SDF GRANT ASSESSMENT PANEL

23rd November 2011

**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 23rd November 2011

**There is one re-submitted application for consideration:**

SDF 0308 – Training Skills for the Management and Maintenance of Woodland and Wetland Habitats (Pembroke 21C Community Interest Company)

This application has previously been considered by the SDF Assessment Panel in November 2010 and January 2011. Originally the project was rejected because although the Panel were supportive of the overall project objectives, a majority expressed concern over some of the finer project details. Satisfactory greater detail was provided to address the specified concerns but the project was rejected for a second time because there was insufficient uncommitted funding available to support the project in the 2011-12 financial year. At the time it was felt that to refuse, as opposed to approving the project subject to sufficient funding becoming available, was more helpful to the applicant as it gave the opportunity to explore different options for project delivery given the project progress to date. The project has since commenced, with summary detail of work achieved so far provided to support this latest application for funding. The amount of funding now requested is greatly reduced from the original application and is to cover a shortfall in the overall project budget as described in the supporting documentation. The sum requested will be spent this financial year and amounts to 12% of the total project value. The original and new application forms, together with the letters of rejection, two documents containing new supporting information and a revised financial appendix is provided with the paperwork for this meeting.

The project seeks funding in this financial year, 2011/12.

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

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

This project seeks funding for a three year project over four financial years, 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15

SDF 0313 – Newport Community Energy Project: Hall Fit for the Future: Reducing Energy Use (Newport Memorial Hall)

This project seeks funding in this financial year, 2011/12.

Please note that the application and hence the total project cost includes the installation of renewable technology. Guidance sought from WG indicates, that if the application is approved, we could offer SDF funding but the offer would have to clearly state that the funding is not to go towards the cost of photo voltaic installation. By doing this the applicant should still be eligible to apply for the Feed–in-Tariff.

SDF0314 – Development of Building Components for Ty Unnos from Low Grade Timber (Coed Cymru)

This project seeks funding over two financial years, 2011/12 and 2012/13.

SDF 0315 – Martletwy Sustainable Community Project (LMN 2000)

This project seeks funding 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”.*

Detail of the wider project indicates that the proposals fully concur with SDF objectives and the application states that all other sources for funding a full and detailed feasibility have been explored with no success, which means that without SDF funding the project will not be able to proceed.

Project summaries of the five applications above, together with the full applications are provided in the supporting documentation.

## Annual Report to WG 2010/11

The SDF Annual Report, setting out the progress of the Sustainable Development Fund from April 2010 to March 2011 was submitted to WG in August 2011.

During the year, £235,247 of SDF funding was paid to ten out of thirteen approved projects, thereby helping to deliver a variety of sustainability objectives within and around PCNP. Two out of a possible five new project applications were approved and seven projects, all with an intervention rate of less than 50% were completed. One project was cancelled, releasing £83,000 of previously committed funding and three projects, including two large, high value projects were significantly delayed. Even though we only drew down £200,600 of our allocated £216,666 and we supported two new projects in the last financial quarter of the year, the delays and cancellation resulted in a balance surplus of £95,700 at the end of the financial year which was carried forward to honour funding commitments into 2011/12. Reasons for the delays and cancellation included changes to Government policy, bureaucracy, escalating costs and loss of non SDF financial support.

Overall the Sustainable Development Fund contributed 59% of the total cash funding for projects. Further analysis of all project contributions revealed that SDF contributed the greatest percentage at 48% followed by private sources of money at 24% and then private in-kind contributions of 16%. The ratio of levered in funds was 1:1.1, which is slightly less than previous years. In-kind contributions were mainly attributed to personnel time (69%) but also included a variety of other contributions such as materials (13%) and consultancy (11%).

Three ‘Little Green Grants’ were also awarded SDF funding to support projects involving community agriculture, biodiversity and education topics.

Electronic copies of the full report are available by request.

## Scrutiny of SDF

The impact of Sustainable Development funding on the development of low carbon communities was chosen to pilot a scrutiny process established by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA) and PCNPA. The findings of the scrutiny study were reported to the PCNPA Committee in October 2011 and members voted to adopt the recommendations.

Details of eleven projects supported by SDF in PCNP between 2007 and 2010, and which had low carbon communities as an important objective were supplied to the Scrutiny Team. Evidence for scrutiny was gathered from telephone interviews, postal questionnaires, sites visits and interviews set within hearings. This was used in conjunction with a review of secondary evidence from the BRASS (2007) report and the Land Use Consultants (2010) report to complete the study, draw conclusions and make recommendations.

Some of the findings are summarised below:

* detail of the SDF schemes of the BBNPA and PCNPA are visible, with clients of the BBNPA and PCNPA reporting outstanding levels of satisfaction
* quality of support provided by SDF Officers was excellent
* SDF is a highly appropriate scheme for low carbon projects.
* SDF investment has been shown to deliver innovation and success
* strong multiplier achievements particularly in BBNP

The main recommendations of the scrutiny study were:

1. *That the BBNPA and PCNPA approve this report*
2. *That the BBNPA and PCNPA approve an approach to the Welsh Government to discuss how the SDF schemes could be more influential in implementing the government’s sustainability agenda.*
3. *If recommendation (b) above is approved, that Members agree a group of representatives from the scrutiny pilot group of each authority to identify specific proposals and to engage with the Welsh Government*

The full scrutiny study report is available upon request

## Proposed Changes to SDF funding allocation from WG

On 29th September 2011 WG agreed a change in administration of the SDF. In the draft budget, Ministers have committed £1.2 million to the National Parks and £700,000 to the AONBs in Sustainable Development Funding for 2012/13 and 2013/14. In addition it is intended to allow officials to provide national park authorities with the monies for the SDF through their revenue grants.

## Terminated Project

**SDF - 0301 – Prototype Far offshore Floating wind turbine (Far Offshore Renewables)** was planned as a three year project due to end March 2012. It was originally delayed by three months due to weather enforced delays with a 1:15 scale sea trial. In 2010, further to these smaller scale tests a redesigned 1:4 scale platform using concrete and steel was designed, analysed, and requantified. The project has since suffered further long delays to the start of the construction phase due to loss of a financial backer, significantly increased project costs, securing an affordable appropriate local site for construction and complications obtaining the necessary permissions from the Crown Estate. Despite concerted efforts the project has been unable to secure the significant shortfall in match funding, or a local construction site, hence in October 2011 with great reluctance the project has terminated. £86,951.97 was committed to this project in 2011/12. This sum is now re-available in addition to a grant repayment of £32,500 which was paid out in 2010/11 as a refundable deposit for construction materials. In total £119,451.97 of funding is now re-available for other projects to access in 2011/12. £3,239.03 has been paid out to the project which is not recoverable.

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| **Original Total Project Value** | **Revised Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** | **Grant to be repaid\*** | **Unrecoverable grant payment** |
| £247,579 | 415,496.72 | £122,691 | £35,739 | £32,500 | £3,239 |

\*Repayment of grant paid in respect of refundable deposits for concrete and steel.

## Significantly delayed 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 have now decided to proceed with the project without relying on being able to claim RHI. This means that they will commence installing the boiler and resubmitting the planning application for the pole barn and biomass boiler container. 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 £0.00

## Under spent/Revised project

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

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 unfortunately necessitated changes to the project focus in its final year and means that it will not be able to achieve all of its original objectives but will have to limit and divert all further work to advice, assistance and information sharing only. It is still worthwhile providing support for the final year despite not being able to provide funding towards capital installation costs 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. Following these developments ECW have provided detail of the fundamental changes to the objectives of the PPS project and a revised financial profile. £25,000 of SDF funding committed for match funding capital installation in 2011/12 is now uncommitted and the £25,000 paid to ECW for the capital installation agreed in 2010/11 will be repaid. There will also be an underspend against originally estimated project revenue costs.

Total Project Value £253,823

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

Year 1 (2009/10) £26,625

Year 2 (2010/11) £58,251.83

Year 3 (2011/12) £59,249

SDF grant Paid to date £77,791.02

SDF Funding to be repaid £25,000

Estimated final project underspend £60,156

## SDF Financial position

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

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| --- | --- |
|  | **2010-11**  **£** |
| WAG SDF grant | 208,000 |
| Funding carried forward from 10/11 | 95,688.86 |
| Committed to projects | 101,491.75 |
| Small Grant (Little Green Grant) commitment | 6,000 |
| SDF Admin costs | 37,500 |
| Total committed | 144,991.75 |
| Projects for consideration | 136,732.40 |
| Total Potentially committed | 281,724.15 |
| Uncommitted funding available to new projects | 21,964.71 |

The table shows that there would still be £21,965 of uncommitted funding even if all five applications under consideration were to be approved

Due to changes in Government Policy relating to the FIT and RHI, with associated consequences for approved project finances, in addition to the problems encountered which culminated in the termination of the high value Far Offshore Renewables project, there has been continued significant financial fluctuation and uncertainty. The figures presented have taken into account all money previously committed that has subsequently been released or will be repaid. The WGs draft budget gives confidence that we will have SDF funding confirmed for the next two financial years (2012/13 and 2013/13), which means that funding will be available if the two applications seeking funding in these years receive approval. One project is also seeking funding into the 2013/14 financial year but to date no SDF funding can be guaranteed this far in advance.

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).

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

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

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|  | **2010/11** | **2011/12** |
| **Committed to PAVS for LGG Projects** | £4,500.00 | £6,000.00 |
| **Money committed to approved projects** | £4,500.00 | £3076.95 |
| **Balance** | £1,500.00 | £2923.05 |

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

## Panel membership

Members of the full National Park Authority approved a recommendation in September 2010 to refresh and reduce SDF Panel membership and amend the Terms of Reference of the Panel accordingly.

Action to carry out the approved recommendation was delayed pending confirmation of funding from WG. It was also delayed because given the anticipated and then confirmed reduction in money allocated for 2011/12, with the existing level of commitment to projects at commencement of the financial year it appeared unlikely that there would be any Assessment Panel meetings to consider new applications. This situation has now changed, hence there is a need to reprioritize revision of membership.

### Annex 1



## Annex 2

# Sustainable Development Fund

# Project Summaries

## Completed Projects

A number of projects completed in the 2010/11 financial year. Summary details of those projects are provided below:

### SDF 0295 – Pembrokeshire Sustainable Agriculture Network

PLANED (Pembrokeshire Local Action Network for Enterprise and Development) secured SDF support to further the successful work and build upon best practice demonstrated by the Pembrokeshire Sustainable Agriculture Network, which has brought farmers and organisations working in the fields of agriculture, conservation and business support, closer together for mutual benefit.

Building on lessons learned from PLANED’s Whole Farm Support Schemes (Objective 5b funded) and recently Harnessing Rural Capital (Article 6 ESF), this project aimed to increase the confidence and knowledge of farming families so that larger numbers will participate in economic and environmental activities which will contribute to the sustainable development of the area. It aimed to engage and motivate farmers at grass roots level, so that they will be in a better position to access support and advice mechanisms available under programmes such as Farming Connect and PBI’s Agri-Diversification Project.

Over two years, as well as the delivery of twenty six awareness raising and capacity building seminars, workshops (both on and off farm) and networking with key partners and advisors, diversification or entrepreneurial opportunities relating to sustainable agriculture have been identified, examined and developed. Nearly 500 farmers and representatives from many statutory and voluntary agencies across Pembrokeshire have attended the seminars with particular emphasis placed on helping farmers to understand issues such as CAP Reform, Composting Opportunities, Financial Returns on Renewables as well as assisting them to review their resources as well as ‘the bigger picture’ and opportunities relating to sustainable development and sustainable agricultural practices.

The seminars delivered were:

1. How Climate Change will affect Agriculture in Wales; Speaker- Prof. Gareth Edwards-Jones (Bangor University)
2. Zero Carbon Farming; Speaker -Peter Harper (Centre for Alternative Technology)
3. Planning for Renewables; Speakers -Kederick Davies (CDN)/Nick Dorrell (Dorell Renewables)
4. Anaerobic Digestion on farm; Speaker –Aled Roberts (ADAS)
5. Wind Energy on Farm(Visit to Castell Pill wind turbines) ; Speakers –Keith Knight (farmer)/Llewellyn Rhys (BWEA)
6. Community Supported Agriculture ; Speaker Nick Weir (Stroud CSA)/Gerald Miles (farmer)
7. Hydro Power; Speaker- Charles George (H2 Hydro Ltd)/Doug Howie (EAW)
8. Feed In Tariffs ; Speaker – Andy Warrington (Dulas)
9. Can Agriculture be Sustainable environmentally and economically- 2015 and beyond? ; Speaker- Stuart Perry (AgriPlan)
10. The Potential of Solar Power (Chris Lord-Smith- Llanisolar)
11. Small Scale Hydro (Charles George- H2 Ltd/Brian Klass – EAW)
12. Energy Efficiency on Farm (Martin Yeates- Kingshay)
13. Micro Hydro (Grenville Ham- The Green Valleys)
14. Support for Biomass (Kedrick Davies-Biofutures/Mike Pitcher FC- WEBS II)
15. Generating Electricity from Renewables Seminar + Workshop (Tobi Kellner-CAT)
16. Solar/PV Opportunites (Peter Hughes –Amgen)
17. Composting and AD Opportunites (Lance Jones- WRAP)
18. Reneables Clinic (Roger Hollies/Mike Soldner- Save & Generate)
19. Small Scale Wind Energy Visit- Begelly (Jo Dowdall- Green Giant)
20. Woodland for Multiple Benefits (Iwan Parry-Coed Cymru/Simon Mead – FC)
21. Sustainable Diversification (Gwilym Hughes- Lloyds TSB/Richard Smith-PBI )
22. Financial Returns on Renewables (Aled Roberts –ADAS)
23. Medium Scale Wind Energy Visit- Tavernspite (Nick Dorrell- Dorrell Renewables)
24. Wind/Solar/Ground Source Energy Visit- Steynton (Keith Knight- Venn Renewables)
25. CAP Reform (Stuart Perry- AgriPlan)
26. Renewables Clinic (Mike Soldner- Save & Generate)

Feedback on events has been very positive with high satisfaction ratings, commentating that the information delivered at seminars was either ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’.

By working collectively in partnership, local issues such as diffuse pollution and soil management to global issues such as energy efficiency and climate change can be tackled jointly i.e. think globally, act locally. Local empowerment allows farmers and rural communities to devise solutions to their problems within the national framework, farmers bring forward their own agenda and in time ideas for business developments, diversification and environmental initiatives individually and collectively. Importantly the support framework must remain in place until projects are well established and in a position to develop independently. In the future PLANED will utilise Rural Development Programme 2 to fund similar activities within the Pembrokeshire Sustianable Agriculture Network.

The main outcome of this project was to bring about an attitudinal change. This was achieved by assisting the farmers in Pembrokeshire to identify opportunities and recognise the benefits of sustainable practices around key areas such as positive land management, renewable energy, climate change and peak oil in relation to their businesses, prior to making business decisions. Also by identifying and developing new opportunities therefore helping to sustain incomes and jobs in the rural economy as well as increasing the uptake by farmers of Farming Connect and PBI’s Agri Diversification Project.

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| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant** | **SDF Grant paid** |
| £33,482.01 | £16,510 | £16,510 |

### SDF 0297 – Ramsey Power Project

A new renewable energy system has greatly improved everyday life on Ramsey Island in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park. The sun shone and the wind blew perfectly last September for RSPB Cymru to demonstrate the success of their newly installed wind turbine and photo-voltaic array on their Ramsey Island Reserve. The project, which received a funding contribution from the Welsh Assembly Governments Sustainable Development Fund, involved:

* the installation of a fully automatic battery inverter system supplied with electrical power by a 4 panel PV solar array, wind turbine(height 7.5m) and new generator to power the farmhouse (including visitor shop) and other farm buildings
* the installation of a separate automatic battery inverter system supplied with electrical power by solar panels and a new generator to power the volunteers accommodation

The island has no mains electricity and previously the only source of power was a single ten year old diesel generator.

By securing a more reliable source of power from nature, the RSPB have reduced their reliance on fossil fuels and consequently their fuel costs and carbon dioxide emissions, without compromising the great natural beauty and wildlife on the island.

Significantly, the project has demonstrated that it is possible to successfully incorporate appropriate renewable technologies into such a special and sensitive landscape. Through their interpretive work and raising awareness with those visiting the island, the RSPB will hopefully be able to inspire others towards a more sustainable way of living.

The main lessons learnt are:

* Sufficient time needs to be allowed to obtain planning permission and advice and discussion with the planning authority needs to commence at the planning stage.
* Contractor needs to be involved at the outset and plan in contingency time for any unforeseeable events
* Take into account unexpected weather delays

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| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid** |
| £38,697.12 | £18,998.56 | £18,998.56 |

### SDF 0300 – Postcards from Pembrokeshire

“Postcards from Pembrokeshire”, the new film made by Cinetig, was launched on November 2nd at the Torch Theatre, Milford Haven. Cinetig, with funding from SDF and the Film Agency Wales, worked with Ysgol Bro Ingli in Newport, Tenby Junior School and the Traveler Unit based at Monkton Priory School to produce two short films exploring sustainable tourism. Many of the children who participated attended the launch, which gave them the opportunity to see the finished product and their work on a large screen. “Wish you were here” from Tenby explores the history of tourism in the town, and asks schools to think how problems associated with tourism in Tenby might be overcome. “Call of the Wild”, looks at the flora and fauna of North Pembrokeshire and the effects that tourism has on the local wildlife. It asks people to think how the special qualities of the area could be kept, but at the same time encourage visitors. With both films the children at each school made puppets and illustrations, which the children at Monkton Traveler’s Unit then animated.

Schools in Pembrokeshire can request copies of the films and the film comes with teacher notes, and suggestions for follow up activities which were written by PCNPA Education staff. In addition, the education service has produced two follow-up sessions to support the films. The first is an in school session, which explores tourism through role play and problem solving activities. The second session is an outdoor one where the children can undertake fieldwork, either in St. Davids, Tenby or Newport if they want to focus on tourism in the National Park, or a habitat study if they wish to look at the special wildlife of the National Park.

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| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid** |
| £43,510 | £15,000 | £15,000 |

### SDF 0302 – Sustainable Living for Pembrokeshire Artists

The Project, managed by ‘Artists Pembrokeshire’, sought to promote the work of the artists and makers in Pembrokeshire to buyers and galleries further afield. It intended to help grow a vibrant local arts scene and raise the profile of the artistic community by giving its members wider access to those visiting Pembrokeshire as a cultural-tourism destination. The intended outcomes include:

- Allowing artists to make a sustainable living in the County, and therefore keep talented artists in Pembrokeshire

- Enabling independent galleries to become destinations in themselves, thus contributing to the regeneration of communities and keeping villages alive

- Increasing cultural tourism, which in turn enhances the economy in a sustainable way.

- Giving employment prospects to arts graduates, in order that they don’t have to leave the County to find work in their chosen field, thereby strengthening communities.

SDF funding was used to achieve these outcomes by:

1. Developing a website that acts as a 'virtual arts centre', namely, [www.artpembrokeshire.co.uk](http://www.artpembrokeshire.co.uk). The website will be hosted on Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority’s Oriel y Parc gallery website once it has been upgraded. The website is used by artists to publicise events and work, provide contact details and opportunities, facilitate dissemination of information, promotional e-mails or educational resources and provide a virtual ‘community’ for artists. The website has exceeded expectations in the number of artists and galleries listed and in accessibility to those searching through a search engine. The database of artists held is useful for them to publicise art commissions, the latest being a £20,000 commission that went to one of the artists. The website hosts 130 artists, galleries and associated businesses. By making its services and art in Pembrokeshire more accessible it is hoped that it will appeal to a much broader cross section of society.
2. Publishing an electronic magazine called ARTicle – Cultural Life on the Edge devoted to the arts and cultural life in West Wales. The magazine is a well-written, critical arts publication that can be read equally by art experts and those with just an interest in the subject. It gives in-depth coverage of the arts in Wales as well as promoting artists in West Wales in particular, and aims to help to produce a well-informed client base. It was intended to become a leading arts journal, known and used by buyers and artists alike all over the UK and is well on the way to achieving this aim This is evidenced by cooperation from artists such as Anish Kapoor and Tim Davies. ARTicle is downloadable from [www.ARTpembrokeshire.co.uk](http://www.ARTpembrokeshire.co.uk).

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| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £8,592 | £3,604 | £3,604 |

**SDF 0305 - Ty Unnos Affordable Housing from Homegrown timber**

Ty Unnos is a building system that utilises locally available timber species and grades to provide a range of affordable housing and other buildings using locally available resources. The building system is unique in utilising the lower grade timber generally produced by Welsh and UK forestry. SDF money has been used by Coed Cymru to complete the certification process for the Ty Unnos affordable housing system.

To obtain certification a specified number of each type of component was made to existing designs and each of these has undergone testing by the Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA) to an already defined procedure that confirmed suitability in intended use. Following the successful outcome of testing Coed Cymru began the process to gain the European Technical Assessment Guideline (ETAG) technical approval commenced. ETAG certification will allow the system and/or components of the system to be manufactured by local companies without the need for each individual company to be separately certified. In this way the project will achieve a wider impact and through specifying the use of Welsh timber in the certification will ensure a tie in to the local resource.This will support sustainable woodland management, biodiversity and increase the perceived value of woodlands in the local community. The components in fact clearly exceeded the tests for the intended use in the range of house types required and have allowed the components in the basic form to be used in spans of up to 10 metres. This is a significant achievement and exceeded expectations, opening up a wider range of applicability of the system and potentially a wider range of benefit. Work has also been undertaken by the Pembrokeshire Timber Store and PCNPA Cilrhedyn Woodland Centre to establish a supply chain for Ty Unnos components with local manufacturers to satisfy the demand for local building projects. This work is continuing after the end of the project period when the full certification is obtained.

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| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £88,757 | £41,652 | £41,652 |

### SDF 0309 – Bee Farm Building Coedcanlas

With SDF support The Wild Honey Company has been able to further develop their sustainable bee farm by constructing a sustainable agricultural building in Coedcanlas near Lawrenny. The building is essential for the creation of a sustainable and economically viable enterprise that makes careful use of natural resources which in turn will benefit the local environment and community. From this base all equipment will be made, maintained and stored. Full honey boxes will be returned from the surrounding countryside, the honey spun out of the combs in an extracting room and then stored in barrels prior to packing into jars. From the building a bee breeding programme will also be carried out. Breeder Queens, Queen rearing colonies and mating nuclei will be kept there and there will be a room dedicated to the labour intensive process of breeding disease resistant bees. Developing local disease resistant bees that can tolerate and maintain low levels of varoa mite is extremely important.

The building is made of wood and will use a biomass boiler and solar panels to meet heating needs. The project will also raise awareness of the value of honey bees and all pollinating insects, which leads to an understanding of the food chain, biodiversity and our survival in an ever changing environment. In addition it will provide pollination, local honey, employment and preserve a traditional agricultural activity in an innovative and contemporary way.

School visits to the project are planned in the Autumn term 2011, in conjunction with Pembrokeshire Coast National Parks Education initiative called “Our Trees our Future”. Four out of thirteen schools participating will visit a nearby ancient woodland in Lawrenny and then the Bee Farm in order to look at the bees and learn through activity about the importance of spring flowering trees in the ancient woodland, bees, habitats, biodiversity and sustainability. In addition the schools will be asked whether they wish to assist with planting the native apple orchard at the bee farm, which is also part of the SDF funded project and due to take place in the autumn.

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| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid** |
| £216,914.30 | £97,754 | £97,754 |

### SDF 0311 – Ty Unnos Sustainable Living Demonstration

The aim of the Ty Unnos Sustainable Living Project is to demonstrate new, innovative approaches to build low cost, high performance eco housing built with Welsh materials. This project is a logocal progression from the successful testing of the Ty Unnos system as deatiled above. It will help to ensure that benefits are delivered in Pembrokeshire from value adding the homegrown timber resource and in the provision of affordable homes. The SDF project support has been used by Coed Cymru to put together all the resources to deliver workshops and demonstration events that showcase the use of homegrown timber in sustainable construction.These events will raise awareness of the building system and provide an opportunity to answer technical and specification queries. A demonstration module has been produced and is being used in a series of six scheduled events focussed on specific client groups. The events are:

* Display at Royal Welsh Smallholders Show in Wales Sustainability Week;
* 2nd June HayFestival;
* 10th June Cilrhedyn Training Session for Architects, manufacturers and local groups; 30th June/1st July Open event for housing providers and self builders;
* 16-18th August Pembrokeshire Show;
* 15/16th Sept Second Open Event.

In addition display materials, including leaflets, a computer animation and a six month micro-display have been produced. The display is housed at the TYF Sustainability Centre in St David's for use by schools, colleges and groups.

Key features of the house design includes:

- Eliminating the need for conventional heating, at Code for Sustainable Homes Level 4 performance

- Welsh source products, Welsh manufacturers and Welsh technology rolled into a single package

- Simlplicity of build making house design more affordable

- Multiplier impact on local economy through reduced expenditure and increased skills

The demonstrations show a new, practical approach to housing that reduces dependency on bank finance, builds community skills, and reduces ecological impact. The ultimate outcome of this project will be an increase in the utilisation of homegrown timber in Pembrokeshire and the development of processing and manufacturing facilities in the county. By creating demand for the products, it will also in turn, reduce carbon impact, heating demand, ecological footprint and cost burdens.

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| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid** |
| £21,310 | £9,650 | £9,650 |

## Ongoing Projects

The following projects are all active projects at various stages of completion:-

### 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 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 | £9,903.72 |

### 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 have 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. Unfortunately this unexpected change to the legislative framework has necessitated changes to the project focus in its final year and means that it will not be able to achieve all of its original objectives but will have to limit and divert all further work to advice, assistance and information sharing only. Despite not being able to provide funding towards capital installation costs there is still a need for impartial advice, feasibility studies, environmental assessments and knowledge transfer relating to community scale renewable energy technologies that the project can continue to deliver. 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. Following these developments ECW have provided detail of the fundamental changes to the objectives of the PPS project together with a revised financial profile.

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| **Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** |
| £253,822.86 | £144,126.21 | £ 77,791.02 |

**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 including geothermal heating, rainwater harvesting, grey water recycling, and hopefully Novacem for the concrete base. Novacem is a product that has the ability to absorb Carbon Dioxide during its lifetime. Considerable planning and consultancy work has taken place while manual labour has to date focused on getting facilities to the site and with the aid of Princes Trust volunteers the new access track and car park have been completed to a standard acceptable for the contractors to use.

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 | £3,759.23 |

## Delayed Project

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 have now decided to proceed with the project without relying on being able to claim RHI. This means that they will commence installing the boiler and resubmitting the planning application for the pole barn and biomass boiler container. They also hope to be able to resurrect their WBS funding application

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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 | £0.00 |

### SDF 0299 At home in the Park

The aim of this project is 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).

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.

A traditional farmhouse, built more than 500 years ago and on the brink of collapse has been beautifully and sensitively restored as a family home.

The film, *At Home in the Park* helps to show 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.

All of the series of six short (2 minute) filmings have now finally taken place. Due to the very cold weather and prolongued period of snow and freezing conditions experience over two consecutive winters progress on the building site was severly delayed which consequently delayed the filming. With building work and filming complete 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”,Once fully complete the six two minute installments will be screened on the ‘My Park’ section of the PCNPA website at [www.pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk](http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk/) and will also be offered to online TV stations and be available on cd.

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

## Terminated Project

## SDF 0301 Prototype FOR3: Offshore floating wind turbine platform

‘Far Offshore Renewables’ (FOR), aimed to develop a floating offshore wind turbine platform and tower. SDF funding was required to help build a ¼ size prototype, (250 kw turbine), following on from 1:10 and 1:15 scale models that the company has built and launched already. The full size floating wind turbine would be designed to be located in deep waters far offshore.

The small scale prototype would be built in Pembrokeshire, deployed by local companies, monitored and then fully decommissioned at the end. The aim was to recycle 90% of the structure at the end to prove overall sustainability.

The quarter scale turbine platform would be installed six nautical miles off the coast due north of Fishguard. The turbine position far offshore means that the visual impact normally associated with wind turbines is significantly reduced or negated. One of the project goals was to develop something that no one can see from shore. The design for the floating semi submerged platform is unique, anchored at only one point, 2 km apart in water deeper than 100 metres. The siting and design is sensitive to fishing requirements and collision avoidance. A successful project outcome would have been that the platform worked out to be cost effective and performed satisfactorily at sea: Additionally, FOR wanted to make a platform that could be scaled up to find out if there were any negative environmental effects of the platform.

The initial project construction phase was delayed by three months due to weather enforced delays with the 1:15 scale sea trial, which once they did take place had very positive results. The structure survived northerly storm and gale force winds beyond the design expectation. Following the sea trial the 1:4 scale model was analysed, requantified and redesigned. Bids were collated and assessed after sending the design out to tender to steel fabricators. The Environmental Impact assessment and seabed visual survey were also undertaken. Further delays were incurred due to loss of a financial backer, and additional requirements imposed by the Crown Estate who required third party verification of the design to enable the necessary permissions to be obtained. This also added to the project costs. It has also proved impossible to find a local site to undertake the construction as prohibitively high quotes for fabrication costs were received. The main construction phase has therefore been significantly delayed, as it has been unable to proceed without securing a suitable construction site and increased investment to cover escalating project costs. Work undertaken towards construction of the platform included a ballast control system and developing a design for the self climbing crane. Due to the increases in prices and new costs that had not been allowed for, a complete revision of project finances was undertaken. Additional funding was obtained to make up the shortfall from the loss of the original financial backer but due to increased costs efforts to secure an additional £140,000 of investment in the project have proved unsuccessful, hence sadly the Project Manager has been left no choice but to terminate the project.

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| **Original Total Project Value** | **Revised Total Project Value** | **SDF Grant Approved** | **SDF Grant paid to date** | **SDF Grant paid to be repaid** |
| £247,579 | 415,496.72 | £122,691 | £35,739 | £32,500 |

## 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, 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 – 19 Low Carbon Cook-Off

Applicant: Eco Centre Wales

Funding: £415

The Low Carbon Cook-Off (LCCO) is an innovative communication project, looking at the environmental impacts of our modern food system in a fun and engaging way. The initiative involves hosting a series of cook-offs in local venues, where two people compete to cook a dish that has the least environmental impact and the audience vote for the winner. Eco Centre Wales (ECW) has secured LGG funding towards the production of leaflets and promotional materials for community events that they plan to host. As well as the events ECW plan to build a LCCO website which will provide an important resource for providing information and a platform for discussing food choices. It is necessary to keep people engaged beyond the organised events and to reach more people than those attending events.