



Invitation to Tender

To Conduct a Review of the Opportunities and Barriers to providing Climate-related work across Ireland's Youth Work Sector

National Youth Council of Ireland

February 2026

Invitation to submit proposals

The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) is the representative body for voluntary youth organisations in Ireland. NYCI functions to represent the interests of young people and youth organisations and its role as the National Representative Youth Work Organisation is recognised in legislation (Youth Work Act, 2001). The NYCI aims through its member organisations and its representative role to empower young people to participate in society as fulfilled confident individuals.

NYCI is based on principles of equality, social justice and equal participation for all. In achieving these aims, the NYCI seeks the emergence of a society in which young people are valued and supported to achieve their full potential. For more information see: www.youth.ie.

Background and Research Rationale

2018 was a momentous year for addressing the issue of climate change amongst young people in Ireland. Greta Thunberg and the Fridays for Future movement inspired millions of young people around the world, including Ireland, to take peaceful action to convince policymakers and politicians to do more to protect the planet for current and future generations. In September 2019, the world saw the largest global climate strikes with more than 6 million people taking part worldwide, including over 15,000 from Ireland.

This momentum on the climate crisis was suddenly halted due to the global lockdowns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, in respect of remote

working/schooling and social distancing. We have not seen anywhere near the level of momentum pre-covid and would like to know why. We would also like to explore the issue of eco-anxiety amongst young people and how this can possibly be countered through the work of the youth sector in Ireland.

Our proposed research seeks to assess the primary barriers which are preventing the youth sector in Ireland from engaging in climate-related content (activities, discussions, fieldtrips, etc.) with the young people they work with. This research will seek to identify the barriers and recommend supportive solutions to better engage the youth sector on climate issues. This research will also look at the opportunities that might support the youth sector to engage, learn, and take informed action.

In the context of protecting the planet and people from the devastating impacts caused by the climate crisis, as well as safeguarding young people from eco-anxiety, it is imperative that the youth work sector can appropriately address climate-related issues with their youth groups. Collating evidence of these barriers is important in terms of informing the National Youth Council of Ireland on how they can best support the youth work sector.

Research Aim

In undertaking this study, the research should explore the following research questions:

1. What barriers currently prevent youth workers and youth organisations in Ireland from delivering climate-related activities, discussions, and programmes with young people?
2. What supports—including training, resources, and partnerships (not an exhaustive list)—would support youth workers and youth organisations overcome these barriers and increase their capacity to engage young people in climate-related topics?
3. What opportunities exist within the Irish youth work sector to expand or strengthen climate engagement, and how can strategic collaborations enhance this work?

Research Methodology

Applicants are invited to outline the research methods and sampling techniques they intend to employ to conduct this study and to demonstrate their knowledge of appropriate research methods to fulfil the brief outlined above.

Deliverables:

A comprehensive written report— including an executive summary — will be produced. The report will:

- Present the key issues and barriers identified through both the literature review and engagement with the youth work sector and other climate and global citizen education focused organisations.
- Highlight potential solutions, supports, and enablers that could address these barriers.

- Provide recommendations aimed at re-energising the youth work sector and empowering young people to engage meaningfully with climate issues and the climate crisis.

Timeframe

- The research should be completed by **Friday 17th July 2026**.
- The deadline for receipt of completed proposals is **Friday 13th March 2026 at 12:00pm (noon)**. Applicants should provide a detailed timetable for completion of the research.
- Shortlisted candidates may be invited to interview (online) on **Thursday 26th March 2026**.

Profile of Researchers and Relevant Experience

Applications should include a profile of all personnel to be involved in undertaking the research. This should include a detailed CV of the candidate, demonstrating their experience of undertaking similar studies and including two references.

Ethical, Consent & Confidentiality Procedures

Applicants should outline how they propose to comply with research ethics standards.

Roles & Responsibilities

The successful applicant will be responsible for accessing research participants, undertaking the research and producing the final report, developed to publishable standards.

Ownership of the information and final report

Ownership of data and reports related to the project will reside with the National Youth Council of Ireland.

Budget

The maximum budget for this project is **€10,000** inclusive of VAT and this should include all costs such as institutional fees, administration, travel, and any additional expenses incurred.

Applicants should provide a detailed breakdown of costs, including VAT, if applicable. The successful applicant will need to provide a tax clearance access code and tax number.

Payment

A payment schedule will be agreed with the successful applicant. The following schedule is proposed:

- €3000 to be paid on signing the contract.
- €3000 to be paid on receipt of intermediate report.
- €4000 to be paid on receipt of full research report

Payments will be made within 30 days of receipt of an invoice. If at any stage during the research, the agreed level of quality of the research is not adhered to, payment may be withheld.

Application process:

The deadline for receipt of completed proposals is **Friday 13th March 2026 at 12:00pm**. Tender applications should include the subject line **'NYCI Climate Research Tender'** and be submitted by email to Valerie Duffy, valerie@nyci.ie.

Any queries should be addressed to Eimear Manning, eimear@nyci.ie.