

SuDS Community Fund

Guidance Document

Why are Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) important?

During heavy rain, local sewer networks can struggle to cope with the amount of water entering pipes and storage tanks. When they fill up, we use pressure relief valves built into the network, known as storm overflows. These overflows release excess water through outfalls into rivers and the sea to stop homes and businesses from flooding.

The best way to reduce storm overflows is to reduce the amount of rainwater that enters the combined sewer system during heavy rainfall. This is why we're focussing our efforts on our 'slow the flow' initiative, finding innovative new ways to reduce excess rainwater from entering and overwhelming the system. SuDS are a critical part of this, as they can be used to hold, slow, and redistribute both rainwater and groundwater.

How can I create SuDS myself?

There are lots of different types of SuDS, from slow-drain water butts and raingardens to roadside swales and permeable paving. They all help to slow the flow of water into the system, but we need community groups and businesses to all get involved if we're going to tackle the problem long-term. If every household garden in the UK had a slow-drain water butt, it would manage over 4 billion litres of water every time it rains.

Check what funding is available

We will contribute, match, or fully fund the projects that we select and that meet our criteria.

Once the full amount of funding available has been awarded, we'll be unable to consider further applications. Southern Water reserves the right to stop the fund at any point. We will update our website to make it clear when all funding has been awarded, if the fund is extended, or if the fund is stopped.

Criteria

The location for your sustainable drainage project must be on the **Isle of Wight**.

- Your project must slow or remove rainwater run-off from roofs and/or hard surfaces into the combined sewer.
- Total amount of funding applied for must not exceed £3,000 per project. This amount can be part of a match funded project.
- You must be able to provide an end of project report/case study including photos of the installation.

What Southern Water can fund

- Purchase or hiring of equipment
- Building and installation of materials
- Professional fees (consultants, builders, contractors)

What Southern Water can't fund

- Applications submitted from a person under 18-years-old
- Projects for community groups and businesses that operate outside of the eligible areas
- Retrospective projects that have already been completed

Application Process

Applications can be submitted from 23 September 2024 until 03 November 2024. We will review all applications and the successful projects will be awarded funding from December 2024.

For all applications, we will need to carry out:

- Eligibility checks
- Confirmation that the funding criteria have been met
- Checks to ensure that the solution is suitable for the area covered

Once checks have been completed, our panel will review the application. The panel will be made up of experts from across Southern Water.

All applicants will need to agree to our SuDS Community Fund terms of agreement to be eligible for funding.

If your application is successful

If your application is successful, we'll contact you by email to let you know, together with our business fund agreement for you to sign and return. The agreement will outline the total funding awarded and when you will receive it.

Please note, we don't have an appeal process for unsuccessful applications, and we cannot accept resubmissions for funding within the same funding year.

You will be required to provide us with progress updates once the project is up and running and a full report/case study at the end.

For any queries, please email partnerships.overflows@southernwater.co.uk with the subject heading SuDS Community Fund.