

Natural Enterprise has a passion to make a difference to the community we live in and to our clients and the partners we work with. We provide a wide range of services, both locally and regionally; from our environmental consultancy service, economic development work, project delivery through to managing European Funding programmes



- Funding for rural business and community projects
- Supporting rural businesses, individuals and community organisations
- Up to £50,000 available per project
- Typically 50% match funding required
- Competitive process for applications

RDPE LEADER - European Funding Programme

If you are looking to improve your business or develop a new enterprise in the the rural economy or as a farm diversification LEADER could be able to support you

ABOUT THE FUNDING

In 2008 the Isle of Wight secured grant funding of £2.6 million to help boost the rural economy. As of 1 April 2010, £813,245 has been allocated to 55 projects across the Island. Funding is still available so if you feel you have a viable project please contact [Carol at Natural Enterprise for more information on 01983 535836 or email carol.flux@naturalenterprise.co.uk](mailto:carol.flux@naturalenterprise.co.uk)

FUNDING AVAILABLE

The money is available to farmers, growers, other rural based businesses and community groups. The maximum grant permitted for a single project is £50,000 and applications are selected on a competitive basis. Projects funded will be those that fit with the priorities outlined in the Island's Local Development Strategy (which can be found on our website).

FOUR KEY OBJECTIVES

- Increasing the economic value of farming and land management
- Support for the wider rural economy
- Increasing the vitality of the rural settlements
- To promote the rural heritage

PROJECTS WILL BE ASSESSED ACCORDING TO HOW WELL THEY MEET THE FOLLOWING PRIORITIES

TOP PRIORITIES

- Modernisation of agricultural holdings
- Improving the economic value of forests
- Adding value to agricultural and forestry products
- Co-operation for the development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture, food sector and the forestry sector
- Diversification into non-agricultural activities that support food & land-based products and job creation
- Creation and development of innovative and enterprising rural micro-businesses (up to 10 employees with a turnover of up to 2 million Euro) that specifically support the wider rural economy

SECONDARY PRIORITIES

- Encouragement of collaborative tourism activities
- Basic services for the economy and rural population
- Village renewal and development
- Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage
- Implementing co-operative projects between LAGs

GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PROJECTS THAT

- Add value to agricultural or forestry products
- Support the creation and development of innovative and enterprising rural micro businesses
- Encourage collaborative 'green' and/or niche tourism

APPLICATIONS

Application is a two stage process. Applicants are required to submit an initial Expression of Interest form which will be checked for eligibility. The main proposal form will need to be accompanied by a business plan and all applicable consents, including planning. Applications cannot be accepted without these. It is envisaged that this process can take two months.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Projects must be aimed at increasing efficiency or expanding business and employment opportunities.
- Projects must specifically focus on the rural area of the Island
- Grant intervention rates vary according to project type, but tend to be between 40% and 50%
- Payments will be made retrospectively; you must be able to fund the entire project upfront
- The two-stage application process may be onerous for very small projects
- The maximum grant available is £50,000
- Projects will be assessed on a competitive basis

WHERE DOES THE FUNDING COME FROM?

Funding comes from the EU and DEFRA via the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)

TYPICAL PROJECTS SUPPORTED TO DATE

Asparagus grader, promotion of Island Farmers Market, Food and Craft Association's marquee and trailer, mixed beef/sheep farm shop, range of forestry equipment and a children's play area for a community group.



Natural Enterprise

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Natural Enterprise draws on the charitable and business roots of its founding organisations; the Isle of Wight Economic Partnership and the Island 2000 Trust to create new and dynamic links between the environment and the economy.

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