

Request for Expressions of Interest - Supporting Welsh Cultural & Heritage Sector Decarbonisation - Pilot

The National Library of Wales (NLW) in partnership with Welsh Government and Cadw are looking for 2 cultural or heritage organisations¹ that manage, use or occupy a listed building, to take part in a pilot project to help organisations understand the next steps and processes involved in decarbonising their building, potentially as part of their Net Zero strategy.

Background

Working in partnership with Welsh Government, the National Library of Wales (NLW) are leading on a high profile and cross-cutting Climate Action Programme that works across three policy areas – culture, arts and the historic environment (Cadw). The programme supports delivery of Ambition 16 of the Priorities for Culture, which is for the culture sector to demonstrate “*leadership and collaboration in its approaches to sustainable development, building resilience, and tackling the climate and nature emergencies*”, through delivery of a series of strategic projects and sector development initiatives in support of priorities outlined in the Programme for Government 2021-2026, Priorities for Culture, Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the [Culture sector: climate and nature emergencies report](#).

To support these actions under Ambition 16 the Welsh Government is commissioning research into the physical infrastructure of the culture sector in Wales with a view to developing a longer-term strategic capital investment plan.

The **Supporting Welsh cultural & heritage sector decarbonisation – Pilot** project builds on the England-based Cultural and Heritage Sector Decarbonisation Project, managed by the architects Haworth Tompkins, funded by and working closely in partnership with Arts Council England (ACE) and Historic England (HE). This project has delivered a new resource package to support cultural and heritage organisations responsible for historic buildings with [Developing a Decarbonisation Plan](#), which can also be effectively applied to organisations in Wales.

¹ For this project, we are defining cultural and heritage organisations as not for profit organisations based in Wales. Organisations must be able to clearly demonstrate that their primary aims are around culture and / or heritage. Organisations should also be properly constituted with a governing document.

The Opportunity

Selected organisations will be participating in a project (**March 2026 – March 2027**) to:

- help them gain a clear understanding of the steps and processes required to decarbonise their buildings
- understand what types of survey they need to commission, what these surveys include and what information they can expect from the reports
- test the new resource package for [Developing a Decarbonisation Plan](#) developed through Arts Council England (ACE) and Historic England's (HE) Cultural and Heritage Sector Decarbonisation Project.

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, and to gain 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 will also generate case studies which will be useful to other cultural and heritage organisations in Wales, increase understanding and confidence around decarbonisation within the Welsh cultural and heritage workforce, and provide a model which could be rolled out more widely across the sector in future subject to securing additional funding.

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. 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).

NLW will commission consultant(s) to undertake surveys on 2 different buildings selected from the organisations who submit an expression of interest (see Microsoft Form and the selection criteria). Our aim is to select buildings:

- which will produce survey outputs that are representative and applicable to the widest possible range of cultural and heritage institutions
- in different geographical areas of Wales
- used or occupied by different types of cultural/heritage organisations

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 Welsh Government, NLW and Cadw 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 which will be published on our websites (including a new website we are developing for Culture and Climate in Wales), 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, and agree to take part in an online sector knowledge sharing event

Submitting an EOI

If you would like to submit an expression of interest to be part of this project, please fill in [this short form](#) that will capture details about your organisation and building. The form will be open until **10:00am on Wednesday 4 February 2026**

We currently only have 2 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 Judith Musker Turner, Climate Action Programme Lead (judith.muskerturner@llyfrgell.cymru)

Selection criteria for participating organisations

The aim of this project is to develop case studies and test templates and guidance to support cultural and heritage organisations to understand the steps and processes required to decarbonise their buildings.

We will select 2 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 and constitution

- 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. Organisations should also be properly constituted with a governing document.
- 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 Wales.
- Organisations must have outside space and/or flat roof space available. This is because if neither of these are available, then options for installing new renewable energy infrastructure such as heat pumps are limited.
- Organisations must be able to provide, if selected to take part in the project, the essential documents listed in Appendix 1 below by 17:00 on Wednesday 11 February. Please consider whether you have these documents readily available or whether you will be able to obtain them within this timeframe.

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 NLW and Cadw 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 NLW's new Culture and Climate Cymru website, Cadw 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
- Taking part in an online sector knowledge sharing event organised by NLW
- Availability to engage with the consultants, NLW and Cadw during the period of the project until end of March 2027.

Selection of the buildings to be surveyed

NLW and Cadw will select 2 buildings based on the applications received and will take into consideration:

- Geographic location
- Organisation type and building use
- To what extent the building will generate survey outputs that are representative and applicable to the widest possible range of cultural and heritage institutions

As far as possible from the applications received, and within the limitations of being able to select 2 buildings, we will select 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 NLW and Cadw staff drawing on their experience of technical conservation and capital funding projects.

Appendix 1

Essential Documents which the organisation must be able to supply by 17:00 on Wednesday 11 February if selected:	Title of document	date
Energy data for at least one year, preferably three years if available (electricity, gas, oil etc).		How many years available?
Building layout plans - CAD plans and elevations Please confirm format – PDF, DWG of both?		
Details of availability of any outdoor space that you own or manage (for plant such as heat pumps etc.)		
Details of availability of any flat roof area (for plant such as heat pumps etc.)		
Photos of the building		
Optional Documents which the organisation should supply in addition if available:		
Condition Survey (Building fabric) May be called a Quinquennial Inspection		
Condition Survey (Building Services) Mechanical and Electrical and plumbing identification of: 1) the installed building services systems (ventilation, air conditioning, comfort cooling, 2) heating, hot water and lighting systems and their controls); 3) any installed low or zero carbon (LZC) systems (e.g. solar photovoltaics); and 4) the locations of all building services equipment, the areas served and confirmation that the systems are working correctly (or otherwise);		

Conservation Appraisal or Heritage Assessment or Statement of Significance to understand the significance of each building element (e.g. as part of a Listed building application)		
Occupational assessment (study of the building's use and how those interacting with it feel the building performs)		
Energy efficiency assessments/surveys of the building such as		
Airtightness testing,		
heat loss calculation,		
Infrared thermography,		
u-value measurements,		
temperature/humidity and air quality readings,		
fabric moisture content,		
hygrothermal assessment modelling and analysis.		
Overheating risk		
Display Energy Certificate		
Energy Performance Certificates for your business premises (or it maybe your building is exempt due to Listed status)		