

Call For Applications – Nature-Based Solutions Labs

This briefing outlines the objectives and proposed methodology for the Nature-Based Solutions Labs project and summarises how UKGBC member organisations can apply to be **Project Partnership** or **general attendance**. This opportunity is ideal for organisations involved in the planning and delivery of urban nature-based solutions.

1. Project Overview

Aim

Building on [The Value of Urban Nature Based Solutions](#) report released last year, this project will provide built environment stakeholders with the opportunity to work through some of challenges and solutions of implementing nature-based solutions in an urban context.

Acknowledging that many practitioners are facing similar challenges, the NBS Labs are a place for learning and peer-to-peer knowledge exchange, specifically around maintenance and stewardship, as well as existing buildings and retrofit. You will be able to share your learnings and challenges as well as learn from others who are facing similar issues. In addition, a programme of external speakers who are experts on the topic will offer insights into the state of the art and best practice of urban nature-based solutions. Key findings and insights from these sessions will be shared in a summary output.

Scope

With legislation on Biodiversity Net Gain coming into force this November for new development, the UK will have strong requirements in place to support a shift to greener, healthier, and more biodiverse built environment. However, this still leaves some challenges unanswered, namely around retrofit, and long-term stewardship and maintenance.

In order to address these challenges, this project will:

- Build a network of industry professionals, practitioners, and experts of urban nature-based solutions.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange around the two main focus areas maintenance and stewardship, and retrofit.
- Provide insights from external topic experts to fast-track learning among attendants of the NBS labs.

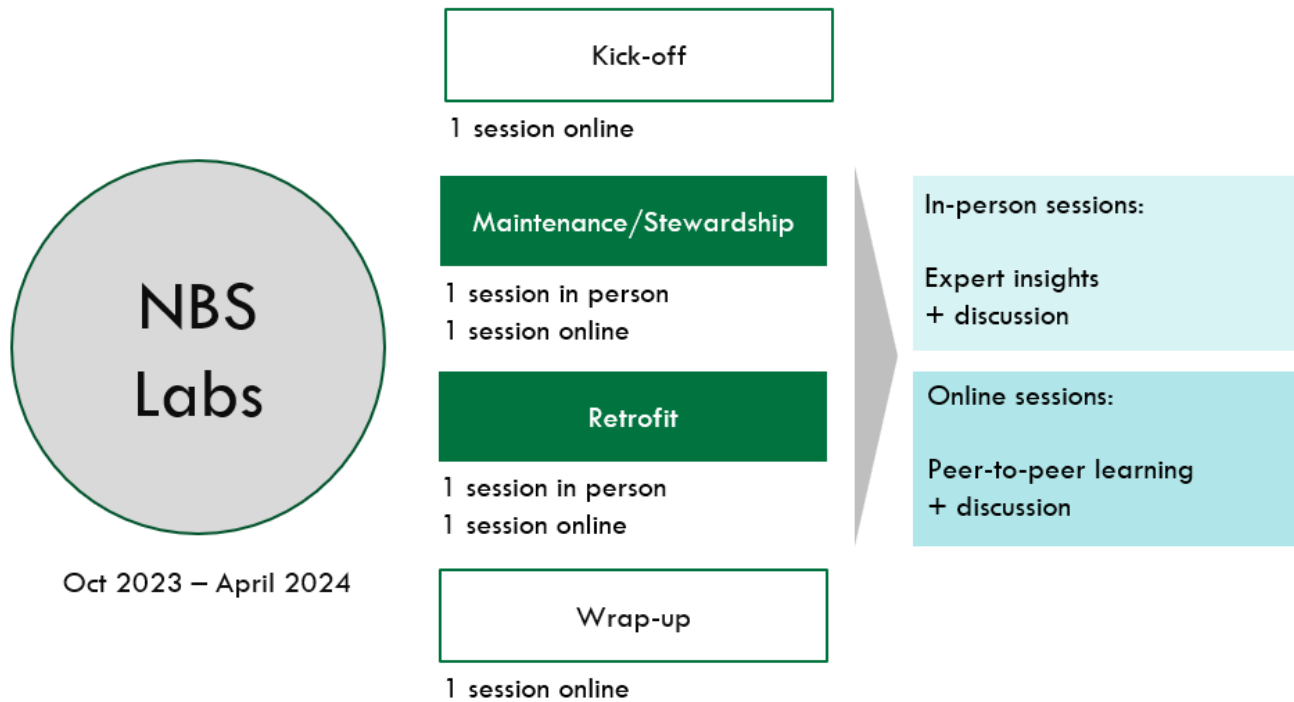
Format

This project will consist of a series of workshops, both in-person and online. For each of the two key topic areas there we will hold one in-person session with a focus on external speakers who bring valuable industry insights to the group, followed by a discussion and an opportunity to network.

The online sessions will pick up the theme of the expert insights and is intended to be a space to share learnings, success and difficulties around the topic area with the objective to learn from each other's experience and create a knowledge network members can rely on for questions in the future.

After these workshops we will pull together a final report, showcasing insights and learning from these sessions to share more widely with the built environment.

Figure 1: Illustration of the project outline



2. Project partners

In addition to their attendance to all sessions, Project Partners enjoy additional benefits such as recognition of their leadership in nature-based solutions, a steering role in the project and marketing benefits.

Benefits for project partnership

By becoming a Project Partner, your organisation will:

- Be credited with enabling the project and facilitating progress and positive impact in the built environment.
- Receive brand recognition via inclusion of your organisation's logo on all project-related outputs and collateral (e.g. reports, videos, presentation slides).
- Get priority access to speaking opportunities
- Secure a position attendance to all workshop meetings.
- Take a steering role, helping to shape the associated outputs and topic area, as well as how those outputs are conveyed to industry to maximise impact and uptake.
- Be able to collaborate with other industry leaders and build your organisation's network.
- Receive bespoke social media assets to help promote your organisation's support of the project.

Cost of project partnership

£3,000 per project partner.

We believe these benefits will:

- Develop your staff – Individuals will gain unique experience and improve their knowledge through participation and engagement opportunities at UKGBC events.

- Extend your network – Programmatic groups and events will enable your organisation to build relationships with clients, suppliers, the public sector and policy makers. UKGBC’s membership has increased by over 150 organisations in the last year to a total of over 700.
- Raise your brand profile – Your organisation’s logo will be featured on multiple outputs and collateral, and we will create speaking opportunities throughout the project process.

3. General attendance

Who should apply?

We are specifically looking for individuals and organisations with experience and understanding of implementing urban nature-based solutions. We encourage applicants from businesses and organisations across the built environment to ensure a diverse range of views and perspectives among the attendees. These include developers, contractors, engineers, architects, planners, academic researchers, government bodies, NGOs.

Selection will be based on the suitability of both the individual applicants and the organisation they are representing. The individuals representing the partnering organisation should have a minimum 3 years of relevant experience or specific knowledge around the topic areas.

Application criteria:

- UKGBC membership required for your organisation.
- Have a commitment to attend all workshop dates.
- Actively working on projects in relation to urban NBS and willingness and ability to disclose information to the group of participants to enable valuable knowledge exchange and peer-to-peer learning.
- Support dissemination of the output through participation in or presentation at awareness-raising and engagement events.

Project Timeline

Table 1: Workshop dates (these dates are provisional and could be subject to change).

Applications open	19 th July – 8 th September	-
Workshop 1 (online)	11 th October	10:00 – 11:30
Kick-off Call		
Workshop 2 (in-person, London)	7 th November	TBC
Workshop 3 (online)	6 th December	10:00 – 11:30
Workshop 4 (in-person, London)	7 th February	TBC
Workshop 5 (online)	6 th March	10:00 – 11:30
Workshop 6 (online/in-person TBC)	10 th April	10:00 – 12:00
Launch event	TBC	-

How to apply

Applications will remain open until **8th September**. To apply using the template below, discuss this opportunity, or for general enquiries, please email kai.liebetanz@ukgbc.org.

Table 2: Application template

Organisation name	
Full name, job title and department of proposed representative	
Relevant knowledge, experience, and skills for this project (max 300 words)	
Are you applying for Project Partnership and attendance, or general attendance only?	
Are there currently any workshop dates that you are unable to attend? (Refer to Table 1, page 3) Please confirm that you have added placeholders for the workshop dates into your calendar.	
Is there anything else you would like to add, for us to consider as part of the application?	
Do you have any questions about the project?	
Are you happy for your email to be shared with the rest of the group?	

UKGBC is committed to actively targeting a diverse representation in the composition of all project groups. We want to be inclusive to everyone regardless of ethnicity, religious beliefs, gender, marital status, age, disability, sexual orientation, or political beliefs and encourage our members to support our desire. While applicants will be chosen based on their experience, we encourage consideration of the above when putting forward individuals to apply.

Programme Partners

This project is possible due to the generous funding of our Resilience and Nature Programme Partners:

