshore Energy

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Funds for the community

Throughout the development process, the Scira Offshore Energy team highlighted the fact that the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm would bring community benefits beyond those expected as part of general business activity. It is part of the company's ethos to ensure it does not operate in isolation but becomes an integral and valued member of the local community.

As an early step, in 2010, the organisation established the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund. The aim was to facilitate the implementation of relevant project and initiatives that will benefit stakeholders, primarily in Wells-next-the-Sea and the surrounding villages, but also in the wider North Norfolk region. Not only was there a general expectation that the organisation, as one of the largest employers in the area, would contribute to the sustainability of the wider community, there was a desire from within to be a responsible corporate citizen and an industry leader in terms of local engagement.

Coordinated by the Norfolk Community Foundation, the Fund provides grants to charities, community groups, parish and town councils and educational institutions in the North Norfolk area that apply for financial assistance for community projects or initiatives which meet one or more of the fund criteria.

The criteria were designed to be in keeping with, and relevant to, the nature of the business, namely the sustainable production of green energy. The project should be able to meet one or more of the following criteria:

- contribute to reducing climate change.
- assist the sustainability of North Norfolk communities by stimulating their own ability to solve issues and create opportunities, for example by providing educational or community business facilities.
- have a marine environment or marine safety focus.
- promote environmental sensitivity, sustainability or the benefits of renewable energy.
- contribute to education or employment in the renewable energy industry or related arenas through access to courses and community activities.

Since its establishment the Fund has made grant awards of more than £100,000 to various local organisations.

Groups that feel they have a relevant initiative or concept that needs funding are encouraged to apply. Applications can be made throughout the year by submitting an outline proposal to Norfolk Community Foundation.

Outline proposals are assessed and selected applicants invited to submit a full proposal for consideration by the grant panel. Full applications are normally considered at meetings twice a year – around May and November.

To find out more about the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund, or to submit an outline proposal form, you can visit www.norfolkfoundation.com/Sheringham-Shoal-Community-Fund.htm for details.



Wells-next-the-Sea to benefit from the community fund.

Who is eligible to receive grants?

A wide range of organisations have successfully applied for grants from the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund. These case studies give an insight into just three of the numerous projects which have been able to proceed due to contributions from the Fund.

Case study: National Coastwatch Institution Mundesley

The aim of the National Coastwatch Institution Mundesley is to ensure the safety of those at sea or on the Mundesley foreshore, and help HM Coastguard by keeping a visual and radio watch to monitor both the local weather and sea conditions.

Volunteers working from the Coastwatch station need to have a clear view out to sea and along the coast to fulfill this role and ideally can do it with a degree of comfort.

The organisation realised the windows were not satisfactory for this so applied to the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund for a grant to replace them. The grant was awarded and early in 2012 the station was fitted with the new windows, and at the same time underwent a full overhaul including a redecoration, carpet tile installation, refurbished console and chart table and new internal wiring.

The upgrade has considerably improved the working environment, by making it warmer and less draughty, for the volunteer watchkeepers, who are mostly retirees.

The building was re-opened in March by local MP, Norman Lamb with guests including the Chairman of Mundesley Parish Council and representatives from HM Coastguard and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.



Norman Lamb MP at the opening.

Case study: North Norfolk Surf Life Saving Club

Cromer-based North Norfolk Surf Life Saving Club applied for, and was awarded, funding to help them establish a life saving training programme for young people aged from seven to 14 years.

This funding included the purchase of junior rescue boards; training of surf life saving coaches, seven of whom have now

achieved Level 1 and will progress to Level 2 this year; junior lifeguard summer sessions, and publicity posters to promote participation in the programme.

Nine under 16s achieved their Bronze Surf Life Saver Awards, and under 16s membership of the club doubled over the summer which has laid a very strong foundation for more interest and activities in 2013.



A junior lifesaver enjoys the North Norfolk surf.

Case study: Wells Maltings Trust

The Wells Maltings Trust was created in 2010 to steer the Wells Maltings Project, the planned development of the former malthouse, which has been at the heart of the town since the late 1900s. The Trust's aim is to transform the brick and flint building into an all year round destination for both local people and visitors.

Through restoration and regeneration, it is anticipated visitors will be able to enjoy a new Heritage Centre that celebrates the maritime history of Wells and the local area; a larger, more flexible auditorium; a new space especially for youth activities; a café, and rooms for education, training and events.

The Trust approached the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund for a grant to meet architect fees for the first stage design ideas for the Sackhouse building to be converted into business units and workspaces, and featuring a dedicated youth space. By facilitating this work the project was able to gain planning permission in June 2012. All the necessary funding is in place and onsite work has now started.

To apply:

If you have an initiative you feel could be eligible for the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund, please do not hesitate to contact the Norfolk Community Foundation via info@norfolkfoundation.com or Scira Offshore Energy via info@scira.co.uk.

Contact details and more information

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The Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm is owned equally by Statoil and Statkraft through the joint venture company, Scira Offshore Energy Limited, the wind farm operator.