

What can be funded by SDF?

Priority has been given to projects that:

- involve young people
- combat social exclusion
- promote diversity
- bring organisations and people together to co-operate in tackling problems or promoting new ideas
- encourage links between urban groups and those resident in the AONB
- lever in contributions from other sources
- OR have overriding merit in terms of sustainability criteria but denied alternative public funding
- add value or new dimensions to existing sustainability projects
- add value by offering insights into innovation and risk taking

How much can be applied for?

Grants will be in the range of £500 - £3,000.

In general, the scheme will provide up to 75% funding for charities, trusts, community and voluntary organisations, although in exceptional cases 100% may be provided. When making grant applications, applications will be expected to explore complementary grant sources to give added value to the Sustainable Development Fund.

The scheme will provide up to 50% funding for businesses and local authorities. For schemes led by or involving government organisations, the total level of SDF grant plus match-funding from government organisations should not exceed 50% of eligible costs.

In all cases an agreement setting out what is required for satisfactory completion of the project will be signed prior to receipt of grant.

For match funding purposes volunteer time can be included. It will normally be costed at £50/day (£6.25/hr) for general volunteers and £100/day (£12.50/hr) for specialist, technical or professional volunteers. Existing staff time cannot be counted as match funding.

Who can apply?

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

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

How to apply?

Before you submit an application, please speak to us! The AONB team can guide and support the development of your application where appropriate.

Applicants can fill in an Application Form, which can be completed from this webpage. Pre-application advice can be offered by a member of the Northumberland Coast AONB team. There are no set application deadlines.

How we assess your application

Applications will be assessed against the fund's aims and criteria. Applications are decided upon by the Sustainable Development Fund Administrator and AONB team. Applicants will be notified within two weeks of a decision.