

INNOVATION GATEWAY

Round 1 2018 Challenge Brief

Improving health and wellbeing



Improving health and wellbeing

Challenges:

- Improve indoor air quality in buildings
- Connecting people with nature

Improve indoor air quality in buildings

The challenge

Ventilation, temperature and air quality are all proven to affect the productivity and wellbeing of people who use indoor spaces. Studies have shown that improvements in these areas can increase cognitive performance, reduce headaches and respiratory complaints and lead to higher levels of health and wellbeing. However, the notion of “comfort” isn’t always felt – we can’t always feel, see or smell poor indoor air quality.

With that in mind, the challenge that the Innovation Gateway Partners face in trying to improve air quality for building users is two-fold – one passive and the other active. The first is that they want to find non-polluting interior design products (e.g. paint) that do not have an impact on indoor air quality. The second is to find innovative solutions that will actively improve air quality, e.g. portable air filters.

The solutions we are seeking

Innovative technology that can measure and monitor air quality, the data from which may inform future purchases of products that then can improve air quality (e.g. air filters, window filters).

Portable solutions that customers can buy and reuse when they move home.

Solutions appropriate for both commercial and residential buildings.

Products that improve the indoor environment through avoiding contamination of air e.g. the use of formaldehyde-free paints

Selection criteria

- A consideration of the carbon impact of potential solutions
- Truly innovative products that do not copy what is already on the market

Connecting people with nature

The challenge

The rise of urbanism and population density in cities means that people are becoming increasingly disconnected with nature. Proximity to nature has shown to reduce stress and increase health and wellbeing. Many people do not have a garden attached to their property, and live in small apartments where it is difficult to nurture green spaces in their homes. The Innovation Gateway Partners are looking for ways in which to positively impact wellbeing by reconnecting people with nature within their home environment.

The solutions we are seeking

We are seeking ideas on how people can connect with nature in limited spaces. This could include biophilic design, innovative ways to grow indoor plants and herbs, and ways to attract birdlife to small porch/balcony areas.

The partners are interested in both indoor and outdoor solutions for use in residential buildings.

Selection criteria

- Solutions must not have a negative impact on air quality, or increase the likelihood of vermin.