



Information Pack



Grantham Climate Art Prize

The **Grantham Climate Art Prize** is a nationwide competition for young people to draw attention to the climate crisis and the need for urgent, positive action.

The Grantham Institute is inviting young people age 11 – 25 to enter the 2026 Grantham Climate Art Prize to design a mural showing their vision of a greener and more sustainable city. It will be the 14th mural across Great Britain in our art prize series. A cash prize of £250 will be presented to the winner and runners-up will receive £150 each.

Designs should have the potential to be transformed into a panoramic 20m long 2.4m high mural by a professional artist on Imperial's White City campus to be unveiled in spring/ summer 2026. Runner up designs will be exhibited alongside it in an exhibition.

Students at Imperial and schools, colleges and universities across London and the South East are invited to submit a design for the mural by considering: **What does a thriving, vibrant city full of nature and innovation look and feel like?**

For inspiration, you can use one or more of these different innovative and nature-based solutions on the next pages... or maybe you'll think of new ideas!

What is the Grantham Institute?

The Grantham Institute sits at the heart of Imperial's work on climate change and the environment. We drive forward discovery, convert innovations into applications, train future leaders and communicate academic knowledge to businesses, industry and policymakers to help shape their decisions.

“Art has the potential to inspire minds and touch emotions in a way that science alone often finds challenging.”

Martin Siegert, Visiting Professor at Imperial and former Co-Director of the Grantham Institute



This year's Grantham Climate Art Prize is supported by:



The highest percentage of our global greenhouse gas emissions come from the generation of electricity and heat. A sustainable city will contain elements like:

- ## Where will we source our food & drink?

- Indoor, vertical farms – like GrowUp and aquaponic farms, integrated into buildings and underground allowing fruit, veg and fish to be produced in cities;
- Lab-grown cultivated meat;
- Alternative proteins like insect-based food & microbial foods generated by processes such as fermentation;
- Community larders to prevent food waste.

A poster with a stylized, graphic design. At the top, the words "GO GREEN" are written in large, bold, white capital letters against a green background. Below this, a large, rounded rectangular mirror is shown, reflecting a road that curves through a hilly landscape under a sunset or sunrise sky. The background of the poster features green hills and a blue sky with white clouds. At the bottom, the text "Leave your Car at HOME" is written in a mix of bold, black, sans-serif and script fonts. The word "HOME" is particularly large and bold.

The second highest percentage of our global greenhouse gas emissions come from transport. A sustainable city will include and encourage many of these elements:

- Hydrogen buses & hydrogen haulage trucks;
- Car-free zones;
- Pedestrian & cycle zones;
- Healthy streets that are mobility friendly with benches;
- Cargo drones & underground robots to transport supplies;
- Planes that run on sustainable aviation fuel.

Efforts to tackle the climate crisis have focused on the transition to renewable energy & energy efficiency – but these measures can only tackle 55% of our global greenhouse gas emissions. The remaining 45% comes from producing the cars, clothes, food & products we use each day. A sustainable city will demonstrate what reduce, reuse & recycle really means with:

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- A mural painted on the side of a building. At the top, the text "LET'S MAKE A GREEN FUTURE" is written in green capital letters. Below the text, a large kingfisher with a blue back and orange belly is shown in flight. In the background, two people are riding bicycles on a green path. At the bottom, several fish are depicted swimming in a body of water. The mural is set against a light-colored wall, and the building's roofline is visible at the top.

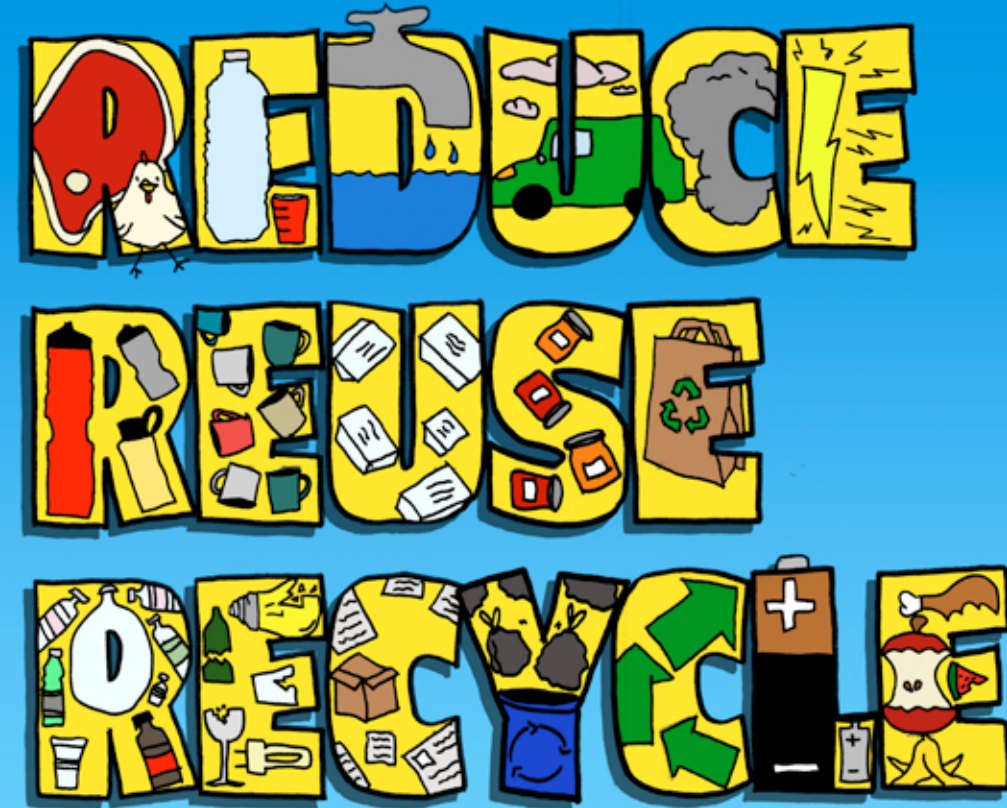
Nature-based solutions play a crucial role in reducing the impacts of climate change & in cities these can reduce the impact of flood, absorb heat & purify the air. Meanwhile, protecting less than 1% of land could help save a third of unique & endangered species. Sustainable cities will be home to:

- Pocket parks to help reduce heat & provide food;
- Water refill points;
- Air quality sensors.

Reducing consumption will lead to less waste. Sustainable cities will focus on a circular economy where waste & pollution will be cut as far as possible, products & materials will be circulated & nature will be regenerated with features like these:

- Turning waste into products - from packaging made from onion skin or seaweed to seafood shells made into plant bedding trays & pots;
- Drop off points for reusable plates & cups e.g. as ClubZerØ is pioneering;
- Smart recyclable & composting bins;
- Anaerobic digestion plants – on the city outskirts, where food waste is turned into biogas.

Find more resources, links & information visit
www.imperial.ac.uk/grantham/events/grantham-art-prize/



BE BIG. BE BOLD. BE IMAGINATIVE

Design tips

Think about how your design will be seen and how much detail you need. Be big, bright and bold.

The wall where the mural will be painted will be 20m long and 2.4m high. It's like the long shape above. Try sketching out your ideas on 8 pages of A4 paper stuck together to see how it might look.

Designs can be drawn or painted with a range of material including collage, photo montage or by designed on a computer but not with AI.

Entrants should look at this list of innovative and eco-solutions for inspiration and remember to:

- Think BIG and use your imagination
- Create a striking image that is not too busy.
Researchers have discovered that adults look at an artwork in a gallery for an average of 30 seconds. Don't get lost in the detail.
- Don't be super futuristic - it should be a cityscape that we could see soon!

How to enter

To enter you must:

- Be living in the UK and aged 11-25
- Attend an in-person workshop or watch the online workshop on our website for design tips.
- Send your design as a JPEG, PNG or EPS under 10MB to www.imperial.ac.uk/grantham/events/grantham-art-prize/ by 13 April 2026

How will the artwork be judged?

We are looking for: Creativity and originality. A positive message. A design that is deliverable, impactful & clear.

If you have any questions check out our FAQs here:

www.imperial.ac.uk/grantham/events/grantham-art-prize/



This resource pack contains images from past winners and runners up of the Grantham Climate Art Prize.

Front cover: mural and exhibition from 2023 Grantham Climate Art Prize at Battersea, closest image Reduce, Reuse, Recycle by Caitlin Melling, Highly Commended 2023, photo: Ian Whitaker;

Page 3: 2021 Winning Design, Nottingham We Can Bee in Harmonie by Kirsty Lloyd, painted by artist Anna Wheelhouse and Kirsty Lloyd, photo: Tom Price; 2023 Winning Design, Glasgow Team Green by Ria Hoondle, artists the Glöbel Bros photo: Ciaran Glöbal.

Page 4-5: **Starry Starry Night** by Holly Barnes, Runner-up 2023; **Go Green - Leave Your Car at Home** by Holly Williams, Runner-up 2023; 2023 Winning Design, Coventry **Let's Make A Green Future** by Samuel Webb, artists Street Art Strategy photo: Street Art Strategy; **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE** by Lari Watts, Highly Commended, 2023.

Back page: 2023 Winning Design, London - West Norwood **Use Your Voice** by Janet Alao, artist Michelle Meola, photos: Michelle Meola and Ian Whitaker; 2021 Winning Design, Brighton **Hope** by Julia Skulska, artist Charlie Rallings, photo: Elise Pithouse

Join us for this year's Grantham Climate Art Prize.



**Grantham Climate
Art Prize 2026**