

# Sustainable Development Fund

## INFORMATION

A new grant scheme to help deliver community-based projects within Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The aim is to assist projects that will look after the AONB now and for the future



**Chichester Harbour Conservancy**  
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

## What is the Sustainable Development Fund?

The Sustainable Development Fund is a new grant scheme. It supports projects that bring social, environmental and economic benefits to Chichester Harbour AONB. It aims to develop and test new methods of achieving a more sustainable way of life in this area of great beauty and diversity.

This new source of funding will provide grants to explore and develop practical projects that enhance, conserve and develop the environment, economy and way of life within the AONB.

## What is Sustainable Development?

There are various definitions of sustainable development. Set out below is the definition that we will use when considering projects for the fund:

**Sustainable Development will promote and enhance the environmental, economic and community well-being of Chichester Harbour AONB, and ensure a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come**

According to the UK Sustainable Development Strategy, achieving sustainable development requires working towards four **Main Goals** at the same time:

1. Social progress which meets the needs of everyone
2. Effective protection of the environment
3. Ensuring a diverse and prosperous rural economy
4. Prudent use of natural resources

## Why has Chichester Harbour AONB been chosen?

Chichester Harbour is one of 36 AONBs in England. They extend over more than 15% of England's land area and represent some of our finest landscapes. They are statutory designations, set up with the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the areas they cover. The Fund seeks to foster projects which are the best of their kind in these outstanding and vulnerable areas.

## What type of things can the grant cover?

Grants can cover the costs of some or all of the following:

- Project materials, equipment and implementation
- Publicity and marketing
- Labour and contractor costs
- Feasibility studies or research projects
- Group or partnership development
- Awareness raising
- Training and skill development



*Supporting projects that bring social, environmental and economic benefits to Chichester Harbour AONB*



Examples of projects which could be eligible:

- Conservation of the natural, historic and built environment
- Renewable / green energy schemes
- Re-use and re-cycling projects
- Sustainable transport initiatives
- Environmentally sensitive building design
- Awareness campaigns and surveys
- Innovative products or initiatives
- Community youth initiatives
- Growing and promoting local produce
- Improving access for all in the AONB
- Production of parish plans
- Training in traditional rural skills and crafts
- Farm diversification which benefits the AONB

Grants can be used to:

- Pump-prime new sustainable development projects which have been unable to find funding from other sources
- Provide match-funding for new sustainable development projects
- Add value to existing sustainable development projects
- Add a sustainable development aspect to existing projects

### What SDF cannot fund

All projects must be for clear public benefit and not for private gain. In addition, grants will not be available if the proposed work is a requirement of some other permission - for example, a condition attached to a planning permission, part of an agri-environment scheme or part of any statutory duty requirement.

### Who can apply for a grant?

Public, private, voluntary sector, individuals, businesses or community groups can apply. However, individuals and businesses can only be beneficiaries where the project shows a clear benefit to the wider community.

You don't have to live or work within the AONB to apply. You must simply demonstrate that your project will have a positive impact upon the AONB and satisfy a number of core criteria of the grant.



*Sustainable development ensures a better quality of life for everyone - now and in the future*



## How much grant money is available?

- Grants will normally be in the range of £1,000-£10,000. In exceptional circumstances larger grants may be awarded.
- The SDF can provide up to 75% of the total cost of a project for community and voluntary groups. Although in exceptional cases 100% may be provided.
- For Local Authorities and businesses up to 50% funding for projects can be given. In addition, where SDF is combined with funding from government sources, the total must not exceed 50% of the value of the project.
- In all cases, an agreement setting out what is required for satisfactory completion of the project will need to be signed prior to receipt of grant.
- For match funding purposes volunteer time is valued at £50 per day (or £6.25 per hour). Specialist, technical or professional volunteers are valued at £100 per day (or £12.50 per hour). You may also wish to include in-kind contributions such as donated equipment, premises or materials.

## How we will assess your application

The final decision to award a grant will be given by a sub-committee of Chichester Harbour Conservancy. The sub-committee meets regularly and is made up of representatives from a range of interests, including community, business and the environment.

## Your project

Enclosed with this pack is an example of the 'sustainability checklist' which will be used to assess your grant application. Completing this yourself will help you judge if your project fits the criteria of the Fund.

We would also recommend that you talk through your project ideas with us before you submit an application. Please contact the AONB Officer, details below.

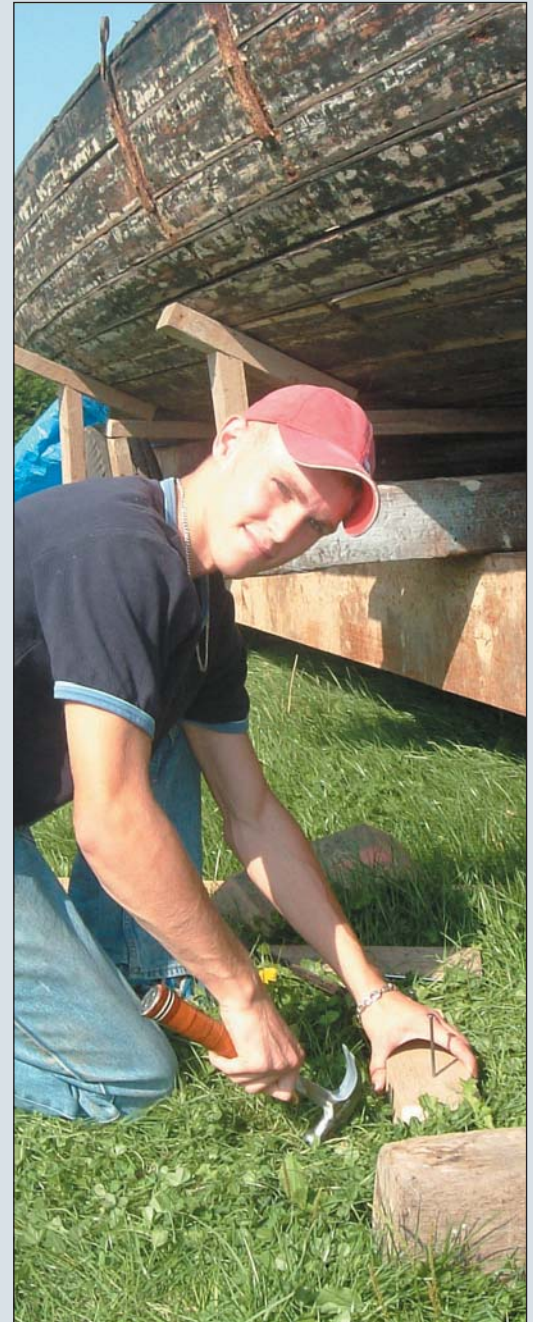
## How to apply

If you think that your project fits the Fund criteria and ideally you have talked it through with the AONB Officer, then please complete the application form (including any other relevant and supporting information) and send to:

Chichester Harbour AONB Officer  
Chichester Harbour Conservancy  
The Harbour Office  
Itchenor, Chichester  
West Sussex, PO20 7AW

Telephone : 01243 512301

Email: [harbourmaster@conservancy.co.uk](mailto:harbourmaster@conservancy.co.uk)



**The Chichester Harbour Sustainable Development Fund is delivered and managed by Chichester Harbour Conservancy for the Chichester Harbour AONB. Resources are provided by DEFRA via the Countryside Agency.**