

Frequently asked questions on the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF)



What is the East Devon AONB Sustainable Development Fund?

The Sustainable Development Fund provides discretionary financial support to local initiatives and projects that can demonstrate a commitment to enhancing our local area.

What kinds of projects does the fund support?

Projects must demonstrate support and involvement of communities, business or environmental interests within the AONB. The fund has enabled a wide range of projects to be delivered including wildlife initiatives, school projects, restoring village features and supporting local festivals.

Do projects have to be based within the East Devon AONB?

Applicants do not have to be located within the East Devon AONB, but must be able to demonstrate a tangible benefit to the AONB and deliver AONB Partnership Plan objectives.

Is there a maximum amount that can be applied for?

The maximum level of grant that can be applied for is £4,000

Will the SDF fund projects in full?

For all projects applying to the SDF fund a 'percentage contribution' is required. The percentage level differs depending on who 'owns' the project.

- For charities or community groups, up to 50% SDF of the project total is available
- For business applicants, up to 40% SDF contribution is available
- A minimum of 10% cash match is required for all projects
- In kind contributions (time/labour/machinery use etc) can be considered. The levels per hr/day will be in line with those accepted by the National Lottery Heritage Fund

When can we apply?

The grant runs from 1 April through to March of the following year. You can apply at any time, but your project must be **financially** complete by 1 March.