

**Advice and guidance for applicants responding to: Outline the benefit of your project for biodiversity and/or sustainability**

The Heritage Councils standpoint is that all projects have an impact on the environment and whether that is the specific aim of the project or not, we are asking people to consider their impact and how they can reduce any negatives or introduce positives.

**For a museum** type setting for example you could let us know how you are reducing energy use, how you are planning for the potential impacts of climate change on caring for the collections (eg increased issues with mould or damp, and the arrival of new invertebrate pests due to warmer, damper weather, and disaster planning that takes into account higher rainfall and increased flood risk) and whether you plan to include any outreach or awareness raising on climate change in future exhibitions

**For a built heritage conservation project**, groups might consider the biodiversity impacts of planned conservation works – eg the impact of removing ivy, which is highly positive for biodiversity, and how you might mitigate that, perhaps by planting elsewhere. Also, how you will comply with the requirements of the wildlife act in terms of timing works that impact vegetation outside the bird nest timing season, and how you will ensure that the proposed works do not negatively impact on bats.

**For projects of all types that involve meetings or events**, you might consider how to make events associated with your project more sustainable (hold events near public transport options, provide lift share or shuttle bus, provide attendees with information on how you are making the event more sustainable – there are lots of ideas for this in the guide to making Heritage Week events more sustainable on our website - <https://www.heritageweek.ie/news/sustainability>)

**For interpretation projects**, can you make the production process more sustainable? Ensure you print a minimal number of hard copies and distribute more digitally? Use unbleached, recycled paper and chlorine free inks, shop local where possible to reduce transportation impacts. Even if the printed material is about built or cultural heritage, can you show us how you have acknowledged that the climate and biodiversity crisis are important to all heritage projects?

**In summary** we are asking you to consider the wider impacts of your project, and how you will work to ensure your project doesn't have a negative impact on natural heritage or sustainability.