



Theatres Trust awards £120,000 to help eight theatres on the path to sustainability

Theatres Trust has awarded £120,000 from its Theatre Improvement Scheme, in partnership with the Wolfson Foundation, to eight theatres on their journey to reducing the environmental impact of their buildings.

With an £11,000 grant, **The Roses Theatre** in Tewkesbury will implement a variety of quick adaptations, from insulating pipes to installing smart controls and auto-off sensors. This is a great example of how small measures can collectively make a big impact in reducing a building's energy and water consumption.

Other projects funded in this round include installing secondary glazing at **Oxford Playhouse**, fitting additional solar panels at **The Courtyard** in Hereford and replacing inefficient building management services and heating systems at **Wilton's Music Hall** in London and **The Customs House** in South Shields. **Dundee Rep Theatre**, **The Royal Lyceum Theatre** in Edinburgh and **Theatre Royal Winchester** all receive funding to upgrade lighting to energy efficient LEDs across different parts of their buildings.

Jon Morgan, Director of Theatres Trust, comments *Working with the Wolfson Foundation we continue our focus on the long-term environmental sustainability of theatres, a major priority for the sector. The challenge of taking a theatre and making it fit for purpose in the context of the climate emergency is huge but these projects represent the type of small, practical and impactful projects every size and age of theatre should consider on the path to sustainability.*

Paul Ramsbottom, Chief Executive of the Wolfson Foundation says *The projects we have funded with Theatres Trust are excellent examples of practical changes that can improve the environmental and*

financial sustainability of theatres across the country. We are delighted to continue our partnership with Theatres Trust to support theatres to respond to the challenges of the climate crisis

These awards are made in partnership with the Wolfson Foundation, which renewed its funding for the Theatre Improvement Scheme in 2021 for a further three years. The next round of the Theatre Improvement Scheme is now open for applications, with £120,000 to be awarded in grants of up to £20,000 for projects to improve theatres' sustainability. The deadline for applications is 6th September 2022. Further details on the scheme can be found at <http://www.theatrestrust.org.uk/how-we-help/grants-funding/theatre-improvement-scheme>

Notes to Editors

Title	Theatres Trust
Website	www.theatrestrust.org.uk
Twitter	@TheatresTrust
Photo	The Courtyard, credit Luke Evans Photography

Theatre Improvement Scheme grant recipients

Dundee Rep Theatre - £16,940

Founded in 1939, and recently listed at Category A, Dundee Rep sits at the cultural heart of Dundee. The theatre will replace the houselights in the auditorium with LED alternatives to continue improving energy efficiency and reduce operating costs. This follows a recent LED project front of house.

Oxford Playhouse - £20,000

Oxford Playhouse opened as a theatre in 1938, built with a stone façade to match the adjacent run of early 19th century buildings. The Playhouse presents a programme of produced and co-produced work, touring drama, dance, comedy, and student work, and runs participation programmes across Oxfordshire's diverse communities. The 80-year-old sash and tilting windows on the Grade II* building are thermally inefficient, and as part of a planned, wider decarbonisation programme, secondary glazing will make a significant difference to insulation and heat loss, with the hope of saving up to 20% on the venue's heating energy consumption.

The Courtyard, Hereford - £12,126

A purpose-built theatre from 1998, The Courtyard was the first major National Lottery capital project new build funded by the Arts Council. The leading arts provider in Herefordshire, it is a receiving theatre but produces panto and youth shows. The Courtyard will generate at least 20% of its electricity onsite by installing more solar panels.

The Customs House, South Shields - £16,520

The Grade II listed Customs House was converted to theatre use in 1994. It offers a range of drama, comedy, musicals, tribute acts, dance and family shows, as well as in-house productions. A recent Energy and Carbon Saving Report assessment provides the basis for a four-step plan to reduce the carbon footprint of the theatre by at least 43%. The first step in that plan is to upgrade the current Building Energy Management System, reducing the venue's current carbon emissions by 6% and gas usage by 10%.

The Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh - £20,000

The Royal Lyceum Theatre opened in September 1883 and is Category A listed. It is a major producing house for Scottish and international theatre and is a main stage of the Edinburgh International Festival. The Lyceum will replace its houselights and the remaining fluorescent lighting around the building with LED equivalents – with energy savings of up to 60%.

The Roses Theatre, Tewkesbury - £11,219

The Roses is recognised as a centre for arts participation serving audiences across Gloucestershire and south Worcestershire, with a focus on under-represented groups and areas of low engagement. The theatre is implementing a range of adaptations to its building and equipment to reduce energy and water consumption across the venue. This funding will support the insulation of piping, an external cooling system, smart controls for drink cooling systems, auto-off taps, and an LED upgrade.

Theatre Royal Winchester - £20,000

Theatre Royal Winchester is a mid-scale Grade II listed theatre presenting a diverse multi-art form programme. This funding will support an LED upgrade throughout the building including the purchase of nine stage lights and replacement of 147 existing light fittings and bulbs with LED lights with passive infrared motion detectors. They will be installed across dressing rooms, offices, toilets, stairs, lobbies, corridors, under-stage areas, and the orchestra pit. Benefits include more efficient energy consumption and a reduction in energy bills.

Wilton's Music Hall - £3,195

Wilton's Music Hall is the oldest surviving grand music hall in the world. Built in 1858 and refurbished in 2015, Wilton's presents an exciting programme of theatre and music in its Grade II* listed building.

The funding will pay for a new electric heater to replace its old gas-fired water heater. The theatre will benefit from improved water heating as well as a reduction in energy consumption and bills.

Theatres Trust

Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. They believe that current and future generations should have access to good quality theatre buildings where they can be inspired by, and enjoy, live performance. They champion the future of live performance by protecting and supporting excellent theatre buildings which meet the needs of their communities. They do this by providing advice on the design, planning, development and sustainability of theatres, campaigning on behalf of theatres old and new and offering financial assistance through grants. In 2020 Theatres Trust committed to five Environmental Principles to reshape its work and help influence and improve the sector's sustainability. Theatres Trust is also a leading partner organisation on the Theatre Green Book, an initiative to help theatre-makers think creatively about theatre's response to the climate crisis and define shared standards for the journey to sustainable practice with their productions, buildings, and operations.

The Wolfson Foundation

The Wolfson Foundation is an independent charity that supports and promotes excellence in the fields of science and health, heritage, humanities and the arts. Education and research underpins all that they do. Founded in 1955, it has awarded over £1 billion (£2 billion in real terms) to some 12,000 projects across the UK, all on the basis of expert peer review. The Wolfson Foundation has long been providing capital funding to the cultural sector, supporting museums and galleries, historic sites, educational institutions and performing arts organisations. The Foundation's existing funding programme for the performing arts aims to support and promote excellence in the sector.

www.wolfson.org.uk/funding/funding-for-places/funding-for-performing-arts-organisations/
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