

Funds *for the* community

The Sheringham Shoal Wind Farm has brought 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 as 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 projects and initiatives that would benefit stakeholders across the North Norfolk region. Not only was there a general expectation that the organisation would contribute to the sustainability of the community, there was a desire from within to be a responsible corporate citizen and an industry leader in terms of local engagement.

Co-ordinated 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. All applications for financial assistance for community projects or initiatives need to 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.

By the end of September 2022 the Fund had made grant awards of over £1,065,000 to various local organisations. Groups that feel they have a relevant initiative or concept that needs

Fund 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

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 <https://www.norfolkfoundation.com/funding-support/grants/groups/sheringham-shoal-community-fund> for details ○



A grant from the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund has supported a 'new home' for Wells Sea Cadets. (Image courtesy of Noel Wheatley MBE).

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

Case studies

Case Study: First Norfolk outdoor eco-gym

With the assistance of a grant from the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund, Norfolk's first outdoor eco-gym has opened in the Memorial Park in North Walsham.



The outdoor eco-gym developed by North Walsham Play
Image courtesy of North Walsham Play

With the support of North Walsham Town Council, it has been developed by the charity North Walsham Play (NWP), and is situated adjacent to the Memorial Park children's play area which was also developed by NWP in 2018.

The eco-gym features thirteen pieces of equipment of which four exercise machines enable users to generate electricity to recharge their mobile devices through their pedalling.

Matthew Smith, the founder and a Trustee of North Walsham Play, is delighted with the eco-gym, saying:

"The exercise machines work just like a UK plug socket, so two to three hours of pedalling or pulling across any of the four items of equipment should be sufficient to fully charge a mobile phone."

He continued: *"The installation also features battery storage, so any surplus electricity generated by those using the eco-gym will be stored and used to help reduce the cost of the Memorial Park's overall electricity consumption"* ●

Case Study: A new electric moped programme at Kickstart

A 2022 grant from the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund has contributed to the purchase of the first 20 Super Soco CUx electric mopeds by the charity Kickstart, which was established in 2003 to provide an alternative transport service across Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire for individuals with a transport need.

The charity has a fleet of 300 petrol mopeds and scooters and, following a successful pilot scheme with a small number of electric mopeds over the last few years, it now has a strategic plan to replace all its existing mopeds with a fully electric fleet by 2026.

Susan Falch-Lovesey is Equinor's Norfolk Stakeholder Manager and, having visited Kickstart, she said:

"In rural counties such as Norfolk, travelling long distances to work or college is often the norm, but for those reliant on public transport this can prove quite challenging. However, the hire of a moped from Kickstart assists individuals to attend education, training or to look for, start or sustain employment."

Depending on speed and riding conditions, the Super Soco CUx is expected to travel between 30-45 miles on a fully charged battery which, for many riders, will mean a battery charge is only required every 2 or 3 days ●



Susan Falch-Lovesey visiting Kickstart

Case Study: Helping the Hawk and Owl Trust to carbon neutrality

One of the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund's criteria is to 'contribute to reducing climate change' and a grant to North Norfolk's Hawk and Owl Trust has supported this ambition, assisting with the purchase of a HiSun 'Nipper' electric vehicle (EV) to transport supplies and materials around the 250 acres of land owned by the charitable organisation at Sculthorpe Moor.

The Hawk and Owl Trust is making great strides towards carbon neutrality and the 'Nipper' will further reduce its carbon footprint by 1.1 tonnes per year as it replaces a petrol powered off-road vehicle.

The Sheringham Shoal Community Fund previously supported the charity with a grant to enable it to install air source heating,



Nigel Middleton, Hawk and Owl Trust Warden with the Nipper

EV charging points and an off-grid solar PV system.

"Our journey to net zero is progressing well, and we are extremely grateful to the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund for its on-going support," said Adrian Blumfield, Chief Operations Director at the Hawk and Owl Trust ●

Contact details and more information:

Sheringham Shoal is owned by Equinor, Equitix and the Green Investment Group through Scira Offshore Energy Ltd. Equinor is the operator for the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm. Scira Offshore Energy Ltd is the legal entity.

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