

Creative Climate Action Fund III

(2026-2029)

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*Shifting Tides by The Wheel,
Carlingford Lough
Photo: Suzie Cahn*





Turas by Burrenbeo Trust, Galway
Photo: Eamonn Ward

Creativity in Climate Action

Deadline for Application:
Wednesday 15th April 2026

The Creative Ireland Programme, through the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport (DCCS) in collaboration with the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) and the Department of the Taoiseach (D/Taoiseach), is delighted to invite applications to Creative Climate Action Fund III, a competitive fund of €6.5 million for creative projects that can connect people with the profound changes that are happening in our environment, society and economy arising from climate change, and can transform that connection into understanding and action.

Research by the EPA has indicated that the vast majority of people in Ireland are worried about climate change and believe that changes, such as extreme weather, will harm their community. We are already experiencing the results of climate change through flooding, more extreme weather, and rising sea levels, and as a country we are not on track to meet our climate targets.¹

Mitigating and adapting to climate change is the defining challenge of our time. There is a growing need to support a just transition and to enable communities to respond to and inform policies on how we can manage the effects of a changing climate and biodiversity loss.

We know we must come together at national and local levels to tackle this challenge and enable a wholesale cultural shift to a decarbonized society.

This new Creative Climate Action Fund seeks to complement existing outreach and awareness raising work across government in relation to climate action. The National Dialogue on Climate Action (led by DCEE) is the central initiative, acting as a forum of collaboration between citizens, communities, stakeholders, the government and relevant agencies covering a range of climate-related issues. We are seeking projects using art and creative practices to change thinking, and bring about behavioural or cultural shifts.

The goal is to increase public engagement and climate literacy while empowering individuals at national and local level, as well as delivering an inclusive programme of engagement to inform climate policy. Equally, the Programme for Government has highlighted its commitment to deliver actions that achieve emissions reductions targets. As well as this, it aims to *“Support the Just Transition Commission’s work to listen to communities, address their concerns, and ensure they benefit from the green transition.”*

¹ <https://www.epa.ie/news-releases/news-releases-2025/epa-projections-show-ireland-off-track-for-2030-climate-targets.php>

Community climate action, sustained by government initiatives such as the Creative Climate Action Fund and [Climate Actions Work](#) (DCEE) are essential to driving the transformation in cultural and behavioural change, and in closing the gap between awareness and action. This societal transformation is as much an economic and social challenge as it is a scientific one.

The arts, culture and creativity sector can play an important role in supporting this social and cultural challenge. The approaches and skills of these sectors can assist in making climate science accessible to all and climate action more meaningful. Creative and cultural participation can empower people to visualise future climate impacts, understand and take practical actions, while fostering a sense of urgency and possibility as a community.

Examples of previous projects include biodiversity initiatives with artists in National Parks, sustainable tourism community projects in the midland bogs and creative coastal resilience programme on the west coast of Ireland.

These projects have shown us that creative practices such as visual art, dance, design, architecture, music and comedy are a powerful mechanism through which behavioural change can be achieved. The lens of creativity offers a more positive, hopeful approach to engagement with communities and towards our shared vision of a better tomorrow.

Research by UCC MaREI² is assessing the effectiveness of the Creative Climate Action Fund II. They found that creative interventions can be powerful catalysts of climate action. By connecting with participants on a deep emotional level, the projects provided a unique inspirational frame that motivated people to adopt and pursue further sustainable actions.

To date, the projects have shown strong potential in ensuring an equitable and just transition to a sustainable future, taking all citizens into account, including those from marginalised or disadvantaged communities and people with intellectual disabilities. Information on previous projects supported under the fund is [here](#).



² https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/app/uploads/2025/05/Creative-Climate-Change-II_-Report-Year-One_Final-for-web-1.pdf

Objectives of the Fund



The total funding available under Creative Climate Action Fund III is €6.5 million, with funding in the range of €400,000 to €750,000 available per project over a three-year period. This is an increase of budget and project length from previous funds.

We are seeking innovative projects of scale and ambition that lead with a strong artistic, cultural, or creative approach to enable climate action in a community of place or practice. At the core of this fund is a focus on transforming understanding into specific and tangible climate actions.

€1 million of the total fund of €6.5 million is part of the Shared Island initiative. There will be approximately two projects awarded funding under the Shared Island allocation. We welcome applications from project teams in Ireland working in partnership with local or national community, cultural and creative organisations in collaboration with North-South partners or both North-South and East-West (Ireland-Britain) partners.

The lead applicant must be based in Ireland. The Shared Island projects may include partners from East-West (i.e. England, Scotland, and Wales) but must include at least one partner from Northern Ireland. If projects fall under the Shared Island element of the fund, the application should demonstrate that funding will be shared fairly with partners with meaningful activity with North-South and if applicable, East-West (Ireland-Britain) partners.

Addressing climate change requires a social and cultural transformation. It is our culture that shapes how we interact with our environment – through our habits of consumption, ideas about nature, what we value as meaningful, and what we think is possible and impossible.

This is why we want to see projects which have public engagement or participation at the core. This may include the wider public, a group of people living in the same geographic place or context (e.g. urban or rural), a community of practice, a group/organisation of shared interest or need or with a particular characteristic in common, a network of people etc.

*Bog Bothy by Irish Architecture Foundation, Offaly
Photo: Ste Murray*

Responses of creative or interpretive expression (whether traditional or contemporary) are invited from across the arts, cultural and creative sectors, including:

- **Arts:** Using the definition of arts under the Arts Act (2003), this includes architecture, circus, dance (all genres), film, literature, music (all genres), opera, street arts and spectacle, theatre and the performing arts, traditional arts, multidisciplinary arts, participatory arts, Irish language arts, visual arts and digital art.
- **Culture:** Includes the National Cultural Institutions, festivals, cultural heritage organisations, libraries, cultural venues, and museums.
- **Creative Industries:** European Union (EU) classification of the creative industries includes advertising, design (including graphic design, service design and participatory design), animation and games, AR/VR, the audio-visual sector, publishing and press, music, fashion, comedy.
- Your project could involve a range of different creative disciplines/artforms across the lifetime of the project.

Projects must show that they can bring about the following:

- 1 **Conceptual shifts:** A change amongst those involved in their ways of seeing or approaching the issue of climate change
- 2 **Behavioural or cultural shifts:** New behaviours are adopted by the individuals or organisations involved or participating in the project
- 3 **Organisational Change:** People or organisations introduce new or different policies or practices as a result of the project
- 4 **Enduring connectivity:** The project creates sustainable changes and allows participants/networks to continue to work together beyond the life of the project



Neart na Machairí
by Dingle Hub, Kerry
Photo: Domnick Walsh



Connection to Climate Policy

We welcome a wide range of ideas and proposals in this call, with creative community engagement and climate action at the core of the projects. We encourage all applicants to be brave and take risks with your project ideas and your project collaborators. However, we recognise that it is important to connect ideas back to climate policies and areas where we believe the most impact can be achieved through the Creative Climate Action Fund. As an all-of-government initiative, the Creative Climate Action Fund is guided by priorities set out by DCEE's 2025 Climate Action Plan, the National Dialogue on Climate Action and the Just Transition Commission:

Bean Festival by
Brilliant Ballybunion, Kerry
Photo: Rena Blake

These include:

— **Climate Adaptation:** a change in natural or human systems in response to the impacts of climate change. These changes moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities and can be in response to actual or expected impacts.

— **Climate Mitigation:** describes action to reduce the likelihood of an event occurring or reduce the impact if it does occur. This can include reducing the causes of climate change (e.g., emissions of greenhouse gases) as well as reducing future risks associated with climate change.

— **Renewable Energy/Energy Use:** The development and expansion of renewable energy infrastructure creates jobs across various sectors, including engineering, construction, maintenance, and research. It also attracts investment, stimulates local economies, and encourages innovation in clean technologies.

— **Sustainable Transport:** Our transport networks connect us to activities such as employment, recreation, retail and education. A sustainable, accessible and efficient transport system is not only important for wellbeing but also has a key function in trade and the economy.

— **Just Transition and Inclusivity:** Just transition is about ensuring no one is left behind in the journey to climate neutrality. In policy we approach it

from an operational perspective and the conditions that are required to ensure that a policy is developed with just transition in mind. These include evidence-based decisions, skills and enablers considered to allow people to benefit from changes, cost-sharing and equity considered in the process, and social dialogue with most impacted cohorts.

— **Agriculture and Land Use:** How humans make use of land and includes activities such as residential use, agriculture, commercial forestry and infrastructural uses such as transport or utilities.

— **Biodiversity/Nature Restoration:** The practice of renewing and restoring degraded, damaged, or destroyed ecosystems and habitats. Restored habitats help to increase the populations of wild species which are currently in decline such as birds, bees, butterflies, aquatic species and other animals.

— **Circular Economy:** Where resources are re-used or recycled as much as possible, and the generation of waste is minimised, including food waste. The circular economy is an alternative to today's 'take-make-waste' economy where great quantities of natural resources are extracted to make things that may be used only once before being thrown away.

Compulsory Elements of application and project team:

Evaluation of impact: An independent evaluator must be included on the team and an approach to evaluation and measuring outcomes must be included in application. Previous evaluations and all project reports from fund I and II can be found [here](#).

Team Structure: The project team must be composed of the following expertise:

- Artist(s), creative practitioner(s) or cultural /creative organisation
- Climate expert (e.g. environmental scientist, ecologist, or biodiversity expert)
- Project manager
- Administrator
- Accountant (or services)
- Independent Evaluator
- Communications and public engagement expertise
- (More than one artist/ creative organisation/climate expert is permitted)

Essential Information for Successful Recipients:

- The Creative Ireland Programme is administered through the Department of Culture, Communications, and Sport.
- The administration of the grant must adhere to [Circular 13/2014 - Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds](#). Grantees should read and familiarise themselves with this circular before commencing.
- All grants are paid out on the basis of vouched expenditure. This means that grant amounts are recouped retrospectively once expenses have been incurred and paid for. Proof of each transaction must exist in the form of a receipt and the payment matched to a transaction on a bank statement or a financial management system.
- If you are a successful recipient of central government funding, you will be required to sign a Service Level Agreement (SLA). A sample of this will be available for download on submit.com and it will outline the reporting requirements. Please note that there are several governance and reporting requirements as part of this fund for its duration. You will need to ensure that your project team has the capacity to manage this.

In addition, the Creative Ireland Programme aims to be an active funder. Our level of engagement with grantees will look like:

- Grantee attendance at capacity building and training events provided by Creative Ireland.
- Regular contact by Creative Ireland with our Grantees and responding to requests for budget updates, communications and PR materials and event details as they arise.
- Site visits and/or attend at project events. This is an essential part of Creative Ireland's understanding the context and progress of your project.
- Facilitating research or evaluation of your project by the Creative Ireland Programme if we deem it necessary to conduct independent research, outside of your own evaluator.



Divergently Together by DCU
Photo: Sheila Marie Rooney

Financial and Budget Requirements

The maximum budget per project can range from €400,000 to €750,000. This spend can be spread as you see fit throughout 2026 – 2029, but expenditure per year must be agreed at the time of signing grant agreement. Feasible and realistic financial forecasting/spend is expected from all projects, with consideration to appropriate use of public funding.

When creating your budget please make sure you have discussed individual fees and project budgets as a team. We expect all members of your Project Team to agree your budget prior to the contract signing with Creative Ireland.

*Room with a View by Cracking Light Productions, Clare
Photo: Cracking Light Productions*



We encourage you to consider:

Project Management: This fee should cover administrative staff time (for example to cover project management and/or financial administration), as well as any contribution towards overheads or other reasonable costs required to participate.

Evaluation: This fee should be included to cover the cost of hiring an independent individual /company to evaluate the impact of your project/ project outcomes.

Renumeration: We are looking for a transparent and competitive budget that remunerates individuals and organisations properly for their time. Fees for artists should be in line with recognised industry guidelines ([see information from the Arts Council on the remuneration and contracting of artists](#))

Travel and Subsistence: Appropriate budgeting for teams and participants to travel and attend events, including overnights. We recognise that Shared Island projects will incur additional costs for project teams and project participants to travel and stay overnight as part of the project. This needs to be budgeted for at application stage.

Materials: We are interested in supporting low carbon solutions and environmentally friendly practice in project planning and delivery, as well as your choices of partners and suppliers.

Co-funding: We welcome projects that are co-funded through other public funds, philanthropy or business contribution. If you are awaiting funds from an alternative source, please outline this in your application and include the timeframe when you expect to be notified of the outcome, as this may impact on your project timeline and budget requirements.

Ineligible Cost :

- Costs not directly related to the project (including capital expenditure)
- Retrospective costs i.e. expenditure which has taken place prior to the project approval date
- Capital requests for building improvements to workspaces and venues
- Application relating to television series or a standalone advertising campaign
- School-related projects or projects that engage exclusively with children
- Additional overhead costs that exceed 15% of the total budget

Selection Criteria

Criterion	All applicants must demonstrate the following in their proposal:	Marks (Maximum 200)
Creativity	The project leads with a clear artistic, creative or cultural approach and includes strong input from creative practitioners.	40
Climate Relevance	The application clearly addresses one or more of the climate themes outlined in the brief. The concept has climate science at the core.	40
Community Engagement	The idea demonstrates ability to engage people, change attitudes and behaviours, and to have tangible and lasting impact in a community of place or practice. It aims to engage with participants either in-depth or at scale. There is consideration given to the type and needs of the community or participants. The project may actively seek, or has the capacity, to involve diverse and disadvantaged communities.	30
Demonstration of Change	The project outline should demonstrate intention to deliver on change elements outlined below: - Conceptual shifts - Behavioural or cultural shift - Organisational Change - Enduring connectivity	30

Criterion	All applicants must demonstrate the following in their proposal:	Marks (Maximum 200)
Project Team	The team and governance arrangements are clearly outlined and demonstrate the potential to work well together. The team includes partners from multiple disciplines with the capacity to deliver a project at scale. The project team must include all the compulsory elements noted above – the absence of any of these elements would disqualify the project from shortlisting.	15
Track Record	The applicant demonstrates strong capacity to deliver a creative project which can engage a community of place or practice. There is a track record of delivering public engagement projects at scale and demonstrated experience of working in collaborative teams.	15
Evaluation Plan	The applicant demonstrates a well-developed evaluation plan, outlining how they will evaluate the engagement and impact of this project in line with the context and themes set out in the brief.	15
Feasibility and Value for Money	The project plan and budget are detailed, realistic and appropriate to the project proposed. There is clear capacity in administering and implementing projects of this scale. The environmental impacts of the project have been considered.	15

Eligible Applicants

- 1 The lead applicant must be based in or operate substantially within the Republic of Ireland.
- 2 It is envisaged that approximately two projects will be supported through the Shared Island initiative. For this strand, there must be partners in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.
- 3 Collaboration with partners from outside the Republic of Ireland is welcomed. Projects including an element of engagement in Northern Ireland are welcomed outside of the Shared Island allocation.
- 4 Organisations or artists can be included on more than one project team. However, an organisation can only be a lead on one application.

The Creative Climate Action Fund III is an open call, with applications for both strands welcome from (but not limited to the below). We welcome applications that involve multiple partners.

- Arts and cultural organisations or institutions
- Creative organisations, networks, collectives and representative bodies
- Climate organisations, public sector bodies, or established networks
- Charities or not-for-profit organisations
- Universities and institutes of education
- Social enterprises
- Local authorities (individually or with other LA's or external partners)
- Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs)
- Community groups and networks
- Business, commercial companies,
- Philanthropic and research bodies

Ineligible Applications

- Lead applicants based outside of the Republic of Ireland (the primary applicant, and if successful, Grantee must be based in the Republic of Ireland)
- More than one application by the same lead organisation (this does not preclude organisations being a partner organisation on other applications)
- We will not consider projects that specifically focus on children and young people as there is existing work engaging this cohort on climate change
- Project budgets under €400,000
- Project duration under 24 months will not be considered
- Projects not led by an organisation of sufficient scale (organisation must be legally required to produce audited accounts)
- Any application where an installation requiring planning permission is suggested and is not accompanied by an explanation of the process required for that permission to be obtained
- Projects where a significant proportion (greater than 50%) of the activities is based on awareness only, and not behaviour change



*Lantern Walk by Tom Meskell
- WILDERLAND (National Parks and Wildlife Service, North Mayo Heritage Centre, Elaine Harrington), Mayo
Photo: Ugnius Brazdžiunas*

How to Apply Online

ACT 2 by SETU, Waterford
Photo: Patrick Browne

Applications can be made by completing the online application form at <https://creativeireland.submit.com> no later than 3pm on Wednesday 15th April 2026.

— All personal data you submit to us as part of the application process, will be processed in accordance with [Department's Privacy Policy](#).

— **NOTE:** The below will not be considered:

- Applications received after the above deadline
- Application submitted by post, e-mail, hand or courier
- Applications with a status of 'draft' at the closing date and time

Using the Application Portal

— Clarifications and additional information will be provided on the application portal.

— While editing, your application form can be saved in draft on the online portal and returned to later.

— If you need to navigate away from your current page, please ensure that you have saved your progress.

— Upon submission, you will receive an email advising that your application has been received.



Important Dates

Phase	Details	Date
Application Open	Submission of applications online. Clarifications and queries can be sent between now and the closing date, to creativeireland@ccs.gov.ie . Please use "Creative Climate Action Fund" in the subject line of the email so that we can direct your query.	16th February 2026
Online Information Session	An online webinar which will provide an overview of the fund and a Q&A session to the funding panel. This will allow prospective applicants to ask questions to the funding panel and experts in creative engagement on climate action. Further details on registration are here .	12.30pm on Wednesday 25th February 2026
Network Session	In person networking event(s) to allow interested individuals, groups and organisations an opportunity to connect and to support partnership formation across sectors and disciplines. Further information on the event and details on registration is available here .	Friday 6th March 2026
Closing Date		3pm on Wednesday 15th April 2026
Evaluation	The evaluation committee including representatives from the Creative Ireland Programme and DCEE, together with independent experts, will evaluate applications according to the criteria above.	April 2026

Phase	Details	Date
Interviews	Short-listed applicants will be called for an interview with the evaluation committee to clarify aspects of their application.	Mid to End of May 2026 (Dates TBC)
Notification of Applicants	Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified by email of the outcome of their application.	End of June 2026
Window for Project Modification	Successful applicants will have a one-to-one meeting with the Creative Ireland team ahead of SLA signing, during which any proposed changes can be discussed.	July 2026
Signing of Service Level Agreements (Contracts)	Each Grantee will be required to sign an SLA with the Department to agree the conditions of funding. A sample of this will be available for download on Submit.com.	August 2026
Training and Development Day(s)	Dedicated workshop sessions will take place during this time covering topics such as climate literacy, approaches to public engagement, and evaluation. Attendance is a condition of funding. Further information will be provided on the date and location in due course.	September 2026 - Dates TBC

About the Funders



The Creative Ireland Programme— The Department of Culture, Communications and Sport

The Creative Ireland Programme is an all-of-government culture and wellbeing programme based in the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport. It is our ambition to inspire and transform people, places and communities through creativity. We are committed to the vision that every person in Ireland should have the opportunity to realise their full creative potential.

Our strategic goals are to:

- Establish a community of practice and participation
- Promote understanding of the value of creativity
- Measure impact and build evidence
- Embed creativity in public policy

*Taoiseach Micheal Martin and Minister Patrick O'Donovan at Shared Island Conference, 2025, Dublin
Photo: Maxwell's*

About Previous Creative Climate Action Funds

Climate Action Fund - The Department of Climate, Energy and The Environment

The Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) is supporting the initiative as part of the National Dialogue on Climate Action (NDCA), a forum of collaboration between citizens, stakeholders, the government and relevant agencies covering a range of climate-related issues. The goal of the NDCA is to establish a new social contract between the government and the Irish people around climate action by:

- Increasing awareness of climate change founded on evidence.
- Delivering an inclusive programme of engagement to inform climate policy.
- Promoting climate literacy and improve the capacity for self-efficacy and agency among the public.
- Empower people to make positive behavioural changes that improve their quality of life.

The NDCA is the central initiative for understanding public climate change knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour, and the underlying psychological and cultural factors that influence the public. Its work also includes Climate Conversations, the National Climate Stakeholder Forum, The National Youth Assembly on Climate.

Read more here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-the-environment-climate-and-communications/publications/national-dialogue-on-climate-action-ndca/>

Shared Island Fund - The Department of the Taoiseach

€1 million is being contributed to the Creative Climate Action fund under the government's Shared Island initiative. The government's Shared Island initiative aims to harness the full potential of the Good Friday Agreement to enhance cooperation, connection and mutual understanding on the island and engage with all communities and traditions to build consensus around a shared future.

Projects funded under Shared Island initiative should aim to support cross-border and all-island climate action in communities and local authorities to help reach common climate and energy targets.

Since 2021, the Creative Ireland Programme, through the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport along with the Department Climate, Energy and the Environment and the Department of the Taoiseach, have invested a total of €8.5m in 57 projects through its Creative Climate Action and Sustainability pillar's Creative Climate Action Fund. This significant investment to date has actively supported creative, cultural and artistic projects that build awareness around climate change and empower citizens and make meaningful behavioural changes.

Funded projects were led by a variety of organisations and interdisciplinary teams across NGOs, arts/cultural organisations, academic institutions, local authorities,

and business sectors. Projects addressed climate issues such as coastal erosion, climate change adaptation, land use and farming practices, biodiversity, inclusivity/just transition, environmental stewardship, public sector leadership, built environment and water systems. Creative and cultural interventions included dance, music, AI, improvisation, design-thinking, service design, architecture, theatre, participative art, and sculpture.

You can read about previous projects funded under Creative Climate Action on our publications page.

*Ballymun is Brilliant by Global Action Plan, Dublin
Photo: Jen Harrington*



Appendix I

Key Documents

- [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 II

Applicant Check List

To assist in your application, please ensure you have completed the below before submitting your application on Submit.com.

- I have read the 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 €400,000EUR and no greater than €750,000 as set out in the brief
- I have read and understood the requirements of the Grant Circular in partaking in this fund ([Circular 13/2014 - Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds](#))
- I have ensured all supporting documentation is uploaded along with the form on Submit.com



Creative Ireland Programme

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#SharedIsland

Cover Image:
Tern the Tide in Kilcoole by Marie Gordon
and Laura McMahon, Wicklow
Photo: Brian Burke, NPWS Little Tern
Conservation, BirdWatch Ireland