

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Governing Body: Beaminster Museum Trust Management Committee

Date approved by Governing Body:	
Date for review of policy:	2029

PURPOSE

Beaminster Museum recognises that climate change and environmental sustainability are important issues affecting our community, visitors, volunteers and future generations.

As a small volunteer-run charity occupying a Grade II listed building within the Beaminster Conservation Area, we have limited resources and must balance environmental improvements with our responsibility to preserve the historic fabric of the building, care for our collections and maintain financial sustainability.

The Museum is committed to operating in an environmentally responsible manner and, where practical and affordable, reducing the environmental impact of its activities.

POLICY AIMS

The Museum will seek to:

- Reduce energy consumption where practical and economically viable.
- Minimise waste and promote re-use and recycling.
- Make efficient use of resources.
- Consider environmental impact when making purchasing decisions.
- Encourage volunteers and visitors to support environmentally responsible practices.
- Support the protection and understanding of the local natural and historic environment.
- Seek opportunities for environmental improvements through grants and external funding.

ENERGY MANAGEMENT

The Museum's principal environmental impact arises from electricity consumption.

The Museum currently uses:

- Traditional night storage heaters within the original building.

- Smart storage heaters within the museum extension.
- Convector heaters within the lecture and meeting areas when required during winter months.

The Museum will:

- Monitor annual electricity consumption and review usage trends.
- Operate heating systems only when required for the comfort of visitors, volunteers and the protection of collections.
- Continue to investigate the costs and benefits of replacing older storage heaters with modern Smart storage heaters when funding and circumstances permit.
- Consider additional energy-efficiency measures where they are compatible with the needs of the collections and the restrictions associated with a Grade II listed building.
- Seek professional advice before undertaking significant modifications to the building fabric or heating systems.

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING

The Museum does not receive a commercial waste collection service.

The Museum therefore aims to minimise waste generation and maximise recycling.

The Museum will:

- Reduce unnecessary printing wherever practical.
- Re-use materials and display components whenever feasible.
- Encourage double-sided printing of internal documents.
- Recycle paper, cardboard, plastic, metal and glass wherever possible.
- Continue the existing practice whereby volunteers remove recyclable waste for disposal through domestic recycling arrangements.
- Dispose of electrical equipment and batteries responsibly through appropriate collection facilities.

PROCUREMENT AND USE OF RESOURCES

When purchasing goods and services the Museum will, where practical and affordable:

- Consider product durability and expected lifespan.
- Favour repair rather than replacement where this is economically sensible.

- Purchase recycled or recyclable materials where appropriate.
- Minimise unnecessary packaging.
- Consider energy efficiency when replacing electrical equipment.
- Support local suppliers and businesses when this offers value for money and meets operational requirements.

BUILDINGS AND MAINTENANCE

The Museum occupies a historic listed building and recognises its responsibility to maintain and preserve this important heritage asset.

Environmental improvements will therefore be considered within the constraints of:

- Listed Building legislation.
- Conservation Area requirements.
- Museum Accreditation requirements.
- The need to provide appropriate environmental conditions for the care of collections.
- Available funding.

The Museum will seek opportunities to improve the environmental performance of the building when undertaking maintenance or refurbishment projects and when grant funding opportunities arise.

VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

Environmental responsibility is part of the Museum's wider contribution to the local community.

The Museum will:

- Encourage volunteers to support energy-saving and waste-reduction measures.
- Promote good housekeeping practices, including switching off unnecessary lighting and equipment.
- Share information about local heritage, landscape and environmental history where appropriate through displays, events and educational activities.
- Work with local organisations whose activities support the understanding and conservation of the natural and historic environment.

IMPLEMENTATION

Responsibility for implementation of this policy rests with the Museum Trustees and Management Committee.

Environmental considerations will be included in:

- Annual building reviews.
- Utility consumption reviews.
- Major equipment replacement decisions.
- Applications for grants and external funding.

Progress against this policy will be reviewed annually by the Management Committee.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every three years, or sooner if there are significant changes to legislation, Museum Accreditation requirements, available technologies, or the Museum's circumstances.

One small suggestion: add a line to your **Annual Activities Summary (September)** changing:

"Review Annual Water and Electricity consumption / reduce costs, when possible."

to:

"Review Annual Water and Electricity consumption, identify opportunities to reduce environmental impact and operating costs where practical."

That creates a direct link between the Environmental Policy and your annual management cycle.