



Invitation to tender: public affairs support to identify opportunities for policy influencing on public engagement on climate

About the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

The UK Branch of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is part of an international charitable organisation headquartered in Lisbon, Portugal with interests that span charity, education, science and the arts. We look ahead, thinking globally and acting locally, to create the conditions for change by connecting across borders of all kinds – national, cultural, organisational, disciplinary and social. We currently have two established strands of work focusing on Valuing the Ocean and the Civic Role of Arts Organisations, and we recently began the first phase of a new strand which seeks to promote Citizen Engagement on Climate. This will focus on demonstrating what effective public engagement on climate looks like and creating the conditions for its scaling.

Context

Our [Citizen Engagement on Climate programme](https://gulbenkian.pt/uk-branch/our-work/citizen-engagement-on-climate/) seeks to build and evidence the public mandate to tackle climate change. We have a focus on public engagement because we understand that this is how the sector can ensure local and national governments fulfil their responsibility to achieve carbon neutrality. Involving communities in climate action is also essential to achieve the individual behaviour change that we need to tackle climate change. We expect that this programme of work will run until 2026, with a Phase 1 to run August 2020-January 2022. For more information on our Citizen Engagement on Climate programme, see our website: <https://gulbenkian.pt/uk-branch/our-work/citizen-engagement-on-climate/>.

In Phase 1, we have two (provisional) broad and connected aims:

- Building the capacity of organisations who support public engagement in local communities, and/or tailoring communications to engage disengaged communities: this will involve a focus on supporting evaluation and collaboration to share and develop learning.
- Building policy-makers' commitment to make space for/support public engagement: this will involve evidencing the public mandate for climate action, and communicating the value of the spectrum of public engagement to policy-makers.

We are currently beginning to partner on a number of projects to support this second aim. This includes work that will target the strengthening of the commitment of national governments to support public awareness and public participation which were included in the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, but remain weak.

While the Foundation champions specific causes, as an organisation we are not political and it is rare for us to take positions on specific solutions. Instead, alongside grant funding, we endeavour to provide additional value for our partners through playing a convening and facilitating role, connecting different stakeholders in our networks to help put issues onto the public agenda.

Good contacts exist between a number of our partners and senior civil servants working on preparations for COP26 in 2021. We want to understand specifically what appetite exists for supporting more and more effective public engagement at the most senior levels of government, and the potential for this to be introduced as a major agenda item at COP26. This will help us to understand how we can best support the work of our partners.



The commission

We seek to commission an individual or organisation to provide public affairs support for Phase 1 of the *Citizen Engagement on Climate* programme (until January 2022). Specifically, we are seeking a partner to:

- Undertake a diagnostic of appetite and opportunities for political influence on public engagement on climate in the UK context, which will be shared with grant partners;
- Draft a set of recommendations for a discrete programme of policy influence which could be operationalised by the UK Branch and its partners.

The process – including timetable and costs

Timetable and costs

Final report to be received by 26 February 2021. There is a budget of up to £20,000 available for this work including costs, expenses and VAT.

Commissioning process

If you would like to undertake this commission, please respond by email with a full proposal and costings **by 6pm on 3 December 2020**.

Shortlisted candidates will be notified on 7 December 2020 and **interviews** will be held on 11 and 14 December 2020.

Proposals should include or demonstrate:

Full details of the proposer: This should include a CV with email addresses, telephone numbers and postal address, and references to relevant previous work.

Context: An understanding of the context for this work.

Your approach: Detail on how you would approach this project, your expertise on the subject and your unique offer

Timetable: Please provide an outline schedule setting out the elements of the work to be undertaken in this study, the personnel involved and the fee per day.

Costs: Detail the full costs for the approach you propose.

References: Please also provide us with one or two examples of reports or summaries of previous relevant projects you have undertaken and the names and contact details of two referees willing to attest to the quality of your work.

The criteria for assessing proposals will be:

- Experience in influencing political actors on environmental issues;
- Understanding of the subject area;
- The strength of the proposed approach (appropriateness, practicality);
- The value for money provided by the proposal.

Please contact Jessica Loring at jloring@gulbenkian.org.uk for further information.