



MUSEUMS
NORTHUMBERLAND

Environmental Policy

Introduction

Museums Northumberland is committed to providing a high quality service to visitors at all of our sites. Our museums preserve Northumberland's heritage in trust for future generations and in doing so the Trust recognises our parallel responsibility to protect the environment, reduce consumption of resources and thereby our waste and carbon emissions.

It is our policy to comply with all legal requirements for environmental protection and to exceed such standards whenever possible. We build sustainability considerations into all that we do operationally and as a result have drawn up the following Environmental Policy:

Efficient Use of Energy

- It is our policy to closely monitor consumption of gas and electricity, and take monthly readings and compare with previous years performance.
- As they expire we are replacing all of our light bulbs with the most energy efficient LEDs on the market.
- We take every opportunity to benefit from new greener technological advances, and have installed a voltage optimisation unit on our incoming electrical supply to maximise energy efficiency by controlling electrical supply according to variable demand on site.
- Our building management engineers seasonally review heating and plant set points to ensure optimal energy efficiency is achieved.
- We proactively switch off electrical equipment at the mains every night.
- At Woodhorn we have monitored lighting levels in back of house corridors and strong rooms and have subsequently removed every other strip light whilst still maintaining adequate lux levels.
- We take into consideration energy efficiency ratings when procuring new equipment.
- We maintain solar panels on the roof of the Cutter building at Woodhorn which contribute to the running of main heating system.
- Through participation in the regional Make Carbon History Museums project in 2015 Woodhorn and Hexham combined reduced their annual carbon footprint by 55.3 tonnes. Both museums have gone on to share this best practice across the region with other museums as part of a Green Museums network.
- Our Konica Minolta printers use specialist toner cartridges which contain biomass which contributes to achieving CO2 neutrality and low fusing temperature ink which reduces energy consumption during the printing process. The printers have very low typical electricity consumption compared to industry comparators, and implement a

range of output features including duplex print and copy previews designed to reduce paper waste, increase productivity and reduce printing costs.

Water Consumption

- Woodhorn toilets are serviced by a rainwater harvesting tank which is fed from water collected on the roof of the Cutter building.
- All our toilets are low flush for water volume used.
- We have a cisterniser installed in our urinals to reduce the water required for operation.
- We encourage our visitors to turn off taps in public toilets.

Minimisation of Waste

- We try to recycle where we can (about 70-80% of our rubbish) and collect glass, cardboard, plastic bottles, tins and paper for weekly collection.
- We take part in a food composting initiative – collecting all food waste, tea bags etc from our staff rooms and café.
- We collect food for our local Food bank.
- We collect old pens for recycling
- We take part in the free drinking water initiative 'Refill' where possible
- We sell reusable bamboo takeaway cups in our shop and café, and the Café offers visitors who bring their own reusable cup a 10% discount off all hot drinks.
- The scrap man takes away our wood and metal for re-use and recycling.
- Whenever possible we re-use and recycle temporary exhibition furniture, fittings and equipment.

Reduction in Paper Consumption

- We all use computers and try to reduce the amount we print where possible and automatically print and photocopy on both sides of paper.
- When possible we recycle waste paper for use as office note pads.
- All paper used on site for marketing and printing is produced from FSC and ecologically responsible stock.
- In the shop, we have turned off the automatic till receipt facility for purchases under £5 and only print receipts when requested.
- In the shop we offer customers a re-usable material shopping bag as an alternative to recycled paper bags.

Sustainable Environment Management

- We look after the local wildlife on our sites, with bird and red squirrel feeders where appropriate.
- We display red squirrel notices along the drive at Woodhorn to inform visitors and warn them to drive with caution.
- We encourage visitors to explore and respect the Woodhorn Country Park, designated conservation area and lake.
- We are developing designated wildlife areas around Woodhorn site for wildlife, flora and fauna, encouraging wildlife walks and bug hunts seasonally.
- We manage parking onsite at Woodhorn during the winter taking care not to grit areas of the site that drain directly into the lake.

Sustainable Purchasing Policy

- In our shops and café we use lots of local suppliers which sustain local jobs and economy as well as reducing the need to transport goods long distance.

- Our café and shops use local suppliers who source their ingredients organically, locally and ethically. Our café is proud to be certified by Produced in Northumberland as a supporter of local Northumberland food and drink producers .
- We buy products that have been or can be recycled after use whenever possible – pens, paper, pencils etc
- Whenever possible we purchase environmentally friendly materials and chemicals for cleaning on site.

Reduction of Transport Impact

- We encourage car-sharing and the use of public transport among staff and visitors, and put on shuttle buses on our busy event days.
- We encourage cycling with the installation of bike racks where possible.
- We encourage walkers through the sale of local walking guides in the shops.

Encouraging Green Awareness

- Museums Northumberland has a very active volunteer Green Team made up of staff from across the organisation who meet once a month to discuss environmental ideas, activities and future opportunities. With steer from our Green Team we all work towards minimising the impact our day-to-day work has on the natural environment. We consider sustainability in everything we do.
- We support environmental awareness through hosting exhibitions and events throughout our annual public programme. This has included Wildlife Walks, bug hunts, Sustrans cycle events, and exhibitions supported by the environment agency and Surfers against Sewage. We organise local craft fairs twice a year - at Christmas time and also as part of our largest annual event The Northumberland Miners' Picnic.
- We support and liaise with local groups in providing a venue for their events, Craft fairs and exhibitions including artists, craft-makers, camera clubs, Brownies and Scouts.
- Our Education team regularly work with schools on environmental projects and topics.
- In 2013 Woodhorn won the Gold award for Sustainable Tourism in the NE tourism awards and were shortlisted for the Northumbrian Sustainable Business of the Year award.
- We are members of the Green Tourism Business Scheme and have been awarded a Gold grade at Woodhorn, and a Silver grade at Hexham Old Gaol in recognition of our green and sustainable practices.

