



**Natural  
Environment  
Research Council**

# **Engaged Environmental Science**

Public engagement with environmental science research to move  
from environmental diagnosis to environmental cure

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Monday 3 July 2023 ([webinar recording link on UKRI Funding Finder](#))

# Engaged Environmental Science



Image credit: NERC



# Funding opportunity summary

## Objectives:

- 1) research responding to scientific and public needs
- 2) equitable partnerships
- 3) leaders in PE

**Exemplar projects**  
that demonstrate  
**excellence** in  
**engaged**  
**environmental**  
**science research**  
(£2.7m investment)

## Research Leadership Team:

- Researchers
- Public and intermediaries
- PE and EDI specialists

2) Full application stage  
3 x £800,000 (main  
research project for up to  
4 years)

1) Outline stage  
£50,000 (6 months to build  
partnerships)

# Timeline

## Outline application

**Closing date:** Wednesday 20 September 2023, 4pm

**Assessment:** October 2023

**Bursaries start:** November 2023 (6 months)

**Bursaries end:** April 2024

## Full application

**Opening date:** November 2023

**Closing date:** April 2024

**Assessment:** June 2024

**Full projects:** 1 October 2024-2028 (up to 4 years)

# Who can apply:

## Research Leadership Team

### Inclusive **Research Leadership Team**:

- researchers and practitioners:
  - early career researchers
  - [interdisciplinary researchers and specialists](#)
- members of the public and public intermediaries

### Founded on **equitable partnerships**:

- clear and roles and relationships, safeguarding etc
- applications must be co-created (submitted by PI)
- reciprocal learning
- planning in all costs and sufficient time
- considering intellectual property
- governance and management plan (main research project only)

# Who can apply: NERC eligibility

## Eligibility of Principle Investigator/Project Lead:

- reside in the UK
- employment at lecturer (or equivalent) level or above
- employed by an eligible UK research organisation

## Eligible UK research organisation:

- higher education institution
- research council institute
- recognised independent research organisation
- public sector research establishment
- Catapults

NERC remit

# Who can apply: defining “the public”

Public/communities (people acting in a **non-professional** capacity):

- Place
- Identity
- Interest
- Practice
- Lived experience

Public intermediaries (people acting in a **professional** capacity):

- Public-facing groups
- Practitioners, such as artists, creatives and research practitioners

Specialists: PE, impact, evaluation, EDI, project managers, facilitators...

# Equality, diversity and inclusion

We are committed to achieving equality of opportunity for all funding applicants. We encourage applications from a diverse range of researchers.

Support individuals:

- career breaks
- support for people with caring responsibilities
- flexible working
- alternative working patterns



# What we're looking for: overview

## Engaged Environmental Science Projects:

- Environmental science research (eligible across our grant funding opportunities)
- Engaged research
- Exemplars
- Research to both scientific needs and needs of public and community groups

# What we're looking for: objectives

- 1) Plan, deliver and evaluate **engaged environmental science research**:
  - Show benefit of public engagement methodology
  - Impact (positive change)
  - Show [responsible research](#)
- 2) Create or develop **relevant, sustainable, and equitable research partnerships** with public:
  - bursary to facilitate to develop equitable public partnerships and co-produce full applications
- 3) Foster **leadership in public engagement**:
  - championing engaged research with science peers
  - build capacity in research team
  - build capacity in public based on interests

# Public engagement

- Take note of definitions
- Make choices based on evidenced rationale
- Type of PE should be meaningful and beneficial, from citizen science to collaborative research to exhibitions to informal learning to networks...
- Out of scope:
  - 1-way engagement:
    - research on the public as ‘subjects
    - citizens as data capturers
    - science communication
  - Academic partnerships only
  - Environment science research based – not generalised science engagement
- Evaluate collectively

# Bursary (up to £50k)

## Objectives:

- create equitable research partnerships and research strategies
- test the feasibility of the partnership
- co-creation of full research application

## Details:

- ~£50k
- Applications should evidence:
  - mutual benefit
  - clear, evidence-based justification for partners
  - how will generate excellent environmental science

## Example activities:

- paying for community partners
- partnership working good practice
- evidence gathering
- meetings etc

### Bursary benefits

- time for issues
- trust and respect
- more collaborative
- allows participation
- interdisciplinary

# Funding available up to £800k

- Fund 80% of Full economic cost (FEC)
- Exceptions that can be funded at 100% FEC:
  - business, third sector, or government bodies that cannot fund their own participation (up to 30% of total cost of grant)
  - funding for community organisations that cannot fund their own participation (up to 30% of total cost of grant)
  - justified equipment
  - international co-investigators

We will fund:

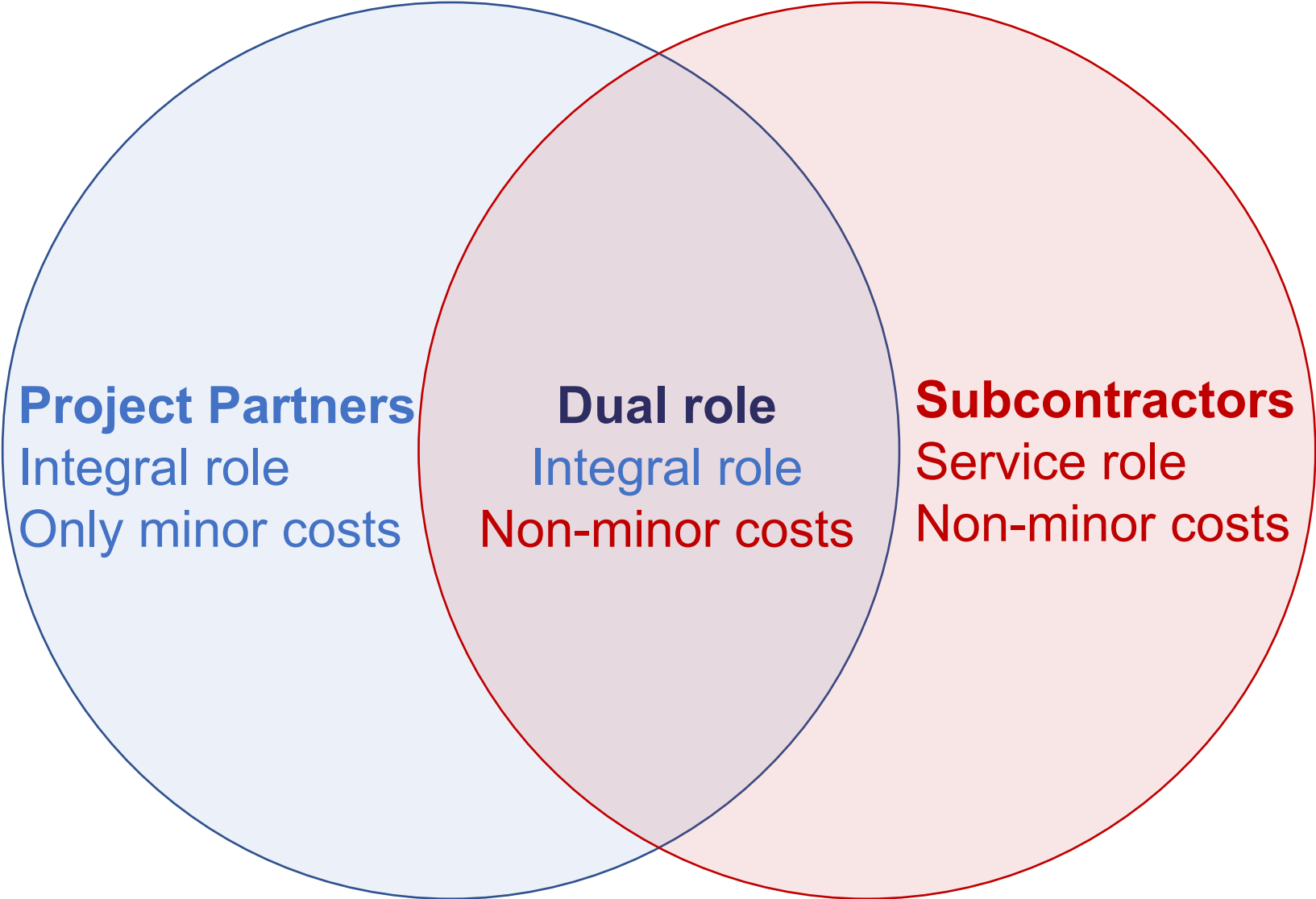
- facilities costs

We will not fund:

- PhD studentships
- shiptime and marine equipment



# Funding available: for public



# How to apply: outlines

- You must apply using the Joint Electronic Submission (Je-S) system
- Deadline: Wednesday 20 September 2023, 4:00pm

Case for support (2 sides of A4):

- Objectives and outputs
- Research outline
- Research leadership team and partnership approach

# How we will assess your application

## Stage 1: Outline stage assessment

To what extent does your proposed approach to the **partnership** and **the engaged environmental scientific research** fit **NERC's objectives** for this funding opportunity and our expectations for meeting **scientific needs** and **needs of public** and community groups?

Objectives:

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- 2) equitable partnerships
- 3) leaders in PE

# Panel observations

- No prior panel experience
- Available to researchers, PhD students or public engagement professionals
- Must not be named or involved in an application
- To apply please email [publicengagement@nerc.ukri.org](mailto:publicengagement@nerc.ukri.org) before 31 March 2024

# Useful links

[National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement \(NCCPE\) website](#)

Connected communities [Creating Living Knowledge report](#)

Valuing Nature report on [Demystifying interdisciplinary working](#)

[Fast Track Impact](#)





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**Thank you for  
listening**



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# Questions?

Are fishermen the public?

What citizen science is in scope?