

# Julie's Bicycle

CREATIVE • CLIMATE • ACTION



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**ARTS COUNCIL  
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BRAINSTORMING  
SHIFTS/  
SOLUTIONS

Education

Allocate  
time to  
properly set  
things up

REPAIR  
AET

## Transforming Energy: Buildings Net Zero Energy

# Transforming Energy Programme

The cultural community are taking climate action with practical and creative responses celebrating and centering people and planet, nature and justice. This programme provides an opportunity for cultural organisations to take practical action and accelerate their response to the climate crises, leading the way for the sector and inspiring their peers.

Building on the learnings of our Spotlight programme, this new programme will focus on decarbonisation for buildings-based organisations through two strands of activity.

- **Buildings Net Zero Energy:**

The first strand will work at scale to provide guidance to building-based organisations across Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs) and Investment Principles Support Organisations (IPSOs) to work towards **Buildings Net Zero Energy**. Whether organisations are just beginning to think about decarbonisation of their buildings, or have already started to make changes, there is support on offer through resources, drop-in sessions and online energy management training.

- **Capital Investment Ready:**

The second strand will work with two smaller cohorts

- of organisations that are already making significant progress in energy reductions to support them in getting Capital Investment Ready for the electrification of one key cultural venue. They will benefit from bespoke coaching and mentoring, and peer-sharing opportunities so that they are ready to invest in low-carbon solutions when funding opportunities become available for the sector.

# About

## Buildings Net Zero Energy

Organisations across Arts Council England's national portfolio are at different stages in their carbon reduction journeys. Many have already made good progress in reducing their energy-related emissions, through energy monitoring, improving controls and energy efficiency upgrades, while others are just starting out, or keen to do more.

This programme aims to support cultural organisations to reduce their energy emissions and progress towards **Buildings Net Zero Energy**. To achieve this we'll provide self-service resources, opportunities to seek support from our technical team, Pilio, and Julie's Bicycle and provide training opportunities on good energy management practice.



**This programme will support as many buildings-based cultural organisations as possible to start or progress on their net zero journeys and enable them to prepare for a green transition.**

# Objectives

The **objectives** of the programme are to provide accessible and self-guided resources together with opportunities for advice and support, for cultural organisations to move forward in decarbonising their buildings.

**The programme will include the following activities:**

- Resources for self-guided learning, allowing participants to work at their own pace
- Opportunities to attend drop-in clinics for advice and support
- Training to build capacity and embed good energy management practices

**To achieve these objectives, the programme will provide the following:**

# Resources

- Energy Management Scorecard (a framework that helps you assess and track your progress in good energy management practice, to be completed at the start of the programme, and annually to track progress over time).
- Energy Management Guides covering the five key dimensions of energy reduction for **Buildings Net Zero Energy**, and a framework for using self-service resources.
- Practical tips and advice.



# Support

- Share examples of good practice, relevant to the cultural sector.
- Create online drop-in opportunities to ask questions and seek advice (registration required).

# Training

- Energy Management Webinars, offered once a year (registration required).
- Opportunity to attend online energy management training offered in two parts, as half-day sessions (registration required).

**Access to the events and training opportunities is available to NPOs who register to join the programme. On registration, a calendar of events will be shared with participants.**



Photo by Moa Karlberg

# Who is this programme for?



Photo by Moa Karlberg

We would like this programme to be as accessible and ambitious as possible - you are invited to join this large-scale movement of cultural organisations taking action by decarbonising their buildings.

**All NPOs/IPSOs who are able to meet the following criteria** - and can confirm that they are willing to **commit to the participant contributions** outlined below - **are invited to register** for the programme.

# Criteria

## Building

- Building-based organisations who either own their own building, **or** are able alter the operational settings of the building, **and/or** make investments in retrofitting their buildings.

## Energy spend

- Organisational energy spend is preferably at least £10,000 per year.

## Personnel

- Energy management is included in the job description of the person(s) participating in the programme.

## Data

- Organisations are required to have access to at least one year of monthly invoice data for each energy source (e.g. gas and electricity). It will be beneficial to have access to meter readings and ideal to have access to half-hourly electricity data at least for your electricity use.





# Participant contributions

- Ambition, drive and generosity.
- Commitment to develop a net zero pathway including a costed clean energy programme.
- The oversight of a Trustee/Board member and Senior Executive to support energy management within the organisation.
- Energy management responsibilities allocated within the organisation.
- Participation in programme evaluation, to support further development and improvement of the programme's support.
- Commitment to tracking progress, using data and insights to inform practices and share learning with others.
- Proactively create opportunities to communicate your journey towards decarbonisation and amplify learning e.g. via case studies, blogs, creative approaches or engaging with networks and communities.



**The  
Transforming  
Energy  
Programme  
is funded by  
Arts Council  
England and  
is free for  
participants.**

# **Activities and Support**

**Energy Management  
Scorecard**

**Energy Management  
Training**

**Drop-in Clinics**

# The programme's support includes:

## Energy Management Scorecard

All organisations participating in the Buildings Net Zero Energy Programme are expected to undertake a **short survey** annually to help Julie's Bicycle build an understanding of where each organisation is in their energy management. Each organisation will receive a results scorecard detailing their organisations' current performance across six key areas of energy management: policy, planning, responsibility, communications, intelligence, and investment.

## Energy Management Training

Training will be available for up to 50 participants at a time (limited to 3 people per organisation), and will be run online. Sessions will cover the essential topics in greater depth, in order to support good energy management in cultural buildings. Training will be split into two sections and run a few months apart to enable steps to be taken after each training in readiness for the next part, and to progress towards decarbonisation.

## Drop-in Clinics

Drop-in Clinics will take place every two months throughout the programme, providing an opportunity to ask questions and seek advice. Clinics will be themed by topic, to enable participants to seek advice on common topics and support in moving forwards towards their goals.

# Expectation on completion

- Energy Management Scorecard is completed at the start of the programme, and annually to track progress over time.
- Participation in a final programme evaluation, to support further development, improvement and knowledge sharing.
- Completion of energy management training and post-training assessment to improve energy management practice and to attain a certificate of completion.

## How to apply

Sign-up on the [Julie's Bicycle website](#) to register for the programme.



## About Julie's Bicycle

Julie's Bicycle is a pioneering not-for-profit organisation mobilising the arts and culture to take action on the climate and ecological crisis. Founded by the music industry in 2007 and now working across the arts and culture, JB has partnered with over 2000 organisations in the UK and internationally. Combining cultural and environmental expertise, Julie's Bicycle focuses on high-impact programmes and policy change to meet the climate crisis head-on.

## The Arts Council England Programme

In 2012, Arts Council England launched its Environmental Programme, becoming the first cultural body in the world to embed environmental reporting into its funding agreements. Julie's Bicycle works in partnership with Arts Council England to deliver its Environmental Programme, built on a shared vision of the transformative role of culture to tackle the climate crisis. Building on the success of the Spotlight programme (2018-2023), in 2023 the Transforming Energy programme was launched, focused on decarbonisation through two parallel strands of activity:

**Buildings Net Zero Energy:** working at scale to provide guidance to building-based organisations across Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs) to work towards decarbonising their buildings.

**Capital Investment Ready:** working with smaller cohorts of organisations that are already making significant progress in energy reductions to support them in getting Capital Investment Ready for the electrification of one key cultural venue.

## About Pilio

Pilio is a sustainability innovation company, that has been working with Julie's Bicycle for over 10 years, supporting with sustainability tools and expertise for the arts to take climate action. Pilio is the technical delivery partner for the Transforming Energy Programme.

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Front cover photo by Moa Karlberg



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