



Cronfa Gymunedol Fferm Wynt
PEN Y CYMOEDD
Wind Farm Community Fund CIC

Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm Community Fund CIC is now inviting Expressions of Interest for the **Vision Fund**, offering grants over £5,000 (capital and/or revenue) to support activities that help to deliver one or more of the priorities set out in the Fund Prospectus.

Businesses, voluntary sector and community groups can all apply. Although public sector bodies are not eligible, we do welcome partnership working.

Applicants will need to provide convincing business and delivery plans and show how their proposal:

- *is visionary, bold and ambitious - a bit out of the ordinary*
- *really benefits people and communities and supports regeneration*
- *is sustainable in the longer term - maximising local value and benefits*
- *represents value for money*

Application Process

Vision Fund proposals can be submitted at any time, and will be considered by the Board of Directors at their next available meeting – dates are:

01/06/2017
06/07/2017
11/09/2017
14/11/2017

It's a two-stage process:

Part 1 – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

You will need to complete a brief proposal form summarising your project or activity plans. This will be considered by the Board and if the proposal is potentially supportable, you'll be invited to provide further information. Receiving a go-ahead at this stage is no guarantee that your full application will be successful.

Part 2 – VISION FUND APPLICATION

This is an in-depth proposal form, and you will also need to supply a business or development plan.

Before you submit an Expression of Interest, you **must**:

- Get in touch to discuss your plans with us
- read this Vision Fund guidance and our Prospectus

If you have any questions at all, give us a call on 01685 878785 or send us an email: enquiries@penycymoeddcic.cymru

Thanks for your interest!



Top Tips for Making a Vision Fund Application

- Give your project / activity a brief and catchy name! Sounds trivial, but it really makes a difference.
- Make sure you explain what you'd like to do as clearly and concisely as you can. Ask someone unconnected with it to read it and feedback.
- Tell us exactly who will benefit and how – what difference will the project make to people and communities, the local economy, and the environment?
- Make sure that it's clear how your funding request relates to your aims and plan.
- Provide realistic and researched cost estimates or quotes.
- Explain how the project or activity will be sustainable in the longer-term.

Frequently Asked Questions

	Q.	A.
1	Are there any application deadlines?	No - applications can be submitted at any time for consideration at the next Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm Community Fund CIC Board meeting. Details are on our website here . You'll need to submit your proposal at least two weeks before the meeting date.
3	Can I request funding for consultation, business planning, technical feasibility studies etc. to inform a bigger Vision Fund application?	Yes, that's possible. As a rule, a maximum of 10% of the full future project cost can be awarded for feasibility and development work.
4	Is there a funding limit or grant spend timescales?	There are no specific limits at all – you need to make the most convincing case and apply for what's needed to make your project the best it can be.
5	Do we need match funding?	Not necessarily, but it does help – especially if you are applying for a bigger grant.
6	Can we include an element of our organisational costs (overheads, staff time etc.)?	Yes, that's possible. You'll need to show exactly how you've worked out the costs you are requesting and show why they relate to project delivery.
7	My organisation / business is based outside the Fund Area of Benefit – is that a problem?	Not necessarily. You will need to show exactly how you are working with and engaging local groups and organisations, and how your project will benefit communities within the area. If yours is a membership organisation, can you demonstrate that a high proportion of your members live within the Fund area? Give us accurate details and numbers.
8	I want to apply for a Vision Fund grant for a building or facility outside the Fund Area of Benefit – is that a problem?	Again, not necessarily. You'll need to make a very strong case to show how the resource provides a unique service or is the only facility of its kind in the area. Again, give us precise details of how it benefits communities in the Fund area.

9	If our Expression of Interest is given the go-ahead, how long do I have to submit a full application?	Normally, we'd expect you to submit a full proposal and business plan within 12 months of receiving an EoI go-ahead.
10	I'd like to apply to the Fund to carry out repairs to a community building. Is this eligible?	In theory – yes. You'll need to make a strong case and focus on how the building is used and why it's a crucial community resource. We are more interested in what the repairs will enable to happen than the repair work itself! You will also need to convince us that you have sound plans for managing the building sustainably in future – bringing in sufficient income and creating reserves to fund future maintenance.

The Vision Fund *can't* support:

- activities that don't have a direct impact on the area of benefit
- applications from public sector bodies
- applications from individuals other than those wishing to set up or develop a business
- activities which are the statutory responsibility of public sector bodies
- activities which are exclusively party political or religious
- past expenditure / costs incurred for activities that have already taken place
- VAT that can be recovered

Filling in the Expression of Interest Form

Please write simply and clearly and avoid jargon and abbreviations – don't assume that we'll know what they stand for.

Do answer **all** the questions – if they are not relevant to you, tell us why.

You are welcome to apply in the language of your choice. If you need application documents in other formats (e.g. Braille, audio tape) please let us know.

If in any doubt – get in touch!

Submitting your Expression of Interest

Ask someone outside your organisation or business to check over your proposal before you send it off – just in case you haven't answered all the questions, or have missed out a crucial point you wanted to make.

We prefer to receive applications by email.

By email: applications@penycymoeddcic.cymru

Please put the name of your organisation in the subject field of your email. We'll send you confirmation that we've received it.

By post: Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm Community Fund CIC, 4 Gadlys Enterprise Centre (Venture Wales Building), Depot Road, Aberdare CF44 8DL

Feedback

We welcome and act on feedback on all aspects of the application process, so we can learn what works and what needs to be improved, and make the next application rounds work better. The application form asks if you'd be happy for us to contact you for feedback – it would be helpful if you could opt in. It won't be difficult!