

Report of Decarbonisation Officer

SUBJECT:

Sustainable Development Fund Update Report

Purpose of Report:

To detail updates on the ongoing SDF projects running in 2023.

Background

The Sustainable Development Fund is a fund supporting community projects in and around the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. The Fund supports community projects that contribute towards a reduction in carbon and help respond to the climate emergency.

Applicants can apply for projects to deliver the following:

- a. Install renewable energy generation facilities to a community building i.e. solar panels
- b. An initiative to promote reduction in carbon emissions in transport i.e. installing an electric charging point for bikes or cars or by supporting access to non-individual travel
- c. Install a community facility that minimises waste, i.e. water fountain
- d. Any other community-based carbon reduction initiative

1. SDF Finance Report

1.1 Current financial commitments. Projects currently running.

SDF ref	Project	£ grant awarded	£ grant paid	£ grant Remaining 30/11/23	Update / comment
SDF/2019/3	Sustainable Printing	20,428	14,120	304.74	Progressing
SDF/012021/1	Newport Area Environment Group (NAEG)	20,471	20,471	0.00	Awaiting final report
SDF/012021/7	Neuadd Gymunedol Bwlchgyroes Community Hall	4,500	4,500	0.00	Awaiting final report
SDF /042021/2	Paul Sartori Foundation Limited	1,152	1,152	0.00	End date Feb 2024
SDF/032022/1	Lawrenny Shop CIC	7,587	0.00	7,587	March 2024
SDF/032022/2	St Ishmaels Sport and Social Club	10,080	10,080	0.00	Awaiting final paperwork
SDF/102022/2	St John Ambulance Cymru	17,176	17,176	0.00	Final report received, awaiting receipts and bank statements.
SDF/102022/4	White Hart Community Inn	9525.00	1398.40	8,126.60	Awaiting planning
SDF/102022/6	Canolfan Clydau	11,663	11,663	0.00	Final report received, awaiting invoices and bank statements.

SDF/102022/9	Ffynnone - community resilience in North East Pembrokeshire	25,000	13896.43	11,103.57	Progressing
SDF/102022/10	PCNPA Dark Skies	61,634	4486.11	57,147.89	Progressing
SDF/102022/12	Ecodewi	19,760	10546.70	9,213.30	Progressing
SDF /042023/1	Sea Trust Wales	21,407	19266.30	2,140.70	Progressing: in procurement phase
SDF /042023/2	Theatre Gwaun Community Trust	20,042	18037.80	2,004.20	Progressing
SDF/042023/3	Acts West Wales - Cilrath Acre	8,920	0.00	8,920	Progressing
SDF/042023/4	Awel Aman Tawe	17,135	14,804	2,331.08	Progressing
SDF/042023/6	Caerhys Organic Community Agriculture	12,028	10,825	1,202.80	Progressing
Total Grants Outstanding				110,081.88	

1.2 Map of Approved projects – click on link below SDF Projects - Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

1.3 Any completed projects since September 2023

SDF/012021/4 South Ridgeway Community Association – [Final report](#)
SDF/042021/3 COAST (Community Organised Allotment for Solva Tenants)– [Report](#)
SDF/012022/2 Pembrokeshire FRAME – [Final report](#)
SDF/032022/3 Llanteg Village Hall – [Final report](#)
SDF/102022/1 Begelly Kilgetty Community Association – [Final report](#)
SDF/102022/5 Haverfordwest Rugby Football Club – [Final report](#)
SDF/102022/7 1st Johnston Scout Group – [Final report](#)
SDF/102022/11 Tenby Museum and Art Gallery – [Final report](#)
SDF/042023/5 Fishguard Sports AFC – [Final report](#)

1.4 SDF Financial position 2023/24

A total of £100,000 has been made available for grant distribution from the Welsh Government Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places Fund 2023/24.

Projects funded to date in this financial year from April 2023 committee meeting 6
Projects total grant awarded £85,292.

Background Documents:

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22/12/2023

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Sustainable Development Fund Project Analysis 2020 – 2023

Introduction

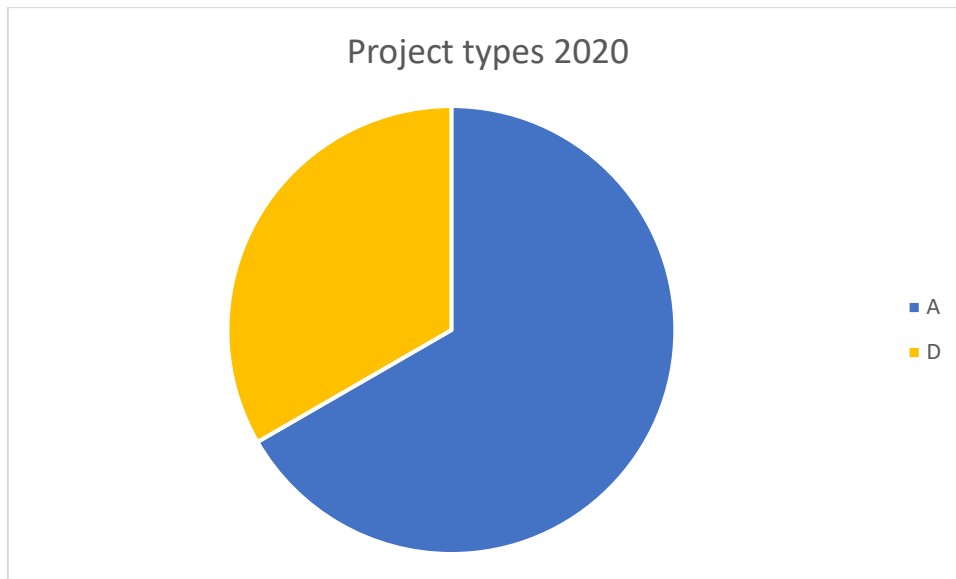
The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority supports communities across Pembrokeshire through its Sustainable Development Fund grants. These grants are currently funded from Welsh Government, through the Sustainable Landscapes Sustainable Places funding and amount to a £100,000 grant fund. The purpose of this report is to analyse the use of the fund over the last four years, since the focus of the fund changed in response to the Climate Emergency. The aim is to inform the future direction of the SDF grant, aiding SDF Committee Members and Officers to use the grant for best effect.

Annual project analysis

Since 2020, the PCNPA's Sustainable Development Fund has focused on projects which seek to reduce carbon emissions and help to respond to the environmental emergency, with a total of 45 projects funded. These projects fall into one of 4 categories:

- A:** Install renewable energy generation facilities to a community building (e.g.: solar panels).
- B:** Develop an initiative to promote reduction in carbon emissions in transport (e.g.: installing an electric charging point for bikes or cars or by supporting access to non-individual travel).
- C:** Install a community facility that minimises waste (e.g.: water fountain).
- D:** Any other community-based carbon reduction initiative.

The four pie-charts below show a visual representation of the distribution of project types since 2020. It should be noted that some projects define themselves as falling into multiple categories. In these instances, the project has been grouped into the category which aligns with the majority of the project work.



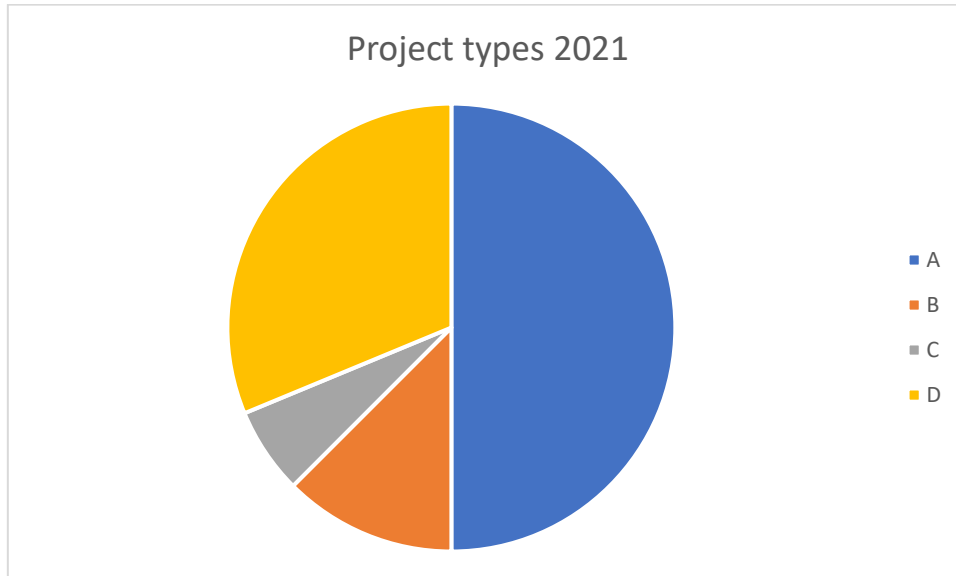
2020

Category A total spend: £30,334

No. projects: 2

Category D total spend: £3,588

No. projects: 1



2021

Category A total spend: £115,055

No. projects: 8

Category B total spend: £9152

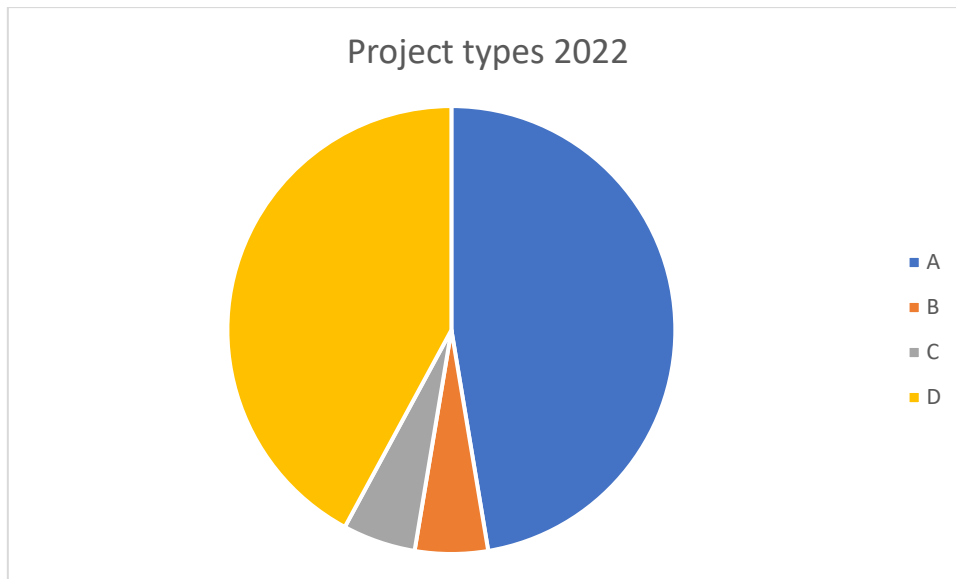
No. projects: 2

Category C total spend: £12,562

No. projects: 1

Category D total spend: £83,606

No. projects: 5



2022

Category A total spend: £83,139.40

No. projects: 9

Category B total spend: £11,663

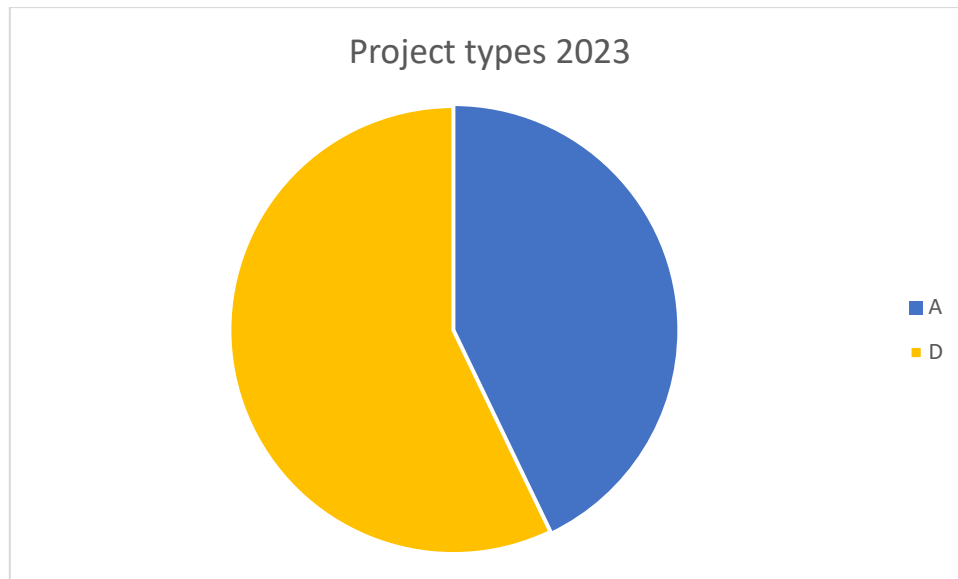
No. projects: 1

Category C total spend: £25,000

No. projects: 1

Category D total spend: £138,994

No. projects: 8



2023

Category A total spend: £41,449

No. projects: 3

Category D total spend: £43,843

No. projects: 4

Project type analysis

Category A: Renewable Energy installation projects

As we can see from the above pie charts, renewable energy installation projects have been popular every year with a total of 22 projects and £269,977.40 spent in this area since 2020. These projects are often clearly time-bounded, involving a one-off installation which works well within the 18-month cut-off period we require from grantees. Moreover, the impacts of these projects are straightforward for communities to measure, either using meters of the installed equipment, or measuring the reduction in energy bills. Most Category A projects report a reduction in energy bills at the end of their project. Other reported benefits include revenue streams from selling to the grid or EV charge points, increased comfort for users of the space, and increased awareness of energy efficiency and renewable power generation.

With the 22 projects since 2020, the SDF grant has funded the installation of over 11 new solar arrays, with the collective potential to generate over **111.57 kWh**. Alongside solar arrays, new battery systems, heating equipment, electric vehicle chargers, and inverters have been funded.

Case study

Project name: Giraldu Hall Renewable Energy Project

Location: Manorbier

Grant awarded: £37,568.16

An example of a successful Category A project comes from the South Ridgeway Community Association in 2021. Following the construction of a new Community Centre in Manorbier, the community group sought funding to increase the sustainability credentials of the building, and create a greener experience for hall users. The total SDF grant for the project £37,568.16, which funded solar panels, battery storage and electric vehicle charge points.

A local company, Preseli Solar, installed a solar array with a total generation capacity of 30.8 kWp and a battery system to store power. 3 electric vehicle charge points were also installed by Preseli Solar. The project was completed in spring 2023. From March 11th to August 2nd 15,530kWh of energy was generated from the solar array.



Image: Electric vehicle charge points in Giraldu Hall car park, funded by the SDF grant and run using renewable energy from solar panels.

Category B: Reduction in carbon emissions from transport

Category B projects have seen a total spend of £20,815. This is an important category due to the limited availability of low-carbon, low-cost, public transport in Pembrokeshire, and also the relatively low car ownership amongst the population. However, we have only funded 3 projects in this category since 2020.

Case Study

Project name: Clydau Solar Bike Shelter / Lloches Solar Beiciau Clydau

Location: Tegryn

Grant awarded: £11,663

Canolfan Clydau received £11,663 to provide solar-powered clothes drying room with attached covered secure bicycle shelter, along with charging facilities for electric bicycles.

The group proposed to purchase a used 20' shipping container which could be used to provide a drying room for cycle clothing. The shipping container was to be insulated and humidistat extractor fans installed to aid drying. A "Hoop Roof" was to be installed between this shipping container and an existing shipping container to provide a covered area for the secure parking of bikes and also to provide charging points for electric bikes as well as a covered workspace, shelter and gateway to the green space beyond.

They also wished to install solar photo-voltaic panels on the roof of the container, along with simple battery storage and inverter to allow for the provision of light and power for the container itself – and also for the benefit of any outdoor events or workshops being held at the hall.

The project aimed to encourage and promote active travel within the community: fostering a low carbon, sustainable transportation hub for the wider community. The building tenants, Cwm Arian Renewable Energy (CARE), had 5 members of staff who cycled to work, and as such were great advocates for active travel. The project was undertaken partnership with CARE, who were already trialling an electric bicycle and car club with Dolen Teifi.

With the use of solar photo-voltaic panels and battery storage, the aim was to demonstrate the real-world uses of renewables, and at the same time provide an opportunity for education and promoting awareness with the primary school and the local communities on the benefits of these technologies. The use of Solar PV also reduced reliance on mains electricity and minimized energy costs.

The grant has enabled the centre to have a community bike shed with capacity for 10 cycles, along with an electric bike charge point and solar powered drying room.



Where possible the group used local builders, using reclaimed timber or locally-sourced timber and materials. Three solar panels were installed on the roof, with an inverter to convert the power into energy and a battery system to allow storage for later. LED lights are fitted in the drying room and corridor a dehumidifier is available to dry clothes. As well as reducing the centre’s reliance on the grid, the solar technology has also provided an education for staff and pupils, allowing them to continue sharing their knowledge within the community.

Local school children have embraced the space and are regularly cycling to school, cutting down on local car usage. Staff and community centre visitors similarly regularly use the bike shed, facilitating active transport and offering an alternative to cars. Additionally, there are a number of electric bike cyclists who regularly use the space and the charging point in the bike shed – allowing them to charge their e-bike while attending classes in the centre. There is also an e-bike available for CwmArian Staff, and with the ongoing partnership with Dolen Teifi, they are in the process of exploring a wider bike scheme to encompass more local people. The bike shed has now formed part of the garden project and offers a practical and welcome addition to the garden and hall. It has been used for a talk about bees; a space for tea and coffee; and as shelter from the rain on a workday in the adjacent garden.

Peter Kay, Project Manager said of the Sustainable Development Fund:

“We are all very grateful for this grant, it has enabled us to achieve the community's ambitions as well as provide a low carbon sustainable transportation hub at the centre.”

Category C: Install a community facility that minimises waste

We have seen limited numbers of community projects that minimise waste with a total spend of £37,562. This may be due to the fact that drawing clear causation between the reduction of waste and a reduction in carbon emissions can be challenging.

Case study

Project name: The Refillery, Pembrokeshire FRAME

Location: Pembroke Dock

Grant awarded: £25,000

The aim of this project was to open a Zero Waste shop in Pembroke Dock. The Refillery was designed to reduce waste from food, toiletries and cleaning products. The Refillery have calculated that they have saved 9901 units of packaging from being used during the lifetime of the project so far.

There has also been a community education and behaviour change aspect of the project, with 67% of customers now using reusable containers in the shop. 100% of leftover edible food goes to the Pembroke Dock Community Fridge, housed in the Refillery. This initiative has saved some 1790 kg of food from going to landfill.

Another positive aspect of the Refillery project has been supporting workers with disabilities through work placements. These workers have completed 3 accredited training courses during their time with the project, building skills, experience and confidence in the process.



Category D: Any other community-based carbon reduction initiative.

Category D has covered a wide range of projects with a total cost of £270,031. Several of these have involved funding a project co-ordinator post, others have focused on behaviour change, whilst many have had growing and food sovereignty as central aspects. These projects may take longer to achieve than Category A and some have also found challenges in quantifying impact as the impact may be felt over several years.

Case Study

Project name: COAST Community Organised Allotments for Solva Tenants

Location: Solva

SDF grant awarded: £8,000

“We set out to create a community allotment space and wellbeing garden in the village for locals to enjoy.”

The Coast Allotment Project set out to transform a small area of wasteland into a useable space for growing vegetables. The land, rented from Pembrokeshire County Council, was covered in rubbish and dead trees when the project first started. In a community effort, the area was cleared and a fence installed on the perimeter. Once cleared, the space was big enough to install 12 micro-plots for local people to grow produce on.



All of the beds are in use by members of the community, with each plot personalised with indications of its grower's taste and many overflowing with abundant produce.

Excess vegetables grown onsite are donated to the luncheon club for elderly residents. Local care groups and the village council have supported the project, applauding the educational and practical aspects of this local food production. The local primary school use some of the raised beds to grow vegetables, helping the children to learn about biodiversity, self-sufficiency and food security. Most recently, the local nursery school in Solva have asked to have a plot onsite to teach the pre-school age children about growing.



The allotments are having an impact on both carbon emissions and biodiversity – onsite and in the wider community. The site is off-grid, thanks to having solar lights installed on the shed. Rainwater is harvested for growers to use on their plots, reducing use of mains water. All of the plots are held by residents of the village and tools are available onsite for everyone to use, which reduces the need for people to drive to the allotments. The team have installed two large compost areas, which are available for all residents on the street to use, as well as the plot holders.

There are bee and insect hotels onsite, and bird feeders for visitors. The group plan to create a wildlife pond and a garden for animal and birdlife.

“The project has been met with real enthusiasm... it has certainly raised spirits in the community and once fully completed will be a real asset to the village.”

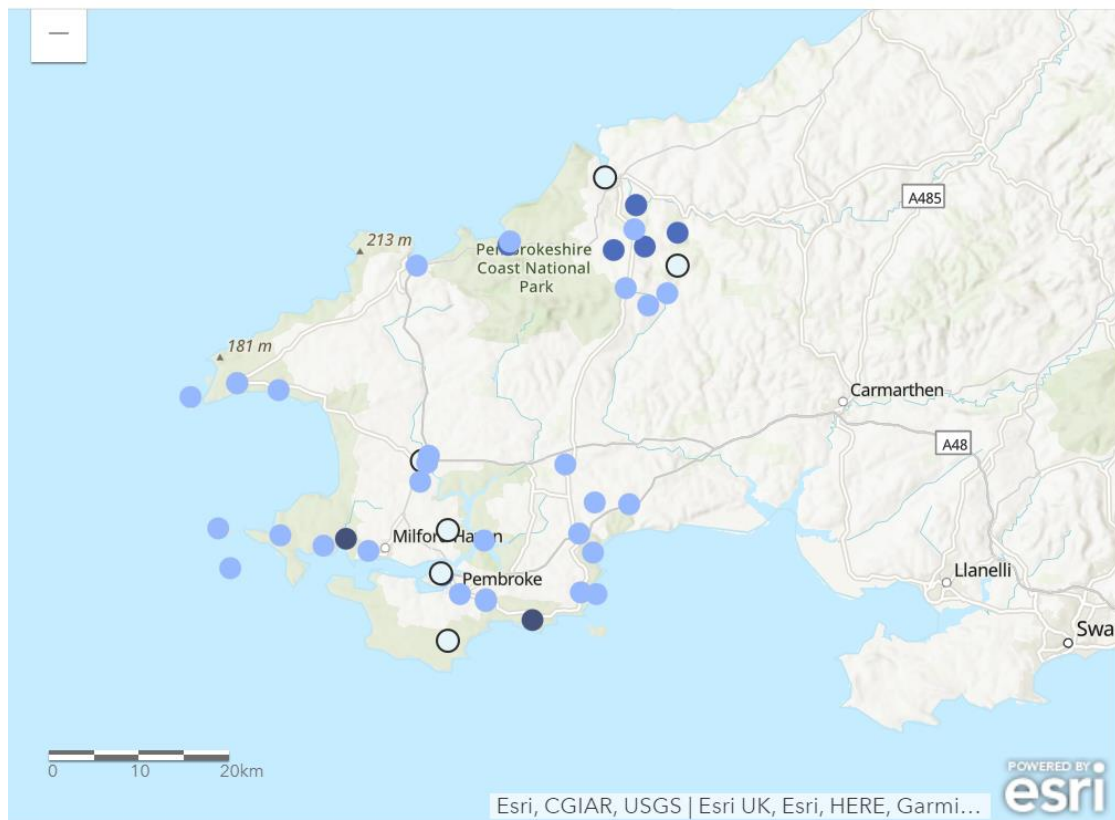
Geographical distribution

In terms of location, Fishguard, Haverfordwest, Pembroke Dock and Newport are the locations with the most SDF-funded projects, each with 3 projects. All of Newport's were Category D projects.

St Davids, Hermon, Solva, Tenby and Narberth have each had 2 projects funded in the area.

A single SDF project has been funded in: Ludchurch, Manorbier, Cilgerran, Blaenffos, Bwlchgroes, Clynyfw, Goodwick, Herbranston, Ramsey Island, Hubberston, Skomer and Skokholm, Lamphey, St Brides, Llanteg, St Davids, Crymych, St Dogmaels, Hill Mountain, St Ishmaels, Lawrenny, Stackpole, Tegryn, Boncath, Kilgetty.

Due to different levels of population density across Pembrokeshire County and the National Park, it is challenging to identify areas which are noticeably lacking successful applications to SDF. Nonetheless, the distribution map available on the SDF website indicates a relatively good spread of projects across the County.



Park boundaries

Of the 45 projects undertaken since 2020, 16 have fallen within Park boundaries:

Awel Aman Tawe (x2)
 Caerhys Organic Community Agriculture
 COAST - Community Organised Allotments for Solva
 Tenants
 Ecodewi (x2)
 Herbranston Sports and Recreation Association
 Newport Area Environment Group
 Pembrokeshire Mencap Gardens
 RSPB
 Solva Community Clubhouse
 South Ridgeway Community Association
 St Ishmaels Sport & Social Club
 Tenby Museum and Art Gallery
 Tenby United RFC
 Wildlife trust South and West Wales

A greater number of projects (29) have fallen outwith the boundaries of the Park, but within the wider county:

1st Johnston Scout Group
 Acts West Wales - Cilraeth Acre
 Begelly and Kilgetty Community Association
 Canolfan Clydau
 Clwb Rugbi Crymych Cyf
 Clynyfw CIC
 Cwm Arian Renewable Energy (x2)
 Ffynnone Community Resilience NE Pembrokeshire (x2)
 Fishguard Sports AFC
 Haverfordwest RFC
 Hubberston and Hakin Community Centre
 Lamphey Village Hall
 Lawrenny Shop CIC
 Llanteg Village Hall & Community Association
 Ludchurch Village Committee
 Marloes and St Brides Village Hall
 Narberth & District Community & Sports Association
 Neuadd Gymuned Bwlchygroes
 Paul Sartori Foundation Ltd
 PCNPA
 Pembrokeshire Frame
 Sea Trust Wales

In 2023, PCNPA ran another funding round through the National Parks Partnership. It was specifically to fund a single electric vehicle charger (Pod Point) and was offered only to community groups within the boundaries of the National Park. We will be reviewing how many applications we receive, and how many expressions of interest from groups outwith park boundaries. This data may be useful to inform plans to fund projects only within National Park boundaries, or continue with the current approach.

Conclusion

The results of this analysis support the change in focus of the SDF grant in 2020. Since the focus shifted to projects which seek to reduce carbon emissions and help to respond to the environmental emergency, there has continued to be high demand from across the county and the grant has helped to reduce carbon emissions from organisations across the county.

There is a higher number of Category A and D projects than B and C. It could be recommended to try and fund an increased number of waste reduction and transport projects in the coming years. There is also a significantly higher number of projects that fall outwith park boundaries than projects based within the National Park. This may be due to some of the main centres of population not lying within the National Park. It could also be recommended to prioritise projects based within the National Park, but this may lead to communities in urban areas such as Haverfordwest or Pembroke Dock missing out on carbon reduction opportunities.