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**Westray Fuel Grant 2019 – Policy**

The Westray Development Trust Board (WDT) have the ultimate responsibility of ensuring the assets of the charity are used to their full potential and for the benefit of the community of Westray. The purpose of this document is to outline the WDT policy for its 2019 Westray Fuel Grant.

The Fuel Grant has been opened in 2019 in response to the facts outlined in the section below and funds becoming available due to an underspend in the Community Turbine Grant Fund for the year July 2017 – June 2018. It has not been established as a permanent fund and is only open for applications between September 16th 2019 and November 29th 2019. Whether or not the Westray Fuel Grant is repeated in future years will be subject to funding availability as well as a WDT Board annual review and approval. The Westray Fuel Grant Policy would also be subject to WDT Board annual review and approval.

The WDT Board have approved the WDT Office to have responsibility of assessing and processing Westray Fuel Grant 2019 applications.

**Fuel Grant 2019 Policy & Eligibility**

The *Scottish Household Condition Survey 2015-17* highlights that 57% of Orkney households are in fuel poverty (compared to national average of 30.7%). Fuel Poverty is defined as when over 10% of household income is spent on household fuel. A further 23% (compared to the national average of 8.3%) in Orkney are in extreme fuel poverty, which is where over 20% of household income is spent on fuel. Establishing a Westray Fuel Grant of **£150 per household** therefore falls within WDT’s charitable objective to relieve poverty among the residents of the island of Westray. The grant is therefore open to every domestic household in Westray who believe they would benefit from it.

Due to restrictions in charity law, businesses, second homes and holiday-lets are not eligible. Applicants must be permanent Westray residents (not registered as living at another address outside of Westray for part of the year) and be the domestic bill-payer, only one grant application is accepted per household. For households which are connected to a business, such as farms, that do not have a separate domestic energy supply, the applicant can attach a letter from their accountant stating what % of their energy use is domestic for their application to be eligible for the Westray Fuel Grant.

Successful applicants will have **£150** paid directly to their domestic energy provider or credited to an existing prepayment card. Applicants should attach a recent energy bill/statement to their application form to ensure grant payments can be processed efficiently.