

Gwynt y Môr Community Fund

Second Year Report

September 2016 – August 2017



Located in the community, for the
community and run by the community

www.gwyntymorfund.cymru



The Fund

Each year Gwynt y Môr Offshore Wind Farm (GYM) delivers a community fund which will be worth more than £19 million over the project's lifetime. Its unique selling point is its genuine community ethos. It is flexible funding, located in the community, for the community and run by the community.

The fund operates within a governance framework, established following extensive regional consultation carried out by innogy, the company who constructed and operate the offshore wind farm. This framework sets out the fund's three key themes, who can apply and how decisions are made around the distribution of grants.

The fund is administered independently of GYM by Community & Voluntary Support Conwy (CVSC) with support from Denbighshire & Flintshire Voluntary Services Councils. All decisions are made by an independent panel of volunteers from across the area of benefit.

Working with coastal communities in Conwy, Denbighshire and Flintshire.



This year the fund has worked with some fantastic community groups. The breadth and scope of projects supported was both staggering and humbling. From providing wholesome free meals for our most needy little ones during school holidays, improving community allotments and therefore encouraging a healthier lifestyle, funding events which attract more visitors to the area to supporting young people whilst their parents undergo cancer treatments.

There have been some real high points:

- GYM funding was used to unlock £1.7 million additional match funding;
- The GYM fund has put groups in touch with each other and as a result lots more groups are working in partnership developing a more joined up approach to improving our communities;
- Two projects which got off the ground thanks to GYM funding have been shortlisted for national and Welsh Government awards;
- A celebration event marking our first full year of operation was held. Over 100 guests from scores of successful projects across North Wales came together to share ideas and showcase their achievements.

The biggest challenge this year has been the escalating competition from organisations looking for funding. This has created a difficult environment for our volunteer grants panel to operate in, with tough choices to make. We know this will continue to be a key challenge in the years ahead and we are making the most of the funding's flexibility to ensure the structure of the fund is fit for purpose.

We would both like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the inspiring community champions who work tirelessly to ensure the GYM funding can really deliver maximum impact. None of what the fund has achieved would be possible without your support, time, energy and enthusiasm.

Katy Woodington
Senior Community Investment Officer,
Innogy renewables UK Ltd.

Wendy Jones
Chief Operating Officer,
Community & Voluntary Support Conwy

What we have achieved in 2016/17

Amount of match funding secured: **£1.7 million**

Number of projects supported: **36**

Number of jobs created: **32.5**

Number of jobs safeguarded: **73.5**

Number of charities supported: **16**

Amount of funds committed: **£892,163.59**

Number of social enterprises supported: **4**

Number of community groups supported: **25**

Number of additional tourists attracted to events: **78,700**

Budget

CVSC is contracted to administer the GYM fund. All funds are ring fenced for use to address the themes within the area of benefit. An administration fee is included which covers the administration costs of the fund, which included the employment of a full time Program Manager as well as the administration and finance support required.

THE FUND

Community Fund received from GYM Offshore Windfarm Ltd: **£623,337.22**
Administration fees from GYM Offshore Windfarm Ltd: **£58,000.00**

GRANTS AWARDED

North Wales Super Kids	£25,000.00	Welsh Federation of Sea Anglers (WFSA)	£9,969.00
Conwy Tournament	£25,000.00	Llandudno Sailing Club	£9,995.00
The Outdoor Partnership	£150,000.00	Ciwb yr Efail	£9,999.00
Tre Cwm Community Association	£49,023.75	Dating Old Welsh Houses	£5,000.00
Benefit Advice Shop	£73,873.48	Llandudno Allotments Association	£6,622.00
Conwy Connect	£117,823.00	Llandudno Rugby Club	£9,999.00
Urdd Gobaith Cymru	£74,470.00	Crest Cooperative	£9,999.00
The Rotary Club Prestatyn	£6,100.00	Aberconwy Mind	£9,949.00
North Wales Group of Advanced Drivers	£8,940.00	Amphibian and Reptile conservation	£6,000.00
Trelawnyd Memorial Hall		Llandudno Christmas Fayre	£2,000.00
Management Committee	£24,779.50	CAB Conwy Financial capabilities	£9,777.88
Gwledd Conwy Feast CIC	£27,000.00	Co-options	£5,000.00
271 Colwyn Bay SQN RAF Air Cadets	£9,999.00	Hope Restored	£3,850.00
Cartrefi Conwy -		Sport Conwy	£5,940.00
Tre Cwm Environmental Project	£65,000.00	Penrhyn Bay Library	£5,452.00
Deganwy History Group	£2,000.00	The Osbourne Trust	£2,760.00
Deganwy Friendship Club	£1,500.00	G2G Communities CIC	£8,560.00
Grwp Cynefin	£100,000.00	Rhyl City Strategy	£7,000.00
Friends of Talacre	£554.98	Orme Scout Group	£3,228.00

TOTAL: £892,163.59

Gwynt y Môr Offshore Wind Farm

GYM Offshore Wind Farm is located off the North Wales coast. During its two year construction, £660 million was spent with companies based in the UK with over £90 million being spent within Wales which led to around 700 jobs being created in Wales. 100 long term, skilled jobs have been created for the operations and maintenance of the wind farm. The team are based at the Port of Mostyn and have helped nurture new talent, taking on qualified apprentices and supporting those on innogy's award winning Wind Turbine Apprenticeship Programme.

GYM represents a total investment of more than £2billion currently shared between [innogy SE](#) (50%); [Stadwerke München GmbH](#), Munich's municipal utilities company (30%); the [Green Investment Group Offshore Wind Fund](#) (10%) and [Siemens](#) (10%).



Abergele Community Action

Theme 1: Building strong, cohesive and sustainable communities

Projects which bring people together, that unite different generations, ethnic communities and people from different social backgrounds deliver really positive benefits to local communities.

25 projects under this theme were supported, a number of which having cross cutting benefits. In total it is estimated that these projects will touch the lives of over 76,000 residents, the youngest beneficiary being only three years old, the eldest 87 years young.

Abergele Community Action

Abergele Community Action works with local people that are (or at risk of becoming) excluded from mainstream social, educational, economic and digital opportunities. GYM has enabled them to employ a full time officer to coordinate the existing projects and community support. Some of the activities this officer was able to support included:

- Delivering IT training which helps people to build their skills and search for jobs.
- Coordinating 117 volunteer hours every week in the foodbank, getting essential supplies to people that need them most and serving in the community café.



Residents of Prestatyn learn to grow their own food

Prestatyn Town Council

Prestatyn Town Council's idea was to develop an allotment and engage a Horticultural mentor. The mentor is now delivering training and skills development to residents interested in learning where food comes from and how to grow it.



Llysfaen Village Hall following refurbishment

Llysfaen Village Hall

Llysfaen Village Hall had fallen into a state of disrepair and due to poor insulation the fabric of the hall had deteriorated to the point it did not meet local authority standards for public use, leaving a rural community without a vital local resource. GYM funded a big refurbishment including new lighting, fire safety equipment and new insulation. The centre is now becoming a busy community hub with a growing list of social activities.



Activities through the medium of Welsh encourages learning

The Urdd

The **Urdd** as an organisation recognises that it is very important to be able to offer opportunities for children, young people and families in our areas to live full and rounded lives through the medium of Welsh. Resources are stretched though. GYM funded a Welsh Activities Development Officer to meet the increasing demands for Urdd to deliver informal Welsh language activities to reinforce the work already done by the Urdd.

Theme 2: Developing prosperous, enterprising communities with strong economic growth

Investing in training and jobs for our young people and our future is critical for the long term sustainability of North Wales communities.

In the two short years since the launch, GYM has actively helped safeguard 138 jobs and created a further 102 new jobs. In the past 12 months alone GYM has helped over 100 people gain a range of informal and nationally recognised qualifications. Beyond this our projects have helped sustain and create over 1,000 volunteering opportunities, many of which offer new learning experiences, develop life skills and improve employment opportunities.

Outdoor Partnership Project

The **Outdoor Partnership** project is a 5 year collaboration between the Outdoor Partnership and North Wales Housing Association (NWAHA) to deliver a targeted programme of outdoor activities to increase employment and volunteering opportunities. The project aims to remove participation barriers for low or no income families and provide high quality outdoor adventure experiences to raise confidence, motivation, health and well-being and improve essential work-based skills required by employers in the outdoor sector.



Mountain biking session with The Outdoor Partnership

Tre Cwm Community Association

At **Tre Cwm Community Association** GYM is supporting innovation and new ways of working. They have created a 50s diner at their centre and also installed a fully operational commercial kitchen. With GYM support and match funding from Garfield Weston, Bernard Sunley and the Big Lottery they employed a training chef to oversee the diner operation but more importantly run catering courses, informal teaching and volunteer training programmes creating a 'work ready environment' for residents seeking employment in the tourism service sector – a growth industry in North Wales. This long-term training resource is destined to serve up great opportunities in the future.

The centre manager said "After the success of our Italian and Asian Fusion nights, we are holding our next fine dining experience with chef Shaun Lynch to showcase his skills and to raise funds to support our training and development programmes".

Conwy Tournament

GYM has supported a one of a kind flagship event in Conwy, the Conwy Tournament. A medieval event which covered the whole of Conwy town including jousting, sword fighting championships, archery demonstrations and historical re-enactments/living history, a medieval market including a wool fair, jesters, singers, musicians, street entertainers, storytellers, dragons and much more. The main event attracted 20,000 people to Conwy for the weekend.



Conwy Tournament





North Wales Energy Advice sharing information at a local workshop



Creating Enterprise up skilling and training

Theme 3: Reducing poverty and inequality in communities

Disadvantage and exclusion are the root cause of so many challenges communities face. In excess of 500 families were supported to reduce poverty or inequality challenges.

The complex nature of some issues has required a multi-agency approach with third sector and charitable groups working hand in hand with statutory services, including Social Services, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, Community and Mental Health Service, schools and education departments, HMRC and utility companies to name but a few. Complex needs are being tackled including dementia, autism, mental illness, child behavioural problems, carer responsibilities, loneliness, social isolation, poverty and fuel poverty, cancer, debt management, homelessness and age related difficulties.

A huge £511,453 has also been secured in rightful benefits for our most vulnerable, and one community has reduced its homeless population by almost 80%.

Nothing sums up how the fund is making a difference in this area better than this anonymous statement:

"I had so many thoughts in my head. I couldn't sleep at night * helps me a lot. I was free to talk to my volunteer and I can talk about the things I feared. She gives me hope. I am stronger because of *** Thank you for giving us someone who actually cares and enjoys doing things with us."** (Anonymous)

Creating Enterprise

Creating Enterprise is a social enterprise which is a subsidiary of Cartrefi Conwy Housing Association and was established to respond to the need for skills, training, support and employment for the organisation's tenants who are unemployed. GYM funded employment of a social inclusion mentor to identify tenants who would benefit from but may not traditionally engage with their projects for a variety of reasons. The first part of the social inclusion mentors role was to support residents to volunteer within the community then the second part was to develop people towards employability with formal and informal training as well as confidence and motivation building. The project has had some great successes.

North Wales Energy Advice Centre

North Wales Energy Advice Centre provides free and impartial energy advice to households in Flintshire. Experience demonstrated that those most in need of assistance, are often the least likely to seek it. Rural communities are disproportionately affected by fuel poverty, yet are traditionally the hardest to reach. The 'Community Hub' project and specialist fuel poverty officer funded by GYM in partnership with the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, aim to reach out to households within these rural areas. They are especially targeting those living in fuel poverty and/or vulnerable and in need. They identify ways to reduce energy costs and help achieve homes that are affordable to warm through behavioural changes, improvements to homes and heating and help switch tariffs and / or suppliers.

Feed the Children

Feed the Children in Rhyl fed 150 children, during the school holidays, who would usually receive a free school meal. GYM purchased the food and volunteers have put in the hard work preparing and serving food to make sure children don't go hungry during the school holidays.



A Sea of Change

Just 2 years into a 25 year programme and the Gwynt y Môr (GYM) Community Fund is already creating its own legacy. The fund is helping to shoulder the responsibility of addressing key challenges facing our coastal communities in Flintshire, Denbighshire and Conwy. It is really exciting to see these wind turbines not only generating clean, green electricity but also delivering all of these long term positive benefits to North Wales communities.

Our services are under constant pressure and funding for third sector and community organisations continues to be squeezed. The demand on the GYM fund budget last year was so high we were forced to close to new applications for a period of time. We are now delighted to re-open for business and have re-launched the large, over £10,000, grant scheme with a £50,000 upper limit. This will go a long way to supporting our many groups in North Wales, whilst still providing up to three years of flexible funding for strategic, longer term programmes. Introducing a capping measure together with encouraging a tapered three year funding agreement will hopefully encourage better planning with a greater emphasis on sustainability.

To maximise the funding going forward and to achieve long term progress in the fund's theme areas it will be more important than ever to work together, to develop stronger partnerships and to deliver a joined up approach to project funding. None of this will be possible without the commitment and

dedication of some inspirational community volunteers and dynamic groups and organisations. The GYM fund will continue to encourage innovation. It is not restrained, nor tied up in red tape and can do things differently. This is a golden opportunity to think about new ways of working and innovative approaches to solving problems and supporting our communities.

I would also add my warmest thanks to the panel members for their sterling efforts throughout this reporting period. Their task is not easy.

If asked to select one word to describe the programme to date, many of us would choose the word 'humbling'. The dedication and commitment shown by a great few for the many, really has been humbling. In the words of Walt Disney *"You can design and create, and build the most wonderful place in the world. But it takes people to make the dream a reality"*.

I am looking forward to year three with anticipation but also great pride in what has been achieved to date.

Neil Pringle

Gwynt y Môr Programme Manager

To find out more about the fund and how to apply please visit www.gwyntymorfund.cymru



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