

Contributing to a diverse local economy



What does sustainable living mean?

We believe this means living in a way which has a positive effect on the **environmental**, **economic** and **community** wellbeing of the New Forest, ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come.

Is my project eligible?

To be eligible for the Sustainable Development Fund your project must demonstrate that it will promote or support sustainable living in the New Forest and further at least one of the National Park purposes:

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Park; and
- To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the Park's special qualities by the public.

A simple checklist is available from the Sustainable Development Fund Officer to help you do this.

Who can apply?

We welcome applications from individuals, businesses, organisations and community groups from the public, private and voluntary sector.

Conserving and enhancing biodiversity



What types of work can be funded?

- Practical work – labour costs, equipment and materials
- Feasibility studies or research projects
- Education and training
- Awareness raising or promotion

How much can I apply for?

Grants can be in the range from £200 - £50,000.

The Sustainable Development Fund can finance up to 75% of your project costs but in some cases restrictions will apply, particularly if you are a commercial business.

You can include volunteer time as part of your contribution to costs. This is valued at set rates which are available from the Sustainable Development Fund Officer.

You will be asked to sign an agreement setting out what is required for satisfactory completion of the project prior to the start of the project and receipt of the grant.

How do I apply?

We would strongly encourage you to get in touch for help and advice in completing your application to the Sustainable Development Fund.

A simple application form is available from the Sustainable Development Fund Officer or on-line at www.newforestnpa.gov.uk.

How will my project be assessed for funding?

Your application will be assessed by a Panel made up of representatives from the local area. Panel members have a wide range of interests including community, business, environment, wildlife, agriculture, tourism and recreation. For more information on who sits on the Panel or if you are interested in becoming a Panel member, please contact the Sustainable Development Fund Officer.



Helping everyone to get involved



Local involvement and ownership



Encouraging energy efficiency - solar panels



Fund priorities

When assessing your project, Government has asked us to give priority to supporting projects which:

- Involve young people - this helps ensure that the New Forest will be valued and protected by future generations
- Promote social inclusion - this means helping people who may have difficulties enjoying, working or living in this special area.
- Promote understanding and support of the New Forest amongst our urban neighbours
- Demonstrate new ways or best practice in sustainable living
- Encourage people to work together.

Carrying out your project

We will ask you to keep basic records when carrying out the work, so you can show that you have achieved what you set out to.

This is likely to include records of money spent such as receipts and invoices and timesheets if you include volunteer time. You will also be asked to produce a short report explaining what you achieved.

We aim to keep this as simple as possible and are happy to help you with any of the above if required.

For enquiries about the Sustainable Development Fund and advice or help with applications please contact:

Sustainable Development Fund Officer
New Forest National Park Authority
The Queen's House
Lyndhurst, Hampshire SO43 7BD

Tel: 0845 345 4979

Email: sdf@newforestnpa.gov.uk

Check our website www.newforestnpa.gov.uk for more information and examples of projects from other National Parks.

Sustainable Development Fund

A new grant scheme to encourage sustainable ways of living in the New Forest National Park