Report of the Head of Decarbonisation

Subject*:* Applications for Consideration

Members are requested to review the 6 applications and come to a decision in respect of the requests for grant funding.

The summary and eligibility check for each application follows.

Summary table

Project Type	Ref	Organisation	Funding Sought £
A	SDF /042023/1	Sea Trust Wales	21,407
A	SDF /042023/2	Theatre Gwaun Community Trust	20,042
C	SDF/042023/3	Acts West Wales - Cilrath Acre	8,920
D	SDF/042023/4	Awel Aman Tawe	17,135
D	SDF/042023/5	Fishguard Sports AFC	5,760
D	SDF/042023/6	Caerhys Organic Community Agriculture	12,028
		Total funding sought	**£85,292**

Renewable Energy generation projects (A)

Project Summary: Installation of a 31kWp solar PV system (71 solar panels).
Ref: SDF /042023/1
Project Title: A Greener Ocean Lab
Applicant: Sea Trust Wales
Location of project: Ocean Lab, Goodwick,
Project description: Installation of a 31kWp grid-connected PV system (71 solar panels) on the roof of the Ocean Lab which would provide approximately 40% of electricity consumption with an estimated saving of 14,000kg of CO2 per year. The project will also include public engagement – a display about the project will be visible on a public building on the seafront that has an average footfall of 70,000 per year.

Impact measurement: This project has three main aims: reducing carbon dioxide emitted, public engagement and saving money on electricity bills. The aims, impact and how the impact of these can be measured are detailed below.
Aim 1 – Solar panels on the Ocean Lab would reduce the carbon emissions from the building. The impact will be measured using monthly comparisons of energy usage before and after solar panel installation over a 12-month period. The outcome will be that the solar panels would provide approximately half of Sea Trust's electricity consumption with an estimated saving of 14,000kg of CO2 per year.

Aim 2 – Visitors to the Ocean Lab will learn about the benefits of renewable energy by seeing the solar panels, viewing project displays and attending events. The impact will be measured by the number of visitors engaged and feedback questionnaires. The outcome will be that people will have learned about the benefits of solar power, how it can be achieved and will be inspired to make use of it if they can.
Aim 3 – Money will be saved on electricity bills. The impact will be measured by calculating money saved on energy bills monthly over a 12-month period. The outcome will be that Sea Trust will have additional income to spend on our charitable activities e.g., marine biology club and school outreach activities.

Sustainability: The solar panels should last for the next 25 years at least and will continue to save Sea Trust money on energy bills. Enabling the organisation to be more sustainable. The aim is to make the whole building more sustainable so that the organisation can continue to engage and encourage people to protect their marine environment which is intertwined with the fight against climate change.

Total budget £35,000
Total requesting from SDF £21,407

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	Yes	No	Comments
Not for profit Organisations	Y		Charitable Incorporated Organisation Charity No: 1186160
Sufficient project detail supplied on/with application form	Y		
Minimum 20% match funding secured	Y		£10,000 applied to Transition Bro Gwaun Community Climate Fund. The remaining £3,593 match-funding will be from own funds.
Copies of quotations enclosed (where relevant)/ Notes of costings)	Y		Purchase and installation of 71 solar panels and inverter (to include grid connection). £31,407 Display printing £300 Welsh Translation £293 Community event £200 25 days of staff time to manage project, design displays and run event @ £112 per day £2,800 Total project cost £35,000 Only 1 quote provided.
Can be delivered in 6 -18 months	Y		
Planning consent	N/A		Applicant has confirmed this project falls within permitted development.
Eligibility checks completed	Y		

Officers Recommendation – Approve

Rationale: Sea Trust Wales is a charity working to better understand and help protect local marine wildlife, engaging with the community and visitors to the area. Installation of PV panels and battery, to generate energy. Their building is based just outside the National Park. There is evidence of how the project will reduce carbon and how they will measure this.
As the installation of PV panels are over £25K therefore it is a condition of the grant that the work will be openly procured.

Project Summary: Battery storage & solar panel improvements.
Ref: SDF /042023/2
Project Title: Battery Storage/Solar Panel Improvements
Applicant: Theatr Gwaun Community Trust
Location of project: Theatr Gwaun, Fishguard
Project description: SDF previously funded the installation of PV panels on the roof of Theatr Gwaun. To make more efficient use of these panels, Theatr Gwaun would like to purchase battery storage and install perimeter caging around the panels.
Pigeons have nested beneath the solar panels which has become very problematic, leading to a large amount of waste from the pigeons collecting in the gutters of the theatre and reducing the generating capacity of the solar array. To rectify this, it has been suggested to remove the nests and caging of the perimeter of the solar panel array which will resolve the issue and improve efficiency.
5 x 4.6kWh batteries will be installed, providing a storage capacity of 23 kWh. The SolarEdge software used to design the suggested configuration estimates that this installation will increase consumption of generated solar energy to 64% (currently 43%).
The installation of the solar panel array caging will require the West Street face of the theatre to be scaffolded and a Traffic Management System will be required as the scaffolding will essentially close one lane of West Street.

Impact measurement: Measuring the impact of this project will be done by collating the generation data from the Solar Edge account and import/export data from our electricity supplier's meter. This information will be used to monitor and document the increase in use of the generated energy, indicative Co2 Emissions saved, and cost savings accrued.

Sustainability*:* Once the project is commissioned and completed, the benefits of increased consumption of green, self-generated carbon free energy will be accompanied by a reduction in the theatre's annual expenditure on electricity. That saving will enable the theatre to endeavour to set aside funds to maintain and further improve our storage capacity in due course. A period of monitoring and reviewing of the installed system will provide more accurate data that will enable the next step for greener energy consumption in the future. As a standalone project, the requirements for its sustainability are serviced adequately by the manufacturer's warranty of the major component parts which are 12 years for the inverter and 10 years for the batteries. Ongoing maintenance of the system once installed is relatively insignificant, especially set against the savings that are forecast in our energy costs.

Total budget £25,052
Total requesting from SDF £20,042

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	Yes	No	Comments
Not for profit Organisations	Y		Registered Charity (number 1146226) and Registered Company (Number 07565394)
Sufficient project detail supplied on/with application form	Y		
Minimum 20% match funding secured	Y		Theatr Gwaun Community Trust Reserves £4,402 Volunteer In Kind Support £608

			Scaffolding Hire £1,800 Traffic Management System £1,915 Specialist Removal of inhabited nests £450 Installation of caging to perimeter of solar panels £1,345 Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Battery Storage System £18,934 Preparatory building work prior to installation of battery storage system (Volunteer In Kind Support) £456 Project Management (Volunteer In Kind Support) £152 Total £25,052
Copies of quotations enclosed (where relevant)/ Notes of costings)	Y		2 quotes received.
Can be delivered in 6 -18 months	Y		
Planning consent	N/A		
Eligibility checks completed	Y		

Officers Recommendation – Approve

Rationale: Theatre and community venue is registered charity and well used community facility just outside the National Park. The installation of batteries will ensure efficient use of energy generated through the day. There is evidence of how the project will reduce carbon and how they will measure this. There is evidence of match funding secured, from their own reserves. Fishguard itself is not in the NP but the theatre is the only theatre in North Pembrokeshire and serves the communities of the NP. Advice from National Park rangers have been sought regarding the nesting removal.

Install a community facility that minimises waste (C)

Project Summary: Installation of compost toilet and wooden building to ensure appropriate facilities are available for volunteers who are growing produce on site.
Ref: SDF/042023/3
Project Title: Cilrath Acre
Applicant: Acts West Wales
Location of project: Cilrath Fach Farm, Narberth,
Project description: Cilrath Acre is a community growing project and sister project to Pembrokeshire Foodbank (both founded by the charity Acts West Wales). Their vision to become a productive and regenerative growing space, bringing together community and connecting people to nature, the land and locally grown food. Committed to supporting community resilience by providing a space where volunteers of all ages can grow food, learn new skills, and meet others. The need for this type of space has been identified by local councillors, who have met with residents and identified limited access to outdoor spaces where people can grow their own food.

Through its partnership with Pembrokeshire Foodbank, they identified an urgent need for the consistent and reliable supply of fresh food to support those in food poverty. Currently 150-180 individuals access Pembrokeshire Foodbank monthly and this is expected to rise. The project's goal is for 50% of produce grown to benefit Pembrokeshire Foodbank. The project is committed to meeting these community needs whilst taking positive action in response to the climate crisis. The project is currently in a "set up" phase where all volunteer activities directly help to reduce carbon and waste. For example, compost beds have been created which help to reduce waste, trap carbon and improve soil quality.

Permaculture principles have been incorporated to help promote healthy soil and biodiversity on site. When growing commences in the second phase of the project (from March 2023), produce will be accessible to volunteers and clients of Pembrokeshire Foodbank, positively contributing to local food systems. This will help reduce dependence on carbon heavy transported food, further reducing carbon emissions.

The project involves volunteers from the local community and by connecting people to the land and the environment, it will help to strengthen concern for nature and, in turn, impact personal actions and care for the climate. It is therefore anticipated that the benefits of carbon and waste reduction will ripple far beyond the project itself. For volunteers to be able to participate in growing, it is essential for appropriate facilities, including a toilet (of which there is not currently one on site), to be available. The project has identified a suitable Full Access Composter Toilet supplied by NatSol. This form of toilet doesn't require water and can operate without power, helping further reduce dependence on resources. The compost produced would also be useable on the acre site (not in connection with food growing). The installation of this would not only enable volunteer activity to successfully continue into the growing phase of the project, the very nature of the toilet itself will help us in our goals to reduce carbon and minimise waste.

Impact measurement: Volunteer engagement, activity and subsequent food production are key goals in reducing carbon, which will be measured. A key part to the project's success is the ongoing engagement and retention of volunteers. In the first two months of the "set up phase" of the project, 22 different volunteers have attended, of which 45% have attended more than one volunteer session. Furthermore, 100% of those volunteers asked (via a feedback form) have said they've had a positive experience, that it positively benefitted their wellbeing and that they would like to volunteer with the project again. The attendance of volunteers and feedback will continue to be measured. The inclusion of additional questions will help measure how the project impacts volunteers' personal concerns for the environment and subsequent climate care actions that they take. The new facility at the site will contribute to a more positive and comfortable volunteer experience and the retention of volunteers.

The impact of food production on site and its benefits to the local community will be measured through clear records of the quantities grown, harvested and shared amongst volunteers and Pembrokeshire Foodbank.

Sustainability*:* The charity Acts West Wales has a long-term commitment to the Cilrath Acre project, with a 10-year access agreement in place with the landowner. A Project Manager is in place, thanks to 17 months of funding (until Autumn 2023) provided by Acts West Wales and the Comic Relief Community Fund In Wales. Success in securing Comic Relief funding has enabled the appointment of a Volunteer Coordinator who is working with volunteers to establish the first "set up" phase of the project and develop a growing plan. This will provide a long term, sustainable plan for food production on site. The project is currently seeking funding from the Volunteer Wales Grant Scheme, administered by the Welsh Assembly government. Success in this grant will secure the positions of the Volunteer Coordinator and Project Manager for a further two years (subject to review after 12 months). Other funding sources, including grant funding and online fundraising within the community, are also being explored to ensure ongoing volunteer activity can take place long term. The interest and dedication that has already been expressed by current volunteers in such a short space of time offers a clear indication of the commitment from within the community to the project's

development and long-term success. All volunteers are encouraged to share their ideas and contribute towards the development of the growing plan and activities. This volunteer-led approach will not only build a sense of belonging and ownership over the project but will help support the long-term commitment and sustainability of the project. Outreach work within the community is planned in 2023 to engage different groups within the community (including school groups, foodbank clients and older people) to ensure ongoing recruitment of volunteers to the project.

Total budget: £11,150
Total requesting from SDF: £8,920

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	Yes	No	Comments
Not for profit Organisations	Y		Registered Charity (Number: 1157963)
Sufficient project detail supplied on/with application form	Y		
Minimum 20% match funding secured	Y		Match utilising reserves £2,230
Copies of quotations enclosed (where relevant)/ Notes of costings)	Y		Compost toilet £7,950 Interior lining £310 Carriage and delivery £614 Installation of compost toilet and wooden building £2276 Total project costs £11,150
Can be delivered in 6 -18 months	Y		Yes, 6 month project.
Planning consent			A check with PCC is currently in progress.
Eligibility checks completed	Y		

Officers Recommendation – Approve - subject to decision on planning.

Rationale: Excellent project idea, reducing food waste and carbon emissions from travel both for food miles as well as providing volunteer opportunities locally and supporting the foodbank and credit crisis. Well written project, with clear aims and objectives on how they will measure their impact and how the project will be sustainable.

Any other community-based carbon reduction initiative (D)

Project Summary: Carbon reduction in schools through activities that raise awareness.
Ref: SDF/042023/4
Project Title: We are Energy Warriors
Applicant: Awel Aman Tawe
Location of project: Six Pembrokeshire Schools with Egni Solar Panels

Project description: This programme of activities will continue the previously SDF funded project 'We are Energy Rappers'. We are Energy Warriors empowers pupils and staff to reduce their carbon emissions through taking part in energy reduction activities and raising awareness with others to lead to long term behaviour change. The participating schools have learnt about energy and climate change, analysed real data and taken action in their schools and communities to reduce energy. Participating schools have reduced carbon emissions by up to 30%. Awel Aman Tawe would like to continue this work with new pupils.

Schools are reporting good habits with energy use, but they would benefit from further engagement to deepen understanding and embed behaviour change across the school.

The aim of this project, which builds on the work already undertaken is to embed energy reduction work further by working with Energy Warriors to investigate further the links between energy use and climate change including the impact of the consumption of food and the buying of commodities and how to use the earth's resources wisely to reuse, recycle and reduce.

Working with Egni Coop and an arts facilitator the pupils will be creative in devising a way to pass on their low carbon lifestyle solutions with the wider public such as organising a shared food event, sharing a recycled arts installation or a designing a cartoon guide to a waste free classroom. Egni Coop will co-create resources on energy and waste for other schools to use. The project will work with partners such as Pembrokeshire Council, Pembrokeshire College, TYF, Keep Wales Tidy, Outdoor Learning Pembrokeshire, WRAP Cymru, Haverhub and community growing schemes such as Ffynonne Resilience and organise visits and experiences for schools to link with the wider community, undertake research and field visits.

Pupils will come together to present their work in a joint bilingual conference. They will share their energy savings ideas and showcase how the school has reduced energy by hosting a pedal powered disco to inspire their families and communities. They will pass the project onto a new year group or nominate a school nearby to continue the We are Energy Warriors project and they will receive Egni Coop, Ynni Da and creative arts workshops to inspire them to engage in energy reduction activities.

Impact measurement: The impact of the project will be measured by analysing data, learning outcomes, engagement and behaviour change which leads to a low carbon lifestyle. Energy Sparks will be used to analyse energy use data – electricity, gas and solar and set targets to reduce this in the school environment. Data will be monitored every half term highlighting what has gone well and what barriers are preventing the schools from achieving further reductions. Carbon footprint and carbon emissions will be monitored through Energy Sparks. Learning and engagement will be measured and captured before, during and after the project, pupils will be selected for in depth interviews for case studies. Teachers will be interviewed to understand their school's continued commitment to energy reduction activities throughout the year across different year groups and how it is embedded into the curriculum. The impact of the project on the wider community will be measured through surveys, informal chats, and events. Other pupils in the school will be surveyed about their behaviour change. Ideas in the home will be shared through writing energy saving guides. Consumption of things such as food, clothes and classroom equipment at the beginning and the end of the project will be measured through audits and surveys. The impact will be evaluated from these measurements at the end of the project.

Sustainability*:* We are Energy Warriors aims to promote long term behaviour changes to reduce energy use through raised awareness of the impact on the climate and the work of community energy in Wales. Teachers on the project are already working to embed energy literacy and climate change learning not just into the curriculum but as a long-term behaviour change. They have integrated Energy Sparks into teaching and learning, they have widened their understanding of energy and how it impacts on every aspect of our lives. They have worked with the local community and shared their messages widely on

social media. The film from the We are Energy Rappers is used to engage and teach others how to campaign and raise awareness. Pupils are engaged in promoting behaviour change and this has been shared with the community.

The organisation is working closely with other organisations in the county, building networks of like-minded organisations keen to deliver climate education and promote low carbon lifestyles across Pembrokeshire and Wales. This includes Pembrokeshire Coastal Rangers, Community Energy Wales, Pembrokeshire County Council, Pembrokeshire College, Cwm Arian, Pembrokeshire Outdoor Learning Network and Ffynnone Resilience and the Circular Economy Innovation Community across Wales. Teachers in Pembrokeshire have been involved in the steering group to ensure that the Energy Sparks translation into Welsh is shared and relevant to the Welsh curriculum and are passing on their knowledge through their own networks in events such as the Pembrokeshire COP27 event. The legacy of this project will be participating schools passing on the project to new schools and inviting them to be Energy Warriors. The new schools will receive workshops from Egni Coop, Ynni Da and an arts facilitator. Resource guides will be created to start projects aiming to reach net zero and implementing a circular economy approach, developing a common framework to approach a project. Schools will have their arts installations as a legacy and teaching tool. From the last SDF project, Saundersfoot Supersparks, the energy saving hero in Saundersfoot Primary School is well known in the region and is inspiring schools across Wales to develop their own energy reduction mascots. Schools will be supported and encouraged to replicate this.

Total budget £20,561
Total requesting from SDF £17,135

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	Yes	No	Comments
Not for profit Organisations	Y		Registered Charity (number 1114492)
Sufficient project detail supplied on/with application form	Y		
Minimum 20% match funding secured	Y		EGNI workshops £3426
Copies of quotations enclosed (where relevant)/ Notes of costings)	Y		AAT Overheads, project management and workshops £5,661 Visits and workshops £12,900 Conference £1000 Resources and Transport £1000 Total 17135
Can be delivered in 6 -18 months	Y		May 2023 -May 2024
Planning consent			N/A
Eligibility checks completed	Y		

Officers Recommendation – Approval

Rationale: Awel Aman Tawe (AAT) delivered a successful project last year; they provided a comprehensive report and data showing the impact to energy reduction and behaviour change in schools and the community. AAT have demonstrated how they will measure the impact for this project and how it will create a legacy in schools.

This request is for funding for a continuation of the project with a focus on the circular economy and a focus on an arts project and the opportunity to pass the project they

completed last year onto three new schools. The focus on energy in relation to other environmental aspects – textiles, food, nature and biodiversity will mean the project is gaining depth and pupils will continue with their learning as Energy Warriors to enable them to develop meaningful outputs that can really impact the community.

The project will be working with existing schools (new pupils and classes) Ysgol Bro Ingli, Saundersfoot, and Lamphey plus 3 new schools, including Tenby and 2 more.

Project Summary: Purchase of a zero-turn electric mower which could be recharged by existing solar panels.
Ref: SDF/042023/5
Project Title: Tregroes Park Developments
Applicant: Fishguard Sports AFC
Location of project: Tregroes Park, Fishguard
Project description: Funding requested to purchase a zero-turn electric mower, battery powered with mulching attachment and brush cutter. The club already have a solar panel and battery system which would re-charge the batteries, thus saving on using mains electricity and therefore carbon. The mower would replace a diesel tractor and be beneficial both in terms of diesel cost savings and carbon reduction. It will be used for the 2 sports pitches and a cricket pitch (3 acres). The project would be managed by the committee and supported by the club's volunteer groundsmen who provide the maintenance of the ground. The project is needed as the tractor is unsuitable for day-to-day grass cutting and compacting the soil. The electric mower and mulching attachment would benefit the playing field as would be returning the nitrogen to the soil. The soil is tested at the start and end of season to determine the amount of fertiliser needed. It is anticipated that the mulching process would improve the soil condition, reducing the need for commercial fertilizers. The tractor uses diesel and there would be an immediate reduction in diesel use and therefore a reduction in carbon. The club are hoping to install a rainwater harvesting system to reduce the use of mains water. This would irrigate the field in a timely manner and combined with the electric mower would benefit the playing fields in terms of displacing the associated emissions and ecosystem impact.

Impact measurement: The impact will be measured by the following: -
1. Reduction in the amount of diesel used.
2. The amount of carbon saved as a result.
3. The charging of the batteries through the solar panels/battery system.
4. The amount of commercial fertiliser used compared to previous year.

Sustainability*:* The equipment has a 5-year warranty and zero ongoing maintenance. This compares favourably to the use of the tractor which has had significant repairs and maintenance costs. The cost savings will have a beneficial impact on the club's finances which will contribute to the club's future sustainability.

Total budget £7,200
Total requesting from SDF £5,760

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	Yes	No	Comments
Not for profit Organisations	Y		Not for profit sports club.
Sufficient project detail supplied on/with application form	Y		Application to Fishguard Town Council for match funding. If unsuccessful the club will use their own funds.
Minimum 20% match funding secured	Y		
Copies of quotations enclosed (where relevant)/ Notes of costings)	Y		Purchase of Ego Zero Turn Mower and attachments £7,200 Quote provided.
Can be delivered in 6 -18 months	Y		
Planning consent			N/A
Eligibility checks completed	Y		

Officers Recommendation – Approve

Rationale: Great idea to reduce the use of fossil fuel at the club, it would be good to obtain feedback from the club. The club is just outside the National Park but used by surrounding communities within the National Park. The group have demonstrated how they will measure the impact and communicate this with the community.

Project Summary: To provide tools for community-supported agriculture
Ref: SDF/042023/6
Project Title: COCA New Roots 2023
Applicant: Caerhys Organic Community Agriculture (COCA)

COCA is an organic CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) veg-box-scheme based on Caerhys Organic Farm near St David's, Pembrokeshire. They grow a wide variety of vegetables for members all year round. A CSA is a partnership between farmers and consumers in which the responsibilities, risks and rewards of farming are shared – in this case through a commitment to subscription of vegetables through membership. COCA started in 2010, as the first CSA in Wales.

Location of project: Caerhys Organic Farm, St Davids
Project description: Funding is requested for:

- repairs to the turf roof of communal straw shed,
- organic compost,
- ground works to prepare for a new polytunnel,
- soil and plant protection: weed covers and plant mesh.
- repairs to existing wind-damaged polytunnel.

COCA New Roots is a project designed to overcome COCA's challenges: Brexit (decreased volunteer numbers), cost of living crisis (fewer people can afford fresh vegetables, straining COCA's finances and wages for growers) and the effects of COVID, and depleted soils.
The communal, organic and regenerative methods are countering the effects of extractive practices of large-scale food production chains: depleted soils, declining soil biodiversity, precarious employment and volatile markets.

The current straw shed is where people collect their veg box, use the community shop, come together for events, and where produce is sorted and stored. It needs to be a dry and welcoming space but it has been leaking, making it less homely, and risking spoiling produce. This project will improve the turf roof, making it the perfect home once more.

Organic compost is required for fertilising the community field as part of an approach for a lighter touch on the land with a minimum till method, benefiting the soil structure, carbon sequestration and soil-life diversity. Composting in this way will turbo-boost growing, improving produce, working with the land to maximise its potential. Weed covers and plant mesh will cut time spent watering and weeding, lightening the load of physical labour for both growers and volunteers. The covers prevent weeds, meaning no need for heavy machinery and the resulting soil compaction, while stopping erosion of bare soils.

A new polytunnel will diversify crops over the whole season, and the extra sheltered space can be used to season storable vegetables. In winter, this additional polytunnel provides cover for overwintering crops to supply the “hungry gap”, the gap in harvests from April until June, reducing what we buy in and reducing our carbon footprint.

Beneficiaries of the project:
Community members – Better community space, a wider variety of local and more nutritious food, particularly through winter.
Soils – Moving away from extensive tillage systems, sequestering more carbon in our soils, reducing erosion and increasing biodiversity below and above the soil.
The planet – Shorten the supply chain, minimising carbon.
COCA CSA – Helping COCA get back to its feet after a difficult time, providing resources to be self-sustaining: paying its workers fairly, contributing to the local economy and spreading green ideas far and wide.

Impact measurement: COCA will measure the increase in plant nutrition density as a result of improved soil methods and of compost. COCA is a partner with Car Y Mor and are trialling seaweed fertilises on a potato crop. As part of this partnership soil is regularly tested and will continue to be as to help monitoring the impact of this project.
Records of harvests will help to quantify improvements as well as measurement of buying-in vegetables.
Activity and use of the straw shed will demonstrate improvements.

To measure New Roots as a whole, COCA will measure membership numbers. The ambition is that the extra variety, better harvests, and a regenerative ethos that will attract more Members. A survey will be conducted of new Members to confirm the reasons why they join. Volunteer training sessions will be monitored and recorded.

Sustainability*:* After initial investment, these enhancements will pay for themselves by allowing the land to be worked more efficiently and with a lighter, regenerative touch. Maximising the efficiency of growing is the foundation going forward, reducing buy-in and attracting new members (target is a 100% increase in 2023) and diversifying income. The polytunnel and straw shed provide stability and controlled spaces on an exposed site: Growing on land exposed to coastal winds comes with a risk of crop loss, especially autumn-spring when there are storms. Growing under cover reduces this risk and provides a more stable and predictable harvest. This in turn helps future planning.

Data about the effects of regenerative growing methods through monitoring soil- and plant-nutrient density monitoring yearly will be collected. This will help refine methods year-on-year. Findings will be shared.
These improvements are part of a broader relaunch of the COCA project which include funding for a marketing role for a membership drive, a new website, new tools, improvements to volunteer accommodation, weed/soil covers and a two-wheel tractor to further lighten our impact on the soils.
Simultaneously a food access project is being developed to meet the current challenges of the cost-of-living crisis and the limitations it is creating for low-income people to access organic food.

COCA will use social media and celebrate and communicate the arrival of equipment and construction as it happens. Information about the project will go on their website and on social media.
COCA plan to host workshops for members and people in the wider community, starting either end of 2023 or beginning of 2024.
Over 200 volunteers from across all Europe have been hosted on COCA to learn about sustainable farming. COCA are a hub for sharing green ideas and will continue to develop a training offer as well as a traineeship starting in 2024.

Total budget £18,903
Total requesting from SDF £12,028

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	Yes	No	Comments
Not for profit Organisations	Y		A private company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital (not for profit)
Sufficient project detail supplied on/with application form	Y		
Minimum 20% match funding secured	Y		Private donation for polytunnel £700.00 Enhancing Pembrokeshire grant for Polytunnel £6,175 TOTAL £6,875
Copies of quotations enclosed (where relevant)/ Notes of costings)	Y		Repairs to straw building £7000 6 x Weed covers (5m x 50m) and shipping £587 Compost - Pas100 @ £33 per tonne and delivery £1764 Polytunnels - repair existing polytunnel and new polytunnel £9552 £18,903
Can be delivered in 6 -18 months	Y		
Planning consent	Y		Approved for the polytunnel
Eligibility checks completed	Y		

Officers Recommendation – Approve

Rationale: Community supported agriculture (CSA) is a partnership between farmers and consumers in which the responsibilities, risks and rewards of farming are shared.

The group have identified what they wish to do and how it will benefit. They have identified how they will measure their impact, particularly their carbon footprint. By providing local food for the community as part of the CSA scheme, they have also demonstrated how they will communicate their impact locally and with all their stakeholders and beyond.

Recommend they link with the other food growing projects supported through SDF.

3. Date of Future SDF Committee Meetings

Visit to projects be organised 5th July.

Background Documents:

Author: Jessica Morgan Head of Decarbonisation 05/04/2023
jessciam@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk 01646 624 811 / 07929 852 260