

Wessex Museums Partnership Environmental Policy & Action Plan

Our role in environmental sustainability

Whilst the Wessex Museums Trust as an organisation has no staff, buildings or services of its own, we believe that we are in a unique position to raise awareness, promote and share best practice in environmental sustainability across our partnership, the sector and the region. We are also committed to the principles of environmental sustainability in our organisation and the delivery of our partnership activity. Through our action plan, we will aim to reduce the carbon footprint of our organisation.

Our starting point

We recognise that our partner museums have a unique role in protecting the environment as stewards of the cultural heritage of our beautiful region. Environmental sustainability is therefore a key priority in each of our partner museums, all of which have their own environmental policies and actions plans for the running and management of their buildings, collections and services.

As lead organisation in our partnership, Poole Museums is also operating within the Local Authority's framework for environmental sustainability which includes commitments to the Council's Sustainable Energy Action Plan, the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change 2006, participation in the Carbon Trusts' Local Authority Carbon Management Programme and the Poole Environment Partnership.

This policy and action plan however refers specifically to the Wessex Museums Partnership (Wessex Museums Trust). It is our first step towards considering and identifying the environmental impacts of our organisation and activities, and taking

responsibility for our wider role in raising awareness and promoting environmental sustainability with our staff, suppliers and audiences.

Our main environmental impacts

Our main areas of environmental impact are:

1. Carbon emissions from travel
2. Materials used and waste created in office activities, production and marketing
3. Temporary exhibitions

These impacts are created by the Trustees, our staff, suppliers and our audiences.

Our key environmental commitments

In our first year as an organisation we sought to set a baseline for our environmental performance so that we are better able to understand, measure and improve our performance in the future. We will now seek to embed good practice in monitoring our environmental performance and seek ways to reduce our carbon footprint.

We have focussed our environmental commitments around three areas which are where we believe we can have a meaningful impact. We will...

1. Our Organisation

- Establish and communicate our environmental policy across the partnership and beyond.
- Regularly review our environmental performance against the baseline established in 2018/19.

- Actively take forward the recommendations from the audit of the environmental performance of our partner museums and identify areas where we can work collaboratively to improve performance.
- Promote environmental best practice with museum staff and volunteers and exchange learning in relation to environmental practice across our partnership.
- Encourage the reduction in business travel by seeking opportunities to limit the need to travel, promoting green transport and providing useful alternatives to travelling (e.g. digital conferencing).
- To comply with and exceed where possible environmental legislation.

2. Our Activities

- Promote environmental sustainability with our audiences through our activities (e.g. encouraging green transport to our museums).
- Increase 'green access' to our collections through our Wessex Museums on-line collections.
- Use environmentally sustainable production and materials for the production and marketing of our activities.
- Work to reduce the negative environmental impacts of our temporary exhibitions.
- Support artistic work based on environmental themes.

3. Our Advocacy

- Engage audiences with our commitment to environmental sustainability and raise awareness of environmental issues facing our museums, through our marketing and communications.
- Use our conferences as a platform for advocacy and sharing about environmental sustainability across the museums sector.
- Encourage suppliers, artists and others that we work with to use sustainable practice.

Responsibility for our environmental policy

This environmental policy is for the year 2019/2020 and is the responsibility of the Wessex Museums Trust Board. The policy will be updated annually in March 2020 by the Partnership Manager and be formally approved at a meeting of the Trust Board in April 2020.

The policy is supported by our Environmental Action Plan. The Action Plan is informed by our policy objectives and engagement with internal and external stakeholders. It will also be reviewed, updated and approved annually by the Wessex Museums Trust Board.

Next review date: March 2020

This Environmental Policy and associated Action Plan was developed using guidelines from Julie's Bicycle, www.juliesbicycle.com.