

## What to do next

Expressions of interest are invited now for projects that can be completed before April 2008. Proposals must be submitted in writing. The final decision to grant an award is made by the AONB's Sustainable Development Fund Panel.

**Please contact Kate Mustard for further information about the SDF:**

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The management of this nationally protected landscape is guided by the Malvern Hills AONB Partnership. The Partnership is funded by Natural England, Herefordshire Council, Worcestershire County Council, Malvern Hills District Council, Gloucestershire County Council and Forest of Dean District Council.

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## The Malvern Hills AONB



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### Bromesberrow School Eco Club



The Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

# Sustainable Development Fund



**Do you have an idea for a project that will help the local environment, community and economy?**

**2007/08**



**The Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Unit** (see map) has a grant scheme to assist projects that will help to look after the AONB now and for the future.



Coppice network

### What is the Grant Scheme?

The Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) is available to support projects that promote sustainable development in an AONB. The money for the fund comes from DEFRA via Natural England. Funding is now available for the 2007/08 financial year.

### What is Sustainable Development?

Sustainable Development is activity that will promote and enhance the environment, the economy and the community, ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come.

### Who Can Apply?

Public, private, voluntary sector, community groups, businesses and individuals can apply and grants can also be used to fund existing projects. You do not have to live or work within the AONB to be eligible, but you must be able to demonstrate that your project will have a positive impact upon the area.



Caves Folly bunkhouse

### What kind of project is eligible?

The Fund can support projects such as practical work, awareness raising, training, group or partnership development, feasibility studies or research projects. Possible subject areas include renewable/ green energy, sustainable transport, environmental building design, innovative products or initiatives, community youth schemes or conservation activities. Projects should:

- further the purposes of the AONB
- help deliver the AONB Management Plan
- show sustainable development principles
- have community support or involvement



Geodesic dome

### In 2006/07, 13 projects were supported including:

- The establishment of An 'Eco club' at St Mary's School, Bromesberrow, where pupils learnt how to grow vegetables, plant trees and create wildlife areas.
- Bubble House Worm Farming Enterprises received funding to trial a scheme to turn canteen waste from three local schools into compost, using new technology.
- The owners of Caves Folly Nurseries, Colwell, diversified their existing Organic Plant Nursery and created a sustainable bunkhouse, organic shop and campsite.
- The Malvern Hills District Council and Vision21 Local Strategic Partnership ran a two-day exhibition

called 'Homes4Now' promoting sustainable living.

- The 'Malvern Hills Coppice Network' was created, which is a directory of people offering services or products associated with woodland management. Network members also benefited from new machinery and valuable training.
- A company called Floating Lotus used funding to produce several large geodesic domes for use as mobile exhibition spaces.
- Grants also went towards the production of several new 'sustainable' trail guides including four recreational guides based at the Three Counties Showground and a Geology and Landscape Trail Guide illustrating the different landscapes around Midsummer Hill.

### Grants

- Grants will normally be in the range of £1,000 - £10,000
- The scheme can provide up to 75% funding for a project (exceptional cases 100%). For projects led by local authorities and other public bodies the scheme will normally provide 50% funding.
- An agreement setting out what is required for satisfactory completion of the project will be signed prior to receipt of grant. For match funding purposes, volunteer time can be included.



Recreational trail guides