

Appendix H Environmental Policy 2021-23

Introduction

The National Museum Development Network (MDN) are partnered with Julie's Bicycle, a charity that supports the creative community to act on climate change and environmental sustainability.

All Museum Development regions in England are committed to using the *Museum Environmental Framework* created by Julie's Bicycle when considering the sustainability of their programmes of work and to guide their museum users on best practice.

You can read more about Julie's Bicycle's *Museum Environmental Framework* [here](#). South East Museum Development (SEMD) provides detailed data on team travel and any built environmental data to the Julie's Bicycle IG Tools program, to benchmark against previous year's data and ensure our commitment to lowering our environmental footprint.

1.0 Key Priorities

- 1.1 We are a paperless office. This means that we do not print out emails or documents, our trainers make presentations available digitally and documents are shared, edited and stored using digital tools.
- 1.2 SEMD team members use public transport and car sharing when travelling to museum sites and meeting venues. The team practice a blended model of digital and physical delivery. Digital outreach will be the priority response, with in-person visits only when deemed necessary or beneficial.
- 1.3 We abide by the sustainable procurement guidelines for all expenditure as set out by our partner organisations, Royal Pavilion & Museums Trust, Oxfordshire County Council, Hampshire Cultural Trust and Chatham Historic Dockyard.
- 1.4 We support networks that promote and encourage sustainable practices and advocate for environmental sustainability through our wider practice.
- 1.5 All communications with museums and partners will be conducted electronically, via the SEMD website, social media channels and an e-newsletter.
- 1.6 Funding applications include a section on how the grantee will address sustainability measures through their projects, and grantees will be asked to report on this at the end of their project.
- 1.7 SEMD will make our events as sustainable as possible with resources made available online, catering to be sourced locally and sustainably and using recyclable material where possible.

2.0 Supporting Museums

2.1 Resilience and sustainability are about more than just raising income, museums need to consider how they can minimise their environmental impact. We will collaborate with the Northwest Museum Development team to pilot their Carbon Literacy Toolkit with museums in the South East. We have chosen to piggyback on another museum development team's project to reduce repetition and cost. As museums across England need to address their environmental performance, creating one toolkit that can be rolled out nationally is a good use of time and resource.

2.2 By 2023, we want museums to:

- Operate in a more environmentally sustainable manner.
- Reduce waste and water consumption.
- Have measures in place to record their environmental impact.
- Be transparent about the methods they undertake to reduce their environmental impact across all services (including retail and catering).
- Champion ethical sourcing, ensuring the suppliers they use meet their own environmental standards.
- Support the local economy by using local suppliers.
- Support the community by offering employment and volunteering opportunities to local residents.
- Use their collections to tell the story of climate change.
- Consider partnering with other organisations to share services and reduce costs and waste.

3.0 Review

3.1 This policy will be reviewed in line with the planned South East Museum Development 2023-27 Funding Application to Arts Council England.

3.2 The measurables contained within Item 4, Action Plan 2021-23, will be reviewed annually at the end of each financial year (31 March).