

Agenda Item	15
Report No	SRC/045/15

Carbon CLEVER Community Grant Fund 2015-16

Report by Head of Policy and Reform

Summary

This report sets out the applications received for the Carbon CLEVER community grant fund in Skye, Ross and Cromarty for 2015-16. It details the background to the fund, together with a summary of applications, the assessments and funding recommendations.

1. Background

- 1.1 At a meeting of the Highland Council in June 2014, Members approved the development of the Carbon CLEVER community grant fund (CCCGF). In February 2015, Members agreed at Resources Committee that the £200,000 fund would benefit from localisation, with each Area Committee having a fund allocation based on the number of Members. For Skye, Ross and Cromarty the funding allocation is £57,500. It was also decided that funding decisions would be taken at Area Committees, with an annual update of the decisions made presented to Resources Committee. The criteria and scoring for the fund are available on the Council's website and attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The CCCGF contributes to the Council's programme commitment to achieve a carbon neutral Inverness in a low carbon Highlands by 2025 by providing support to communities in developing innovative projects which tackle climate change.
- 1.3 This report sets out the applications received for the CCCGF in Skye, Ross and Cromarty for 2015-16, summarises the applications and provides funding recommendations for Members to consider.

2. 2015 – 16 Award Recommendations

- 2.1 Applications were invited for the 2015-16 grant fund through notices on the Council's website, by e-mail to Council Members and Ward Managers, via social media and through articles in local media. A total of five applications were received for Skye, Ross and Cromarty:

Skye, Ross and Cromarty Area		
Ref No	Applicant Organisation	Funding request (£)
11048	Lochalsh and Skye Swimming Pool Association Ltd	15,000
11446	Black Isle Bicycles	6,538
11447	Muir of Ord (Tarradale) Community Council	25,000
11448	Sleat Community Trust	8,094
11449	Lochbroom Woodfuels	9,500
		64,132
	Budget 2015 - 16	57,500

2.2 The applications have been given a robust appraisal, including:

- An examination of the applicant's proposals by Council officers and Ward Managers to assess the need and appropriateness of the proposals as well as the applicant's capacity to deliver the project using the assessment criteria;
- A technical assessment of each applicant organisation has been carried out including its governance, experience, activities undertaken, how business is managed, including an examination of its annual reports and accounts; and
- Where necessary, further information or clarification has been sought.

3. Assessment

3.1 A summary of the applications, assessments and comments for each application is shown at Appendix 2. Based on these assessments, the awards recommended are:

Ref	Applicant Organisation	Total Project Cost (£)	Match Funding in Place (£)	Amount Applied For (£)	Recommended Award (£)
11048	Lochalsh and Skye Swimming Pool Association Ltd	15,000	0	15,000	15,000
11446	Black Isle Bicycles	6,538	0	6,538	6,538
11447	Muir of Ord (Tarradale) Community Council	70,000	45,000	25,000	25,000
11448	Sleat Community Trust	16,774.03	8,680.03	8,094	8,094
11449	Lochbroom Woodfuels	20,000	10,500	9,500	9,500
	Totals	148,312.03	64,180.03	64,132	64,132

- 3.2 The projects detailed in the applications will contribute to the goals of a Carbon CLEVER Highlands in a number of different ways. They will all help to reduce carbon emissions across the region and demonstrate value for money in achieving this aim. Additional match funding of £64,180.03 is detailed in the applications and Members' support for these projects will allow this sum to be invested in the area. Without support, these projects may not be able to proceed.
- 3.3 The fund allocation of £57,500 is not sufficient to fund all the recommended projects, given that the total funding applied for is £64,132. This leaves a total shortfall of £6,632. A breakdown of this shortfall, per project per Ward is:

Applicant Organisation	Ward	Shortfall
Lochalsh and Skye Swimming Pool Association Ltd	6	£1,551
Black Isle Bicycles	10	£676
Muir of Ord (Tarradale) Community Council	9	£2,585
Sleat Community Trust	11	£837
Lochbroom Woodfuels	6	£983

- 3.4 Members are therefore asked to consider whether individual Ward Discretionary funding might be used to meet the shortfall to allow all recommended projects to commence. Decisions on shortfall funding would need to be made by on a ward-by-ward basis at Ward Business Meetings.

4. Implications

- 4.1 **Resource Implications:** The recommendations, if approved, will fully commit the £57,500 Skye, Ross and Cromarty CCCGF allocation, and will result in a total shortfall of £6,632. It is proposed that Members discuss that this shortfall is met from Ward Discretionary Budgets to allow these projects to proceed.
- 4.2 **Climate Change/ Carbon CLEVER Implications:** Through the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 and as a signatory to Scotland's Climate Change Declaration, The Highland Council has a duty to encourage and work with others in the local community to take action to adapt to the impact of climate change, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to make public its commitment to action. Through the CCCGF, the Council will be supporting local communities in taking practical steps to mitigate against climate change. Successful applications and projects will also reinforce and support the aims of Carbon CLEVER.
- 4.3 **Rural Implications:** The CCCGF is open to community groups and organisations throughout the Highlands. As applications will be approved by Members at Area Committees, the fund will benefit the whole Highland region.
- 4.4 **Gaelic Implications:** The CCCGF follows the Council's policy on signage and branding. The application form seeks to assess project contributions to the promotion of the Gaelic language.

- 4.5 **Risk Implications:** The recommendations are based on a thorough assessment of the organisations' capacity to deliver efficiently and effectively. The organisations are established and meet current monitoring requirements. The grant funding is managed and monitored using the Council's standard terms and conditions of grant.
- 4.6 **Legal Implications:** The Highland Council has an obligation to support national efforts to reduce carbon emissions to meet the targets set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. Accounting rules relating to spending of capital grants to third parties will be implemented and specific conditions will be detailed in award notices.
- 4.7 **Equalities Implications:** To ensure that the grant is accessible to all groups of people, support was made available throughout the process. Applications were screened on a case-by-case basis for equalities implications. Projects which are granted funding will be required to have necessary equality policies in place, and this will be outlined in award notices.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

1. Agree the funding recommendations as shown below;

Ref No	Applicant Organisation	Recommended Award
11048	Lochalsh and Skye Swimming Pool Association Ltd	£13,449
11446	Black Isle Bicycles	£5,862
11447	Muir of Ord (Tarradale) Community Council	£22,415
11448	Sleat Community Trust	£7,257
11449	Lochbroom Woodfuels	£8,517
	Total	£57,500

2. Agree that the funding shortfall detailed at paragraph 3.3 should be considered under individual Ward Discretionary budgets at Ward Business Meetings.
- 3.

Designation: Head of Policy and Reform

Date: 22/07/2014

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Appendix 1

Carbon Clever Community Grant Fund – Assessment Criteria

Carbon CLEVER Community Grant Fund – Assessment Criteria Scoring Matrix 2015/16

The Carbon CLEVER Community Grant Fund will be assessed on the six criterion below. A technical assessment comprising organisational governance, experience, track record and capacity to deliver the project, and other sources of funding will also be undertaken.

1. Assessment of Application

Criterion	Weighting	Max Score
Criterion 1: Carbon Reduction – applications must lead to a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions in the community.	X 2	10 (2 x 5)
Assessment: The application must identify how the project will reduce CO ₂ in the community and measure this data. Level of specific targeting identified including how the project is going to target CO ₂ reduction in the community. A practical approach should be taken to ensure project proposals maximize carbon emission reduction.		
Criterion 2: Leadership – applications must demonstrate leadership in maximising carbon emission reduction and encourage behaviour change in the community	X 1	5 (1 x 5)
Assessment: The application must demonstrate that the project will take a lead role in the community in respect of demonstrating excellent practice in carbon reduction.		
Criterion 3: Engagement – applications must demonstrate community consultation in respect of the project, as well as efforts to engage with stakeholders	X 2	10 (2 x 5)
Assessment: Application should highlight how project will engage with local communities and assist in building community capacity – i.e. use of volunteers, developing project management skills etc.		
Criterion 4: Value for Money – applications must demonstrate that the project offers good value for money	X 1	5 (1 x 5)

Assessment: Application should highlight how project will offer value for money whilst complementing (not reinventing) other local services and programmes which tackle climate change.		
Criterion 5: Economic Benefit – applications must describe how the project will benefit the community, from an economic perspective	X 1	5 (1 x 5)
Assessment: Application should specify ways in which the project will result in economic benefits for the local economy including how this will be delivered. This might include income generation, increasing employment, drawing in private investment etc.		
Criterion 6: Raise Awareness and Promote Behaviour Change – applications must provide details about the project’s expected sustainable legacy and how it will promote behaviour change in the community.	X 1	5 (1 x 5)
Assessment: Application should demonstrate how the project will raise awareness of climate change and what measures will be put in place to promote low carbon behaviours in the community.		

Scoring of Application

0 – Unacceptable	No information provided or justification provided indicates that applicant does not meet key criteria
1 – Poor justification	Limited attempt to provide key information
2 – Lack of full justification	Modest attempt at providing key information with little justification on how key criteria will be met
3 – Satisfactory justification	Reasonable effort at providing key information on all points and meeting criteria
4 – Strong justification	Good response which covers all points requested and comprehensively provides information on how key criteria will be met
5 – Very strong justification	Excellent response which provides all key information requested and gives substantial additional information which clearly meets criteria

Maximum score is 40 points.

2. Technical Assessment (pass or fail)

The purpose is to make a judgement on the applicant organisation's governance, experience, track record and capacity to deliver the project. This will be assessed by Council Officers and will include the following:

- History of Organisation;
- Record of previous funding being spent appropriately;
- Track record of delivering similar projects within or outwith the Highland Council area;
- Capacity of Organisation to deliver the project;
- Application costs offer good value for money – i.e. are judged as reasonable costs;
- Alternative sources of funding, for example through Climate Challenge Fund or other grants; and
- Appropriate governance arrangements are in place, including sound financial management.

Appendix 2

SKYE, ROSS and CROMARTY AREA COMMITTEE CARBON CLEVER COMMUNITY GRANT FUND 2015-16

Summary Applications, Assessments and Recommendations

Carbon CLEVER Community Grant Fund (CCGF) 2015-16

Name of Applicant and App. Ref: Lochalsh and Skye Swimming Pool Association Ltd, 11048	
Application Finance 2015 – 16 Year Project Cost: £15,000 Amount Applied for: £15,000	Application Finance 2015 – 18 (if applicable) 3 Year Project Cost: £NA Amount Applied for: £NA
Recommended Year 1: £15,000	
Project Summary: Energy Efficient Lighting and Wet Heat Distribution System	
<p>It is envisaged that installation of energy efficient lighting throughout the facility would accrue savings of £2,125 per annum, at a capital cost of £5,000 (as evidenced by a report prepared by Resource Efficient Scotland, based on current usage). This provides a return on investment within 2 and a half years.</p> <p>The facility is currently heated electrically, and the installation of a wet heat distribution system (£10,000) utilising the new biomass boiler system (which was commissioned in May, 2015) to its full capacity, could save the facility between £15,000 and £17,000 per annum. These figures are again based on the Resource Efficient Scotland report mentioned above.</p> <p>Lochalsh and Skye Swimming Pool Association Ltd have a Service Level Agreement of £50,000 per annum with the Highland Council, and given the budget pressures the Council is under, this project could go a long way to reducing overhead costs.</p>	
Measurable Outcomes:	
<p>Installation of energy efficient lighting and a wet heat distribution system will result in reduced running costs for the facility, as well as a significant carbon saving year-on-year. It will also mean enhanced lighting levels for customers.</p>	

Criteria 1 Score 10 – (5 x 2)

Very strong justification. Excellent response which clearly provided justification on why and how CO₂ emission reduction will be targeted. Excellent level of information on how current levels of emissions were calculated and detailed projections of future emissions provided. To achieve this level, substantial additional information is provided which demonstrates that the project strongly addresses this criterion.

Criteria 2 Score 2 – (2 x 1)

Lack of full justification. Attempt to demonstrate leadership aims, however lacking level of information or justification which demonstrates the effectiveness of intervention in addressing these aims. Weak level of justification on how participants will move towards the outcome of leading on low carbon behaviour in the community.

Criteria 3 Score 2 – (1 x 2)

Poor justification. Limited attempt to demonstrate how the project will engage with local communities and assist in building community capacity.

Criteria 4 Score 4 – (4 x 1)

Strong justification. Good response which clearly demonstrates how the project will offer value for money while complementing local climate change initiatives such as through the planned use of volunteers and/or existing facilities as an important part of the project delivery. Application also details that match funding is in place which furthers the scope of the project.

Criteria 5 Score 3 – (3 X 1)

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory demonstration by application of how the project will deliver economic benefits for the local community. However, would have benefitted from more comprehensive evidence/projections.

Criteria 6 Score 1 – (1 X 1)

Poor justification. Limited attempt to demonstrate how the project will raise awareness and promote behaviour change in the local community.

Overall Score Against Criteria : 22/40

Technical Assessment:
PASS

Summary: Application focuses clearly on carbon reduction and will result in significant CO₂ savings, whilst maximising the utility of the facility's newly-installed biomass boiler. The project will also lead to significantly reduced overhead costs for the leisure centre, helping to secure its financial viability going forward.

Recommendation:
Approve

Amount Recommended:
£15,000

Special Conditions:

PR and signage around the leisure centre to promote savings generated as a result of the new systems would be desirable in terms of awareness-raising.

Carbon CLEVER Community Grant Fund (CCCGF) 2015-16

Name of Applicant and App. Ref: Black Isle Bicycles, 11446	
Application Finance 2015 – 16 Year Project Cost: £6,538 Amount Applied for: £6,538	Application Finance 2015 – 18 (if applicable) 3 Year Project Cost: £NA Amount Applied for: £NA
Recommended Year 1: £6,538	
<p>Project Summary: Black Isle Bicycles: Electric Commuting Project This project aims to achieve a measurable shift in transport mode from cars to electric-assist bikes (ebikes) for utility cycling on the Black Isle</p> <p>Awareness of reduction of car use and consequent behaviour change on the Black Isle has already been achieved by the Million Miles project. This reached its target of reducing car mileage by residents by over a million miles over three years (see http://www.transitionblackisle.org/million-miles-project.asp). The specific cycling legacy of this project includes a Cycle Friendly Communities scheme in Avoch / Fortrose, an Active Travel Map and specific route cards showing recommended cycle routes across the area, a network of trained volunteers who can deliver Bikeability training, an online cycle route planner and, crucially, increased rates of cycling. Our proposal builds on this legacy, while offering something new.</p> <p>How will we achieve this? The grant would be used to buy three ebikes and associated equipment. In partnership with our chosen bike shop, Square Wheels in Strathpeffer, we would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the use of ebikes for utility cycling by offering a low hire rate and the incentive that, should a hirer go on to buy an ebike, their hire charge would be refunded in full. This would be funded by a 10% discount from the partner bike shop, with the balance coming to Black Isle Bicycles as a commission; • Make use of Black Isle Bicycles' existing local profile and connections, staff expertise and resources (bike trailer, workshop, website, social media presence etc) to promote ebike use. In particular, we would promote the scheme at the regular community markets in North Kessock, Culbokie and Cromarty; • Focus on individual communities for a short period of time, eg by holding "roadshows", offering free rides, identifying local ebike enthusiasts to help spread the word; • Link to the CoWheels scheme in Inverness, by working with employers to promote ebike use in Inverness and from the Black Isle. In particular we would aim to have an occasional presence at the Highland Council headquarters in Glenurquhart Rd where one of the CoWheels charging hubs is located. Other likely employers / locations might include the new Inverness Campus, Beechwood, Raigmore Hospital, SNH, SEPA, LifeScan etc. We would seek to work with CoWheels and Council staff on this; • Encourage and promote ebike-friendly businesses as charging points, to extend the range of the ebike; • Gather data on the actual use of the ebikes from the bike computers; 	

- Survey hirers who go on to buy, and those who don't go on to buy, to gain a clearer picture of barriers, expected / actual usage, and evidence of modal shift.

Measurable Outcomes:

1. Distance travelled by each ebike (readings taken from each bike computer).
2. Survey of hirers who go on to buy an ebike.
3. Survey of hirers who do not go on to buy an ebike.

Criteria 1 Score 4 – (2 x 2)

Lack of full justification. Attempt to provide information on some aspects of the criteria although limited justification for targeted identified areas. Some evidence of identifying current emissions levels and proposed reductions through project but could have been more comprehensive.

Criteria 2 Score 4 – (4 x 1)

Strong justification. Good response which demonstrates clear leadership aims and how these will be delivered. Good and credible evidence to demonstrate that participants will at least begin leading on low carbon behaviour in the community.

Criteria 3 Score 6 – (3 x 2)

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory demonstration by applicant that that the project will actually address the needs identified. Satisfactory evidence provided that the provision will compliment and provide an additional service rather than duplicate existing activity. The application would have benefited from demonstrating stronger links to existing provision by community or public sector providers i.e that they are not working in isolation.

Criteria 4 Score 3 – (3 x 1)

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory demonstration by applicant how the project will offer value for money while complementing local climate change initiatives, such as through the planned use of existing facilities. Application would have benefited by providing some additional information on how this will actually work in practice.

Criteria 5 Score 3 – (3 X 1)

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory demonstration by application of how the project will deliver economic benefits for the local community. However, would have benefitted from more comprehensive evidence/projections.

Criteria 6 Score 4 – (4 X 1)

Strong justification. Good response which clearly demonstrates that the project will raise awareness and promote behaviour change in the local community. Good evidence that lasting behaviour change will be a result of the project.

Overall Score Against Criteria : 24/40

Technical Assessment:
PASS

Summary: Application focuses clearly on promotion of active travel in and around the Black Isle area and builds on existing successes. While the likely carbon reduction from this project is relatively low, it has good potential to change behaviour and leave behind a lasting sustainable legacy. It also supports several commitments in the Council's programme plan. The chosen bike supplier, Square Wheels, was selected after a robust tender process involving 6 local suppliers.

Recommendation:

Approve

Amount Recommended:

£6,538

Special Conditions:

1. Ownership of bikes and equipment should revert to the Council in the event that funding for Black Isle Bicycles cannot be secured for 2016/2017.
2. Suggested pricing model of £100 per week rental should be revisited and evaluated after 3 months if rental levels do not meet predicted expectations.

Carbon CLEVER Community Grant Fund (CCGF) 2015-16

Name of Applicant and App. Ref: Muir of Ord (Tarradale) Community Council, 11447	
Application Finance 2015 – 16 Project Cost: £70,000 Amount Applied for: £25,000	Application Finance 2015 – 18 (if applicable) 3 Year Project Cost: £NA Amount Applied for: £NA
Recommended Year 1: £25,000	
Project Summary: Square to Square Shared Use Path (Muir of Ord to Beaully) The overall project is to provide a safe, shared use path between Muir of Ord Square and Beaully Square - linking these two adjacent communities for car-free commuting, leisure use and as a Safe Route to School. This is split into sections - this application is to contribute to the costs of replacement and significant improvement of the existing path from “The Cairns” Pedestrian crossing to the Police Station and Service Point building in Muir Of Ord. This section is used as the route to Tarradale school from the Cairns development and Wyndhill and is currently served by a narrow path immediately adjacent to a fast road (40mph limit – little observed by many). The route crosses the two entrances to Muir Of Ord Industrial Estate with no drop kerbs, runs along a minimum 1.2m max 1.5m width path with varying surface quality with significant overgrowth from the adjacent vegetation. The work required here would deliver a replacement shared use path – 2.5m wide to current Sustrans standards – and include replacement of required drop kerbs at entrances crossed, and resurface the path and reset services covers as required. The widening of the path with a backing kerb will provide a solid, high quality route to complement the existing shared use route past the Cairns development and link into the development of the site between the Cairns and Wyndhill (Planning application approved May 2015 by North Planning Committee). This would complete the through connection between Beaully and Muir Of Ord. This request is for £25k funding as previously agreed and matched from Sustrans match funding.	
Measurable Outcomes: Evidence of increasing numbers of journeys to adjacent communities by foot and bike over a 3 year period.	

Criteria 1 Score 4 – (2 x 2)

Lack of full justification. Attempt to provide information on some aspects of the criteria although limited justification for targeted identified areas. Some evidence of identifying current emissions levels and proposed reductions through project but could have been more comprehensive.

Criteria 2 Score 3 – (3 x 1)

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory demonstration by applicant that proposed project will address leadership aims. Satisfactory evidence that the project will potentially begin to move towards the outcome of leading on low carbon behaviour in the community. However, would have benefited from more comprehensive evidence.

Criteria 3 Score 8 – (4 x 2)

Strong justification. Good response which clearly demonstrates that the project will actually address the needs identified. Clear evidence provided that the provision will compliment and provide an additional service rather than duplicate existing activity. The application demonstrates that links have been or are to be made to other provision either by the community or public sector providers.

Criteria 4 Score 5 – (5 x 1)

Very strong justification. Excellent response which strongly demonstrates how the project will offer value for money while complementing local climate change initiatives such as through the planned use of volunteers and developing project management skills. Application also details that significant match or additional funding is in place which furthers the scope of the project. Additional information has been provided to support the achievement of this criterion and value for money is a key element of the overall outcomes for the project.

Criteria 5 Score 3 – (3 X 1)

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory demonstration by application of how the project will deliver economic benefits for the local community. However, would have benefitted from more comprehensive evidence/projections.

Criteria 6 Score 3 – (3 X 1)

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory demonstration by application of how the project will raise awareness and promote behaviour change in the local community. However, would have benefited from further detail in respect of how this will be achieved in practice.

Overall Score Against Criteria : 26/40	Technical Assessment: PASS
Summary: Application focuses clearly on improving infrastructure between Beaully and Muir of Ord to facilitate active travel between the settlements. Project will deliver a lasting benefit to the area, and although not particularly well articulated in the application, is likely to deliver substantial carbon savings in respect of increased modal shift away from cars for short journeys between settlements.	
Recommendation: Approve	Amount Recommended: £25,000

Carbon CLEVER Community Grant Fund (CCCGF) 2015-16

Name of Applicant and App. Ref: Sleat Community Trust, 11448	
Application Finance 2015 – 16 Year Project Cost: £16,774.03 Amount Applied for: £8,094.00	Application Finance 2015 – 18 (if applicable) 3 Year Project Cost: £NA Amount Applied for: £NA
Recommended Year 1: £8,094.00	
Project Summary: Community Split Log Project: <i>Prioseact Fiodh na Coimhearsnachd</i> <p>The Community Split Log Project is a new service managed by Sleat Community Trust that aims to produce wood-fuel from timber grown at the community owned Tormore forest. The service is in order to meet a local demand for clean and sustainable domestic energy options, as well as bringing community members closer in touch with their own natural resource. Local demand for this service became apparent in 2011 during a community consultation process that formed part of Tormore forest's acquisition process. The feedback at that time indicated split-log fire-wood production as the No.1 priority for future uses of the forest's timber resource. This demand was met last year when the Trust ran a highly successful pilot scheme between October and December 2014 with around 70 bags of split-log being delivered locally over the three month period. The scheme which ran entirely on word of mouth, was so successful that the Trust were still receiving orders into March 2015.</p> <p>The funding that we are applying for from the Carbon Clever Community Grant Fund will be used to help the Trust enhance the pilot scheme with a full role out of the service. This will be done by acquiring specific items which will enable the service to operate year round, and to reduce its carbon output simultaneously.</p> <p>The first item is a semi-electric pallet stacker. This will allow us to stack bags of split log without the aid of a tractor. With a smaller and more agile electric stacker we can position pallets into place more easily, and without the need for a diesel engine.</p> <p>The second item includes two bulk bag loading frames. These frames are used to hold bags open at height that will ease the filling of split-log from the fire-wood processor, and into the delivery trailer. This ensures that bags are filled evenly apace which contributes to safe stacking.</p> <p>Finally, to help us deliver the wood we require a larger trailer capable of carrying up to six bags of split log at any given time. This will enable us to deliver more bags consecutively, cutting down on the number of journeys we require per bag, which will reduce our emissions.</p>	

Our primary objective with the Community Split Log Project is to provide a clean, reliable and cheap local alternative to traditional carbon intensive fossil fuels. This will benefit homeowners directly by offering them an environmentally conscious option towards their heating arrangements that can help to reduce the cost of their bills. In the best of cases, as reliability of the service is proven year round, it could help pave the way towards encouraging local home-owners to move away from traditional heating methods such as oil and gas altogether.

Measurable Outcomes:

1. Reduction in tonnes of carbon. Will be measured by surveying customers to establish what heating system they have. Offset the embedded carbon properties of the wood against customers' heating use per kWh to give a picture of the project's effect.
2. Cost savings to customers. Will be measured by conducting survey on first bag drop and third bag drop. The former asks customer to note their energy consumption each month and the latter to ask of any difference incurred through use of logs.
3. Less reliance on fossil fuels for homeowners. Will be measured by survey, as per 2. First survey will establish what kind of heating system the customer has. Second survey will establish how efficient the logs are by comparison and to discuss heating options with the customer to establish if customer would consider replacing oil/gas/electric over time.

Criteria 1 Score 6 – (3 x 2)

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory effort at providing justification for project and how it will reduce CO₂ in the community. Evidence of current emissions levels and how these will be reduced provided, although application would have benefited from a clearer, more detailed rationale.

Criteria 2 Score 3 – (3 x 1)

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory demonstration by applicant that proposed project will address leadership aims. Satisfactory evidence that the project will potentially begin to move towards the outcome of leading on low carbon behaviour in the community. However, would have benefited from more comprehensive evidence.

Criteria 3 Score 6 – (3 x 2)

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory demonstration by applicant that that the project will actually address the needs identified. Satisfactory evidence provided that the provision will compliment and provide an additional service rather than duplicate existing activity. The application would have benefited from demonstrating stronger links to existing provision by community or public sector providers i.e that they are not working in isolation.

Criteria 4 Score 4 – (4 x 1)

Strong justification. Good response which clearly demonstrates how the project will offer value for money while complementing local climate change initiatives such as through the planned use of volunteers and/or existing facilities as an important part of the project delivery. Application also details that some match or additional funding is in place which furthers the scope of the project.

Criteria 5 Score 3 – (3 X 1)

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory demonstration by application of how the project will deliver economic benefits for the local community. However, would have benefited from more comprehensive evidence/projections.

Criteria 6 Score 4 – (4 X 1)

Strong justification. Good response which clearly demonstrates that the project will raise awareness and promote behaviour change in the local community. Good evidence that lasting behaviour change will be a result of the project.

Overall Score Against Criteria : 26/40

Technical Assessment:
PASS

Summary: Application focuses clearly on providing an excellent local service and facilitating a shift away from carbon-intensive fossil fuels for heating. Support for the project will significantly increase the scope of the operation and likely result in good levels of carbon reduction while promoting behaviour change in the community.

Recommendation:
Approve

Amount Recommended:
£8,094

Carbon CLEVER Community Grant Fund (CCGF) 2015-16

Name of Applicant and App. Ref: Lochbroom Woodfuels, 11449	
Application Finance 2015 – 16 Year Project Cost: £20,000 Amount Applied for: £9,500	Application Finance 2015 – 18 (if applicable) 3 Year Project Cost: £NA Amount Applied for: £NA
Recommended Year 1: £9,500	
<p>Project Summary: Lochbroom Woodfuels Stepping Up to Climate Change</p> <p>To allow Lochbroom Woodfuels to step up our service, providing locally sourced logs for household and business heating, we need a covered drying shed. This will help us to overcome the challenges of quality control in the wet weather of the Highland West Coast, increasing confidence in the consistency of our product and thereby the number of people in our community who use woodfuel to replace fossil fuels.</p> <p>We are committed to reducing carbon emissions in our community and in 2013/14 the community saved 250 tonnes of CO2 by using our products. In 2014/15 this increased to over 423 tonnes of CO2. With a drying shed we can produce an even better product, increase customer numbers and reduce even more CO2 year on year. A drying shed will also help our business to become economically sustainable, continuing to provide a service to our community and employment and training opportunities for young people.</p> <p>Woodfuel burns most efficiently, and produces most heat, at less than 20% moisture content. Without a drying shed we can season wood to around 25-30% moisture content but on the West Coast of Scotland it is not possible to season wood to less than this without suitable undercover storage open to air to allow effective drying. Without a covered area it is impossible to keep logs dry enough to establish a suitable quality standard such as Woodsure http://woodsurre.co.uk/ We aspire to become Woodsure accredited.</p> <p>As a community enterprise the business was set up to lead the way in establishing and maintaining a consistent high quality wood fuel product. Sole traders came and went in our area making it very difficult for people to have a reliable supply of woodfuel and convert to this as a heat source. At the time Lochbroom Woodfuels was set up there were no other wood fuel businesses in operation, two sole traders having given up through difficulties of raw timber supply and seasoning logs to the required level the previous winter.</p> <p>Since 2012 through hard work, leadership and building local networks with suppliers and customers we have built the business. With support from HIE other funders and local businesses we have built confidence in our product and increased our customer base to over 200. Lochbroom Woodfuels is an award winning business, winning Won to Watch in the Scottish Social Enterprise Awards 2014, Highly Commended Won to Watch in the UK Social Enterprise Awards 2014 and Highly Commended in the Scottish Rural Awards 2015. We have also recently been awarded the Investors in Young People accreditation for our Workin' Wood project which supports young people into employment and training.</p>	

Our profits are reinvested into the business to provide more community benefit through our operation. Any surplus profit generated in future years will be donated to Ullapool Community Trust who will use this income to provide even more local benefit. www.ullapoolcommunity.org

Measurable Outcomes:

1. 50 new customers converting to woodfuel in 2015/2016, estimating total of 525 tonnes CO₂ saved and increasing year on year.

Criteria 1 Score 6 – (3 x 2)

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory effort at providing justification for project and how it will reduce CO₂ in the community. Evidence of current emissions levels and how these will be reduced provided, although application would have benefited from a clearer, more detailed rationale.

Criteria 2 Score 3 – (3 x 1)

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory demonstration by applicant that proposed project will address leadership aims. Satisfactory evidence that the project will potentially begin to move towards the outcome of leading on low carbon behaviour in the community. However, would have benefited from more comprehensive evidence.

Criteria 3 Score 8 – (4 x 2)

Strong justification. Good response which clearly demonstrates that the project will actually address the needs identified. Clear evidence provided that the provision will compliment and provide an additional service rather than duplicate existing activity. The application demonstrates that links have been or are to be made to other provision either by the community or public sector providers.

Criteria 4 Score 4 – (4 x 1)

Strong justification. Good response which clearly demonstrates how the project will offer value for money while complementing local climate change initiatives such as through the planned use of volunteers and/or existing facilities as an important part of the project delivery. Application also details that some match or additional funding is in place which furthers the scope of the project.

Criteria 5 Score 4 – (4 X 1)

Strong justification. Good response which clearly demonstrates how the project will deliver economic benefits for the local community. Good evidence that a sustainable economic legacy will be left by the project.

Criteria 6 Score 3 – (3 X 1)

Satisfactory justification. Satisfactory demonstration by application of how the project will raise awareness and promote behaviour change in the local community. However, would have benefited from further detail in respect of how this will be achieved in practice.

Overall Score Against Criteria : 28/40

Technical Assessment:
PASS

Summary: Application focuses clearly on improving existing product and services, while delivering potentially significant carbon reduction and local benefit through helping young people into employment. A well thought out application which addresses the fund's key criteria well.

Recommendation:

Approve

Amount Recommended:

£9,500