



Market Hall immersive dome Image courtesy Real Ideas Organisation CIC. Photo © Jay Stone

## NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT GRANTS INFORMATION SHEET

# Environmental Responsibility

Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants is our funding programme for arts, museums and libraries projects.

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Awarding funds from  
**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY®**

[artscouncil.org.uk](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

# What's Inside

This Information Sheet provides **additional information** for your Arts Council England's National Lottery Project Grants application.

Make sure that you have also read the main **Guidance for Applicants**. See our [website](#) for more information about Project Grants.

In this information sheet, we will talk about the following:

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# Introduction

We welcome applications which deliver creative or cultural projects in an environmentally responsible way.

Environmental responsibility is a wide-ranging topic, including the natural environment, land rights, biodiversity and conservation; soils and water; energy, pollution, materials and waste; climate change; agriculture and food; transport, climate justice, economics and politics.

Environmental responsibility might be:

- the subject matter for your work, or
- something that you look to embed in the planning or running of your project, such as reducing energy use or reviewing your tour route.

In applications for £30,001-£100,000 and £100,001 and over we ask a specific question about Environmental Responsibility because it's one of our Investment Principles. We expect applicants applying for these amounts to consider how their project will be environmentally responsible.

However, no matter the size or scale of your project, or your level of knowledge, there's always positive steps you can take.

This information sheet provides ideas for how you might make your project more environmentally responsible, including what we can and cannot support and resources for you to find out more.

# What you can apply for

Your project could include:

- The creation of creative or cultural work with an environmental focus or theme
- Public programming, including displays, exhibitions or touring with an environmental focus or theme.
- The hire or purchase costs of appropriate equipment or assets, which might support your project to be more environmentally responsible, this could include:
  - Research and use of alternative materials.
  - Associated activity, such as embedded residencies for creative or cultural practitioners, workshops, or international exchanges.
- Engagement of people and communities through consultation, outreach activity or conversations around the environment, climate or nature
- Building works to improve environmental performance, reduce energy use and associated carbon emissions:
  - These could include projects for climate adaptation, or to build in climate resilience, such as flood protection or creation of community cooling spaces.
  - For more detail on what we can support through Project Grants see our **Building projects information sheet**, under Types of projects in our [Guidance Library](#).
- Activity to embed environmental responsibility within your organisation. This could include:
  - Organisational development or project-specific resources

- Professional development for your organisation's governance, staff, freelancers and/or volunteers, through training, mentoring or coaching
- Business planning and implementation for climate adaptation and resilience. This could involve consulting on new approaches to fundraising.
- Activity to embed environmental responsibility in your creative practice, for example through training, mentoring or coaching
- Innovation, research and development. This could include:
  - exploring alternative ways of doing things, for example use of different touring models or ways of international working
  - development and testing of new ideas
  - networking with peers, perhaps other local organisations or practitioners
  - commissioning pilots or academic studies.
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) or relevant environmental learning projects involving children, young people. For more detail on what we can support through Project Grants see our **Children, young people and learning information sheet**, under Types of projects in our [Guidance Library](#).
- Collection and analysis of environmental data relating to your project, to inform the project or its legacy. For example, the information might relate to your practice, production, audience travel or partners.

# What you cannot apply for

There are some types of activities that we cannot support through Project Grants. These are:

- Projects that have environmental responsibility as the primary outcome or focus. Applications must have a primary outcome which focuses on one or more of our supported disciplines. Find out what disciplines we support in our [Guidance for Applicants](#).
- **Carbon off-setting** - Payments for carbon offsetting, or carbon removal, for example to environmental charities or related commercial organisations, are not made in exchange for a resource used in the delivery of the project. You should either exclude carbon offsetting or removal costs from your budget or clearly show that the expenditure will be covered by **confirmed** income.

If you would like to reduce the carbon footprint of your project, we recommend forecasting the footprint and then investigating and budgeting for ways to reduce carbon emissions. We have included some resources at the end of this information sheet to help you do this.

# Key things to remember

- If your application form references any calculators, toolkits or guidance:
  - Be clear on how these are relevant to your project and,
  - Be specific in how you will use them.

For example, you might be engaging with a toolkit on our [Investment Principle resource hub](#), say what are you using and how?

- We encourage the inclusion of environmental responsibility costs. When you complete the budget in the application form, there is an expenditure heading called 'environmental responsibility'. You can use this for any related project costs. For example, this could include:
  - alternative (green) travel arrangements and the associated practitioners time for slower travel
  - training or mentoring,
  - additional costs for alternative production materials or building improvements.
  - any significant environmental initiatives or activities within your application
  - completion of a project carbon footprint by an external partner, if you don't have the skills or capacity in-house.

# Resources to support you

Our Investment Principles Resource Hub provides access to resources that may be relevant to your application. For example:

- [Theatre Green Book](#),
- [Gallery Climate Coalition Resources](#)
- The Ecolibrium Sustainable Travel and Transport guide

Our environmental partner **Julie's Bicycle** provides a range of environmental resources, including:

- Arts Council England's [Environmental Programme](#)
- [Creative Climate Tools](#) carbon calculator, which you can use to forecast and/or calculate the carbon footprint of your project, if you would like to reduce this
- A Touring Guide <https://juliesbicycle.com/resource/touring-guide/>
- An audience travel guide <https://juliesbicycle.com/resource/audience-travel-guide-2015/>

There is a wide range of other advice, guidance, toolkits and case studies available that relate to Environmental Responsibility. Some relevant examples are:

The Green Libraries Partnership and their Green Resources  
<https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/GreenLibrariesResources>

Vision 2025 have a [resource hub](#) for outdoor events and festivals

[A Greener Future](#) have a wealth of environmental resources for events and festivals too

The Museums Association campaign [Museums for Climate Justice](#) includes a resources bank.

# Contact us

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You can also Live Chat with our customer services team by clicking the icon on our Project Grants page on our website.