SDF GRANT ASSESSMENT PANEL

22nd February 2012

**REPORT OF SDF ADMINISTRATOR**

**SUBJECT: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FUND UPDATE REPORT**

## Background

The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) is a Welsh Government (WG) initiative to develop innovative sustainable projects that develop and test new ways of achieving a more sustainable living for current and future generations. The funding is to support projects that focus on demonstrating practical solutions relevant to environmental, social, cultural and economic aspects of life. Projects can range from locally based to those applying across the National Park or a wider area.

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) is responsible for administering the SDF scheme, according to the operational guidelines stipulated by the WG.

The independent SDF Assessment Panel meets as required to assess applications for the fund. The Panel make recommendations on the applications to the National Park Authority Chief Executive and also monitor and review progress. The final decision on applications is made by the Chief Executive.

## Meeting 22nd February 2012

**Two applications, which were presented at the last SDF Assessment Panel meeting in November 2011, have been re-submitted for further consideration:**

**SDF 0315 – Martletwy Sustainable Community Project (LMN 2000)**

This application was deferred in November 2011 in order to give the applicant the opportunity to:

* Better demonstrate wider community support
* Obtain a better understanding of the process for allocating affordable homes to local people and liaise with other relevant agencies
* Obtain quotations from other consultants
* Explore the possibility of working with PLANED to secure Rural Development Fund Axis 4 funding.

In response to the above you will have received a letter and other supporting documentation to assist with reconsideration of the proposal. Funding is sought this financial year 2011/12.

Please note that unusually the applicant is seeking funding at a 90% intervention rate. WG Operational Guidance on this matter states that *“Grant rates will normally be set at 50%, plus an appropriate element for overheads (10%), but for voluntary and community groups, this can be up to 75%, with 100% funding available in exceptional circumstances. Such circumstances would be, for example, where a project fully met the objectives of the scheme but the applicant had no other means of securing resources for the project, therefore without 100% funding from SDF the project would not proceed”.*

**SDF 0312 – Low Carbon Cook-Off (Eco Centre Wales)**

This application was refused in November 2011 because:

* The overall project costs were considered too high
* For the stated outputs the project did not show value for money
* There was insufficient evidence of long term economic sustainability
* A number of the outcomes were felt to be unquantifiable
* The amount of funding for administration and overheads was considered too great

The project has been amended in light of the above. Documentation to support the re-submission and detailing the changes to the project from the original proposal has been provided. Funding is now sought for eighteen months over two financial years (2012/13 and 2013/14).

**There are also six new applications for consideration:**

**SDF 0316** – Wise up on Waste (Darwin Centre)

This two year project seeks funding to develop and deliver a new education programme. Funding is sought in financial years 2012/13 and 2013/14.

**SDF 0317** – Green Apple Cross (Green Apple Cross)

This project seeks funding in the financial year 2012/13 to construct an all access compost toilet and re-cover a twin- span polytunnel essential to facilitate use of the site as an educational resource/outdoor classroom

**SDF 0318** – Guide to Sustainable Tourism in the PCNP (Greentraveller Ltd.)

This project seeks funding in the 2012/13 financial year to create a dedicated section on the greentraveller.co.uk website, which will provide comprehensive information on ‘Sustainable tourism in the PCNP’.

**SDF 0319** – ReFarm (Eco Centre Wales)

This two year project will support a renewable energy technical officer to give independent and impartial technical advice to farmers. Funding is sought in financial years 2012/13 and 2013/14.

**SDF 0320** – Woodlands and Wetlands Project Manager (Pembroke 21C, CIC)

This project seeks funding for three years to support a Project Manager to run and further develop a project called “Training in skills for the management and maintenance of woodland and wetland habitats”. Funding is required for three financial years, 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15).

**SDF 0321** – Mobile Application and Integrated Web Interface for Recording Dragonflies (West Wales Biodiversity Information Centre)

This project seeks funding in the financial year 2011/12 to create an integrated mobile recording application and website interface for dragon flies and also to make this available to volunteer recorders.

Project summaries of the eight applications above, together with the full applications and supporting documentation are provided in the meeting pack.

## Notification of a new Project Delay

**SDF 0313 – Newport Community Energy Project**

Following SDF approval in November 2011, Newport Memorial Hall was unsuccessful in attempts to secure match funding for their project from ‘Energyshare’ and the ‘LEAF’ fund and are now unable to submit further funding applications for a decision before the end of the financial year. Also, unfortunately due to the reduction in the Feed-in-Tariff and the fact that there is still considerable uncertainty because the UK government has confirmed it is to take its appeal against the ruling that its decision to cut solar feed-in tariff (FITs) before the end of a consultation period was unlawful to the Supreme Court, the hall is no longer able to use their back-up position of a loan to fund the photo-voltaic panels.

As a result of the above factors the SDF Administrator has therefore been notified of a fundamental change to the project. A local private investor has provided the capital for a 10kwh array as opposed to the 17KWh array originally proposed. The reduction in size is in response to the increased risk but this gesture will still allow the hall to develop in a sustainable way. Community groups using the hall will benefit from free electricity and after finalising the details, the investor will reinvest some of the feed in tariff into ‘green’ community projects. Initial discussions have indicated that the sums for reinvestment are estimated to be between £300 and £1800 per annum depending upon the tariff rate. This will allow the scheme to commence, whilst the outcome of further funding applications and full planning permission are awaited. A thorough revised financial profile has been submitted as summarised below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Original approved Project** | **Revised Project** |
| **Total Project Value** | £131,744 | £87,587 |
| **Cash expenditure** | £129,994 | £81,554 |
| **SDF funding** | £54,727 | £47,158 |
| **Other cash funding** | £75,267 | £34,396 |
| **In-kind contributions** | £1,750 | £6,033 |
| **Intervention rate** | 42% | 55%\* |

\* (53% including other sources of direct treasury funding)

It is proposed that we continue to support this project which will still deliver community benefit. The amount of SDF funding required is now slightly less than originally approved but the intervention rate has increased to above 50%. SDF operation guidelines permit the normal rate of 50% to be increased up to 75% for voluntary and community groups, which therefore does allow continued support despite the enforced changes. Any project funded in excess of the 50% intervention rate has to be reported to the WG, but based on the uncertainties still surrounding the Feed-in-Tariff and the possibility that the project may yet be successful in securing additional funding, the increased rate can be confidently justified. It is however now increasingly unlikely that it will be possible to pay the SDF funding this financial year as originally allocated which will have obvious implications for the end of the financial year SDF balance.

## Update on significantly delayed Wildfuels project

**SDF 0296 – Wildfuels (Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales (WTSWW))**

Wildfuels should originally have been completed by March 2010 but project commencement was initially delayed, because despite a feasibility study suggesting otherwise, biomass boiler manufacturers would not guarantee that their boilers would run primarily on chipped reed. After encountering great technological difficulty chipping reed cut from the marshes, a successful trial burn was carried out and a suitable boiler sourced. Further delays were then incurred because the original match funding identified for the project was lost due to the time elapsed and increased costs. An alternative source of match funding was then sought from the Forestry Commission Wood Energy Business Scheme (WEBS) grant but there were yet further complications because if the WTSWW were to take advantage of the anticipated Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) payments it would not be possible for them to receive grants and claim RHI. Following considerable research and development the project was then revised so that it could go ahead in 2011/12 once the RHI was formally launched. The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was planning to launch the scheme for non-domestic generators on 30th September 2011 but unfortunately this did not happen because state aid approval from the European Commission is still outstanding. In light of this fact and the prospect of yet further delay the WTSWW decided to proceed with the project without relying on being able to claim RHI. This means that the project has finally commenced. Conservation reed cuts have taken place on the Ritec Fen, Newport Estuary and Teifi marshes, a planning application has been submitted for the pole barn and a chipper to chip the reed purchased. They also hope to be able to resurrect their WEBS funding application.

Total Project Value £134,610 revised to £168,600 then revised to £101,000

SDF Grant £56,000 revised to £54,000

Paid to date £19,802

## Update on Revised People’s Power Station Project

**SDF 0298 – The People’s Power Station (Eco Centre Wales (ECW))**

The People's Power Station (PPS) is a three-year project set up to assist up to four communities with the installation of community owned and community scale renewable energy systems within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. Two particular community projects were progressing towards installation of renewable technology in 2011 and 2012, one of which had SDF money already committed towards their capital spend under the De Minimus Regulation of State Aid law. However, as a result of the Fast Track Feed-in Tariff (FIT) review and the resultant Feed in Tariff Amendment Order 2011, SDF has had to withdraw its financial support to match fund capital expenditure for specific community installations. This unexpected change to the legislative framework has therefore necessitated changes to the project focus in its final year. ECW therefore formally notified us of fundamental changes to the PPS project detailing which of its original objectives it would not be able to fully deliver and how they would divert further work to advice, assistance and information sharing only. They would also extend this to include the farming community to undertake a six month trial for a potential future project called ‘ReFarm’ that would aid and encourage farmers and landowners to explore the possibilities of renewable energy systems. It was decided that it was still worthwhile to provide support for the final year of the project which is due to end in March 2012 as there is still a need and valuable contribution for impartial advice, feasibility studies, environmental assessments and knowledge transfer relating to community scale renewable energy technologies. Experience from working with the two communities from which financial support has been withdrawn will also provide very good case study and best practice material for the benefit of similar community projects. A revised financial profile was provided as detailed below. £25,000 of SDF funding committed for match funding capital installation in 2011/12 was uncommitted and the £25,000 paid to ECW for the capital installation agreed in 2010/11 has been repaid.

Total Project Value £253,823

Revised Total Project Value £153,822.86

SDF Grant Approved (over 3 financial years) £144,126

Revised SDF Grant (total over 3 years) £94,126.21

SDF Funding repaid £25,000

SDF grant Paid to date £68,720.78

## Implications of the change to SDF funding allocation from WG

£1.2 million in Sustainable Development Funding has been committed to the National Parks and £700,000 to the AONBs in the 2012/13 and 2013/14 financial years. In addition a change in administration of the fund was agreed which means that for the next two financial years PCNPA will be allocated £200,000 in their revenue grants, which will be ring fenced to support SDF projects. Other SDF administration costs will have to be funded from PCNPA grant. To date SDF money has been drawn down from the WG at the start of each financial quarter based upon the estimated cashflow expenditure of approved projects.

The SDF Administrator is meeting the Monitoring Officer and Democratic Services Manager on 21st February 2012, to discuss any implications that this significant change may have on administration of the SDF, including financial procedure, governance, transparency, accountability and membership and role of the Assessment Panel.

## SDF Financial position

The table below gives a summary financial position to date for this (2011-12) financial year:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **2011/12****(£)** |
| WAG SDF grant | 208,000 |
| Funding carried forward from 10/11 | 95,688.86 |
| Committed to projects  | 135,229.75 |
| Small Grant (Little Green Grant) commitment | 6,000 |
| SDF Admin costs | 37,500 |
| Total committed | 178,729.75 |
| Projects for consideration  | 31,018 |
| Total Potentially committed | 209,747.75 |
| Uncommitted funding | 93,941.11 |

The table shows that there will be £93,941.11 of uncommitted funding at the end of the financial year even if the two of the eight projects for consideration at the Assessment Panel meeting which are requesting funding in the current financial year are approved. This figure also includes £54,727 of funding that was previously allocated to Newport Memorial Hall for spend during the financial year. Please see explanation of project delay and changes above for more information.

This financial year has seen continual financial fluctuation and uncertainty which has had an unavoidable effect upon SDF financial administration. Changes in Government Policy relating to the FIT and RHI and the associated consequences have adversely affected three projects, viz.The People’s Power Station, Wildfuels and Newport Community Energy Project. The high value project Prototype Far Offshore Floating Wind Turbine also terminated during the year because in the end the project was unable to secure the significant shortfall in match funding, or a local construction site (full detail was provided in Nov 2011 SDF update report).The figures presented have taken into account all money previously committed that has subsequently been repaid and any revised project financial forecasts.

SDF funding has been confirmed for the next two financial years (2012/13 and 2013/14), which means that sufficient funding will be available if the five applications seeking funding in these years receive approval. One project is also seeking funding into the 2014/15 financial year but to date no SDF funding has been guaranteed this far in advance. If this project is to receive approval for three years including 2014/15 it would have to be subject to the availability of funding for the final year.

54% of revised funding commitments for this financial year have been paid out to date.

A more detailed breakdown of the current financial position can be viewed in Annex 1

## Little Green Grant – Funding for a sustainable Pembrokeshire

The **Little Green Grant (LGG)** helps to deliver the fundamental principles of the SDF. Applicants may apply for up to £1,500 towards a project. The grant is administered by Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services (PAVS).

Nine applications have been received and considered to date for funding in 2011/12. Five have been approved, one deferred, one withdrawn and two rejected.

A summary of LGG finances is provided in the table below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2010/11** | **2011/12** |
| **Committed to PAVS for LGG Projects** | £4,500.00 | £6,000.00 |
| **Money committed to approved projects** | £4,500.00 |  £5661.95 |
| **Balance** | £1,500.00 |  £338.05 |

There is one more deadline for LGG applications before the end of the financial year on February 17th 2012. Applications submitted will be considered on 6th March 2012. If the funding requested and approved exceeds the £338.05 that remains of the allocated £6000 of funding it will be possible to transfer additional SDF money from the large surplus remaining in the main fund. The PAVS Development Officer has been advised of this fact so that any eligible applications received can be considered.

Summary detail of approved projects can be found at the end of Annex 2.

## Provisional Dates for Future SDF Assessment Panel Meetings

11th July 2012 Morning

3rd October 2012 Afternoon

16th January 2013 Morning

24th April 2013 Morning

### Annex 1



## Annex 2

# Sustainable Development Fund

# Project Summaries

### SDF 0292 – Coastal Connections Pembrokeshire

This three year project is run by The Darwin Centre based at Pembrokeshire College and commenced in April 2009. It has developed new course material and is delivering an education programme to primary schools, and hard to reach socially disadvantaged/ excluded groups in Pembrokeshire. Their aim is for the programme to build upon and extend the Darwin Centre’s already successful education programme. A field based programme using the windy nature of Pembrokeshire & extraction of water from the Cleddau provided the initial context for sustainability issues. Workshops are being delivered as planned, which was for around 300 participants per annum to visit either of two sites; Cleddau River or Sand Dunes. The Darwin Centre started working with United Utilities to deliver the programme on the topic of sustainable water resources but unfortunately the Cleddau river site although used initially has now been substituted with an alternative site at Carew Tidal Mill. This was because Bolton Hill Water Treatment Works had to be closed to members of the public because of H&S issues. Carew Tidal Mill is an excellent substitute venue for studying issues relating to renewable energy.

To date more than 21 primary school workshops and 16 workshops to groups outside primary education have taken place. The workshops content has been modified slightly in response to course feedback. Evaluation comments from those attending the workshops are very positive. Two radio interviews promoting the work of the Darwin Centre and recognising their funders have also been broadcast since project commencement.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £26,483.74 | £13,230 | £10,084 |

### SDF 0298 The People’s Power Station

The People's Power Station (PPS) is a three-year project funded by SDF and delivered by The Eco Centre Wales (ECW), to assist up to four communities with the installation of community owned and community scale renewable energy systems within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. To achieve this outcome ECW has been working with specific community groups to encourage and facilitate their transition towards more sustainable futures, ensuring that they are better prepared for the impacts that climate change and future energy supply issues will present to them. ECW are providing community groups with comprehensive free professional impartial advice and assistance. They also seek, identify, and as necessary help to secure additional match funding for community energy projects. In addition they provide a consultancy service, including resource assessments and feasibility studies. Project time has also been spent undertaking research and developing tools to assist when giving advice to community groups. The project was launched in November 2009 and to date two projects in particular were progressing towards installation of renewable technology in 2011 and 2012. One of these community projects already had SDF funding committed towards their capital spend under the De Minimus Regulation of State Aid law. The project has however suffered a major setback because as a result of the Fast Track Feed-in Tariff (FIT) review and the resultant Feed in Tariff Amendment Order 2011, SDF has had to withdraw its financial support to match fund capital expenditure for specific community installations. This unexpected change to the legislative framework has therefore necessitated changes to the project focus in its final year. ECW therefore formally notified us of fundamental changes to the PPS project detailing which of its original objectives it would not be able to fully deliver and how they would divert further work to advice, assistance and information sharing only. They would also extend this to include the farming community to undertake a six month trial for a potential future project called ‘ReFarm’, that would aid and encourage farmers and landowners to explore the possibilities of renewable energy systems. It was decided that it was still worthwhile to provide support for the final year of the project which is due to end in March 2012 as there is still a need and valuable contribution for impartial advice, feasibility studies, environmental assessments and knowledge transfer relating to community scale renewable energy technologies. Experience from working with the two communities from which financial support has been withdrawn will also provide very good case study and best practice material for the benefit of similar community projects. A revised financial profile was provided as detailed below. £25,000 of SDF funding committed for match funding capital installation in 2011/12 was uncommitted and the £25,000 paid to ECW for the capital installation agreed in 2010/11 has been repaid. There is also an underspend against originally estimated project revenue costs.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Original Total Project Value** | **Revised total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **Revised SDF Grant** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £253,822.86 | £153,822.86 | £144,126.21 | £94,126.21 | £ 68,720.78 |

**SDF 0303 - Stackpole Gardens Centre**

Pembrokeshire Mencap Ltd lease six acres of historic walled gardens from the National Trust Estate in Stackpole. Using the site Mencap provide work experience and hortiicultural training to local adults and young people with learning difficulties. A huge variety of plants, fruit and vegetables are grown and sold in their garden shop. In July 2011 Pembrokeshire Mencap Ltd held a very successful open day at the gardens. In addition to showcasing the gardens and achievements of all involved they also promoted their exciting new project.

Within their 6 acre walled garden at Stackpole, Pembrokeshire Mencap will use SDF funding towards the construction of a sustainable new building. The building will provide a focal point, serving as a new shop, office, community space, tea room and kitchen. It will provide a valuable facility where locally grown produce and plants can be purchased, advice and training given, and environmentally sensitive forms of building construction, heating and water use be demonstrated to adults, students with learning difficulties and visitors to the gardens. It will also allow for the development of a new course for prospective students interested in catering and retail services.

The building will be constructed over two years, using straw bales with lime based rendering and other traditional building materials. It will also incorporate sustainable technologies. To date considerable planning and consultancy work has taken place and with the aid of Princes Trust Volunteers a new access track and car park were completed to a standard acceptable for the contractors to use. This meant that the base slab, timber frame and temporary roof for the new building has also now been completed. Services to the site are in place and tenders for the drainage work have gone out.

In October 2011 Pembrokeshire Mencap were awarded additional match funding by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and WEFO. The total project costs have therefore increased.

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| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £350,120 | £100,410 | £28,562 |

## SDF 0308 – Training Skills for the Management of Woodland and Wetland Habitats

Pembroke 21C is undertaking a project to train local people in traditional land and woodland management skills, whilst also benefiting the local environment by creating and enhancing important habitats and increasing biodiversity. The project also provides opportunities for volunteering and employment and will raise revenue for the benefit of the community. Training and management activities are taking place on two sites close to the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park boundary at Hentland Farm near Pwllcrochan and the National Trusts Kingsmill woodland close to Castlemartin.

Their aim is to train four people as trainers in land and woodland management and Pembroke 21C have worked with local organisations in and around the National Park to identify and recruit local candidates for training. They will also work to achieve OCN accreditation with the aim of employing a small number of the qualified trainees to work as part of a team to improve and manage woodland and wetland projects across South Pembroke.

SDF funding is contributing towards the costs of the trainers, Health and Safety equipment, Personal Protective Equipment, tools and eqipment hire associated with both the training and work at the sites, minibuses to transport trainees to the sites and signing and translation costs.

The intended project outcomes include:

• New habitat created at Hentland through the planting of short rotation willow and hazel coppice to be used for environmental projects such as river bank stabilisation, as well as a buffer zone of broadleaf woodland

• Improved woodland at Kingsmill by thinning the woodland, clearing and laying paths and bridges, which will be available for the local community to use and enjoy

• Improvements in biodiversity contributing towards the Local Biodiversity Action Plans

• Guided walks and talks on both projects for the general public to increase their understanding of the local environment

• An accredited training progamme in wetland and woodland management skills for local people

• Increased employment and volunteering opportunities in the National Park

• A team of skilled people to carry out and manage similar projects in the National Park area of South Pembrokeshire

• Increased revenue to sustain these and to develop other projects in the area

• Greater access to and enjoyment of areas of the National Park previously inaccessible

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £81,059 | £9,977 | £0.00 |

## SDF 0314 – Ty Unnos Development of Building Components from Low Grade Timber

Coed Cymru secured SDF support towards the development of a homegrown cross laminated timber panel which will form part of the platform of components comprising the Ty Unnos housing system but will also be a product in its own right. Cross laminated timber involves taking short lengths of timber and laminating them together to form panels for construction. The project aims to bring to market low value homegrown timber in high value construction applications by helping to deliver affordable, sustainable housing and other buildings. The funding is being used to address the main research, development and testing requirements. This project is a progression from the successful outcome of work to date, including that previously supported by SDF to achieve technical certification for box and ladder beams components of the housing system and demonstrating the new, innovative approach to building low cost, high performance eco housing with Welsh materials.

Coed Cymru have identified a potential system of manufacture which could increase the viability of the product for businesses in Wales, and businesses in Pembrokeshire already engaged through previous developmental and demonstration work linked to the Ty Unnos system are ideally placed to take this forward. Immediate aims will be to replace Oriented Strand Board (OSB) completely in the Ty Unnos system but also to bring to market cross laminated timber as a product in its own right with wide application. Increasing the use of homegrown timber in construction will lead to more localised processing and conversion. Working with the Pembrokeshire Timber Store, whose remit is to bring timber from local woodlands into the supply chain involving private sector contractors and businesses, will ensure that the benefits of the project extend back into local woodlands through an already established channel.

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| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £120,000 | £60,000 | £ 0.00 |

## Delayed Projects

The following projects are still active projects but have been delayed for various reasons as described below:-

### SDF 0296 – Wild Fuels

The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales (WTSWW) was awarded Sustainable Development Funding for conservation and capital costs to compliment the installation of a biomass boiler at their Wildlife Centre in Cilgerran. Improved access for machinery at a number of wetland sites, both within and outside the National Park, is necessary for appropriate conservation management, which will ensure greater biodiversity across these sites and assist in meeting Local Biodiversity Action Plan commitments.

‘Wildfuels’ will demonstrate that wetlands, traditionally seen as a nuisance and drained by landowners can have an economic as well as biodiversity value: in this case providing a valuable energy crop and building material. The public will be able to see how 'conservation-cuts' of reed benefit both the environment in general and the local wildlife. Other capital costs include the provision of a chipper to chip the reed and waste wood to a suitable size for the biomass boiler and a pole barn to store this material and allow it to dry before being chipped.

Project commencement was initially delayed due to difficulties in finding a company that could provide a biomass boiler with a guarantee that it will run primarily on chipped reed. The feasibility study suggested there would be a number of possibilities but following much research and communication a potential boiler (Austrian “Guntamatic – Powerchip 100”) was identified. A trial burn using reed that was cut from the marshes proved successful but there were further delays as it proved difficult to find machinery suitable for chipping the reed. Unfortunately this process took so long that project costs increased and the match funding for the project was then not secured. An alternative source of match funding was then sought from the Forestry Commission WEBS grant but there were yet further complications because if the WTSWW were to take advantage of the anticipated Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) payments it would not be possible for them to receive grants and claim RHI. Following considerable research and development the project was then revised so that it could go ahead in 2011/12 once the RHI was formally launched. The revised project has been reduced from three years to one year and will remove grant funding towards the capital biomass boiler installation which will allow WTSWW to claim RHI payments.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was planning to launch the scheme for non-domestic generators on 30th September 2011 but unfortunately this did not happen because state aid approval from the European Commission is still outstanding. In light of this fact and the prospect of yet further delay the WTSWW decided to proceed with the project without relying on being able to claim RHI. This means that the project has finally commenced. Conservation reed cuts have taken place on the Ritec Fen, Newport Estuary and Teifi marshes, a planning application has been submitted for the pole barn and a chipper to chip the reed purchased. They also hope to be able to resurrect their WEBS funding application.

This means that they will commence installing the boiler and resubmitting the planning application for the pole barn and biomass boiler container.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Original Total Project Value** | **Revised Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **Revised SDF Grant** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £134,610 | £101,000 | £56,000 | £54,000 | £19,802  |

### SDF 0299 At home in the Park

The aim of this project was to produce a unique and innovative online DVD promoting small-scale building development, sustainable design and best practice in land-use planning and building conservation in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (PCNP). This has been achieved by documenting the sensitive restoration progress of ‘Philbeach’, a traditional farmhouse, built more than 500 years ago and on the brink of collapse but now a beautiful family home. The resulting film *‘At Home in the Park’,* which is comprised of six short (2 minute) instalments*,* very successfully shows how our National Park Planning Service can help people to restore old buildings sensitively and sustainably, combining traditional methods and materials with energy-saving measures such as solar panels and ground-source heat pumps. It also helps to dispel some myths about planning regulations and reinforces the message that building conservation is important to our landscape and our heritage.

Due to the very cold weather and prolonged period of snow and freezing conditions experienced over two consecutive winters, progress on the building site was severly delayed which consequently delayed the filming. But two years on the six short films can now all be viewed in the U-Tube section of PCNPA website <http://www.youtube.com/user/pcnpa2008>.

The voiceover for the films has been provided by Griff Rhys Jones, who also worked with PCNP during the renovation of his north Pembrokeshire home which featured in his own televised renovation series called “Return to A Pembrokeshire Farm”.

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) propose to use this media to raise the profile of their role as a Planning Authority and highlight best practice in land-use planning, building conservation and renewable energy installation in the PCNP. The final project report and final claim will be complete by the end of the financial year.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £6000 | £2,741 | £2,414  |

## SDF 0313 – Newport Community Energy Project: Hall Fit for Future: Reducing Energy Use

Newport Community Energy Project’s (NCEP) aim is to renovate the much used but energy out-dated Newport Memorial Hall, so that it is a model of reduced energy consumption with users taking part in conscious energy management. Initial calculations from a recently completed energy audit indicate that savings of up to 50% of current carbon dioxide emissions from energy used in the Hall may be achievable. To achieve this aim NCEP have teamed up with Newport Area Environment Group (NAEG) and the Eco Centre Wales (ECW) to help deliver this three part project which comprises of saving energy through insulation and low energy lighting, generating renewable energy by installing photovoltaic panels and instituting a behaviour change and education programme to transform awareness and energy use patterns. SDF funding will contribute towards insulating the building and will also contribute through the Little Green Grant (LGG) Fund towards the behaviour change and education element. The original intention was that Feed-in Tariff from pv panels will be used to part finance future green community projects for the next 25 years but NCEP have unfortunately been unable to secure match funding from planned sources. This fact together with continued uncertainty over the rate of Feed-in-Tariff has resulted in a fundamental change to the project and a delay starting the work. A local private investor has provided the capital for a 10kwh array as opposed to the 17KWh array originally proposed. The reduction in size is in response to the increased risk but this gesture will still allow the hall to develop in a sustainable way. Community groups using the hall will still benefit from free electricity and after finalising the details, the investor will reinvest some of the feed in tariff into ‘green’ community projects. The sum reinvested per annum will be dependent upon the level of feed-in-tariff payable. In the future, once the green renovations of the hall have been achieved NCEP plan to set up a “Green Hub” i.e. an office, showcase and cooperation centre for a number of small businesses which currently work from home and would benefit from linking to each other and to the social networks using the hall.

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| **Original Total Project Value** | **Revised total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **Revised SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £131,744 | £87,587 | £54,727 | £47,158 | £0.00  |

## Little Green Grant Projects

The following projects received SDF funding from the Little Green Grant (LGG):-

## LG - 03 Caerhys Organic Community Agriculture

Applicant: Caerhys Organic Community Agriculture

Funding: £1,500

Caerhys Organic Community Agriculture was set up in response to issues of food security, the importance of organic production and its role in supporting and ensuring biodiversity and the decline in the viability of local producers, which were issues recognised in various local action plans. The Community Agriculture Group was set up to provide affordable organic locally grown produce to members of the scheme, which is open for all to join. The scheme also provides stable employment for local farmers and aims to reintroduce a relationship and direct link between grower and consumer and also between communities and the land and food. The scheme also encourages biodiversity, removes the need for packaging and reduces food miles and the relevant aspect of the local areas collective carbon and ecological footprint. Residents of the community pay a membership and monthly amount for produce and also contribute to the work involved in growing the produce and in return the harvest is equally shared between them. Funds raised through membership, affords a fair and realistic wage for the farmer and ensures a stable and direct market. No profits are intended other than creating enough to provide for seed stock etc for the following season and ongoing running costs. The funding will be used to purchase a polytunnel that is necessary to extend the growing season, for more secure cultivation of seedlings and growing space for vulnerable crops. Also for tools necessary for members and volunteers so that they can help with growing and weeding work

## LG – 05 Our Trees Our Future

Applicant: PCNPA

Funding: £1,500

The funding will be used to support a schools project called “Our Trees Our Future”, which will allow ten schools in Pembrokeshire to plant local varieties of fruit and nut trees in their school grounds in conjunction with a supporting classroom session and a visit to a woodland within the PCNP. The wider community will also be encouraged to be involved in the tree planting session and follow up maintenance of the trees. Children will have their own trees and become tree stewards, recording and photographing their tree over one school year in a scrapbook, which they will pass down to another child at the end of the year. The tree planting will act as a catalyst to study the wider benefits of growing local varieties of trees, producing local food and reducing food miles, increasing biodiversity and increasing woodland cover. The schools will also be given the opportunity to have a follow up visit to a woodland in the National Park or the National Park Timber Centre to look at the sustainable management of woodlands or visit the National Park orchard in St Brides to have apple tasting and juice making sessions or to do a bushcraft activity in a local woodland.

## LG – 11 Eradication of Himalayan Balsam

Applicant: Cymdeithas Llandudoch (St Dogmaels Community Association)

Funding: £1,500

Survey work revealed that in 2010 along the length of Cippyn stream, 21,500 sq metres of land was affected by the invasive plant Himalayan Balsam. Little Green Grant funding was secured to assist the Cymdeithas Llandudoch’s Himalayan Balsam Eradication Group to coordinate a team of local volunteers to work in conjunction with landowners to remove the Himalayan Balsam. The lower reaches of the stream affected and the marshland is situated in a designated “site of special scientific interest” (SSSI). The group is being assisted by PCNPA Rangers particularly in areas of growth that are more difficult to access. This work also links to the groups successful on-going Japanese knotweed eradication programme which has been operating for four years to date.

## LG – 13 Green Dragon Fuel

Applicant: Buddy Hot Pot

Funding: £500

The company which provides renewable fuels from UK farm Cooperative grown rape was awarded LGG money to undertake research to establish the full extent of the demand or requirement for Pure Plant Oil (PPO) or Straight Vegetable Oil (SVO) as a renewable energy source in Pembrokeshire. The project will establish the number and location of present users, intended new users, plus new distribution points. The aim is also to establish a new software management system to ensure that the supply of PPO is managed according to the requirements of the HMRC Guidelines.

## LG – 15 Pembrokeshire Cycle Tours

Applicant: Pembrokeshire Cycle Tours - Joseph Sutherland

Funding: £837

A pedicab/rickshaw operated by Pembrokeshire Cycle Tours offers locals and visitors to St Davids a sustainable transport alternative for short journeys around the city. LGG funding was awarded towards the costs of promotional literature and a website template in order to increase the uptake of the service. The provision of sustainable short journey transport allows residents and visitors, for whom mobility is an issue, to engage in activities from which they would otherwise be excluded, such as visiting the cathedral and other points of interest. It also enables the elderly to maintain a degree of independence by being able to access the local shops. The pedicab/rickshaw operates out of the car park at Oriel y Parc and adopts an inclusive “Pay what you think the journey is worth” tariff.

## LG – 18 Newport Memorial Hall

Applicant: Newport Memorial Hall – Siobhan Ashe

Funding: £1,324.95

Newport Memorial Hall, run by a voluntary management committee, is working with Newport Area and Environment Group and Eco Centre Wales on the Newport Community Energy Project. The overall project includes sustainable renovation of the hall in conjunction with a comprehensive education programme, in order to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and lessen the impact of ever increasing energy costs. LGG funding will contribute towards the education and fostering behaviour change element of the project. This will include an informative energy display in the entrance of the building, education events for local school children and a programme of climate change talks, events and activities open to the community. An energy monitor and smart meter will show the amount of energy generated by the photovoltaic panels and how much energy is being used in the hall at any one time and these will be the focus of the display.

## LG - 21 Caerhys Organic Community Agriculture(COCA)

Applicant: Caerhys Organic Community Agriculture

Funding: £1,500

COCA scheme helps our members to live and eat well in an organic & sustainable way by providing local, organic freshly-harvested vegetables direct from the farm. The scheme also provides stable employment for local farmers and aims to reintroduce a relationship and direct link between grower and consumer and also between communities and the land and food. It encourages biodiversity, removes the need for packaging, reduces food miles and the relevant aspect of the local areas collective carbon and ecological footprint. Previously the group received LGG support to purchase tools and a polytunnel but has been awarded additional support to contribute towards the costs of public liability insurance, the purchase of potato crates and volunteer co-ordination sessions. The insurance will cover volunteers, members and learners whilst working at the site. The potato crates are essential for storage of the potato harvest and seed crop potatoes and the farmer will undertake eleven sessions for volunteers.