

Bright Future Programme Information Sheet

Bright Future is a new programme, delivered in partnership between [Pilio](#) and West Midlands Museum Development (WMMD). Bright Future will enable museums to understand and reduce their energy consumption through audits, monitoring software, and small grants.

This document is designed for museum staff and volunteers who may be interested in applying to join the Bright Future programme. It covers:

- Bright Future Programme: overview and eligibility
- What is an energy audit and how will it support your work?
- What is Pilio's energy saving software?
- Programme commitment, timescales, selection process and balancing
- WMMD's environmental grant programme

If you have any queries not covered in this document, please contact [Olivia Basterfield](#) to arrange an informal chat.

Bright Future Programme: overview and eligibility

Bright Future is a new programme of support for museums in the West Midlands which are Accredited or officially Working Towards Accreditation. It is part of WMMD's resilience programme, with Olivia Basterfield as the lead Museum Development Officer (MDO), and is delivered in partnership with Pilio.

Bright Future consists of four elements:

1. Energy audit and report

Pilio will complete an energy audit and written report for participating museums.

2. WMMD funding for specific actions

Once participants receive their written report, then can then access a small grant fund from WMMD to immediately address actions identified in the written report, or to contribute towards longer term projects to improve environmental sustainability.

3. One year's access to energy saving software

Participating museums will be granted one years' free access to Pilio's energy saving software, enabling them to benchmark, record and reduce their energy consumption over a twelve-month period.

4. Sharing event with WMMD, Pilio and museums in the West Midlands

The programme will culminate in an online sharing event with WMMD, Pilio, participating museums and other museums from across the West Midlands.

We are looking to support approximately **four museums** in the West Midlands through the programme.

You are eligible to apply if:

- You're a member of staff or a volunteer at a museum* in the West Midlands
- You hold decision making responsibility and can enact change within your organisation
- You have permission to participate from senior management within your organisation (i.e. the Board of Trustees)
- Your museum is Accredited or Working Towards Accreditation**

** If you are part of a museum service or if you operate more than one museum site you are welcome to submit an EOI for **one** museum in your service to take part.*

*** Priority will be given to applications from non-NPO and non-National museums in the West Midlands which are Accredited or officially Working Towards Accreditation.*

What is an energy audit and how will it support your work?

As part of this programme, participating museums will receive an energy audit and report from Pilio. Building energy audits are excellent ways of finding:

- low and no cost energy reduction interventions
- more significant energy saving infrastructure investment
- zero carbon pathways

Pilio has performed over 200 building energy audits – much of them in the arts sector and in over 30 museums.

A typical audit involves

- A short (10 minute) pre-visit questionnaire completed by the museum. This information provides important context for the visit

- One day site visit. This includes a building walk around with facility manager (or relevant staff/ volunteers), a short interview/ chat, and a review of main equipment, meter cupboards, plantrooms and roofing (where possible)
- Energy analysis. This uses annual, monthly, weekly and half hour data (where it exists) to make better predictions and payback of energy interventions
- Report writing. The report will outline energy management recommendations, equipment change recommendations and any zero carbon pathways

Audits can support your work by:

- giving you an overview of your operation
- help you find ‘low hanging fruit’ and short-term improvements
- analysing your heating systems, providing recommendations for energy efficient equipment and help in minimizing cooling load or increasing comfort
- help with buy-in from management or as evidence of need for funding applications
- providing a baseline of the building so future improvements can be evaluated
- giving your organisation a sense of the scale and potential for achieving zero carbon

What is Pilio’s energy saving software?

As part of this programme, participating museums will receive a one-year license to Pilio’s energy saving software.

The software platform is used by businesses of all sizes to manage and report their energy consumption, cost, and carbon emissions. Museums can use this software to benchmark their energy consumption over a year, helping staff to make the decisions to reduce consumption.

For more information, screen shots, and details of features, please visit the Pilio webpage
<https://www.piliogroup.com/software>

Programme commitment, timescales and selection process

Commitment

By taking part in this programme, participating museums agree to:

- Share energy and building information as and when required by Pilio, to help Pilio complete an energy audit effectively
- Enable Pilio access to the building(s) as necessary to complete the energy audit site visit (approximately one working day)*
- Use the energy audit and resulting report to inform future planning, making reasonable adjustments to reduce your organisation’s energy consumption

- Participate in WMMD's sharing event at the end of the programme, in a manner comfortable to participating members of staff**
- Take part in WMMD's long range evaluation to capture the impact of participating in the programme
- Complete a Museum Organisational Health Check by April 2022 (if one has not been completed in the last 12 months)

**any in-person visits will be conducted in line with Covid requirements. If you have any concerns or queries, please contact [Olivia Basterfield](#) to discuss further.*

*** this will be discussed with museum staff but could include; a brief live presentation at the online sharing event, providing a pre-recorded talk to be screened at the event, participating in a panel discussion, writing a case study.*

Programme timescales

- 1 November 2021: Expression of interest (EOI) open
- 30 November 2021: EOIs close at 5pm
- December 2021: informal calls between WMMD and applicants to discuss the programme and seek follow-up information
- Early January 2022: WMMD and Pilio decision meeting
- Mid-January 2022: Successful participants announced and contacted to arrange energy audits
- February 2022: Energy audits completed
- March 2022: Participants receive reports
- 1 April 2022: One year license for Pilio software begins
- April 2022: Participants complete Museum Organisational Health Check
- April 2022: WMMD grants open (more details tbc)
- Later in 2022: Sharing event (date tbc)

Selection process

The amount of time required to complete the energy audit at each museum will be considered as part of the selection process. WMMD and Pilio will balance the final selection to maximise the variety of museums we can support (in terms of size, scale and geographic location) within the allotted time.

WMMD's environmental grant programme

As part of the programme, participating museums will have access to a small grant fund through WMMD. The fund will be dedicated to addressing actions identified in Pilio's environmental audit and report.

The administration and application process for the fund are in development and will be confirmed with participants closer to the time.

Details to date:

- The fund will be launched in April 2022, following the completion of the energy audits and the receipt of the audit reports
- The fund will be approximately £6,000, to be shared between participating museums. The final budget will be confirmed in 2022.
- The fund will be focused on supporting participants to address actions identified in their audits and reports*, including either:
 - Short term actions, easy wins or ‘low hanging fruit’: actions that are small scale and relatively straight-forward to address, but will make a lasting impact on the organisation’s environmental sustainability
 - To support longer term or larger scale actions: for example, a feasibility study for a Capital redevelopment or buying in bid writing expertise for a larger application to another funder.

** Please note: as WMMD receives lottery funding through Arts Council England (ACE), participants are unable to use WMMD grants for Capital projects or as **match funding** to larger ACE or National Lottery Heritage Fund funding applications. More guidance on what the fund will be able to support will be issued in 2022.*