**Project to help cultural and heritage organisations commission decarbonisation work**

**Request for Expressions of Interest**

Arts Council England (ACE) and Historic England (HE) are looking for up to **4** micro, small or medium sized non-national cultural or heritage organisations[[1]](#footnote-1) that manage, use or occupy a listed building.

Selected organisations will be participating in a project (**November 2024 – March 2025**) to develop best practice advice and guidance to help cultural and heritage organisations have:

* a clear understanding of the steps and processes required to decarbonise their buildings
* confidence in commissioning the most appropriate surveys and assessments to inform this work (e.g. installation of heat pumps, solar panels, fabric changes etc).

The project - **Supporting cultural & heritage sector decarbonisation - pilot** - will help organisations understand what types of survey they need to commission, what these surveys include and what information they can expect from the reports. The aim is to demystify the process and provide clarity on the next steps and processes involved in decarbonising their building, potentially as part of their Net Zero strategy.

For each of the selected listed buildings, the project will fund the full cost of a range of surveys and assessments based on the [whole building approach](https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/retrofit-and-energy-efficiency-in-historic-buildings/whole-building-approach-for-historic-buildings/). The output will be a report outlining what suitable, coordinated, balanced and well-integrated interventions are appropriate for that particular building and organisation, to support them in decarbonising their building.

There will be no monetary cost to the selected project participants, however for the project to be successful the participants will be expected to contribute in-kind commitments to the project (see below for further details).

ACE and HE will commission consultant(s) to undertake surveys on up to 4 different buildings selected from the organisations who submit an expression of interest (see [[Microsoft Form](https://forms.office.com/e/jpJ2yYr2ka)](https://forms.office.com/e/jpJ2yYr2ka) and the [**selection criteria**](#_Selection_criteria_for) below). Our aim is to support a representative selection of buildings, ideally across a broad geographical spread, types and ages of building, and organisations, including theatres, cinemas, museums, galleries, libraries, historic houses, heritage attractions, and cultural heritage service/advice providers.

It is not essential to have prior surveys (for example condition surveys), but you will be required to supply energy data for the building (for example, bills) and give the consultant(s) full access to the building and any available information and data that could be of use.

What are the benefits for the selected cultural / heritage organisations

* Their building will have up to date surveys and assessment undertaken
* They will receive a bespoke and clear set of recommendations to take them towards decarbonisation

What ACE and HE will receive from the project

* Unrestricted access and informed consent to the surveys and reports produced (including details of the organisation’s energy data) to develop case studies, best practice advice, webinars, guidance and templates, the output of which will be published on our websites to support the cultural and heritage sector’s decarbonisation journey
* Participating organisations will host a site visit as part of a follow up learning/training event

If you would like to submit an expression of interest to be part of this project, please fill in the short [[Microsoft Form](https://forms.office.com/e/jpJ2yYr2ka)](https://forms.office.com/e/jpJ2yYr2ka) that will capture details about your organisation and building. The form will be open until **Monday 23rd September**

We currently only have up to 4 opportunities, but we will keep all unsuccessful applicants informed of the project’s progress and any training events to be delivered as part of the project.

**If you have any questions, please contact Dan Miles (**[**daniel.miles@historicengland.org.uk**](mailto:daniel.miles@historicengland.org.uk)**)**

## Selection criteria for participating organisations

The aim of this project is to develop case studies, templates and guidance to support cultural and heritage organisations (including theatres, cinemas, libraries, galleries, museums, heritage attractions, historic houses and cultural heritage service and advice providers) understand the steps and processes required to decarbonise their buildings.

We will select up to 4 buildings to produce survey outputs that are representative and applicable to the widest possible range of cultural and heritage institutions.

Organisations eligible to apply are required to meet the following criteria:

**1. Organisation type, size and constitutio**n

* Organisations need to be Micro, Small or Medium cultural or heritage organisations based in England. Micro, Small and Medium sized enterprises are defined here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fcdo-small-to-medium-sized-enterprise-sme-action-plan/small-to-medium-sized-enterprise-sme-action-plan>
* Organisations must be non-commercial/not for profit, for example charitable trusts including cultural, heritage and single building trusts. Selected organisations must be able to clearly demonstrate that their primary aims are around culture and/or heritage and their activities fall within the remit of ACE and/or Historic England. Organisations should also be properly constituted with a governing document.
* Out of scope of this project are buildings in use as places of worship and local authority owned and managed buildings.
* They need to be cultural or heritage organisations, which include theatres, cinemas, libraries, galleries, museums, heritage attractions, historic houses and cultural heritage service/advice providers that manage, use or occupy a listed building in England.

Note - the surveys to be undertaken will be on a single building managed, used or occupied by a cultural heritage organisation. Organisations will need to make clear which building they are applying for.

**2. Commitment to supporting the project through**

* Sharing energy data and providing physical access to the building to the consultant(s) and ACE and Historic England staff in order to undertake the surveys
* Public sharing of data including energy consumption, survey results and reports to develop case studies, best practice advice, webinars, guidance and templates, the output of which will be published on ACE, Historic England and partners’ websites to support the cultural and heritage sector’s decarbonisation journey
* Hosting a site visit as part of a follow-up learning/training event to demonstrate the survey processes and discuss the results and recommendations
* Availability to engage with the consultants, ACE and Historic England during the period of the project until end of March 2025.

**Selection of the buildings to be surveyed**

ACE and Historic England will select up to 4 buildings based on the applications received and will take into consideration:

* Geographic location
* Organisation type and building use
* Construction and material type

This will provide, as far as possible from the applications received, a representative sample of organisation and building types, from which to develop useful case studies that cultural and heritage organisations can identify with and use to support their own decarbonisation efforts.

The selection will be made using the professional and informed judgements of ACE and Historic England staff drawing on their experience of technical conservation and capital funding projects, including [MEND](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/museum-estate-and-development-fund-mend#t-in-page-nav-2).

1. For this project, we are defining cultural and heritage organisations as not for profit organisations based in England. Organisations must be able to clearly demonstrate that their primary aims are around culture and / or heritage and their activities fall within the remit of ACE and / or HE. Organisations should also be properly constituted with a governing document. Micro, Small and Medium sized enterprises are defined in <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fcdo-small-to-medium-sized-enterprise-sme-action-plan/small-to-medium-sized-enterprise-sme-action-plan> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)