

Sustainable Travel Fund Information

What is the Sustainable Travel Fund?

The South Downs National Park Authority is offering grants of up to £5,000 for new projects that promote and enable more car-free visitor travel to and around the South Downs National Park.

The Sustainable Travel Fund's (STF) aims are to:

- Make it easier to reach visitor attractions within the National Park;
- Promote travel by bus, rail, cycling and walking to and around the South Downs;
- Improve public transport services to attractions and events into the National Park;
- Encourage sustainable tourism and supporting the local visitor economy

Who can apply?

Tourism businesses, parish councils, voluntary groups and other not for profit organisations can apply for STF grant funding for new projects to encourage people make more car free journeys to and around the South Downs National Park.

Applications from local authorities (excluding parish councils) will not be accepted.

Organisations outside the National Park but within 5km of the boundary may be considered if a clear link to the South Downs National Park can be demonstrated e.g. on a long distance trail.

National Park boundaries are on the Discovery Map www.southdowns.gov.uk/gettingaround

How much funding is available?

Grants are available from £250 up to £5000

You can apply for up to 50% of the total cost of your project or 75% for not-for-profit organisations. The remaining *match funding can include investment from your own organisation, other grants or contributions, and contributions in kind which would normally include volunteer time or materials.

* See STF Grant Criteria sheet for detailed information on match funding and how it works.

When do I need to apply?

The Sustainable Travel Fund (STF) is open for application between Monday 1st June and Wednesday 30th September 2015. Grant Decision meetings will be held on: 4th August, 2nd September and 28th October. Full details are given on the STF Grants Criteria sheet.

Types of projects eligible for STF funding

Publications:

- Leaflets showing how to visitor attractions by sustainable transport (including bus, rail, cycle and walking routes)
- Walking and Cycling Routes Leaflets and Guides – must link to sustainable travel e.g. on a bus route, near a station. Walking and cycling experiences including route guides - design and printing.

Events & Festivals:

- Run events which promote grant purposes e.g. Lewes Hike & Bike Festival
- Encouraging people to reach events sustainably e.g. event buses, bike trains, led walks.

Promotion & Marketing: Design a marketing campaign or guide on how to visit sustainably.

Types of projects the STF will NOT fund?

- Projects that do not support the aims and objectives of the SDNPA.
- Projects which have already started, the funding is aimed at new projects.
- Capital projects cannot be funded e.g. hire bikes, cycle parking,
- Maintenance work or repairs e.g. replacement hire bikes or existing cycle racks are not covered.
- The cost of making planning applications.
- Projects where the main benefit is outside the boundary of the National Park
- Projects which do not demonstrate public gain and appear to only demonstrate private benefit
- Revenue costs including posts and salaries, apprenticeships or training programmes
- Church, village hall, community building and sport facilities
- Commissioning new art work (the Arts Council offer grants and bursaries for specific projects)
- Projects which are the statutory responsibility of other agencies
- Organisations that have more than 1 year's unallocated money/reserves in their account

Generally we will not fund the same project twice in the same financial year (but extension grants may be considered for additions to successful projects. Applicants may be eligible to apply for Sustainable Communities Funding (SCF) for new projects.

What should I do now?

1. Ensure you read the STF Grants Criteria & Conditions sheet which includes more detail on the application process and grant conditions.
2. Contact the External Funding Coordinator to get an application form, email: grants@southdowns.gov.uk or tel: 01730 819219. We recommend you talk through your ideas or email us a project outline before submitting a fill bid.