



External Evaluation Partner Brief

May 2026

The Great Big Climate Circus

On behalf the partners of *The Great Big Climate Circus* Creative Sustainability is seeking an experienced external evaluation partner to design and deliver an embedded, co-produced evaluation of *The Great Big Climate Circus* programme over the next 4 years.

1. The Great Big Climate Circus

The Great Big Climate Circus! is an ambitious, multi-year programme funded by the National Lottery Climate Fund. It will take youth-led climate action on tour across Gloucestershire, inspiring people to take action on climate change through joy, creativity and participation.

The programme aims to engage individuals and communities who do not typically see climate action as relevant or accessible. It intentionally moves climate conversations away from abstract or alienating narratives and towards hope, affordability, everyday action and collective possibility.

The programme

- Focuses on young people as leaders and influencers within their communities
- Works intensively in three localities each year, using asset-based community development and youth engagement principles
- Creates multiple entry points for participation through creative workshops, leadership training, projects and events
- Includes the “Great Big Climate Circus Festival” under the Big Top, alongside sustained post-event support for local climate action
- Prioritises engagement with communities experiencing social, economic or structural barriers to participation

The programme seeks both immediate and long-term change, including

- Increased confidence, agency and leadership among young people
- Stronger community relationships and collective action
- Locally-led climate projects with lasting impact
- More equitable and sustainable partnership working
- Influence on wider systems, policy and practice around climate action and youth voice

[See our Theory of Change here](#)

2. The Partnership

This evaluation is commissioned by Creative Sustainability on behalf of The Great Big Climate Circus partnership. The project is delivered by a diverse partnership of youth, community, environmental and housing organisations, with a strong commitment to learning, reflection and shared ownership:

[Creative Sustainability - Leading change with our community](#)
[Schools workshops | World Jungle | United Kingdom](#)
[Ernest Cook Trust - Looking after land to enrich lives, for all.](#)
[Bromford Flagship LiveWest](#)
[National Landscapes - Cotswolds](#)

3. Purpose of the Evaluation

The partnership is seeking an experienced external evaluation partner to design and deliver an embedded, co-produced evaluation across the life of the programme. The evaluation needs to

- Understand what change is happening, how it is happening, and why it matters
- Capture the impact of creative, joyful and youth-led approaches to climate action
- Support ongoing learning, reflection and adaptation within the partnership
- Generate insight that can influence wider practice, funding and policy conversations
- Ensure the voices and experiences of young people and communities are central

This is not a traditional, compliance-led evaluation. We are looking for an approach that reflects the complex, relational and emergent nature of the work.

4. Evaluation Approach

We are seeking an evaluator whose practice aligns with the following principles:

- Person-centred – starting where people are and valuing different communication styles and forms of expression
- Co-produced – involving young people, community members and delivery partners in shaping questions, methods and sense-making
- Embedded – integrated into delivery activity rather than operating as a separate or extractive process
- Creative and participatory – using storytelling, reflection, making and media where appropriate
- Developmental – supporting learning and responsiveness over time

The evaluation should align with [Creative Sustainability's Co-produced Inclusive Evaluation Methodology](#), including a critical and ethical stance on the use of questionnaires and baseline measures where these are not appropriate or inclusive. Applicants are encouraged to propose methods that fit the ethos, participants and ambitions of the programme.

5. Scope and Outputs

There are no pre-defined output requirements. Instead, applicants are invited to propose outputs that they feel are interesting, appropriate and useful for the programme and its stakeholders.

Proposals should explain

- Proposed outputs
- Who they are for
- How they support learning, influence and accountability

6. Roles and Relationships

The external evaluator will

- Lead on overall evaluation design and learning framework
- Work closely with Creative Sustainability and World Jungle, and with Creative Sustainability's embedded Evaluation Lead
- Support evaluation capacity-building within the partnership
- Facilitate reflection and sense-making with young people and partners
- Synthesize learning across community, organisational and system levels
- Liaise with funders as appropriate

7. Timescale and Budget

The evaluation will run across the full four-year programme. The indicative budget is £55,000 over four complete years, including up to 6 months post project delivery. Applicants should outline how time and resources would be phased across the programme. The budget

- Includes evaluator fees, travel and time
- Includes production costs for proposed outputs
- Sits alongside (but does not include) internal evaluation capacity within Creative Sustainability and the partnership's Social Value Engine.

8. Who We are Looking For

We are particularly interested in evaluators who can demonstrate

- Experience of participatory, developmental or human-centred evaluation
- Experience working with young people and/or marginalised communities
- Confidence working with qualitative, narrative and creative forms of evidence
- A strong values base around inclusion, equity and shared power
- The ability to hold both strategic and grounded, relational practice

As in all our work, we want to collaborate with people who

- are comfortable with ambiguity
- understand positive and negative risk
- seek to solve problems
- advocate for and listen to others
- focus on working together

9. How to Apply

Applications are welcomed from individual consultants or small teams, preferably based in Gloucestershire. Applicants are invited to submit:

- A short proposal outlining their approaches
- Proposed outputs
- Relevant experience of consultant/team and examples of similar work
- High-level budget breakdown
- Availability and capacity over the programme period

If you have any questions you'd like to discuss before applying please contact anna@cscic.org

Deadline for applications, 5pm 22nd June 2026.

Interviews will take place weeks beginning 29th June, in person at Fromehall Mill GL5 3EH