



delivering sustainable breathing spaces

Over the past year, despite global economic uncertainty, the Sustainable Development Fund continued to enable communities within Wales to develop sustainably. The fund acted as a source of much needed financial assistance, with one eye on the future. By doing so the fund is building upon the solid foundations reported by the evaluation of SDF in 2007, the National Park communities of the future will be more sustainable, more resilient and able to adapt to the challenges set by climate change.

funded spaces

Within the National Parks in Wales SDF continues to offer important opportunities for drawing in additional funding to support sustainable projects. Projects in receipt of SDF funding

benefit from the "multiplier" effect whereby the relative small sum provided by the fund attracts funding from additional sources. National Park SDF funded projects across Wales are able to lever in on average an extra £4 for every £1 in funding. Taken over all this works out in the region of an additional £1.7 million in financial contributions and in-kind support within the National Parks. To date, the Brecon Beacons National Park has attracted an additional £6.4 million.

The investment drawn into the National Parks supports sustainable jobs within local communities. Latest figures suggest that the Fund continues to generate full and part time employment within National Parks beyond the lifetime of the project.

working spaces

Over the lifetime of the CAE/SDF programme within Snowdonia, approximately 51 full time and 34 part time posts have been created.

Cymdeithas Awdurdodau
Parciau Cenedlaethol Cymru

Welsh Association of
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SDF case studies: the Brecon Beacons

Wye and Usk Foundation

Overall Project Costs: £1,100,000

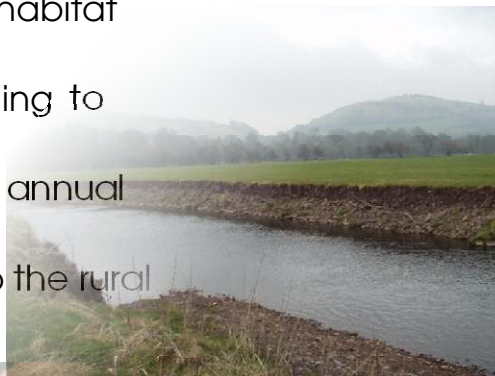
SDF Contribution: £65,000 in three tranches

The main aim of the project was to restore the Usk as a premier salmon and trout fishery and over time to set up a fully sustainable system whereby the fishery funds the maintenance of the ecosystem. During the initial phase, with 5 local jobs created, the achievements included:

- Improved fish access at 19 locations, opening up 127km of river
- 40km of degraded stream habitat restored
- A passport scheme for fishing to generate ongoing income
- 64% overnight stay and 86% annual repeat by anglers
- Adding an extra £400,000 to the rural economy

The Wye and Usk Foundation works with local farming communities on upland tributaries to gain income and capital value from wildlife habitats supporting restored trout populations. Tried and tested methods of fencing off strategic sections of each river and undertaking coppicing and woodland management are utilised. The pictures below show the recovery, courtesy of the project.

The sustainable benefit to the national Park has been estimated to be £167, 400 which will be assessed at the end of the project.





NATIONAL PARKS WALES
Britain's breathing spaces

Brecon Beacons National Park Renewable Energy Assistance Programme (REAP)

Overall Project Costs: £203,171
SDF Contribution: £22,938

REAP is an information and advice giving initiative to assist the development of renewable energy installations and initiatives. This scheme has been critical in getting small scale renewable energy installations installed across the National Park

Installations have included 20 solar hot water systems, 3 wind turbines, 4 ground source heat pumps and 4 biomass boilers and 4 small scale hydros

Small scale hydro is a major ambition. In 2005 there was 1, 2006 there were 2 and by 2008 there were 10. Only one of the hydros would have been installed without the advice and financial assistance provided by REAP. 7 hydros have now been built in the last 18 months and 5 more are currently being built. 17 new hydros are at the design stage and over 100 other potential sites have been surveyed.

Future plans include:

- Focusing upon using the Sustainable Design Guide to influence the development of new-build housing
- Developing small-scale renewables as a career
- Influencing local development plans
- Assisting other local authorities to develop similar projects.



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SDF case studies: the Pembrokeshire Coast

Pembrokeshire Plant Oil for Transport (PPOT) Phase II



Overall Project Costs: £148,204
SDF Contribution: £51,981

Veg Oil Motoring, based in North Pembrokeshire secured SDF money to fund 50% of the costs for converting vehicle diesel engines to run on straight vegetable oil (SVO). Over the three year project three people have been employed. Each converted vehicle has a bilingual sign to indicate they have been converted to run on SVO in order to promote awareness of the renewable, carbon neutral fuel.

Veg. Oil Motoring has achieved successes, way beyond the original project remit:

- The production of 25, 864 litres of SVO from waste cooking oil.
- 77.6 tonnes of CO₂ saved.
- 48 vehicles and one generator were converted.
- Awareness raising and training events were held, 42 in total
- The initiative attracted media attention.
- Influenced Government thinking; resulting in the removal of duty on those producing less than 2500 litres of SVO per annum.

Alternative Fuelled Minibus

PPOT and SDF also contributed to the purchase, conversion and running of the Preseli Rural Transport Association Bus with a grant of £11,065.



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The Lime Centre of West Wales

Overall Project Costs: £49,535

SDF Contribution: £19,491



The Lime Company (TLC) of West Wales aims to inform and educate others in the use of traditional, historic and environmentally friendly building techniques. TLC maintains that if repaired correctly with the traditional materials that they were built from, our older housing stock could function more efficiently and be conserved more effectively.

SDF funding was secured to match fund the development and the launch of a range of training courses by TLC. The courses were aimed to encourage the use of lime and other natural products within the existing and new built environment.

Six training courses were developed and delivered to impart basic knowledge required to conserve an old building. Over the six courses there were 75 attendees. The courses involved class room based lecture sessions, practical workshops and demonstrations and were held at a countryside centre in Pembrokeshire where they were able to use the old solid-walled buildings on site to demonstrate the techniques.

SDF effectively contributed to the setup costs. TLC continue to run these courses for protection of the region's built heritage.



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CAE case studies: Snowdonia

Welsh Institute for Sustainable Education (WISE)

Overall Project Costs: £5,167,034

CAE Contribution: £30,000 over 3 years

The Centre for Alternative technology (CAT) sought funding towards the cost of building WISE, which will be a state of the art building complex for research and development, information transfer and business support.

The building will demonstrate examples of sustainable building and technology for students, visitors and business to draw inspiration and ideas from. The latest technologies, such as building, energy, water, sewage, monitoring and contract management systems will be on interactive display for people to engage with.

At 2105m² the development will include a laboratory, 3 technical workshops, 3 seminar rooms, 200-seat auditorium, new catering facilities and accommodation for 48 people. It will encompass the latest

in innovative sustainable design. Nestled into the edge of the site it will add to the visitor circuit and demonstrate cutting edge sustainable architecture and technology that seeks to be in keeping with the surrounding countryside.

This is a highly ambitious and far-reaching project which has great potential, and may well become one of Wales's national flagship projects with regard to sustainable development. The applicant has excellent levels of support and goodwill from the National Assembly, the University of Wales and numerous other organisations. In addition, the local community is fully supportive and eager for the project to succeed.

In terms of total projects costs, this project represents one of the largest CAE has been asked to support, however, it also represents one of the most high profile and highest scoring projects. The WISE project meets every criteria set out by CAE and enshrines a great deal of what sustainable development entails.

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Ymbarél Barnados

Overall Project Costs: £451,063
CAE Contribution: £30,000

A community based project, Ymbarél Barnados is situated in Blaenau Ffestiniog, with the aim to find innovative ways of breaking the cycle of poverty and deprivation.

The Centre is located in the old Library in the centre of Blaenau Ffestiniog and aims to develop one of the most environmentally friendly buildings in Wales. This is all interpreted and information provided to families on how they can become more sustainable in the home.

The new centre will also create new employment for the area including 9 new childcare staff and two new project workers. Training opportunities such as relevant GNVQ qualifications in Health and Social Care will be encouraged and also opportunities for work placements within the Centre.

BML Biofuel Ltd

Overall Project Costs: £302,250
CAE Contribution: £30,000

BML has set the following objectives:

- Supply haulage companies with a sustainable and cost-effective fuel
- Produce biofuel of a constantly high quality.
- Develop rape seed oil presscake as a high quality feedstuff for local farmers and as a source of alternative solid fuel in the future.
- Purchase rape seed oil from local growers by offering a contract to grow the crop, and facilitate the process to allow growers to claim payment from the European Union for growing energy crops.
- Work closely with the local community to develop job opportunities and to promote the use of the technology.

With the shortage of applications from the private sector to the CAE fund, this is a very good example of an innovative, commercial project which will stand on its own feet financially after receiving initial assistance.



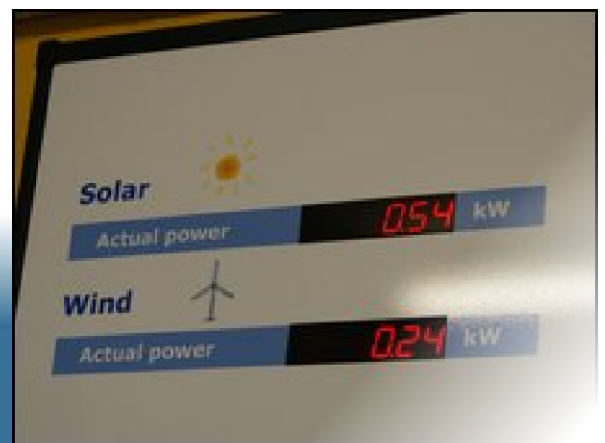


powered spaces

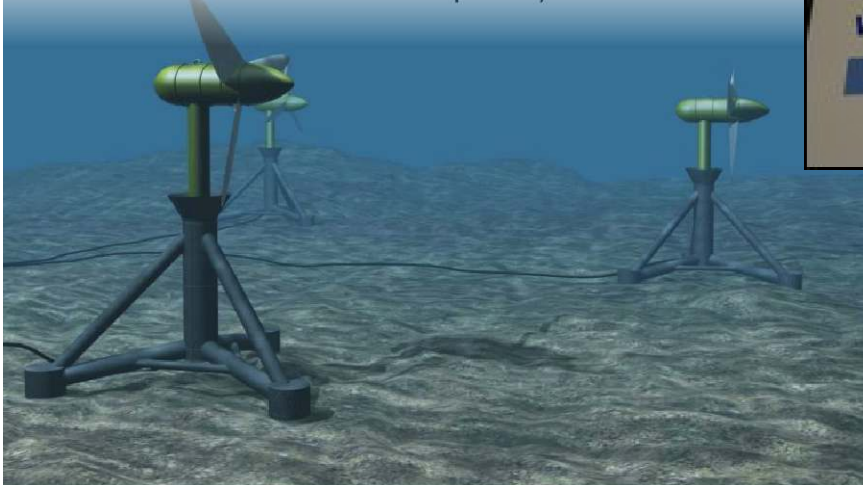
Aware of the onus the Welsh Assembly Government has placed upon renewable energy and the development of future sources. The Sustainable Development Fund has helped communities within National Parks become more self sufficient, more aware of their energy consumption patterns and reduce the overall impact of energy generation on the environment. A wide range of renewable energy schemes have been, and continue to be supported. Funding supported a range of energy-themed initiatives over the past year.



The Green Valleys project in the Brecon Beacons



Solar and wind power generation at Ysgol y Traeth, Barmouth



Tidal power research off the Pembrokeshire Coast





NATIONAL PARKS WALES
Britain's breathing spaces

"The Sustainable Development Fund is a very well regarded scheme that is having an impact in sustainable development terms at the local level and higher in Wales."

BRASS Centre, Cardiff University
SDF Evaluation Report 2007

sustainable spaces

SDF clearly shows the benefits of small-scale local investment for unlocking community potential.

As we move into the tenth year since the fund was created concerns have been raised amongst practitioners and communities that the late confirmation of funding, the continued reduction of grant amount and no clear indication of the longevity of the scheme will impact upon on the quality and quantity of projects supported in the future.

The nationwide recession and associated global economic uncertainty has not left the Fund untouched. However SDF offers an effective mechanism for investing in the development of alternative, sustainable enterprises and practices within National Parks. The lessons learned can be adapted and applied beyond National Park boundaries. The most effective means of future-proofing communities within National Parks and beyond is through the robust, continued support of the

"The Sustainable Development Fund is a Welsh Assembly Government initiative to develop innovative sustainable projects that develop and test new ways of achieving a more sustainable living for current and future generations."

PCNPA SDF Annual Report 2008/09



1949-2009

Deddf Parciau Cenedlaethol
a Mynediad i Gefn Gwlad
National Parks and Access
to the Countryside Act



Parciau Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog, Arfordir Penfro ac Eryri yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth
Brecon Beacons, Pembrokeshire Coast, and Snowdonia National Parks. Working in Partnership.

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