



Information Pack



**Grantham
Climate
Art Prize
2026**

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



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



What will our future cities look like?



How will we build, heat and light our homes, schools & businesses?

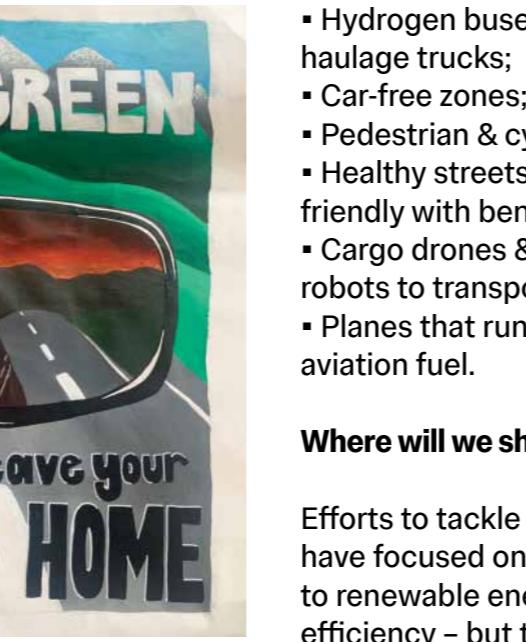
The highest percentage of our global greenhouse gas emissions come from the generation of electricity and heat. A sustainable city will contain elements like:

- Solar panels and thermal cells on roofs, rooftop wind turbines, and perhaps community microgrids that generate power and heat;
- Energy-generating pavements;
- Sensor-controlled lighting for paths and pocket parks;
- Heat pumps on buildings;
- Geothermal energy plants (e.g. on the city's outskirts).

Where will we source our food & drink?

One eighth (12%) of our global greenhouse gas emissions are from animal-based foods with beef and lamb the worst offenders. Meanwhile, one third of all food is wasted, contributing to 8 - 10% of global human-made greenhouse gas emissions. A sustainable city will likely rely on sources of food such as:

- 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.



How will we get around?

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

- Walking;
- Buses, trains and trams;
- Electric vehicles e.g. vans and cars, e-bikes and e-scooters plus charging points and EV hire schemes;

- 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.

Where will we shop?

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:

- Repair cafés;
- Vintage stores;
- Delivery bikes with trailers;
- Refurbished tech retailers;
- Upcycled furniture stores;
- Libraries of Things where you can loan household items e.g. to do DIY.



How much nature will there be & where?

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:

- Green roofs & vertical urban forests;
- Wildflower areas & pollinator pathways;
- Urban wetlands & natural water management systems e.g. tree pits, permeable paving, rain gardens;

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

What will we do with our waste?

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 Harmonee 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 Glöbel.

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.



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