



Expression of Interest

WaterAid COP26 Green Zone exhibition

What we are looking for

We are inviting artists to submit proposals for a visually arresting exhibition to be presented in WaterAid's space at COP26, responding to the theme of **'The climate change and water story – as told by youth'**.

You will be required to design a set of workshops that WaterAid will be running with young people in October to capture their responses to the water and climate theme. The final exhibition must in some way incorporate the outputs of those workshops.

We are also looking for the exhibition to drive further understanding through participation – so would be interested to hear your ideas around how people could interact with the exhibition either physically on the day, or through a digital element. However, this is also something WaterAid are happy to work with you on and develop together once the concept is formed.

Background

Our climate is changing at an alarming rate and it's making it even harder for the world's poorest people to get clean water. This is especially true for the 1 in 10 people worldwide who don't have a reliable supply of water. More frequent and extreme flooding is polluting fragile water sources; longer droughts are drying up springs. People need a reliable supply of water that keeps pumping through flood, drought and natural disaster.

Through WaterAid's programme work and by influencing others, we must ensure communities hit hardest by climate change get the resources they need to prepare and recover. This must include a reliable supply of clean water, so they can stay healthy, go to school, and earn a living.

We have an exhibition space at the COP26 Green Zone on 12th November and our ambition is for the exhibition to provoke dialogues that deepen awareness and understanding of the links between water and the climate crisis. We hope that a powerful presentation that foregrounds youth voices will inspire attendees to continue the conversation beyond COP.

Further reading:

- [WaterAid's climate stories](#)
- [Aida Muluneh's Water Life project](#)
- [WaterAid Future 15](#)
- [Our Climate Fight campaign](#)

Our challenge

- **There will be a lot of organisations exhibiting at COP26 with similar climate messaging** - we need to cut through the noise with something unique and attention grabbing and will keep people talking long after visiting the exhibition.
- **Water is not always seen as linked to climate change**, so we need to deliver that message in a clear and effective way that positions WaterAid as a significant and relevant actor in the climate space

The plan

We have secured a 2m x 2m exhibition space in the Green Zone at COP26 for **one day** (Friday 12th November - the day of closing negotiations).

We are inviting artists to respond to the theme of **'The climate change and water story – as told by youth.'** We believe it is essential to engage young people on issues relating to the future of their planet, and to use our platforms to further amplify their voices (see our [Future 15](#) project, an inspiring collaboration with trailblazing climate activists).

The exhibition at COP26 is fantastic opportunity to amplify youth voices in a creative way to inspire the next generation to act on climate change, helping to cement the COP26 legacy.

In October, once your proposal for the exhibition is fully developed, we will work with you to use the proposal as a catalyst for a series of creative workshops with young people on the theme of water and climate. At the workshops, WaterAid will also highlight the real-life impact that climate change is having on people's access to water in order to bring this critical issue to life.

The workshops will provide youth audiences with a means to express their creativity and add their voice to the discussion on climate change and WASH through capturing their opinions, concerns and hopes around these issues. These expressions should then be incorporated in some way into the final exhibition piece at COP.

The details

Expressions of interest no longer than 1 sheet of A4 should be emailed to:

Neil Wissink

NeilWissink@wateraid.org

Deadline - 12th September

We are particularly interested in hearing about any similar projects you have worked on in the past or are currently working on, specifically to do with climate change and/or work involving working with youth groups/ young people.

Budget

We have a budget of £20K for this project – please provide a breakdown of how you would use the budget with your proposal.

(This will cover artist & workshop delivery fee and costs, production, any travel and accommodation, studio/work space, practical and technical support, publicity and marketing and the digital element of the project.)

Timings

Our timings are as follows:

Expressions of interest to WaterAid	12 th September
Appointment	20 th September
Workshops completed	End of October
Exhibition date	12 th November

Thank you for your interest.