



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

**Scottish Government Consultation: [Climate Change - Net Zero Nation: draft public engagement strategy - consultation](#)**

*Submitted: March 2021*

*Consultation Report Available: [Net Zero Nation - draft public engagement strategy for climate change: consultation analysis](#)*

**Consultation Questions**

**1. Our Approach**

*1. Objectives What are your views on the three objectives underpinning our approach to engagement on climate change?*

These clearly summarise what the Engagement strategy is seeking to achieve.

*1 (b). Do you think that any of these objectives should be removed or changed?*

We would recommend that the third objective reads 'Taking action on climate change is normalised and encouraged in communities, places, organisations and companies across Scotland.' Similarly, we would recommend that the inclusion of organisations and companies is included within the scope of this public engagement strategy is made explicit throughout: workforces are communities too, and often important sites where people are able to make change.

*1 (c). Are there any objectives that you think should be included that are currently missing?*

We would welcome a specific objective which focusses on achieving collaboration between Scottish Government, public bodies, third sector, the private sector, communities and individuals to deliver the Strategy.

**2 Principles**

*2 (a). What are your views on our seven principles for public engagement set out in Box 1?*

We believe that the principles are challenging and ambitious, but also set out clearly what needs to be achieved. We are encouraged to see that the approach should be evidence based and open, as well as a commitment to the principle of it being Just. This will enable consideration of the impacts across all of society and will also open up for every sector to contribute to delivering the strategy. As a public body and one which represents the arts, screen and creative industries, we are encouraged to see such a broad based approach, which encompasses the contribution of all sectors.

*2 (b). Do you think that any of these principles should be removed or changed?*

*2 (c). Are there any principles of good public engagement on climate change that you think are missing?*

### **3 Other Comments**

3 (a). Do you have any other comments on our overall approach?:

As is alluded to throughout this section, collaborative working will be the key to delivering the Strategy. We mentioned above that we would welcome a strategic objective focussed on achieving that collaborative work. If that is not deemed appropriate, then a greater emphasis on collaborative working and how it will be achieved would be welcomed.

### **4 Green Recovery**

*4. What are your views on the opportunities and challenges for public engagement in the Green Recovery?*

We support the view of the opportunities which have been set out for the Green Recovery. We recognise that the Arts, Screen and Creative Industries have a wide contribution to make in this recovery, not least in cutting across the environment, social and economic wellbeing of communities. We recognise that the Arts, Screen and Creative Industries can use our reach and remit to contribute to the green recovery, through changing our practice and taking a leading role in the opening up of public discussion and engagement with the changes necessary. The sector also has a role to play in employing creative practice to help envision a positive future and the journey to get there. There is a clear opportunity here to work with the cultural and creative sectors in utilising their extensive experience in public engagement. For example, creative and cultural organisations are often deeply embedded within local communities and so can play a key role in public engagement at a grassroots level in collaboration with other community organisations. In addition, the creative and cultural sector can often help to engage with those who potentially would not participate through more traditional routes, including young people, and can provide a way into the wider conversation and action using creative approaches to engagement.

### **Communicating Climate Change Policy**

*5. What are your views on our approach to communicating climate change policy?*

We consider the collaborative approach to communicating climate change policy to be a positive one. Creative Scotland would welcome working with Scottish Government in their efforts to communicate how those policy changes are being processed. In order to achieve this, we would seek closer collaboration with the relevant Scottish Government directorates and departments.

*6. Are you aware of any practical examples or case studies of good practice for communicating on climate change that could be useful for informing our approach?*

We would highlight these two recent examples: Aquarela:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xAluDF25kE> Enough is Enough by Karine Polwart, Oi Musica and the Soundhouse Choir

### **Enabling Participation in Policy Design**

*7. What are your views on our approach to enabling participation in policy design?*

We would urge as wide a participation as possible. We believe that the plans for engaging with the public and especially youth participation are strong. We would like to see the capacity to develop

different ways of engaging which will help to reach those who are not currently participating. As mentioned above, the creative and cultural sectors have a history of being able to engage and stimulate discussion with non-traditional audiences. In addition, many cultural organisations have considerable “convening power” and can bring together different sectors and interests. These organisations are often deeply embedded with communities, both tangible and intangible, and can often facilitate participation within them.

*8. Are you aware of any practical examples or case studies of good practice for enabling participation in decision-making that could be useful for informing our approach?*

We would recommend looking at the following:

RSGS Climate Emergency Summits

National Youth Arts Advisory Group: NYAAG | Young Scot Creative Carbon Scotland

Lateral North: After the Pandemic Encouraging Action

*9 What are your views on our approach to encouraging action?*

We are cheered to see that Culture and Heritage have been included in this section, but recommend that culture is more prominently featured. There are many ways in which culture can contribute to encouraging action, not least in stimulating public discussion and raising awareness of issues. In addition, so many organisations in this sector are embedded in communities and can be instrumental in bringing those communities together to work collaboratively to address action. Creative Scotland are currently working on developing a new Climate Action Plan and will look to include public engagement as part of that.

*10 Are you aware of any practical examples or case studies of good practice for encouraging climate change action that could be useful for informing our approach? Please tell us any examples you can think of.*

At Creative Scotland we require that all organisations we fund through our Regular Funding Programme (funding on a multi-year basis) report on their emissions measurement and how they are addressing reductions. We have provided extensive support for them to achieve this, through training and one to one support, over a number of years, working in partnership with Creative Carbon Scotland.

## **COP26**

*11. How do you think COP26 can help deliver a positive legacy for people of Scotland and climate action?*

COP26 can be used as leverage for awareness raising and potentially to kickstart public engagement. Through activities being planned, it could begin to identify methods through which the arts, screen and creative industries can successfully engage around climate change issues.

*12. How can we work with stakeholders and actors across Scotland to deliver our “people” theme for COP26. How do you think we can work with others in delivering our "People" theme for COP26?*

The arts, screen and creative industries can help us understand how climate change affects people’s lives (as opposed to the ‘environment’, the weather, etc). The creative sector can be actively involved and encouraged to work with the Scottish Government and other partners to create

projects which engage people and communities, which help them to look at their own actions and how they can contribute positively to mitigating climate change.

*13. Are there other initiatives that the Scottish Government should consider joining or supporting ahead of COP26? Tell us about any initiatives you believe we should join or support.*

### **Monitoring & Evaluation of the Strategy**

*14. What are your views on how our progress towards our objectives could be most effectively monitored and evaluated?*

We would suggest using existing mechanisms, such as the Scottish Household Survey to help understand how people's behaviour is changing through their home life, communities, workplaces and so on. An annual survey of organisations could also be introduced, administered by sector. Objectives should be supported with clear indicators which can measure progress. This might be most effective with a basket of indicators for each objective, as there will be a number of areas where change can be measured. This would also contribute to creating a more holistic picture of how change is or is not occurring, which would also reflect the collaborative approach to engagement.

*15. How regularly – and in what format – should we report on progress on the strategy?*

An annual report on progress, which clearly outlines actions and project undertaken and progress towards objectives including the data outlined above. The report should also highlight what is left to be done and how this is being addressed. Key elements of the report should be produced in different formats which are accessible, simple and engaging. For example, a version could be produced for children and young people.