

CREATIVE

FREELANCER'S

CLIMATE

ALMANAC



Julie's Bicycle

CREATIVE • CLIMATE • ACTION

Introduction

The Creative Freelancer's Climate Almanac is a companion for artists, independent creatives, community practitioners and producers engaging in climate action. Working independently can be both liberating and overwhelming, there's freedom to experiment and be dynamic, but there's also the weight of navigating everything alone. Whilst we are encouraging more seasonality to creative practice, this doesn't always fit neatly into the reality of deadlines, funding cycles and urgent calls to action. That's okay. This is not a rigid framework but an offering - a space to dip in and out of, to find what you need when you need it and to define your own pace of action.

Rather than reinventing the wheel, this almanac gathers some of the most useful resources from existing toolkits, weaving them into a seasonal approach for sustainable, personal and collective change. It invites you to align your work with natural cycles - spring's preparation, summer's abundance, autumn's transformation, and winter's rest - acknowledging that creativity, like nature, thrives in ebb and flow. By syncing our work to these natural rhythms, this almanac supports meaningful progress in climate-driven creative practice, with justice for the environment, land and people at the forefront.

Inside, you'll find curated notes on resources, links to films, templates, wellbeing practices, artist case studies and book recommendations. These have been selected with the goal of supporting you practically as you navigate the complexities of working independently while remaining deeply interconnected with organisations, collaborators, communities, audiences, and funders.

This almanac was born from Creating Now for the Future (CNFTF), an offering for independent practitioners led by JB as part of the Arts Council England funded Environmental Programme. In Spring 2024, we gathered 14 creative practitioners to explore: What are the most valuable tools for ethical, sustainable creative work? Over three half day workshops we pooled our knowledge, recognising the incredible guides and touchstones that already exist. We developed new ideas for tools that could support practitioners - ranging from policy templates to creative games that spark climate conversations within creative processes. We also explored the need for a central, evolving space to bring these resources together.



Fig. 2
(*Tricholomopsis rutilans*)
Plums and Custard Mushroom

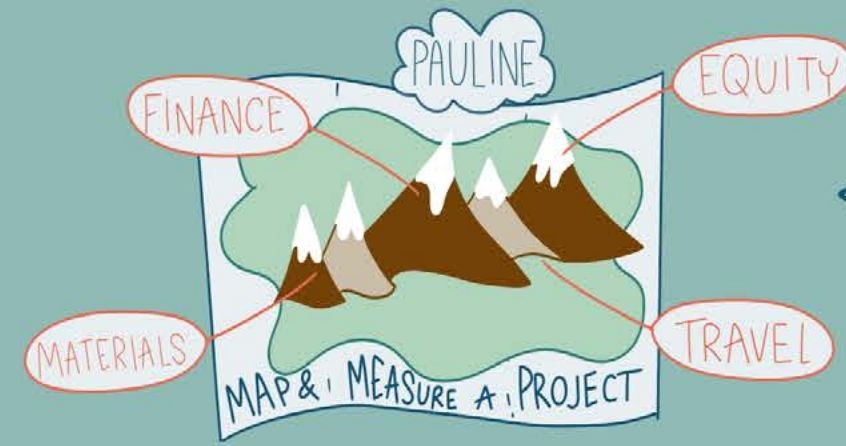
Fig. 1
(*Cyanistes caeruleus*)
Eurasian Blue Tit



Fig. 3
(*Sciurus meridionalis*)
Melanic Grey Squirrel

Together, we navigated the complexities of freelance work, discussing how to balance care, personal ethics and creative integrity with the realities of short term projects and contracts. The group shared insights into what independent practitioners need most, as well as the ongoing balancing act of sustaining both values and livelihoods. The next page features a visual summary of ideas shared by the CNFTF cohort, illustrated by artist Melissa Smith. Whilst some of these ideas extended beyond the scope of the programme, they played a key role in shaping this almanac.

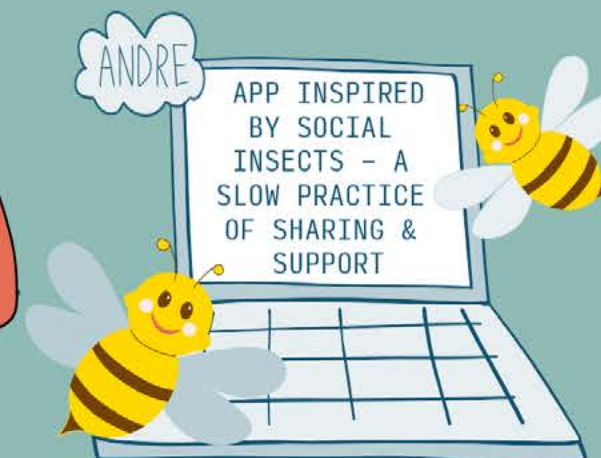
Ultimately, we hope this resource lightens the load, sparks new ways of working and reminds you that you're not alone in this. Take what serves you, adapt it to your practice and trust that rest is as much a part of progress as action.



JB CREATING NOW FOR THE FUTURE... CONCEPTS FOR A NEW CREATIVE RESOURCE

COMMONALITIES:

EMPOWERING, COMMUNITY SUPPORT, INTERACTIVE,
AGENCY, CENTRALISED SPACE, SHARING BEST PRACTICE,
COMMUNICATION, CURATED, ACCESSIBLE LANGUAGE,
SOCIAL INTERACTION, CARE & WELLBEING



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Fig. 4
(Eptesicus serotinus)
Serotine Bat

Resource Themes Key



Tracking impact & data



Justice & equity



Collaborating with nature



Communicating ideas



Policy & ethics



Finances & funding



Creative sparks



Production & waste



Network building



Travel & transport

SPRING

Spring is the season of renewal. The air warms, deeply buried bulbs burst from the soil and sleeping creatures awaken from hibernation. It is a time of possibility, where fresh ideas take root and creativity stirs back to life as the days get lighter.

It can be difficult for us to know how and where to begin our journeys into climate action. Just like the British springtime, it can be tumultuous and uncertain, but tender shoots need the rain as much as they need the sun. As creative leaders, makers and doers, we can navigate this balance, shaping new ways of working while responding to the shifting world around us. This season calls us to embrace movement, to plant seeds for change and to trust in their potential to flourish.

This section spotlights key practical actions you can take to weave sustainability into your creative work, whether through rethinking materials and your footprint, creating your own green policy or connecting your work to climate justice more directly, here are a few resources to get you going.

Fig. 5
(*Nelumbo nucifera*)
Sacred Lotus



Fig. 7
(*Grus japonensis*)
Red-Crowned Crane



Fig. 8
(*Prunus avium*)
Cherry Blossom



Fig. 9
(*Allium ursinum*)
Wild Garlic

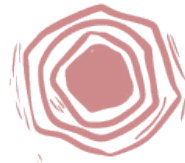


Fig. 6
(*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)
Common Bluebell



“You can cut all the
flowers but you cannot
keep Spring from coming”
- Pablo Neruda

Season Resources



1. [Learn about Biodiversity](#)

An all-you-need-to-know report on biodiversity; why it's in trouble, why we need to do something and the vital role culture can play in that.. Plenty of inspiring examples to help you renew, rejuvenate and regenerate your practice. Turn to page 19 to reflect on the role of creative programming in fostering a deeper connection to nature.

2. [Making Data Meaningful Webinar](#)

Digging into environmental data isn't every artist's cup of tea. But if you're curious about what a carbon footprint is and how it can empower you to plan how to measure your climate action, then this webinar is a good place to start.

3. [Sustainable Cultural Mobility](#) Listen from 11.45mins to fast track to top tips and case studies for reducing travel and touring impacts.

Travelling for work or taking art on tour is essential for a freelancer, but how can you minimise the environmental consequences as we start to move in spring? Watch our webinar or peruse our guide to find some inspiration on how to tackle this tricky impact area.

4. [Galleries Climate Coalition's Artist Toolkit](#)

This is a great toolkit, it's full of simple tools, real-life examples and ideas to guide you in making your work more sustainable and impactful. Whether you're rethinking materials, collaborating on projects, or using art to amplify climate justice, this toolkit gives you everything you need to start making a difference through your craft.

5. [Greening Arts Practice](#)

If you're starting out, this great guide by Chrysalis Arts offers examples of entry points and case studies from a diverse range of artists who are integrating environmental responsibility into their creative practice.

Fig. 10
(*Muscari armeniacum*)
Grape Hyacinth



6. [Equity Green Rider \(Web\)](#) and [The Equity Rider Handshake](#)

Do you feel like you need something as a statement of how you work sustainably and what you expect from those who contract you? Sharing a green rider agreement is an easy way to communicate your green asks to the venues/producers/commissioners. There's a shortform 'handshake' or a longer template to adapt to meet your needs.

7. [No Climate Action Without Us](#)

How might you make disabled people's access to live events environmentally sustainable?. This will be most useful to read if you're planning an event, but it's useful in lots of other ways too. Tips focus around food and water, travel and transport, accessible facilities, communications and participation.

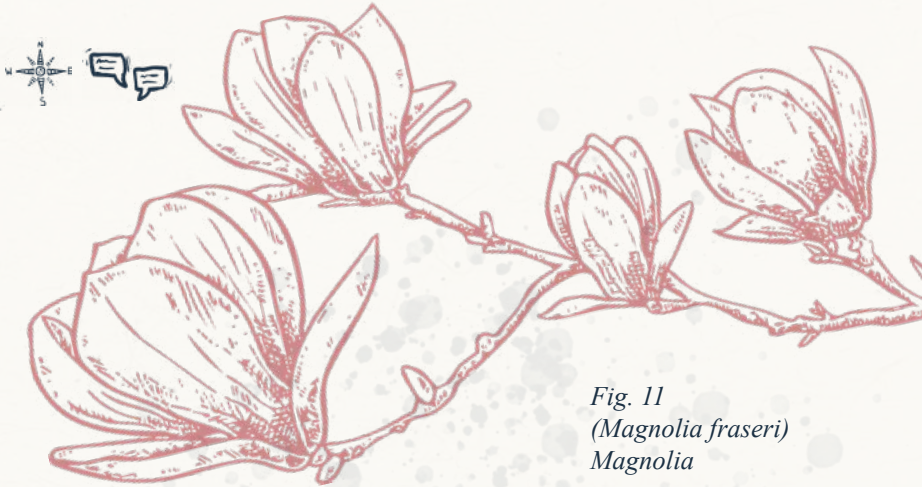


Fig. 11
(*Magnolia fraseri*)
Magnolia

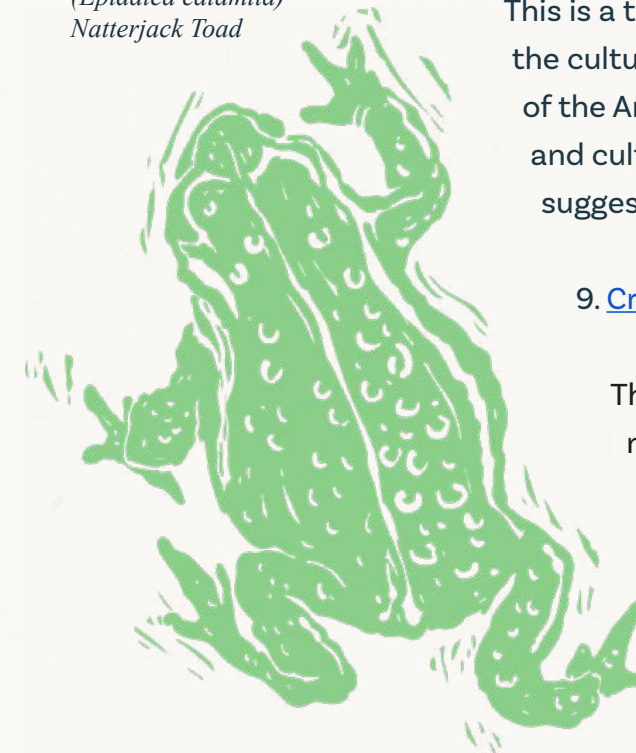
8. [Culture, Sustainability and Climate Change Guide for the Amazon Region, From Ideas to Action.](#)

This is a tool aims to support regenerative practices within the culture sector, reflecting and celebrating the uniqueness of the Amazon region. If you're interested in centring people and cultural expression, the guide offers thought-provoking suggestions and case studies.

9. [CreaTures Framework](#)

These 25 creative pathways offer guidance for navigating climate action through art. They explore how we can imagine alternative futures, build new systems, act with care and bridge understanding between different communities.

Fig. 12
(*Epidalea calamita*)
Natterjack Toad



Creative Care Corner

Prompt - how might you track your evolving climate practice within your work, project by project?

Since spring is a great time to start something new, now might be a good time to consider: what would it look like to track your climate actions over a year? (of course you can also start this anytime!) The invitation is to create a climate action scrapbook or journal, reflecting on your journey through notes with drawings, pictures or collages that capture the feeling of the project or its impact. You could even include a quote or mantra that holds meaning for you during this time. Remember that it's not all on you as an individual to change the course of things, but this can be a great creative archive to return to and celebrate your journey, especially if things get tough. Here's some ideas for what you might want to include in your reflections:

Date each entry

When is this project happening and where are you coming into it - i.e. is it from the beginning or midway through? (you might find different entry points affect what climate actions you can take/affect within an organisation)

Why this project?

Write a few lines about why you said yes. What drew you to it? Was it the people, the purpose, the organisation?

Alignment with your climate policy or values

Does this project/contract or organisation align with your personal or professional climate commitments? If yes, how so? If not, where is the tension?

Actions you are taking

List the specific actions you are taking to embed climate justice or sustainability into your work. (E.g. low carbon travel, reuse of materials, connecting with the natural world, bringing in new perspectives on climate justice, talking to those you're working with about legacy so the action continues after you are gone.)

Challenges you're facing

What's getting in the way? This could be practical, emotional, structural? Be real.

Carbon footprint (optional but encouraged) See [here](#) for a carbon calculator.

Roughly estimate the project's carbon footprint from your daily travel, production, energy use (if possible). What might you do differently next time?

After the project, you could reflect on:

Successes and learnings

Note your climate related successes in this project, small or big. Did you influence a decision? Shift a practice? Start a conversation? Reflect honestly, what did you learn from this project that you'll carry forward?

Ambitions sparked

Did this project ignite any new ambitions, ideas, or collaborations for future climate aligned work?

Artist Spotlight

While we're considering the practicalities of reducing our carbon footprint and using our creativity and voice to engage in and communicate climate action, we must also make sure our work is inclusive and accessible. We need to deconstruct the systems and structures that give some people greater access and opportunities than others. By reimagining these foundations, we can create an environment where everyone can participate, flourish and thrive without barriers.

Unbuilt Environments

Creative Climate Leadership alumni Alistair Gentry developed Unbuilt Environments, commissioned by [UCL's Trellis public art programme](#) and UCL Research, based at Global Disability Innovation Hub. Alistair used Unreal Engine to build representations of participants' utopian and dystopian ideas about the built environment. The work was made over the course of a year, in consultation with local disabled people and disabled-groups, with researcher and disability activist [Anna Landre](#).

You can hear more from Alistair on episode four of [The Creative Climate Leadership](#) podcast.

More Resources

Get inspiration from the [Conversations on Creative Climate Leadership Podcast](#)

Listen to [The Colour Green Podcast Series](#) all about race, climate and nature

Measure your carbon footprint with JB's [Creative Climate Tools](#)

Spring book recommendations:

The Hidden Life of Trees - Peter Wohlleben

Sister Species: Women, Animals, and Social Justice - Lisa Kemmerer

In the Shadow of the Mountain: A Memoir of Courage - Silvia Vasquez-Lavado

SUMMER

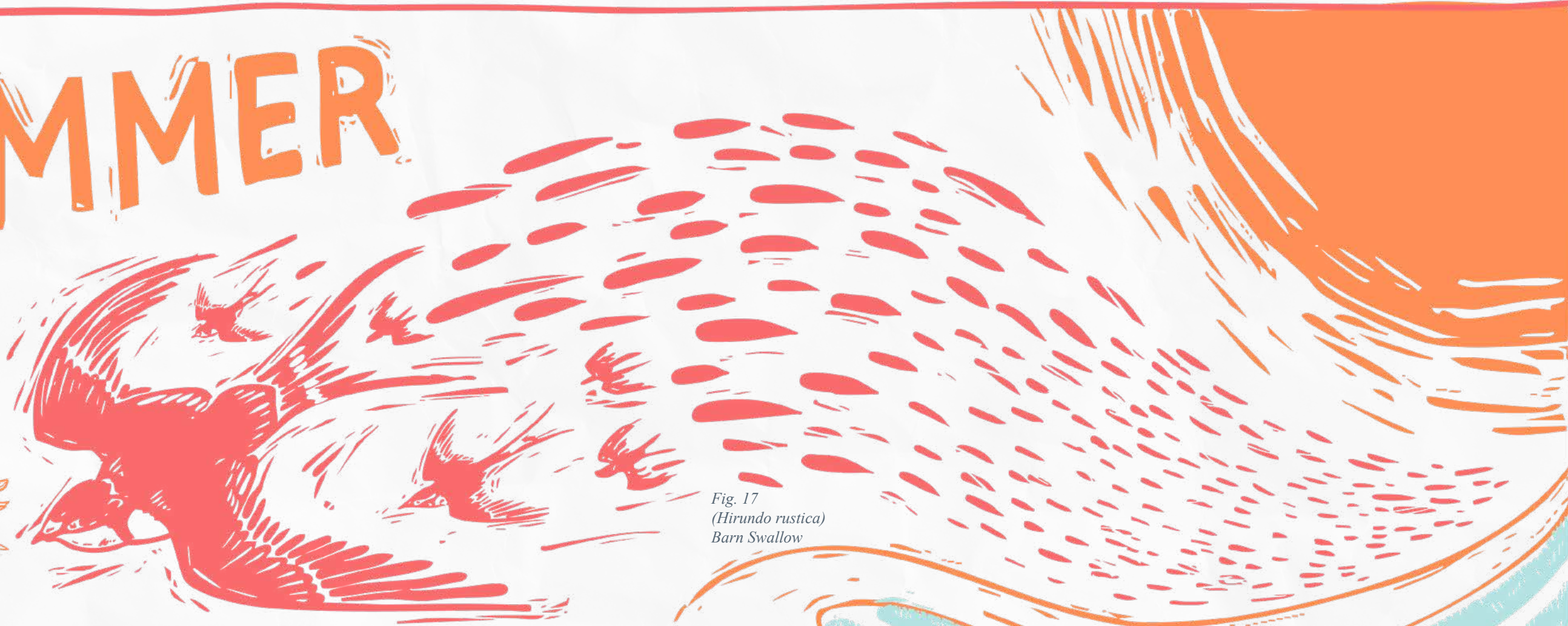


Fig. 17
(*Hirundo rustica*)
Barn Swallow

Summer is a season of abundance, connection and play, bringing people together often through events and activity. We might create or be in spaces of collaboration, inspiration and activation - part of something larger than ourselves. This is a season of momentum, an invitation to say 'yes', embrace opportunities and find joy in both your creative work and the energy of the moment. It's a time to be active and engaged, but with a sense of ease and fulfillment.

Through this cycle, more-than-human pollinators can travel miles and visit thousands of flowers. Their efforts play an integral role in our food systems and in ensuring the biodiversity of our world. Bees communicate the location of nectar rich areas through dance. This season invites us to grow our movements, to gather with joy and to advocate for the world we want to build.

This section will offer some insights into how we can shape our work as a collective of individuals, in harmony and collaboration with the natural world around us. It is a great time to really refine the 'how' we do our work, make our work and share that with others.

"All flourishing is mutual"
- Robin Wall Kimmerer

Fig. 18
(*Lavandula angustifolia*)
Lavender

Fig. 19
(*Papilio machaon*)
Old World Swallowtail
Butterfly

Fig. 13
(*Helianthus annuus*)
Sunflower

Fig. 14
(*Lonicera periclymenum*)
Honeysuckle

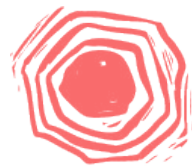
Fig. 15
(*Cyananthus latirostris*)
Broad-Billed Hummingbird

Fig. 16
(*Bombus hortorum*)
Bumblebee

Fig. 20
(*Zinnia elegans*)
Zinnia Flower



Season Resources



1. [Linking Individual Action and System Change in Climate Advocacy](#)



This guide from Climate Outreach helps you to connect your work to the broader forces shaping our world. It encourages building and engaging with networks to amplify reach, foster collaboration and align with shared values.

2. [Framing Climate Justice](#)



This 12 month project led by Public Interest Research Centre (PIRC) looked at how the UK public thinks about climate justice, and tested what sort of communications are most effective in reaching the public to grow the movement. TIP: their top ten [headline findings](#) are useful for all climate justice communications, big or small.

3. [Climate Stories That Work](#)

Communicating sustainability and environmental justice needs effective messaging, which can sometimes feel overwhelming. To help guide your thinking, take a look at Heard's resource: six top tips to help freelancers shape impactful messaging for projects and campaigns.



Fig. 22
(*Cosmos bipinnatus*)
Garden Cosmos

4. [From Carbon Footprints to Cultural Influence: Engaging Live Music Audiences on Travel Choices](#)



Turn to page four to find out about the five recommendations for influencing audience travel choices, which you can consider with your event partners.

5. [The Craftivist Collective](#)



How can handicrafts inspire kind, effective activism and drive social change? This free course explores Sarah Corbett's 'gentle protest' approach to craftivism, offering frameworks, case studies, and hands-on projects to create meaningful impact.

6. [Good Energy: A Playbook for Screenwriting in the Age of Climate Change](#)



This is a playbook to assist creatives in incorporating climate change narratives into their work. The guide provides strategies for effectively portraying climate issues in film and television, for those of you working in this field.

7. [Climate Climate Justice Hub](#)



Whilst in the midst of activity, networking and making things happen, you might want to identify areas where you can better incorporate climate justice in your work, independently and with collectives of others. Explore this dynamic library of climate justice resources, tools and case studies to identify what inspires you.



Fig. 23
(*Alcedo Atthis*)
Common Kingfisher

Creative Care Corner

Prompt - How can you make space for yourself amidst abundance?

In the summer time, often creativity, connection and opportunities are in full bloom. Like bees gathering pollen, we are busy sharing ideas, in workshops, producing events and bringing projects to life. But even the most industrious pollinators need moments of rest to shake off excess pollen, find shade and return to their work with renewed energy.

This 20-30 minute wellbeing activity is designed to release the overload, ground yourself and regain clarity before diving back into the season's abundance.

Finding shade: A restful visualisation (10 minutes)

- Sit or lie down comfortably in a shady place in nature (a local park, forest clearing, a riverbank, a meadow at dusk). If you can't get there, then visualise it.
- Ask yourself: What does my body, mind, and creative spirit need most right now?
- Sit with the answer without rushing to fix or solve, just listen.

Hold the pollen: a moment to reflect (10-20 mins)

- Open a journal or sketchbook and reflect on the following:
- What are the 3 most nourishing things I've experienced this season? (A moment of connection? A piece of work I'm proud of? A small joy?)
- What is one thing I can put down or step away from for a while? (Where am I holding too much pollen?)
- What kind of movement or action feels like what I need to do more of now? (Create more space between attending events, activate my mind/body more/less?)
- Jot down a simple word, phrase, or sketch to remind you of this moment of clarity.
- If possible, end your pause with a cooling herbal drink like a peppermint tea, lemon balm infusion, or just fresh water with mint.

Artist Spotlight

We can use a variety of tools, languages, and communication methods to speak up for climate justice, and bring our communities along with us.

Can I Live?

[Can I Live?](#) is a digital performance written by and starring British-Nigerian actor and activist Fehinti Balogun, sharing his personal journey into the biggest challenge of our times. The show was produced by Complicité.

Weaving his story with spoken word, rap, theatre, animation and the scientific facts, Fehinti charts a course through the fundamental issues underpinning the climate emergency, identifying the intimate relationship between the environmental crisis and the global struggle for social justice, and sharing how, as a young Black British man, he has found his place in the climate movement.

One of the themes of *Can I Live?* is taking collective action and building communities to tackle the climate crisis. Fehinti worked with Complicité and youth activist Samia Dumbuya to produce a [toolkit](#) enabling organisers to build and curate inclusive spaces for screenings and talks to empower people from all communities to participate in climate discussions.

TIP: There are some great additional resources on page 11 from Global Majority communities.

Networks and campaigns which can support your climate action

[Culture at the Heart of Climate Action](#) - Add your name to a group of 1000's of international artists who are calling for culture to be embedded into global climate policy.

[Force of Nature](#) - Climate Cafes to help people come together, talk about climate and feel part of a community of change-makers.

[Culture Declares Emergency](#) and [Music Declares Emergency](#) - Join thousands of artists, organisations and individuals in declaring a climate and ecological emergency. Culture Declares Emergency has a [network of international and UK based hubs](#) who share knowledge and practical support.

[EarthPercent](#) - EarthPercent invites artists and the music industry at large to donate a small percentage of their income, making change through organisations that meaningfully address the climate and nature crises. If you're a musician working with labels, venues, festivals, big booking agents, help spread the word and consider contributing to music industry action on climate.



Fig. 24
(*Macroglossum stellatarum*)
Hummingbird Hawk-Moth

AUTUMN

As leaves shift from vibrant greens to deep oranges, autumn reminds us that change is inevitable, nature's way of making space for what's next. The energy of summer begins to slow and nature prepares to release all that has come to fruition, making way for winter's rest. So during this time, how do we let go of what no longer serves us? In this season of transformation, can we reduce excess, mulch the waste and repurpose it into something that nourishes the future? This could be physical materials or even the ideas we carry forward.

Autumn invites us to tread more lightly, consider what we use, how we use it, what impact that might have (on whom) and what we leave behind. This season is a call to decarbonise, switch to sustainable materials and reimagine waste, not as an endpoint, but as part of a circular system, a system that centres on justice for people and the planet too.

From embedding circular economy principles into your creative work to choosing materials that regenerate rather than deplete, this section offers tools to help artists transition towards more sustainable, thoughtful and transformative practices.

Fig. 25
(*Coprinellus micaceus*)
Glistening Ink Cap
Mushroom

Fig. 26
(*Malus x domestica*)
Common Apple

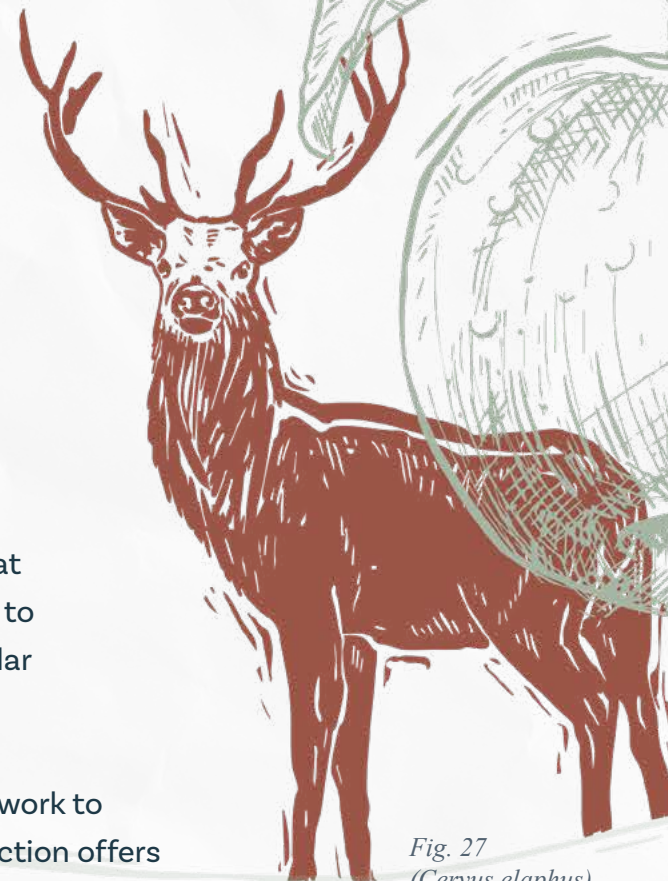


Fig. 27
(*Cervus elaphus*)
Red Deer

Fig. 28
(*Erinaceus europaeus*)
European Hedgehog



Fig. 29
(*Pleurotus ostreatus*)
Oyster Mushroom

“Autumn teaches us the beauty of letting go.
Growth requires release - it's what the trees do
- Ka'alazz

Season Resources



1. [Circular Economy Guide](#)

A short guide for moving from linear to circular. Have a look at page 6 to plan how to get started. Or if you prefer videos, Creative Scotland's [REsolve: A Creative Approach to the Circular Economy](#) explores the four parts of the circular economy.

2. [Productions and Exhibitions Guide](#)

This guide sets out how to sustainably manage a production or exhibition, with a spotlight on key areas such as design principles, working with fabrics and costumes, lighting, sound and much more!

3. [Culture Beyond Plastic](#)

See page 13 for ideas on how to take action. Understanding how to use plastic is a complex topic, but this report unpacks it all; from how plastic harms people and planet through to how to decipher the maze of different types, helping you to make the best choices for your work.

4. [Waste and Materials Ki Book](#)

Ki Culture's book outlines what suitable alternatives are available for the cultural sector and looks at how to reduce waste.

5. [The Future Materials Bank](#)

An online archive of sustainable materials and knowledge that supports the transition towards ecologically conscious art and design practices. This is part of the Future Materials Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation located at the Jan van Eyck Academie.



Fig. 30
(*Martes martes*)
European Pine
Marten

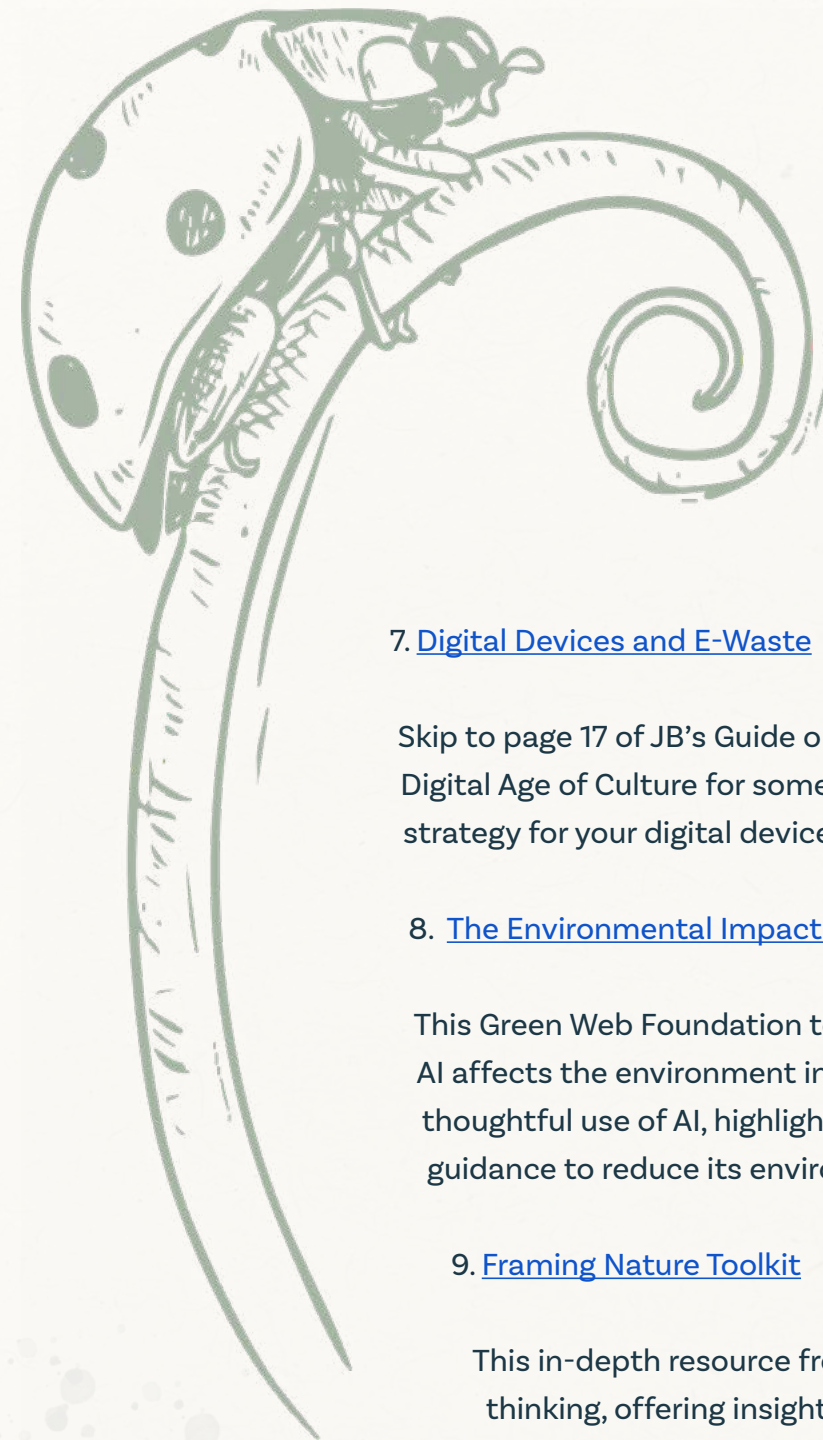


Fig. 31
(*Coccinella septempunctata*)
7-Spot Ladybird

6. [Vegesent: Embracing Circular Economy: A New Norm for Artists](#)

This article from Vegesent, Helsinki, discusses the importance of the circular economy in the art world and offers resources including an index of 48 eco-friendly and cruelty-free art materials.

7. [Digital Devices and E-Waste](#)

Skip to page 17 of JB's Guide on Environmental Sustainability in the Digital Age of Culture for some top tips on how to consider a circular strategy for your digital devices.

8. [The Environmental Impact of AI](#)

This Green Web Foundation toolkit helps artists understand how AI affects the environment in their creative work. It encourages thoughtful use of AI, highlights its resource demands and offers guidance to reduce its environmental impact.

9. [Framing Nature Toolkit](#)

This in-depth resource from PIRC is perfect for transformational thinking, offering insights to help you rethink how you communicate climate issues. It covers values-based messaging, strategic storytelling and inclusive framing - helping you craft engaging, relatable, and action-inspiring content.

Creative Care Corner

Prompt: Fungi as teachers: how do mushrooms speak to you about change and transformation?

Mushrooms are nature’s quiet recyclers, breaking down what no longer serves and transforming it into fertile ground for new life. They decompose waste, detoxify environments and even create the conditions for regeneration. In times of change, they remind us that resistance isn’t always loud. It’s patient, persistent and deeply interconnected.

This practice invites you to walk with fungi as your teachers, exploring how you can also break down harmful systems and regenerate justice.

Woodland (or similar) meditative walk

- Take yourself to a park, woodland or even a shaded path that is accessible to you, where you might spot mushrooms. Creatively document what you see.
- Reflect on their role in the ecosystem: How do they transform decay into nourishment? What can they teach us about change?
- Find a quiet place to be with your thoughts.

Mushrooms don’t just break down, they can transform. Consider their role in the ecosystem:

- How do they restore balance in damaged landscapes?
- What can fungi teach us about resistance? Not as destruction, but as a force for renewal?

As you move through your chosen space, reflect on one system, structure, or belief (personal or societal) that no longer serves justice. Ask yourself: What could grow in its place and what role can I play in that? Sit with this question without rushing to answer.

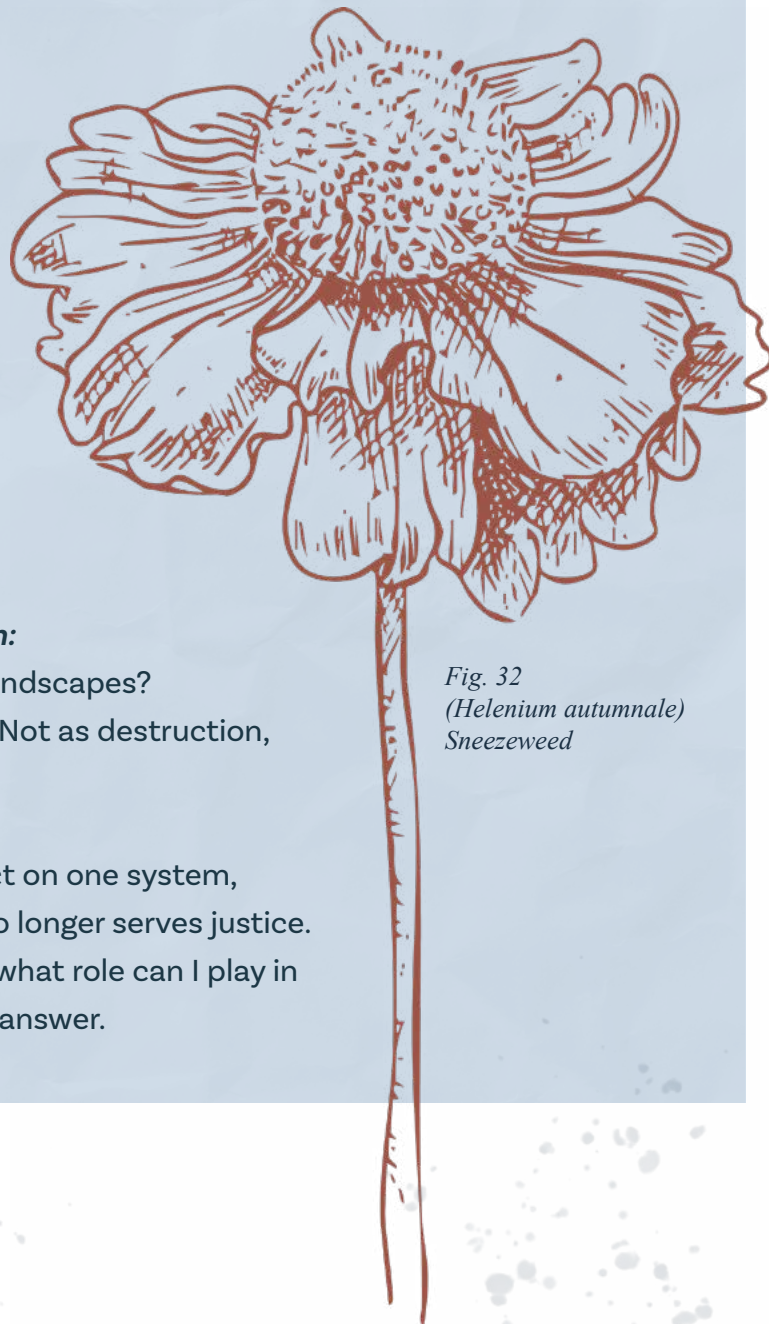


Fig. 32
(*Helenium autumnale*)
Sneezeweed

Artist Spotlight

We can use our creativity to rethink consumption. How could we create social or environmental value from things which are damaged or discarded?

[Notweed paper](#)

This is a project by Slovenian interdisciplinary design collective Trajna, co-founded by CCL alumna Gaja Meznoric Osole. They take advantage of the proliferation of non-native Japanese Knotweed, which is an environmental issue. It is foraged from local degraded sites, and used to make paper. This project supports local artisanal crafts, contains the spread of Knotweed, and helps to protect against deforestation for virgin wood fibres.

You can hear more from Gaja on episode three of the [Conversations on Creative Climate Leadership](#) podcast.

More Resources

[Circularity.org](#) fosters community connection, creativity and sustainability through projects like community hubs, repair cafés, and wellbeing activities. Check out their website to learn more about their collaborative, eco-conscious practices and community engagement.

Autumn book recommendations:

1. Let’s Become Fungal!: Mycelium Teachings and the Arts - Yasmine Ostendorf-Rodriguez
2. Hospicing Modernity - Vanessa Machado de Oliveira
3. Wild Feminism: Climate Crisis and the Future of Women - Dr. Laura Harrison

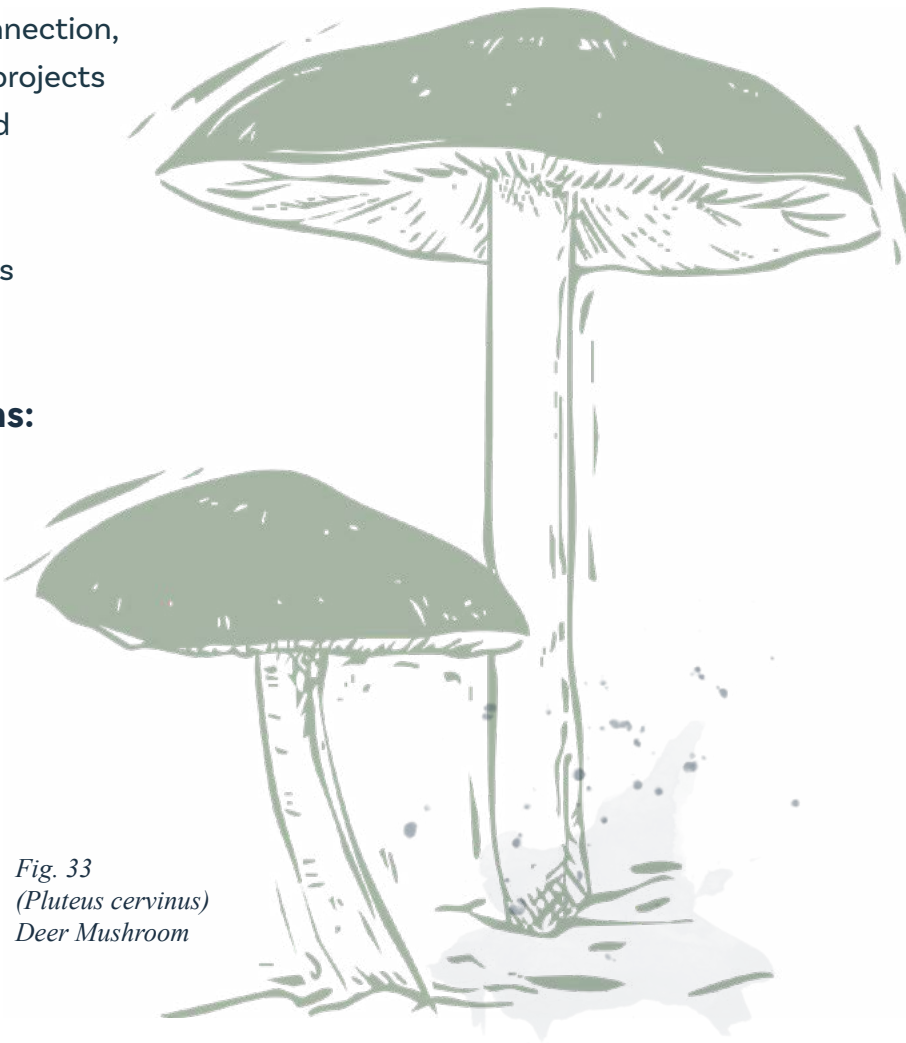


Fig. 33
(*Pluteus cervinus*)
Deer Mushroom



Winter asks us to rest! Yet with funding deadlines, spring preparations, and long-term planning, true rest can feel out of reach. What does nature teach us?

Rhubarb goes dormant in winter, strengthening its underground structures to return more boldly in spring. Though nature's abundance isn't always visible, the roots and soil are alive with activity, laying the foundation for growth. In the same way, this season invites us to slow down, replenish and build the infrastructure for what's ahead - including the financial choices that sustain our work.

Even in stillness, we remain part of a larger system and our plans for action can either nurture or deplete it. The resources below offer ways to rethink these foundations with care, ensuring they align with the future we want to create.

Fig. 36
(*Quercus*)
English Oak

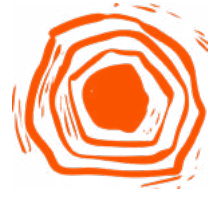
Fig. 35
(*Asio otus*)
Long-Eared Owl

Fig. 34
(*Galanthus*)
Common Snowdrop

Fig. 37
(*Vulpes vulpes*)
Red Fox

“Storms make trees take deeper roots”
- Dolly Parton

Season Resources



1. [Action Plans and Policies](#)

See page 8 for considerations for an Environmental Policy planning as an individual. Also, see page 17-19 for a couple of great policy examples and a table that refers to actions for individual and small organisations

2. [GALA funding and resources guide – Second edition \(2020\), On the Move, with the support of the French Ministry of Culture and the Institut français](#)

This guide supports creatives by providing tips and resources on funding opportunities that connect arts, culture and environmental sustainability. There are signposts to funding schemes at various levels, highlighting opportunities for greener practices, cultural mobility, and cross sector collaboration. Something to look into over the Winter?

3. [Watershed's Climate Action Toolkit](#)

This toolkit is aimed specifically at freelancers and smaller organisations, and includes an overview video of key principles, a worksheet for planning and prioritising, and a checklist across key environmental areas.

4. [Watershed Creative Producers International Report](#)

On page 29 you'll find a handy guide to building self-care into our working lives with prompts about our physical needs, communication, flexibility, and keeping ourselves centered.

5. [Make My Money Matter](#)

Did you know many pension funds nationwide are supporting fossil fuel companies and investments? If you have a pension, explore this site to understand how you can make your hard earned cash support the causes you care about.



Fig. 38
(Calluna)
Common Heather

6. [Counting on Culture: How to Stop Financing the Environmental Crises](#)

A deep dive report into how finance is linked to the climate and ecological crisis, and what culture can do about it

7. [How to Buy Sustainably Sourced Renewable Electricity for your Business](#)

This is aimed at businesses, but will also be useful for domestic travel. When it comes to buying your energy, do you find the huge number of different tariffs and suppliers confusing? How can you separate the greenwashers from the real renewable deals? This guide from Good Energy explains everything you need to know.

8. [The Creative Climate Trends](#)

Learn about JB's research on the different ways arts and culture are responding to the climate and ecological crisis. Reflect on where you can place yourself and your artistic practice within the trends before you dive into the abundance of spring.



Fig. 39
(Lagopus muta)
Rock Ptarmigan

Creative Care Corner

Prompt: How can you embrace rest and still find inspiration in the winter?

The transition into winter can bring sluggishness, difficulty waking up in darker mornings and even creative blocks. Here are two nature based activities to help you find energy, clarity and inspiration.

1. Morning herbal energy boost + optional walk

Rosemary is known to stimulate memory and focus, while ginger warms the body and improves circulation. Combining this with movement in nature helps shake off feeling lethargic and invites fresh creative energy in the morning or whenever you need a reset in your day.

What you'll need:

- Fresh or dried rosemary (for mental clarity and circulation)
- A few slices of ginger (warming and energising)
- Lemon or orange peel (uplifting)
- A notebook and pen

What to do:

- Brew a herbal infusion with rosemary, ginger and citrus peel (add as much or as little of the peel as you need). Let it steep for 5-10 minutes while taking slow, steady breaths as it simmers away.
- As you sip, set a simple intention for your day, perhaps using a word like 'flow,' 'courage,' or 'open'.
- Take a 15-20 minute walk outdoors, ideally somewhere green, even if a small patch with plants or trees. Observe the textures, shapes, and colours of winter - notice moss, branches, the scent of damp earth or birdsong travelling on the crisp winter air filling your lungs.
- If inspiration strikes, jot down words, phrases, or sketches in your notebook. Let nature's subtle shifts awaken your creative senses. You could leave your creations there for someone to find as a gift or keep a collection of them on a visual board where you do your creative thinking.

Tip: You could also use some unbleached paper and plant your pictures in a ritual afterwards.



Fig. 40
(*Lepus timidus*)
Mountain Hare

Artist Spotlight

How can we connect with others to build sustainable, ethical infrastructures for the things we need to maintain us?

[A Climate For Art](#)

A Climate for Art is a growing union of arts workers and SMEs in Australia committing to responding to the climate crisis through tangible action.

They are working towards the collectivisation of climate response by bringing small to medium arts organisations together around three core actions: switching to fossil fuel-free banks, pension funds, and power providers. The intention is to create clear, accessible pathways to action, championing those already leading the way, bring others along, and build a strong coalition for advocacy.

Alongside this coming together of collective divestment, ACFA is creating an ongoing Climate Union, encouraging members to meet in small groups twice a year to follow an ACFA agenda, fostering ongoing, collective, and creative conversations on climate action.

You can hear more from ACFA co-instigator Eliki Reade on episode two of the [Conversations on Creative Climate Leadership](#) podcast.

Winter book recommendations:

Wintering - Katherine May

The Overstory - Richard Powers

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants

- Robin Wall Kimmerer

Share your feedback

This Almanac is a living resource and will be updated again in the next year, so we'd love to hear from you.

Let us know how you've used it, what you've enjoyed and any ideas you have to make it even better. Whether it's suggestions, extra resources, or just a quick thought on the seasonality approach and content, your feedback helps shape this guide. You can share your thoughts anonymously [here](#).

Acknowledgements

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Fig. 41
(*Corvus frugilegus*)
Rook



Fig. 42
(*Cepaea nemoralis*)
Grove Snail

About JB

JB's a pioneering not-for-profit mobilising the arts and culture to take action on the climate, nature and justice crisis. Founded in 2007, JB's origins were in the music industry. Now working right across the cultural sector, JB has partnered with over 2,000 organisations in the UK and internationally. Combining cultural and environmental expertise, JB's focuses on high-impact programmes and policy change to meet the climate crisis head-on.

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#CreativeClimateAction



Julie's Bicycle

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Fig 2: The Plum and Custard Mushroom is a gilled mushroom that can be found growing in large numbers on the forest floor. Best to be admired as they leave a bitter taste. [See more](#)

Fig 3: The Black Squirrel is a rarer sight in the UK that seems to have a melanistic gene missing which helps keep them warmer in winter. [See more](#)

Fig 4: The Serotine Bat is one of the largest in the UK and can be seen hunting round street lamps. Watch out, they might take your evening chips. [See more](#)

Fig 5. The Sacred Lotus is as beautiful as it is delicious, its stalks can grow 2m deep into the water. [See more](#)

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