



## Scottish Government consultation: [Climate change - draft Scottish National Adaptation Plan 3](#)

*Submitted: April 2024*

### **Consultation Questions**

*Please note that only relevant questions were responded to, with answer included below.*

#### ***Lived and local experience***

*1. What do you think the current effects of climate change are on people in Scotland?*

Creative Scotland is the funding, development and advocacy public body for the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland. We are already seeing the impact of climate change throughout the sector, with the need for venues to adapt and threats to performances and events in the shape of extreme weather, flooding, coastal erosion, and damaged national transport infrastructure. In addition, the increase in extreme weather has also had an impact on digital infrastructure, especially in rural areas, affecting organisations' digital connectivity and ability to apply for funding online.

*2. What effects, if any, do you expect climate change will have on people in Scotland over the next five years?*

The effects of climate change on the screen, culture and creative sectors are comparable to other sectors across Scotland. The risks outlined in the Third Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) apply, so too do place specific risks as the sector is spread out across the entirety of Scotland covering coastal, inner city, and rural locations. The impact of specific climate risk on our Creative Scotland as an organisation, our staff, those we fund and the wider sector is something we want to establish within the period noted, with the expansion of our risk register.

Climate change will impact the screen, culture, and creative estate, regardless of tenure. We would anticipate climate change having an impact in multiple ways on our sectors. Venues will be affected by flooding, extreme heat, wind and coastal erosion, potentially resulting in performances being cancelled or loss of venues themselves. The latter could be through losing land to the sea or an inability to fund the adaptation of buildings, resulting in venues folding or finding new premises. In addition, impact on infrastructure could have a knock on effect of the ability of audiences to attend events, or the ability of organisations to stage performances, again resulting in cancellation. We would anticipate impacts on location filming, whether that be losing locations to erosion, or disruptions in filming due to climate affected adverse weather. In both cases, there is the potential for Scotland to lose its reputation as an attractive place to film, based on its unique and diverse locations.

Finally, we would anticipate an increase in insurance premiums for organisations, whether based in venues or not, which again, could prove prohibitive in terms of cost, impacting on other activities and ultimately, leading to their business models becoming unsustainable.

We have recently commissioned research on the cultural estate to better understand its current condition, and capacity to not only achieve net-zero, but adapt to the impacts of climate change. We have been gathering data from Creative Scotland's Regularly Funded Organisations (RFOs), around their progression to net-zero. Through this we have learned in 2022/23 that 94% of our RFOs have identified the risks they will face from the changing climate, and 75% have identified opportunities associated with the changing climate. 24% of organisations said they had an adaptation plan in place, however in practice only 4 organisations have a thorough plan that focuses on adaptation actions rather than mitigation.

To further understand the challenges and issues that these organisations are facing, we will be asking organisations who are successful in applying to the Multi-Year Funding stream to provide us with their adaptation plans. This will encourage applicants to identify the specific risks which they are exposed to and help us to understand where support might be needed.

For an overview of adaptation in the creative and cultural sectors, we would recommend reference to the Creative Carbon Scotland (CCS) Annual survey report, which touches on adaptation: "Greening culture: Are we on track?" (<https://www.creativecarbonscotland.com/greening-culture/>)

### *3. What actions, if any, would you be willing and able to take to adapt to climate change?*

In 2022 Creative Scotland published our Climate Emergency and Sustainability Plan. The plan contains over 60 actions that focus on short, medium, and longer term transformational organisational and sector change that focuses on mitigation, adaptation, and climate justice.

As well as reporting on our mitigation and adaptation progress through the Public Bodies Climate Change Duties Reporting and contributing to the Public Sector Climate Adaptation Network, we will publish an annual Environmental Sustainability Review which will include progress on the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Plan, including our adaptation actions. These include developing a baseline assessment of adaptation capabilities for the arts sector, developing Creative Scotland's adaptation capabilities, using Adaptation Scotland's Adaptation Capability Framework to develop our work and support the sector to develop its adaptation capability. As part of this last, we will continue to fund Creative Carbon Scotland (CCS) to deliver support for the sector on mitigation and adaptation, including the Green Arts Initiative, Green Tease, the Library of Creative Sustainability, culture/SHIFT and Springboard.

We will continue to support CCS and offer tools, advice and a programme of support specifically focused on adaptation, including introductory sessions for those at the start of their journey.

### *4. What factor(s), if any, would prevent you from taking action to adapt to climate change and become more climate-resilient?*

As funding for the public sector is facing ever more cuts to operations of public sector bodies, it becomes increasingly difficult for organisations to assign funds to adequately respond to of our public sector duties. For example, our Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Plan cited three members of staff to deliver the Plan, but we currently only have the resources to support one position. Not only does this affect Creative Scotland's ability to become more climate-resilient, but it has a knock-on effect of preventing the realisation of full support for the sector to take comprehensive action to adapt to climate change.

*5. What action(s) do you think the Scottish Government should prioritise in order to build greater resilience to the impacts of climate change?*

Creative Scotland believes that the creation of a mission led prioritisation of funding and support mechanisms to ensure the sector is focused on transformational and not incremental change which maintains the current status quo, should be the focus of Scottish Government action. In addition, clear communications identifying that this is a government priority would help to deliver a strong message. This should also address and eradicate policy contradictions across the areas of climate change, net zero, mitigation and adaptation policy.

**Outcome two: Communities**

*8. For Scotland to adapt to the impacts of climate change, lots of different groups, such as individuals, communities, businesses and public bodies, will need to work together and support each other. How could others support you (or your organisation) to adapt to climate change over the next five years?*

Creative Scotland is an active member of the Public Sector Climate Adaptation Network and we are using our resources to support our staff and sector, via support from CCS, to address causes and adapt to the impacts of climate change. We are also a member of the Scottish National Culture for Climate Group (SNaCC) which is referenced in the consultation document. Our Climate Emergency and Sustainability Plan, created by staff and stakeholders, includes a specific section on the adaptation of our organisation and sector.

While these resources make an impact, there is increasing demand for support to deliver on climate action (mitigation and adaptation). Creative Scotland is using its influence and funding to facilitate change but does not have the financial resources to meet the needs of the sector to adapt to the impacts of climate change. This will need to be delivered in partnership with the Scottish Government, other national bodies and business. As we continue to deliver on the adaptation actions within our plan, we will be looking to work with other public bodies and third sector organisations to support both ourselves and the organisations that we fund to develop our understanding and capacity around adaptation.

We would anticipate that this would be around skills and knowledge building, awareness raising and practical solutions and delivery.

*9. In what way(s) could the plan help different groups across Scotland and/or its regions to collaborate on climate adaptation?*

It would be useful if there could be a central point where organisations can access information about the other actors in this area and what they can offer, along with contact details. Often the biggest barrier to collaborative working is knowing who best to contact and how. Along with this, guides to how collaborative working has been undertaken by specific groups would be helpful.

It would also be beneficial to understand how Creative Scotland, or other organisations in the sectors that we represent, can formally contribute and connect with the development of the Regional Just Transition Plans, the Regional Climate Hubs and communities of practice connecting with geographical communities. For example, we funded, and continue to fund, CCS to develop SPRINGBOARD local assemblies to informally connect people and organisations working on culture and climate change from the same region so they can learn together, share knowledge and information, and collaborate. The programme has been delivered in Aberdeen, Inverness, Fife, Dundee, Edinburgh, Inverclyde, Argyll, Glasgow, Dumfries and Galloway, Orkney, Scottish Borders,

and Ayrshire and will continue into 2024. This has created ready-made groups who are set up to collaborate but have not yet linked into the formal framework which has been set up by Scottish Government.

Creative Scotland is not currently a statutory consultee and therefore does not currently have a conduit to feed the sector's needs, challenges and feedback into place-based discussions, such as Local Development Plans and therefore, presumably, to planned Regional Just Transition Plans.

We note that there is currently no inclusion of culturally specific policy within Annex B, such as A Cultural Strategy for Scotland or the International Cultural Strategy. It would be helpful to reference across to these strategies, to understand the ask of the sector to deliver these strategies and how that might crossover and provide challenges with what has been set out in SNAP3.

**Outcome three: Public services and infrastructure**

*10. Advice from the Climate Change Committee (the Scottish Government's independent advisors on Climate) is to adapt to 2°C of warming and assess the risk for 4°C. To what extent do you agree with this advice?*

Strongly Agree

*Please share detail on your answer:*

Creative Scotland believes that we have a duty of care to consider and provide for the worst-case scenarios, especially when planning financial place-based investment. We also need to consider the implications of the incoming UNCRC (Scotland) Bill and the proposed actions in the Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill, including the creation of a Future Generations Commissioner. Taking the above approach would align with the upcoming duties for public sector bodies as outlined in those pieces of legislation.

*11. Would further guidance on future climate scenario(s) be useful when making plans and investment decisions?*

Yes

*If yes, what sort of information or advice would be useful for you or your organisation when considering future climate scenarios in long-term planning or investments?:*

Local level climate scenarios that would support place-based partnerships to discuss longer terms plans and address the ownership of risk for funding distributors, such as Creative Scotland and our future Multi Year funding recipients.

The impact of specific climate risk on Creative Scotland as an organisation, our staff, those we fund and the wider sector is something we want to establish within the period of SNAP 3, with the expansion of our risk register. This includes the consideration of how we incorporate the planned MET Office data within our funding framework.

*12. Would an assessment of "cascading" risks from weather-related disruptions to infrastructure help you or your organisation to adapt?*

Yes

*Please give us your views:*

This information could be shared with our funded organisations, especially as we seek to support them to develop adaptation plans. Consideration of cascading risks could be included in our funding application risk questions.

***Outcome five: International action***

*20. Scotland is known for its excellence in climate change research. Are there international adaptation focussed research opportunities which Scottish-based academic work should focus on?*

A perennial issue for the cultural and creative sectors, is how to address the contradiction between policies developed to address the climate and biodiversity emergency and the demands of international working as set out in the Scottish Government's International Strategy and International Cultural Strategy. Working internationally is a key part of the ecology of development across the arts, screen and creative industries. Whilst digital ways of working were further developed through the pandemic, face to face partnerships can be crucial elements of developing work and careers across the sector. Part of the founding legislation of Creative Scotland is "Developing innovative and sustainable ways of strengthening international collaboration and promoting artistic and cultural exchange." The tension of understanding how this can be fulfilled, by the cultural and creative sectors, whilst also ensuring that we meet our duties to reach net zero and develop mitigation and adaptation strategies could form a useful part of academic dialogue and study. This could address the tension between developing Scotland as an international presence through culture, tourism and investment and our responsibilities to address the climate and biodiversity emergency.

***Enabling factors***

*23. The proposed approach to monitoring and evaluating progress of the Adaptation Plan is set out below. Do you agree with the proposed approach to monitoring adaptation?*

Agree

*24. Do you have suggestions of data or indicators that could be used to track adaptation outcomes in Scotland?*

It would be helpful to identify a basket of indicators for each objective and to ensure that each indicator is something which can be easily measured.

Given the enormity of the plan, setting this out clearly, will be crucial for organisations to understand where they are and can contribute to achieving those objectives. In addition, it would be helpful to understand what the measures of success are, along with what the milestones are along the way.

Understanding where the data is being gathered from would also be useful, especially ensuring that data duplication is not needed and that it can utilise data which is already being collated by public bodies and other organisations. For example, the Creative Scotland Climate Emergency and Sustainability Plan contains over 60 actions that focus on short, medium and longer term transformational organisational and sector change that focuses on mitigation, adaptation, and climate justice. In it, we have a number of indicators which we use to track our progress, including that against adaptation, including developing a baseline assessment and developing adaptation capabilities for Creative Scotland and the sector. The data that we gather around these indicators could then be fed up into the data gathered to demonstrate the progress towards achieving the objectives of the plan.