

COP26 - HOW TO GET INVOLVED

OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN UK GOVERNMENT
MANAGED SPACES AT COP26

GLASGOW 2021



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

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INTRODUCTION

For the first time, the UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 1-12 November 2021. The climate talks will be the biggest international summit the UK has ever hosted; bringing together heads of state, climate experts, young people, civil society, trade unions, faith groups and Indigenous Peoples to agree coordinated action to tackle climate change. The challenge is not insignificant, but we must step up and work together to save the environment we all live in. The UN Climate Change process is central to that collective action.

This pack outlines the opportunities for involvement via the UK Government at COP26, details around eligibility criteria, and how you can put forward an expression of interest. As we anticipate a high demand and only have a limited number of opportunities available, we encourage collaboration between organisations. There will be additional opportunities to get involved at COP26, some of which are outlined later on in this pack.

As you would expect we are mindful of COVID-19, and putting the health of the participants and the local community first. Our planning therefore remains flexible and the information in this pack is subject to change.

The latest information on COP26 can be found at ukcop26.org.



BACKGROUND

Since 1995, government representatives from around the world have gathered annually for the UN Climate Change Conference (often referred to as the Conference of the Parties, “the COP”)

At COP21, hosted in Paris, world leaders committed to a historic agreement to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the rise to 1.5 °C. They also agreed to step up efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change and to make finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

The world has woken up to the need to curb emissions and invest in climate resilience. But we all need to move faster down this path, with the UK continuing to lead by example with its net zero targets written into law. At COP26, we need governments, businesses, cities, the scientific community and civil society to work together to accelerate the transformation of our economies, deal with the inevitable impacts of climate change, and bend the curve on global emissions. We want to work with these groups to deliver an inclusive and ambitious COP Summit.

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THE COP26 SUMMIT

Hosted in Glasgow, COP26 will be delivered across two sites - the Scottish Events Campus (SEC) (referred to as the Blue Zone) and the Glasgow Science Centre (known as the Green Zone).

The Blue Zone is a UN-managed space which hosts the negotiations. The space brings together delegations from 197 Parties, alongside observer organisations to share their stories at panel discussions, side events, exhibits, and cultural events. All attendees within the Blue Zone must be accredited by the UNFCCC. More detail can be found on the [UNFCCC website](#).

The Green Zone is managed by the UK Government, and is a platform for the general public, youth groups, civil society, academia, artists, business and others to have their voices heard through events, exhibitions, workshops and talks that promote dialogue, awareness, education and commitments.

For more information visit ukcop26.org, head to our [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [LinkedIn](#) pages and subscribe to the COP26 Unit [newsletter](#).

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COP26 PRESIDENCY THEMES

The UK is committed to fulfilling the potential of the Paris Agreement by facilitating a balanced negotiated outcome that accelerates climate action, including by encouraging Parties to submit ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies, increased commitments on climate finance and real economy change.

The UK is seeking to bring governments, business, civil society and young people together to accelerate progress on the following shared challenges of climate change.

- **Adaptation and resilience** - to help communities adapt to, and prepare for, the worst impacts of climate change.
- **Nature** - to safeguard and restore natural habitats and ecosystems to preserve the planet's biodiversity.
- **Energy transitions** - to accelerate the clean energy transition by encouraging the use of cheaper renewables and storage.
- **Clean transport** - to clean our air by speeding up the global transition to zero emission vehicles.
- **Finance** - to encourage our financial systems to be cleaner to unlock growth and create green jobs.

Further detail on the themes is [available here](#).

As Presidency, we will look to shine a light on solutions and innovation by state and non-state actors, and ensure the latest science on climate change impacts as well as the co-benefits of climate action underpin discussions at COP26. For the purposes of involvement at the Summit and the Expression of Interest process, we are also looking for proposals relating to:

- **Cities and built environment** - to unlock the key role that cities and buildings play in the pathways to net zero.

OVERVIEW OF PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

The following pages outline the specific opportunities currently open within the Expression of Interest process. These span both the Blue Zone and the Green Zone ranging from hosting events and securing exhibition space, to installations that leave a lasting legacy. The COP26 team will allocate successful proposals to the most appropriate space across the Summit.

The expression of interest process for these opportunities is now open and will run until:

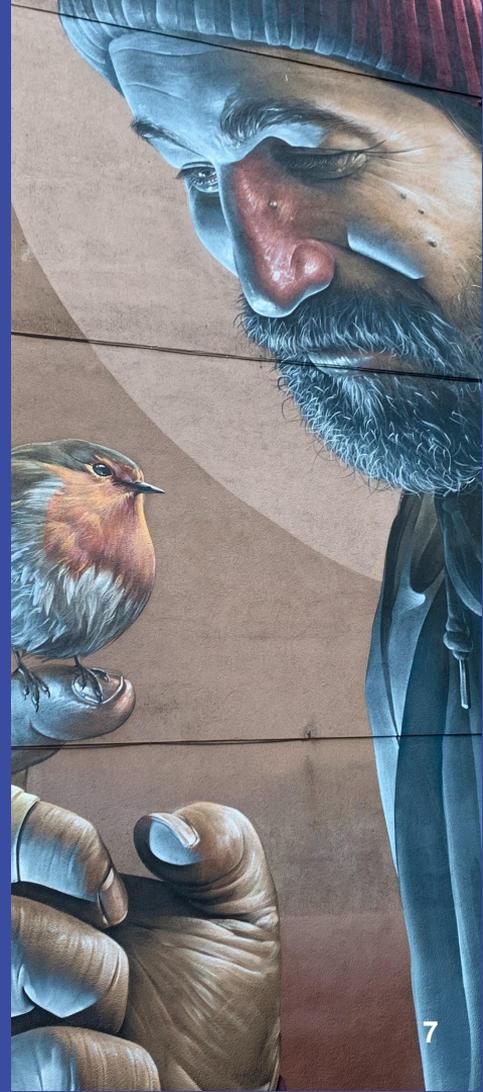
17:00 GMT, Friday 5 March 2021

Demand is expected to be high, and opportunities will be limited. Proposals will be assessed against criteria which is outlined within this guidance. We encourage collaborative proposals where possible and proposals which seek to amplify the voices, concerns and priorities of vulnerable groups, those most impacted by climate change, including but not limited to women, Indigenous Peoples, those with disabilities, young people and faith groups.

Within the Blue Zone we are looking for proposals that reflect our key themes through events such as workshops, panel discussions or thought leadership sessions.

The Green Zone will be a stakeholder-led space and act as a key hub for engagement during the Summit. As such we are keen to see proposals that drive participation and interaction focused on the themes of climate change.

We will also be showcasing the arts and culture and as such welcome expressions of interest from these groups.



HOW ELSE CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Aside from the opportunities outlined in the following pages, below are some additional ways you can get involved at COP26.

Together for Our Planet

- In the run-up to COP26, we are looking to work with UK organisations to mobilise all of society to engage with COP26 and take ambitious climate action ahead of the summit. That is why we've launched the Together for Our Planet campaign.
- Many people from all over the UK are already doing their bit on climate change, from the engineers working on the offshore wind farms now powering our homes and businesses, to local initiatives encouraging children and parents to walk to school. We want to celebrate them and inspire more people to join them, and we will be showcasing these initiatives and organisations at the Summit.
- Find more information visit the [Together for Our Planet](https://www.togetherforourplanet.org.uk) website and see how you can get involved or contact us at TogetherforOurPlanet@cabinetoffice.gov.uk



**TOGETHER
FOR OUR
PLANET**

Sponsorship opportunities

- We are keen to work with businesses who wish to lend their resources, commitment and expertise to COP26. These organisations must have ambitious, short-term climate action plans and strong sustainability credentials. More information on sponsorship opportunities can be found on the [COP26 website](#).

HOW ELSE CAN I GET INVOLVED? continued...

UNFCCC opportunities

Detailed below are opportunities available within the Blue Zone, and managed by the UNFCCC, solely for accredited Parties and Organisations.

- **Pavilions:** UNFCCC accredited parties and organisations will be able to apply for Pavilion space in Summer 2021. Accredited parties and organisations will be notified of this in Summer 2021.
- **Side events:** UNFCCC accredited parties and organisations are able to book space in the Blue Zone to host side events. Accredited parties and organisations will be notified of this by the UNFCCC in Summer 2021.
- **Exhibition Space:** There will be a number of exhibition spaces within the Blue Zone open to accredited parties and organisations. Accredited parties and organisations will be provided with further details by the UNFCCC in Summer 2021.

Glasgow City Council opportunities

- **Volunteer programme:** A team of host city volunteers will be recruited to contribute to the event's success. The programme will provide a unique opportunity for friendly, enthusiastic people with a passion for climate change to play their part and represent their country to the rest of the world. Find out more about the volunteering opportunities available [here](#).
- **Host City Zone:** there will be a number of events taking place in the Host City Zone which will provide opportunities for content creation and collaboration. Content will be curated with key partners so opportunities will be limited. Please visit the [Glasgow City Council](#) website for more information.

THE OPPORTUNITIES

The following pages outline the opportunities for involvement via the UK Government at COP26.

Events and content

1. Use of event spaces
2. Use of the IMAX cinema
3. Use of the Planetarium
4. Management of well-being spaces

Exhibition spaces & creative installations

- 5.1 Exhibition space for two weeks
- 5.2 Exhibition space for one or two days
- 5.3 Exhibition space for technology & innovation showcasing
- 5.4 Exhibition space for creative installations
6. Photography, illustration and design
7. Gardens & use of the outside space
8. Arts & cultural performances

1. USE OF EVENT SPACES

We are looking for event proposals that bring the issues and themes of climate change and climate action to life - engaging audiences and prompting action & debate.

At COP26, we will be able to provide event spaces both within the Blue Zone (the UK Pavilion and the Action Zone) and the Green Zone for organisations to host workshops, panel discussions, and keynote speeches. We are equally keen to hear of proposals that look to be more dynamic and interactive in format, particularly around virtual participation.

These spaces are flexible and, dependent on layout, can host an audience of up to 200 (in the Blue Zone this audience would be subject to UNFCCC accreditation). Please state in your proposal the duration of the event. Where possible we would encourage proposals to be one hour in duration.

The COP26 team will allocate successful proposals to the most appropriate event space in the Blue Zone or Green Zone.

The event space will be provided free of charge alongside a basic package including power, lighting, set-up, AV, technical staff and WiFi provision. Organisations will be responsible for any additional costs associated with the event e.g. travel and speaker fees. Catering can be provided at a cost.



2. USE OF THE IMAX CINEMA

Within the Green Zone, there is an opportunity to utilise the IMAX cinema auditorium to showcase films, documentaries and creative content. This is a 370 capacity space which also includes a stage area, offering a unique event experience to showcase digital content as well as more traditional event formats such as panel discussions and speeches. Panel discussions for a maximum of four individuals and a host can be facilitated in the space.

We are keen to hear from organisations who have dynamic and engaging content that would be suitable for use in this event space.

The auditorium space will be provided free of charge, alongside a basic package including power, lighting, set-up, AV, technical staff and WiFi provision. Use of the IMAX screen will require further discussion. Organisations will be responsible for any additional costs associated with the event e.g. travel, expenses, speaker fees, and re-formatting of content.

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3. USE OF THE PLANETARIUM

Within the Green Zone, there is an excellent opportunity to utilise the Planetarium to really engage audiences in a way unseen before at a COP.

Able to seat 115 people, this space is Scotland's first and largest full-dome digital planetarium – allowing audiences to visualise the universe in three dimensions. The system can show 360° full-dome films, projected in HD across the 15m dome.

This space provides significant opportunities to showcase unique and truly captivating content.

The space will be provided free of charge, alongside a basic package including power, lighting, set-up, AV, technical staff and WiFi provision. Organisations will be responsible for any additional costs associated with the event e.g. travel, expenses, speaker fees, and re-formatting of content.

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4. MANAGEMENT OF WELL-BEING SPACES

Space at the COP26 Summit will be allocated to provide well-being support and services to attendees. This could include offering mindfulness workshops, yoga classes, and periods of reflection.

We are keen to hear from organisations who would be interested in delivering a well-being space, which would include the daily management, programming, and resourcing. The space should be in operation throughout the course of the Summit (1-12 November 2021), and between the hours of 08:00 and 17:00.

Proposals should outline, where appropriate, the relevant qualifications or insurances.

It is anticipated that the Summit will host three well-being spaces. Organisations can apply to manage multiple spaces, or just one.

The space will be provided free of charge, alongside a basic package including power, lighting and WiFi. Organisations will be responsible for any additional costs associated with the event e.g. programming, staffing, AV, technical staff, travel, expenses, and speaker fees. Catering can be provided at a cost.



5.1. EXHIBITION SPACE FOR TWO WEEKS

In the Green Zone a number of exhibition spaces are available for organisations. As a public-facing venue, we are keen to receive proposals that engage audiences with the themes of climate change and climate action through interaction and participation. We see this two week showcase zone as a hub of tactile and immersive activity.

There are two showcase opportunities available. Please state in your proposal your preference and provide an indication of floor space required.

- A 2x2m² stand alongside a basic package including power, lighting, one table, two stools, branding opportunity, WiFi provision, and a 55 inch plasma screen.
- Floor space, alongside a basic package including power, lighting and WiFi provision. Stand build, AV and additional requirements must be funded by the organisation.

Organisations will be responsible for any additional costs associated with their exhibitions e.g. production, transportation, expenses and speaker fees.

Successful proposals will be allocated with stand or floor space for the duration of the Summit (1-12 November inclusive) and should be in operation for the duration of that period.

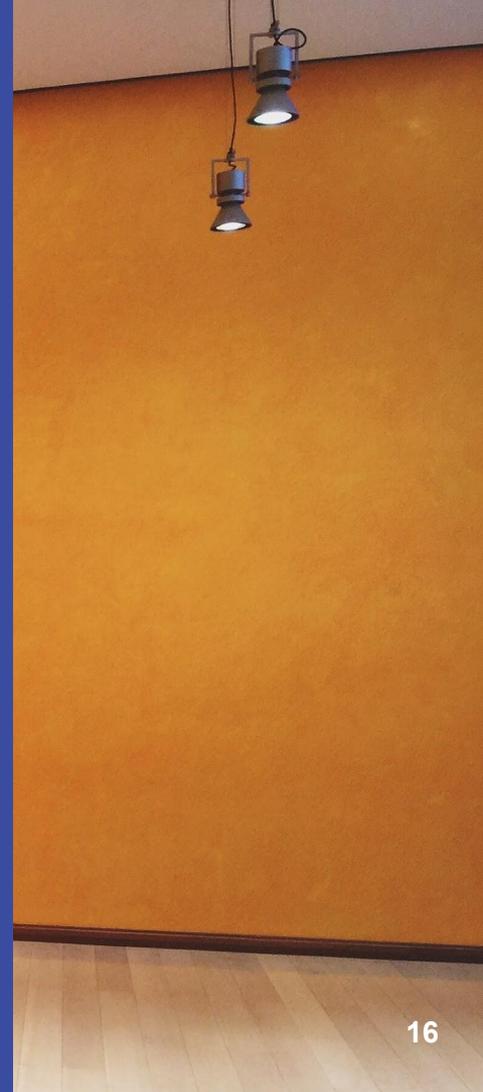


5.2. EXHIBITION SPACE FOR ONE OR TWO DAYS

The Green Zone aims to facilitate discussion and engagement, and we've heard how important it is for organisations to have a focal point for convening attendees and having conversations.

A number of stalls will be provided free of charge to use for one or two days, depending on demand, over the course of the Summit. These are spaces for dialogue and conversation, and might be of interest specifically for NGOs, trade bodies, and youth organisations.

It is anticipated that stands will measure approximately 2x2m², alongside a basic package including power, lighting, WiFi provision, one table, four stools, and one 55 inch plasma screen. Organisations will be responsible for any additional costs associated with the event e.g. travel and expenses etc.



5.3. EXHIBITION SPACE FOR TECHNOLOGY & MISSION INNOVATION SHOWCASING

Across the COP26 Summit, there will be showcasing opportunities focusing on technology and Mission Innovation partners. This could include zero emission vehicles, clean energy demonstrators, hydrogen fuel cells, new batteries, nanotechnology, shipping and airplane models, and net-zero steel factories prototypes. These opportunities span both inside the venues and in the outside surrounding spaces.

Spaces will be provided **inside the venues** free of charge, alongside a basic package including power, lighting, production, and WiFi provision. Organisations will be responsible for any additional costs associated with the exhibition e.g. technical set-up/installation, transportation, travel, expenses.

For exhibitions in **external spaces around the venues**, spaces will be provided free of charge, but further discussion will be required with successful applicants regarding requirements and any associated costs. Organisations will be responsible for any additional costs associated with the exhibition e.g. technical set-up/installation, transportation, travel, and expenses.

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5.4. EXHIBITION SPACE FOR CREATIVE INSTALLATIONS

There is scope across the COP26 Summit to exhibit sculptures and creative installations.

We are looking to maximise all of the available space both inside and outside the venues to engage audiences in creative responses to the themes of climate change, and are keen to receive innovative and engaging proposals.

Spaces will be provided free of charge, but will need to discuss with successful applicants requirements and any associated costs. Organisations will be responsible for any additional costs associated with the exhibition e.g. technical set-up/installation, transportation, travel, and expenses.



6. PHOTOGRAPHY, ILLUSTRATION & DESIGN

COP26 provides significant opportunities to display photography, illustration and graphic design - both within the Blue Zone and Green Zone. This could be through a themed exhibition of one of many artists within a venue.

We are keen to hear from organisations, photographers and artists who have artwork they wish to showcase at the Summit, or who are looking to produce artwork in the run-up to COP26.

Showcasing space will be provided free of charge. Offers of artwork and imagery should be made without expectation of payment, and there is no funding available for projects or artist expenses.

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7. GARDENS & USE OF OUTSIDE SPACE

There is scope in both the Blue and Green Zones to utilise space outside the venues, and we are keen to maximise the opportunities that this space presents. This could be for example to demonstrate sustainable land use, or to create gardens that showcase UK plants and wildlife.

We are keen to see proposals that are innovative, eye-catching and relevant to COP26. Proposals need to be mindful of the location, time of year and associated weather. Please state in your proposal the area of space ideally required.

Proposals that focus on creative installations or showcase UK technology & innovation should apply through the [“Exhibition Space for Creative Installations”](#) or [“Exhibition Space For Technology & Innovation Showcasing”](#) opportunities previously outlined.

We will be providing space free of charge, but will need to discuss with successful applicants requirements and any associated costs. Organisations will be responsible for associated costs e.g. set-up/installation, transportation, travel, and expenses.



8. ARTS & CULTURAL PERFORMANCES

COP26 will be a global event, and presents a significant opportunity to showcase UK and international cultural performances and institutions - in both the Blue and Green Zones.

We are keen to hear from orchestras, theatres, performing arts groups, musicians, poets and others who can provide content to welcome delegates to COP26, and give the Summit a sense of dynamism, inclusivity, and global engagement.

The space will be provided free of charge, but further discussion will be required with successful applicants regarding requirements and any associated costs which may need to be covered by the applicant.

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HOW TO APPLY

To express an interest, please [submit your proposal here](#) and provide supporting materials as required.

- Organisations wishing to submit multiple proposals must do so through individual applications.
- The Expression of Interest process is now open, and entries can be submitted until **17:00 GMT on Friday 5 March 2021**. Proposals submitted after this date will not be accepted.
- Organisations will be communicated the outcome of their proposal in **May 2021**.
- Due to the anticipated volume of applications, we are unable to discuss or provide feedback on individual proposals.
- Organisations seeking to attend COP26 should accept to adhere to the [UNFCCC Code of Conduct](#).

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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order to host events or secure space within the UK Government managed spaces at COP26 individuals, organisations and businesses must:

- Have no convictions for major breaches of environmental law,
- Have no serious violations of human rights law,
- Not be under investigation for violation of sanctions established by the UN Security Council,
- Not be under formal investigation or sanctioned within the preceding 3 years by any national authority of UN Member States for engaging in proscribed practices such as corruption or fraud.

In addition, specific sustainability criteria is in place for those looking to host events or secure space at COP26.

- Large businesses (over 250 employees) are required to have committed to, or set, **Science Based Targets**, and/or joined the **Race to Zero**.
- Small and medium sized businesses “SMEs” (those businesses with 250 employees or less) are required to join the **Race to Zero** via the **SME Climate Hub**.
- Individual cities, regions and local governments are required to join the **Race to Zero** through one of the available routes (**Cities Race to Zero**, Under 2 Coalition). This criteria does not apply to networks and representative organisations such as ICLEI, Regions4, UCLG.
- Civil society organisations (such as NGOs, activists and faith based organisations), schools, universities & colleges, and individuals do not require specific commitments.

These criteria are applicable to all businesses and organisations seeking to exhibit, showcase or host events. The COP26 team will work with successful event hosts to discuss event guidelines, and criteria required of panel members for events.

HOW WILL PROPOSALS BE EVALUATED?

When evaluating the proposals the following aspects will be taken into account.

- How it is relevant to climate change and the UK Presidency campaign themes.
- Audience - who will it appeal to and why?
- Collaboration. In order to maximise the range of participating organisations, we would like to see partnerships between organisations where possible.
- Inclusivity. This means proactively including marginalised groups, including but not limited to gender, Indigenous Peoples, those with disabilities, young people, faith groups and others most vulnerable to climate change impacts and action, particularly in the global south.
- Representation of local, regional, national and international voices.
- Incorporation of technology to extend reach and engagement e.g. creative use of social media, live streaming, and availability of online content.

Demand from organisations to participate at COP26 is anticipated to be significant, and unfortunately we will not be able to take forward all proposals that meet the criteria. The final decision will be made by HM Government in line with COP26 objectives.

We will also ask for details of your **organisation's sustainability or environmental policies**. Although not a mandatory requirement, it may be taken into consideration during evaluation.

Proposals should be no longer than 1,000 words. Where helpful and relevant to your proposal, you can upload one image and/or a supporting document. The image should be in JPEG or PNG format and no larger than 800px in height or width. The supporting document must be in **PDF** format. This document **will not** be taken into account during the initial sifting process, so please ensure that all key information is entered into the form itself.

SUSTAINABILITY

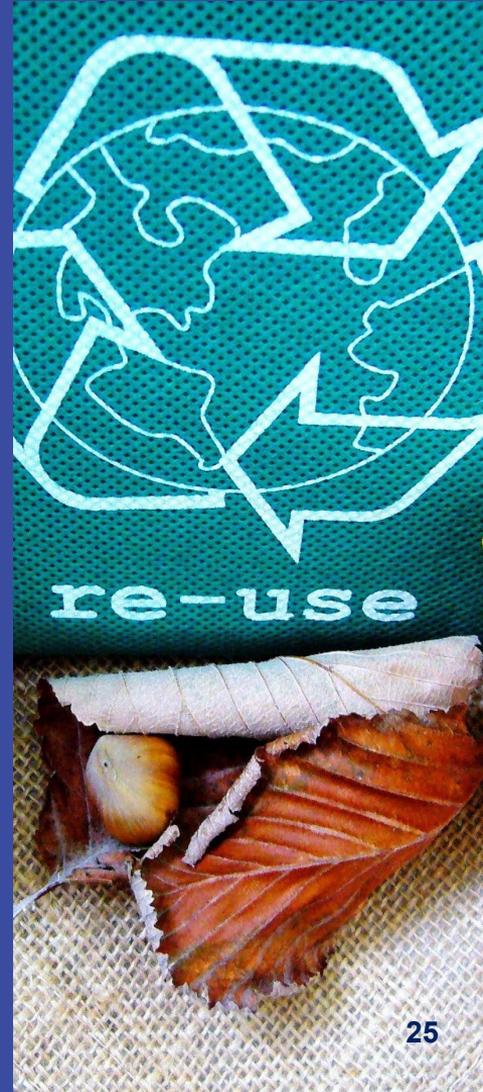
The UK Government is committed to delivering a sustainable and carbon neutral COP26.

We will deliver a sustainable Summit through an ISO 20121 Event Sustainability Management System and integrated Carbon Management Plan.

Our approach will be guided by our Sustainability Governing Principles:

- Actively manage potential impacts on the environment and local community and identify opportunities to deliver environmental and social value
- Provide an accessible and inclusive setting for all
- Encourage healthy living
- Ensure a safe and secure atmosphere
- Encourage more sustainable behaviour
- Promote the use of responsible sources and responsible use of resources throughout the supply chain
- Leave a positive legacy

We recognise that our partners and stakeholders play a critical role in achieving our aim. We expect our stakeholders to work collaboratively and take a proactive approach through the selection of sustainable products, works and services, use of innovative approaches and implementation of best practice to meet the sustainability governing principles.



FURTHER INFORMATION

As planning develops, we may need to alter the package of opportunities available. The latest information can always be found on the [Expression of Interest website](#).

The Expression of Interest process

- The number of events that an organisation can hold may be limited, according to the number of proposals received.
- Expressions of Interest must be made through the online portal, and submitted by 17:00 GMT on 5 March 2021.
- We reserve the right to extend the closing date where entries received are not of sufficient quality.
- Any proposals previously put forward will need to be re-submitted via the Expression of Interest process in order to be considered.
- Proposals must be your own work, must not be copied, must not contain any third-party materials and/or content that you do not have permission to use, must not infringe the rights of any other party and must not otherwise be obscene, defamatory or in breach of any applicable legislation or regulations.

CONTACT US

Thank you for your interest in participating at COP26.

Due to the anticipated volume of applications, we are unable to discuss or provide feedback on individual proposals.

For specific questions relating to the application process, please email:

COP26info@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

Proposals will only be accepted via the online portal.

You will be informed of the outcome of the proposal in May 2021.

