

Whittlesey Museum Environmental Sustainability Policy

Whittlesey Museum is aware of the need for organisational environmental sustainability and continually seeks to improve in this regard.

1. The Museum will maintain an up-to-date environmental sustainability policy containing specific recommendations which aim to promote environmental sustainability within the organisation and minimise its effect on climate change.
2. The Museum is committed to minimising the direct environmental impact resulting from its activities across the following five main areas:

2.1 Energy and Water Use

Recommendations:

The museum will make reasonable efforts to conserve water and energy through measures such as

- only having lights and heating on to support times when people will be in the building (10-20 hours per week).
- use of cistern displacement (eg: a HIPPO watersaver device) in the toilet to reduce the volume of clean water used in each flush.
- turning off electronic devices such as computers at the wall/unplugging when not in use (this is also a fire safety measure)
- prefab building only to be used as a store/display for objects that are relatively hardy and/or can be kept in a suitable microclimate (eg: a sheltered, lined case) within it, rather than trying to impose a stable permanent environmental condition on the entire building (which would be very difficult due to the nature of the premises, eg: walls do not fully meet, thin wooden walls etc).

2.2 Access, Transport and Mobility

Recommendations:

The museum will make reasonable efforts to

- encourage the use of public transport by visitors (eg: by describing these methods prominently on the museum website)
- make particular efforts to advertise the museum and volunteer opportunities to the very local community (within a radius where they could visit on foot)
- support the Curator to work from home where appropriate to reduce the environmental impact of staff travel

2.3 Built and Natural Environments

Recommendations:

The museum will make reasonable efforts to

- consider the environmental impact of any alterations to be made to the built and natural environment of the museum (to be weighed against the ongoing environmental impact of not carrying out such alterations)

- use red lightbulbs as a substitute for actual fires burning fossil fuels in replica hearth/forge.
- consider the use of low-energy lightbulbs where appropriate

It is to be noted that there are strong limitations on what Whittlesey Museum can do to affect the built environment of the museum due to a) listed building status of the premises b) the conditions of the lease/use of the premises by the museum. Final responsibility for the built environment is retained by the Whittlesey Charity, who act as landlord.

2.4 Buying Goods and Services

Recommendations:

The museum will make reasonable efforts to consider the environment during purchasing decisions through measures such as

- buying/using/selling products made from recycled or eco-friendly materials where these are appropriate alternatives
- only buying consumable items which will be used in the short to medium term, to minimise stockpiling and storage cost/waste
- to consider the environmental impact of various alternatives when considering purchases of new capital items (eg: different methods of case lighting, etc)
- preferentially support local services and businesses where appropriate/in line with the forward plan

2.5 Waste Minimisation and Management

Recommendations:

The museum will make reasonable efforts to minimise waste through measures such as

- insulating windows in upstairs store and blocking up the fireplace, to keep environmental conditions more stable for the objects and also prevent heat loss in winter from the building.
- blocking off windows on ground floor to provide security and insulation to that part of the building.
- no municipal provision is made for rubbish collection from the museum so that all waste has to be taken offsite for disposal or to be recycled by staff and volunteers. This encourages waste to be kept to an absolute minimum
- targeted heating and dehumidifying is used to adjust local environmental conditions in specific rooms as required, rather than heating the full premises by default (in winter heating is still required throughout).
- having the boiler serviced regularly to ensure that it is operating efficiently

3. To assess the efficacy of the actions taken towards point 2, the environmental impact of the museum should be regularly monitored - for example by use of the Museums Association "Green Museums" monitoring toolkit – and recommendations resulting from this should be fed into the Forward Plan.

(Green Museums: <http://www.museumsassociation.org/download?id=282631>)

4. Whittlesey Museum also recognises its role in the environmental education of visitors and this is included in the museum mission statement (see Forward Plan).

This requirement may be met in a variety of ways including

- Displaying permanent collections and/or temporary exhibitions with themes explicitly relating to the local natural or built environment
- Organising environmentally themed events or activities
- Participating in/supporting community-led or partnership projects with an environmental component where appropriate
- Collecting material relating to the changing environment of the Whittlesey area as appropriate and in accordance with the overall collection development policy.

Environmental Sustainability Policy Created: September 2014

Last reviewed: September 2014

Next due for review: September 2019