

BEAMINSTER MUSEUM ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

APPROVAL OF DOCUMENT	
Changes	First Issue
Signed	
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Position	Chair Beaminster Museum Management Committee
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PURPOSE

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

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

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.

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.
- Make environmental improvements through grants and external funding as possible

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 is already lit predominantly by LED bulbs.

The Museum will:

- Monitor annual electricity consumption and review usage trends.
- Use automated switches where possible for ensuring that lights and, in particular, monitors switch off when not required
- 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 therefore aims to minimise waste generation and maximise recycling. It does not receive a commercial waste collection service.

The museum will:

- Minimise printing wherever practical, including use of double-sided printing
- Re-use materials and display components whenever feasible.
- 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.
- 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.

IMPLEMENTATION

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

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every three years, or sooner if needed.