



Sustainable Development Fund

North York Moors National Park Authority Sustainable Development Fund

SDF 1B: An Introduction

What is the Sustainable Development Fund?

The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) is a grant scheme operated by the North York Moors National Park Authority. It aims to explore new ways of achieving a more sustainable way of life in this area of great beauty, to develop models for the sustainable management of the countryside and promote greater awareness and understanding of sustainability.

It enables progress towards sustainable living *in* the National Park and through use, enjoyment and understanding *of* the National Park. Projects will also promote the following key principles:

- Finding “win-win-win” solutions or improvements where social, economic and environmental benefits are achieved at the same time.
- The involvement and participation of all sectors of society, especially young people and those otherwise excluded
- Co-operation and partnership to tackle problems or raise awareness of them
- Identifying and promoting new ways of living more sustainably, so that others can learn from or be inspired by projects pioneered here.

So far over £1 million has been awarded to over 100 projects that have helped enhance, conserve and develop the environment, economy and way of life in this National Park and beyond. The funds for the SDF are provided by Defra (Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).

What kind of project does the fund support?

A huge variety of projects could potentially be supported by the SDF. And, in fact, they already have been! From recycling businesses to Parish wildlife surveys and training in conservation work – the possibilities are endless! Improvements or new dimensions in what you are currently doing can also be supported. The basic requirement is that projects will benefit the environmental, economic, and / or social well being of the area. Additionally, projects **must**:

- Help make progress towards a sustainable and fair way of life
- Help to conserve and enhance the North York Moors National Park and/or increase understanding or enjoyment of the area
- Have the support or involvement of communities
- Show some element of public benefit

We can not fund projects that have already started, are the statutory responsibility of any agency or are standard maintenance work. Projects are distinct pieces of work. Ongoing operational costs can not be funded, except in cases where an organisation is establishing itself and there is a clear need for its services.

Who can apply?

Anyone: public, private, voluntary sector, community groups, individuals or businesses can apply. Individuals or businesses can only be beneficiaries where the project shows a clear benefit to the wider community. You do not have to live or work in the National Park but you must be able to demonstrate that the project will have a positive impact in the area.

What can a grant be spent on?

- Practical work/capital & revenue costs
- Feasibility studies or research projects
- Group or partnership development
- Awareness raising and training about sustainable living

How much is available?

£180,000 is available every year for suitable projects. Grants of **between £100 and £40,000** can be awarded and in some exceptional circumstances a greater award may be possible. The average grant is around £8,000. Applications for grants over £10,000 will be expected to bring significant benefits in terms of sustainability. The SDF can provide up to **50% of total project costs** for any applicant. For the voluntary sector, community groups and not-for-profit organisations up to **75%** of project costs can be supported. For match funding purposes, volunteer time can be included.

How do I apply?

The SDF is open to applications year round. There is an initial enquiry stage before effort is put into a full application. This ensures that projects are at least eligible against the basic requirements of the fund, which is helpful because the scope of the fund is so broad. This initial stage consists of submitting a Project Idea Form which can be downloaded at www.visitnorthyorkshiremoors.co.uk. We welcome ideas and hope to support the development of your application wherever possible. Please call the Sustainable Development Fund Officer at the National Park Offices in Helmsley on **01439 770657** if you would like more information, a paper copy of the Project Ideas Form or to discuss a particular idea.

How is my application decided?

If a full application is recommended, please bear in mind that this is no guarantee of funding. Each application is assessed in detail. For grant requests of **over £1,000** the funding decision is made by the Sustainable Development Fund Panel, which is made up of representatives from a range of interests, including community, business and conservation/environment. It meets every other month. For grant requests of **£1,000 or under** a decision is made by the internal SDF Steering Group. These meetings are on a monthly basis so decisions can usually be reached more quickly.

For More Information:

- Please call the Sustainable Development Fund Officer on 01439 770657
- Or visit our website at www.moors.uk.net (Information for Residents in the Authority Services section)

Does my project fit?

Your project is likely to be suitable for a full application if it shows a general fit to the fund objectives, meets the eligibility criteria and makes a contribution to sustainable development. These criteria are as follows. **Factors in bold-type are essential.**

A. Fund Objectives

Projects should (demonstrate)...

- **Progress towards a more sustainable way of living**
- New ways of achieving sustainability
- **Relevance to countryside and/or National Park**
- Enhance and conserve local culture, wildlife, landscape, land use and community
- Address barriers to sustainability
- Develop models for sustainable management of countryside
- Generate greater awareness and understanding of sustainability
- Encourage participation of all sectors of society, especially young people
- Encourage co-operation and partnership

B. Eligibility

Projects must...

- **Further National Park purposes**
 - These are to:
 - Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area
 - Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public
- **Have support or involvement of communities**
- **Be sustainable**
 - in the sense that they should not have a damaging impact on the environment, social and community or economic context.
- **Be complementary to key local / national strategies / priorities (link to be entered here once these are uploaded)**
- **Have some element of public benefit**
- **Meet basic conditions**
 - Projects should not have already started
 - costs applied for must be realistic and eligible
 - the time frame of the project should be reasonable
 - the project should not be a repeat application.

C. Sustainable Development Contribution

The principal objective of the SDF is to enable progress towards a more sustainable way of living. This is assessed in two ways:

- **Meeting a Sustainable Development Challenge**
 - Any project that makes progress towards sustainability is likely to help meet one of these challenges: climate change, sustainable communities, sustainable production, consumption and protection of natural resources (see section below for more detail)
- **Combine benefits from at least two domains**
 - Sustainable development is also defined by achieving benefits of different types (environmental, economic and social) at the same time: the win-win-win situation. To assess this, the sustainability checklist (on page 4) is used. In order to qualify for funding you must score well in at least two different areas. Strong projects are expected to score in all three. The Panel will score the project, but it is recommended that you go through this checklist for your own reference.

Sustainability Checklist

Does your project include...		Partly Possible Indirect		How? Opportunity to develop?
Progress in protecting the environment		Yes		
1	Conservation and enhancement of habitats and species?			
2	Reduction of pollution to air, land and water?			
3	Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions?			
4	Reduction of any impact on climate change?			
5	Implementation of sustainable energy?			
6	Reduction of waste / increased recycling and reuse?			
7	Reduction of water waste?			
8	Enablement of Sustainable Transport?			
9	Use of local and sustainable materials and sustainable design?			
10	Policies / practises to reduce / mitigate environmental impacts?			
11	Interaction with and sustainable use of natural environment?			
12	Improvement in the understanding and practise of environmentally sustainable values and needs?			
Social Progress				
1	Improves physical and mental wellbeing?			
2	Improves equality in meeting basic needs?			
3	Improves equality in accessing, enjoying, living and working in the National Park?			
4	Increases enjoyment of special qualities of the National Park?			
5	Increases participation in caring for the National Park?			
6	Helps everyone to join in public decision making and makes progress towards a participative society?			
7	Promotes community ownership and engagement?			
8	Promotes positive local identity and cultural heritage?			
9	Improves viability and/ or self-reliance of National Park communities?			
10	Helps conserve, enhance and enjoy the built environment?			
11	Improves the understanding and practise of social sustainability needs and values?			
Economic function				
1	Generates own income to be spent locally?			
2	Provides a useful local service or product?			
3	Boosts local production and consumption?			
4	Contributes to a diverse local economy with long-term benefits for the community?			
5	Increases investment and/ or level of spend in local economy ?			
6	Tackles local economic problems e.g. poverty?			
7	Provides locally accessible training, jobs or volunteering opportunities?			
8	Promotes environmentally sustainable tourism?			
9	Adopts sustainable purchasing and responsible business practises?			
10	Promotes socially and environmentally ethical consumption?			
11	Improves understanding and practise of sustainable economic needs and values?			