



Easy Read Version

Creative Climate Action Fund 3

2026-2029

Grant Call

Information For Applicants

Contents

Using creativity to help the climate3

What the fund will do17

Money and budget44

How projects are chosen49

Who can apply52

Who cannot apply56

How to apply online58

Important dates61

Appendix 1:
What has been funded before?64

Appendix 2:
Useful reports and plans.....72

Appendix 3:
Check list to help with your application73

Using creativity to help the climate



Creative Ireland is offering money for projects.

The money is called
Creative Climate Action Fund III.

There is **€6.5 million** available in total.

Who is running this fund?

Three departments of the government are working together to run this Fund.

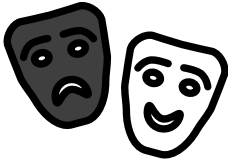
These departments are:

- Department of Culture, Communications and Sport
- Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment.
- Department of the Taoiseach.

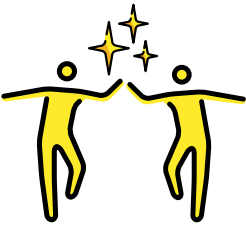
What do Creative Ireland do?

Creative Ireland is run by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport.

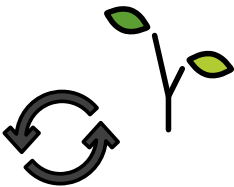
Creative Ireland:



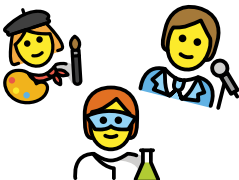
- Focuses on culture, creativity, and wellbeing all over Ireland.



- Uses creativity to inspire people and communities.



- Helps people and places change and grow.



- Makes sure everyone in Ireland has the chance to be creative.

Our goals are to:



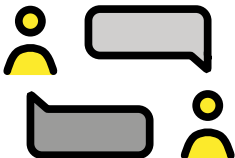
- Build a community where people take part and learn together.



- Help people understand why creativity is important.



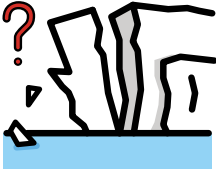
- Measure and record the impact of creative work.



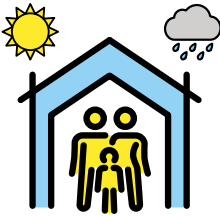
- Make creativity part of the Government's decision making.

What is the money for?

The money is for creative projects to help people:



- Understand climate change.



- See how climate change affects their lives.



- Learn what they can do to help.

What is climate change?

Climate change means changes in the weather over time.
The planet is getting warmer and the weather is changing.
Nature is being damaged.
Many people in Ireland worry about climate change.

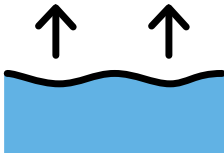
Climate change causes problems, such as:



- Flooding.



- Stronger storms.



- A rise in sea levels.

Climate change also causes problems for people and communities. It can cost countries a lot of money.

What can we do about climate change?

Climate change affects everyone.

This is one of the biggest challenges today.

Together, we can act to:



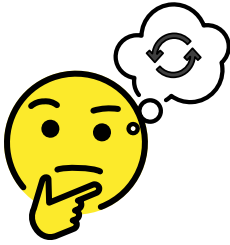
- Protect the planet.



- Protect nature.



- Support people and communities.



- Make big cultural changes.

This means changing how we think and act.



- Meet climate goals.

These are plans to help the climate and stop the planet from getting too warm.



Right now, Ireland is not meeting its climate goals.

What does a 'just transition' mean?

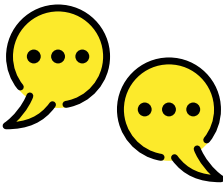
This means no one is left behind as we act on climate change. This includes:



- Protecting the planet in a fair way.



- Making sure no one is left behind.



- Listening to people's concerns.



- Supporting communities.

We need to act:

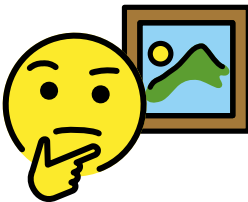


- Nationally, across the country.

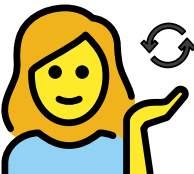


- Locally, in towns and communities.

The Creative Climate Action Fund gives money to projects that:



- Use art and creative activities to help people understand climate change.



- Help people make cultural change.



- Help people learn about climate action.



- Help communities have their say about climate action.



- Make information about climate change easier to understand.

What is the National Dialogue on Climate Action?

It is led by the Government.

It helps people, communities, artist, organisations and other Government department work together.

The Government's goals are to:



- Cut down on pollution that harms the planet.



- Protect the environment.



- Support communities to change.

What is community climate action?

This means people working together to help the climate.

It is very important. The Government supports this work through the Creative Climate Action Fund and Climate Actions Work.

These help:



- Change how people think.



- Change how people act.

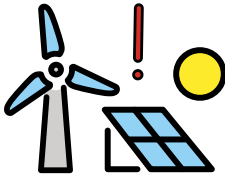
How can the arts and creativity help?

Arts, culture and creativity can help people understand climate change.

Artists and creative workers can:



- Explain the science behind climate change in easy ways.



- Make climate action feel real and important.



- Help everyone take part.



Creative activities help people to:



- Imagine what the future might look like.



- Understand the changes that are coming.



- Learn ways to help.

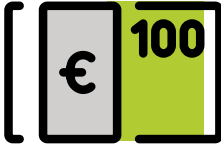


- Want to work together.

In Appendix 1 you can read about projects which were funded in the past.

What the fund will do

How much money can a project get?



This Creative Climate Action Fund has €6.5 million in total.

Each project can get between €400,000 and €750,000.

€1 million of the total funding is part of the Shared Island initiative.

Around two projects can be funded through this part of the programme.

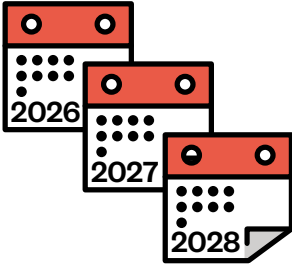
What is the Shared Island initiative?



This is the Government's plan for people across the island of Ireland to understand each other better and work together towards a shared future.

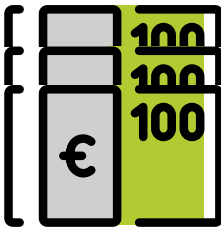
It means listening to and including all communities and traditions.

How long does funding last?



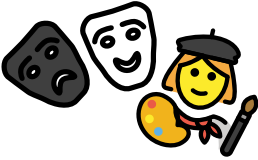
It lasts for four years.

How is this Fund different to past Funds?



This Fund is larger and runs for longer than previous Funds.

What sort of projects can be funded?



- Projects should use art, culture or creativity to help communities act on climate change.



- The Fund is looking for new and creative projects that are ambitious and work at a size that makes sense to many people.
- This Fund aims to help people turn ideas into real, practical climate actions.

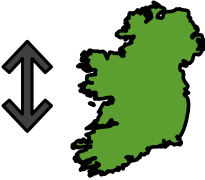
Who can apply?

Project teams based in Ireland can apply.

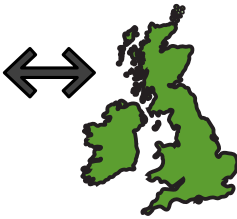
These teams should work together as partners with community, cultural or creative organisations.

The applicant **leading** the project must be based in Ireland.

Partners can be:



- North and South of the island of Ireland.



- East and West, including Ireland and Britain (England, Scotland, and Wales)

- or both North/South and East/West partners.

Projects that include both North/South and East/West partners are welcome.

Projects applying for the Shared Island part of the fund, must show that funding is shared fairly and partners are actively involved in the work across North/South and/or East/West partnerships.

Who can apply?

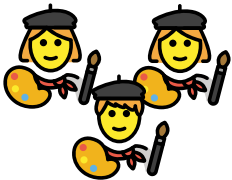
Tackling climate change means making big social and cultural changes to how we all live, think about nature, and use and buy things. Because of this, projects must focus on ways to involve people such as:



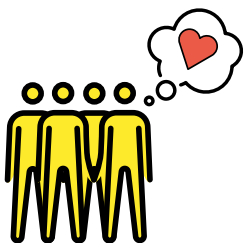
- The general public.



- People living in the same place (such as a town, city, rural area).



- People working or learning in the same area.



- Groups or organisations with shared interests or needs.



- Groups of people who share a common purpose.

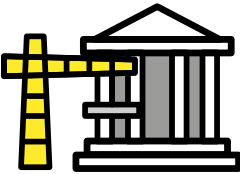
What sectors should partners be from?

Projects can be traditional or modern.

Your project can include more than one creative area or art form over the life of the project. We would like partners from across the arts, culture and creative sectors to apply.

This includes partners from these areas:

Arts



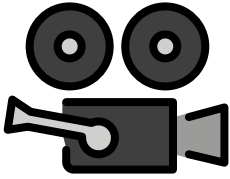
- Architecture



- Circus



- Dance



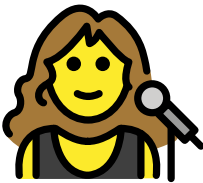
- Film



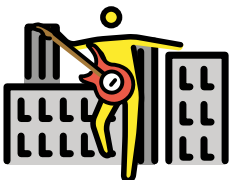
- Literature and writing



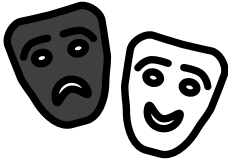
- Music



- Opera



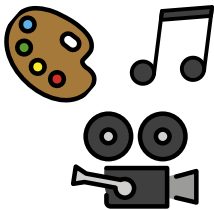
- Street arts and outdoor performance



- Theatre and performing arts



- Traditional arts



- Projects that mix different art forms



- Projects that involve people taking part
(also called participatory arts)



- Irish language arts



- Visual arts



- Digital art

(This is based on the definition in the Arts Act, 2003.)

Culture

This includes:

- National Cultural Institutions



- Festivals

- Cultural heritage organisations



- Libraries

- Cultural centres and venues

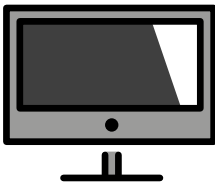


- Museums

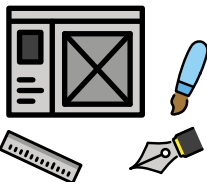
(This is based on the definition in the Arts Act, 2003.)

Creative Industries.

This includes:



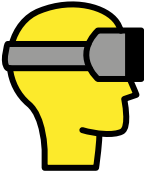
- Advertising



- Design (such as graphic, service, and participatory design)



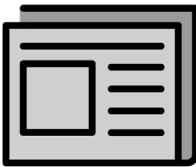
- Animation and games



- AR and VR
(augmented and virtual reality)



- Film and audio-visual work



- Publishing and the press



- Music



- Fashion



- Comedy

(This follows the European Union definition.)

Projects must show that they can bring about the following:



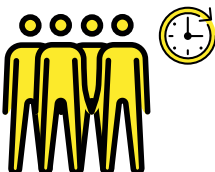
- New ways of thinking about climate change.



- Changes in people's behaviour or culture.



- Changes in the way a group of people or organisation work or behave.



- Ways in which groups or communities can work together after the project ends.

Should projects link to the Government's policies on climate?

The Creative Climate Action Fund is a Government programme which follows national climate priorities.

Projects should link to climate policies.

This helps make sure the work has the greatest impact.

The Fund is guided by:

- The Government's 2025 Climate Action Plan;
- The National Dialogue on Climate Action; and
- The Just Transition Commission.

We welcome all sorts of different ideas and proposals.
Projects should focus on creative ways to involve people
and communities in climate action.

We want applicants to:



- Be brave.



- Try new ideas.

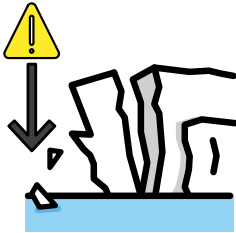


- Work with new partners.

The Government's priorities on climate action include:

Climate Adaptation.

This means changing how people or nature respond to climate change. The goal is to:



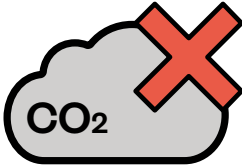
- Reduce harm from climate impacts.



- Take advantage of new opportunities.

Climate Mitigation.

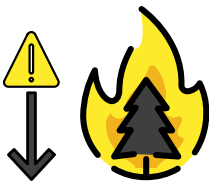
This means reducing climate change and its effects, such as:



- Cutting greenhouse gas emissions.



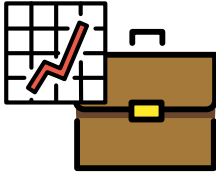
- Reducing future climate risks.



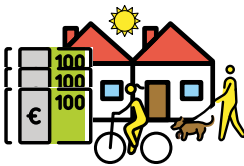
- Lessening the impact of climate events if they happen.

Renewable Energy and Energy Use.

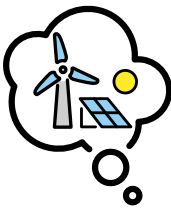
This means using clean energy like wind or solar, or using energy better because renewable energy:



- Creates jobs.



- Brings investment to local areas.



- Supports new ideas and clean technology.

Sustainable Transport.

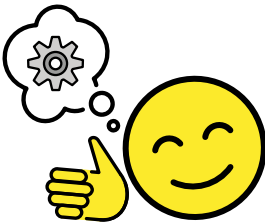
This means transport that is clean, accessible and works well.

Just Transition and Inclusion.

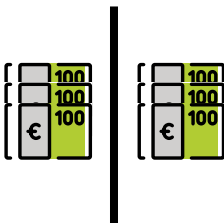
This means no one is left behind as we act on climate change. This includes:



- Making fair decisions based on evidence.



- Making sure people have the skills to benefit from change.



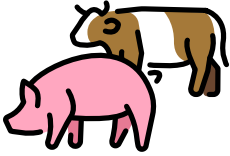
- Sharing costs fairly.



- Working with the communities most affected by climate change.

Agriculture and Land Use.

This is about how land is used, such as for:



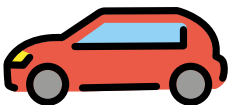
- Farming.



- Housing.



- Forestry.



- Transport and utilities.

Biodiversity and Nature Restoration.

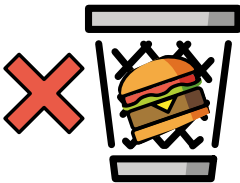
This means protecting and restoring nature, and helping birds, bees, butterflies, fish and other animals recover.

Circular Economy.

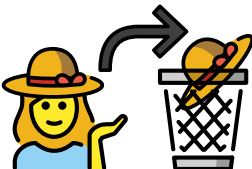
This means using resources wisely, such as:



- Reusing and recycling materials.



- Reducing waste, including food waste.



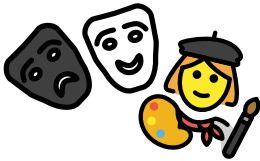
- Moving away from our current 'take, make, throw away' system.

What team roles must project applications include?

You must have an independent evaluator on the team.

Your application must also explain how you will measure impact and results. You can read evaluations and reports from Funds I and II [here](#).

As well as an independent evaluator, your project team must include people with the following roles:



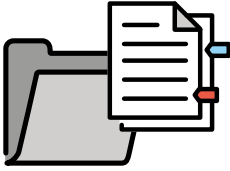
- Artist(s), creative practitioner(s), or a cultural / creative organisation.



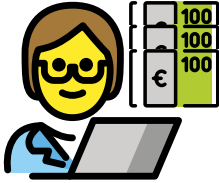
- Climate expert, such as an environmental scientist, an ecologist or a biodiversity expert.



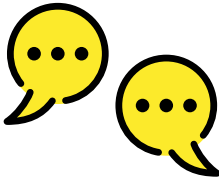
- Project manager.



- Administrator.



- Accountant (or accounting services).



- Communications and public engagement specialist.

You can include **more than one** artist, creative organisation, or climate expert.

Important information for successful projects!

This Fund is run by the Department of Culture, Communications, and Sport. Grant funding must follow Circular 13/2014, which sets rules for using public money. You must read and understand this document before starting your project.

How do payments work?

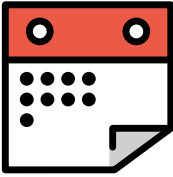
Grants are paid after money has been spent. You must first pay the costs yourself then claim the money back. You must keep proof of all spending, including receipts and bank statements or financial records that match everything you spend.

Service Level Agreement (SLA)

Everyone who gets funding must sign a contract called a Service Level Agreement. This contract explains what reports you must provide, and how you must manage and govern the project. There are reporting and governance requirements during all parts of the project. Your team must have the time and skills to manage this work. A sample SLA is on Submit.com where the application form is.

How is Creative Ireland involved?

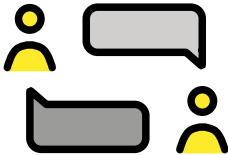
Creative Ireland is an active funder. This means:



- You must attend training and capacity-building events.



- You will have regular contact with Creative Ireland.



- You must provide updates on budgets, communications and PR, and your events and activities.



- People from Creative Ireland may visit your project, attend events and do extra research or evaluation.

Money and budget

What is the maximum budget per project?



€700,000 is the maximum.

It can be spent between 2026 and 2029. You must agree how much you will spend each year when you sign the grant agreement.

Because Government money has to be spent carefully and responsibly, your budget must be realistic and achievable.

Everyone on your project team should discuss the fees and costs. Everyone must agree the budget before signing the contract with Creative Ireland.

Your budget must include costs for:



- **Project management.**
This means the cost of managing and running the project. It can also include a fair share of overheads and other reasonable costs.



- **Evaluation.** This must include the cost of hiring an independent evaluator to measure the project's impact.



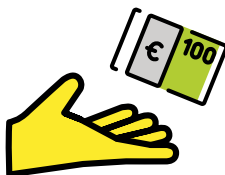
- **Payment for Work (Remuneration).**
Budgets must be fair, competitive and easy to understand. People and organisations should be paid fairly for their time. Fees paid to artists must follow industry guidelines (such as these written by the Arts Council about working with artists).



- **Travel and basic costs when you are working away from home.**
Include costs for travel, accommodation, and attending events. If you are applying for a Shared Island project, you may need to budget for extra travel and overnight stays (these are also known as 'subsistence costs'). Such costs must be included in your application stage, you cannot add them in afterwards.

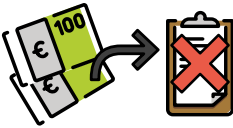


- **Materials.**
Projects should use low-carbon and environmentally friendly materials. Look for sustainable partners and suppliers to work with.

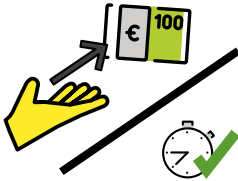


- **Co-funding.**
This means projects can include funding from other public funds, charities, philanthropy or from business. If you are waiting to hear about other funding, make sure to say so in your application. Include when you expect to get a decision on any other funding, as this may affect your timeline and budget.

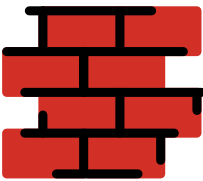
You cannot use funding for:



- Costs not directly linked to the project.



- Costs already spent before your project is approved by Creative Ireland.



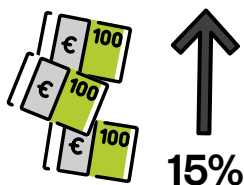
- Building or improving a venue.



- Television series or stand-alone advertising campaigns.



- School-based projects or projects only involving children.



- Overhead costs that are more than 15% of the total budget.

How projects are chosen

Criterion	Does your project proposal...	Marks (Maximum 200)
Creativity	Does your project lead with a clear artistic, creative or cultural approach, and have strong input from artists / creative practitioners?	40
Climate Relevance	Does your project clearly address one or more of the climate themes in the Grant Call? Is climate science at its core?	40
Community Engagement	Does your project involve people? Will it help them change how they think or act? Will it make a lasting difference? Does it include different communities, especially those who are disadvantaged?	30

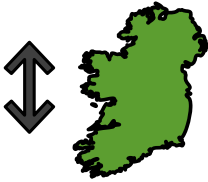
Criterion	Does your project proposal...	Marks (Maximum 200)
Demonstration of Change	<p>Will your project bring about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New ways of thinking about climate change? • Changes in people's behaviour or culture? • Changes in the way a group of people or organisation work or behave? • Ways in which groups or communities can work together after the project ends? 	30
Project Team	<p>Does your project include a team who work well together? Does it include partners from different areas? Does it have all required members? If any of these is missing, the project cannot be shortlisted.</p>	15

Criterion	Does your project proposal...	Marks (Maximum 200)
Track Record	Do you have the skills to run a creative project and engage a community? Have you shown your experience of working on large public projects? Have you shown how you work together with others in a team?	15
Evaluation Plan	Does your proposal have a clear plan for checking how the project works and its impact on people?	15
Feasibility and Value for Money	Are your budget and plan clear and realistic? Can the team manage a project of this size? Have you considered the environmental impact of the project?	15

Who can apply

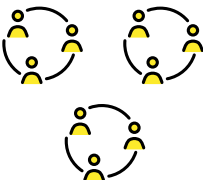


- The lead partner of the project must be based in, or mainly work in, the Republic of Ireland.



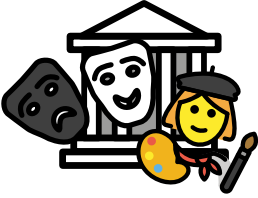
- About two projects will be supported through the Shared Island initiative. Projects funded this way must include partner(s) in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

- We welcome people working with partners outside the Republic of Ireland. Projects that include teams in Northern Ireland are also welcome, even if they are not part of a Shared Island application.

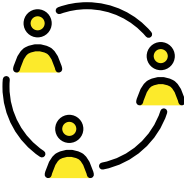


- Organisations or artists can join more than one project team, but an organisation can lead on one application only.

The **Creative Climate Action Fund III** is open to lots of different groups. This includes, but is not limited to:



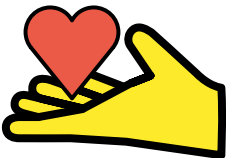
- Arts and cultural organisations or institutions.



- Creative organisations, networks, collectives, or representative bodies.



- Climate organisations, public sector bodies, or established networks.



- Charities or not-for-profit organisations.



- Universities and schools.



- Social enterprises.

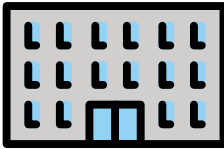


- Local authorities
(alone or with other partners).

- Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs).



- Community groups and networks.



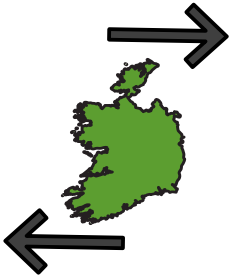
- Businesses or commercial companies.

- Philanthropic or research organisations.

We welcome projects with **more than one partner.**

Who cannot apply

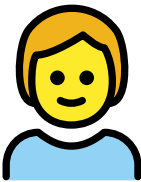
We cannot accept applications that:



- Have a lead applicant based outside the Republic of Ireland.



- Submit more than one application from the same lead organisation (though organisations can still be a partner on other projects).

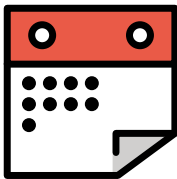


- Focus only on children or young people.



-€400,000

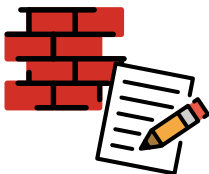
- Have a budget under €400,000.



- Will run for under 24 months.



- Are led by an organisation that is too small (your organisation must have legally required audited accounts).



- Include an installation which needs planning permission, without explaining how you will get it.



- Are more than 50% awareness-based, without aiming to change behaviour.

How to apply online

Fill in the online form at the applications portal:

<https://creativeireland.submit.com>

Please note:



- You will find extra information at the applications portal.



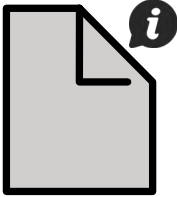
- You can save your application as a draft and continue later.



- Always save your work if you move to another page.



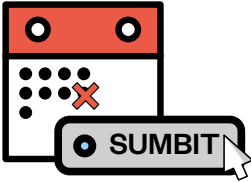
- When you submit your application, you will get an email confirming we have received it.



- Your personal information will be handled according to the Department's Privacy Policy.

The deadline is 3pm on Wednesday 15 April 2026.
Applications after this will not be accepted.

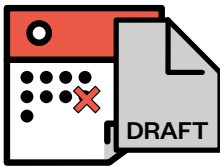
We will not accept applications:



- Submitted online after the deadline.



- Sent by post, email, hand or courier.



- Which are still in draft form at the closing date and time.

Important dates

Phase	What happens during this phase?	Date to remember
Fund opens for applications	You can submit your application online from this date.	16th February 2026
You can ask questions	You can ask any questions you have about the Fund by emailing creativeireland@ccs.gov.ie . Make sure to put “Creative Climate Action Fund” in the subject line of your email.	16th February 2026
Online information session	We will host a webinar to explain the Fund. You will be able to ask the funding panel and experts any questions you have. Details on how to register are available online.	12.30pm on Wednesday 25th February 2026
Network session	There will be an event for you to meet other applicants. This helps build partnerships across sectors and disciplines. Registration details are available online.	Friday 6th March 2026

Phase	What happens during this phase?	Date to remember
Closes for questions	No more questions can be submitted.	3pm on Wednesday 15th April 2026
Fund closes to applications	Applications must be submitted before this date.	3pm on Wednesday 15th April 2026
Evaluation	The committee will review applications and check them against the criteria.	April 2026
Interviews	Interviews may be held with shortlisted candidates.	Mid to End of May 2026 (Dates TBC)
Result of your application	We will email to let you know whether your application is successful or not.	End of June 2026

Phase	What happens during this phase?	Date to remember
Project changes	Successful applicants have a one-to-one meeting with the Creative Ireland team before signing the Service Level Agreement (SLA) contract. Any proposed changes to the project are discussed at this meeting.	July 2026
Signing the contract (SLA)	Successful projects sign a Service Level Agreement (SLA). This SLA sets out the Funding rules and conditions. Appendix 2 at the end of this document is a sample SLA.	August 2026
Training and development	We will organise workshops about climate knowledge; how to involve the public; and how to evaluate your project. You must attend to get funding.	September 2026 - Dates TBC

Appendix 1:

What has been funded before?

Since 2021, the Creative Ireland Programme has invested €8.5 million in 57 projects through the Creative Climate Action Fund. This funding was supported by:

- The Department of Culture, Communications and Sport;
- The Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment;
and
- The Department of the Taoiseach.

The Creative Climate Action Fund is supported by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment through the National Dialogue on Climate Action. It aims to:



- Brings people, communities, and government together to improve understanding of climate change.

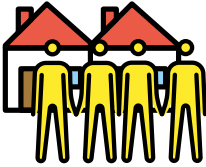


- Include everyone in climate discussions;



- Support positive behaviour change.

€1 million of the fund comes from the Shared Island initiative of the Department of the Taoiseach. The Shared Island initiative exists to support projects that work across the island of Ireland. Such projects:



- Help communities understand each other and work together.

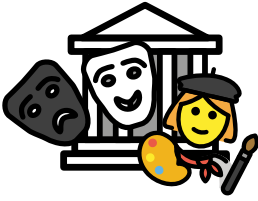


- Help to meet shared climate and energy goals.

Since 2021, many different types of groups and organisations led projects, such as:



- Non-governmental organisations (NGO)



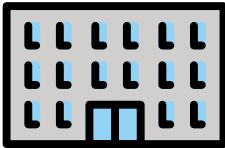
- Arts and cultural organisations.



- Universities and research organisations.

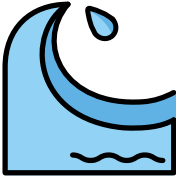


- Local authorities.

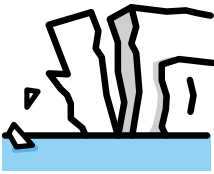


- Businesses.

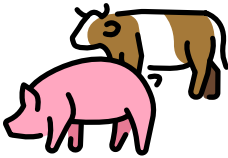
Projects have focused on climate issues such as:



- Coastal erosion.



- Adapting to climate change.



- Land use and farming.



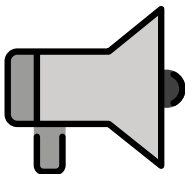
- Biodiversity.



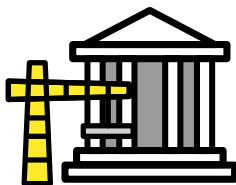
- Fair transition and inclusion.



- Caring for the environment.



- Public sector leadership.



- Buildings and infrastructure.

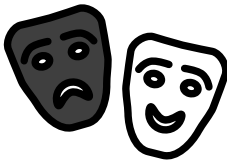


- Water systems.

Many creative approaches were used, such as



- Dance and music.



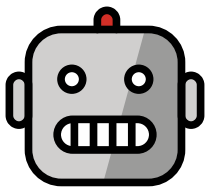
- Theatre and participatory art.



- Architecture and sculpture.



- Design thinking and service design.



- Artificial intelligence (AI).



- Improvisation.

You can read about projects we have funded before now on our [publications page](#).

Appendix 2:

Useful reports and plans

- **Creative Climate Change – Year 1 Report 2025:**
Evaluating the Impact of the Creative Climate Action. Fund II: Agents of Change Initiative on Climate Change Engagement, Action & Behaviour Change in Ireland.
- **Creative C-Change 2023:**
Analysing the Impact of the Creative Climate Action Initiative on Climate Change Awareness, Engagement & Action in Ireland.
- **Climate Action Plan 2025.**
- **Climate Change in the Irish Mind.**
- **Final Reports of all previous funded projects under the Creative Climate Action Fund I and II.**
- **Understanding How Inclusive Community-Based Climate Action can be Scaled Up: Process Evaluation of Strand 2 of the Community Climate Action Programme (Pobal, 2025).**
- **Creative Shifts: Empowering culture for sustainable living**
(Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture (European Commission, 2025).

Appendix 3:

Check list to help with your application

Before you send in your application on Submit.com make sure you have everything you need.

- ☐ I have read this briefing document in full before filling out the application.
- ☐ I confirm that the eligibility criteria (page 8 and 9) are met in full.
- ☐ I confirm that my budget is no less than €400,000 and no more than €750,000.
- ☐ I have read and understood the requirements of the Grant Circular for this fund (Circular 13/2014 - Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds).
- ☐ I have made sure all my supporting documentation is also ready to upload on Submit.com

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme



Creative Ireland Programme

Department of Culture,
Communications and Sport

Leeson Lane,
Dublin,
D02 R5Y3

 **@CreativeIrl**

 **creative-ireland**

 **@creativeireland**

www.creativeireland.gov.ie
creativeireland@ccs.gov.ie



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



**Shared Island
Initiative**

#SharedIsland

All emojis designed by OpenMoji –
the open-source emoji and icon project.
License: CC BY-SA 4.0