Museum & Study Collection

Environmental and Sustainability Policy

The Museum at Central Saint Martins is committed to the adoption and promotion of sound environmental practices and sustainable ways of working. This document outlines some of the measures adopted by the Museum to support that commitment.

Central Saint Martins is one of the six colleges that make up the University of the Arts (UAL). UAL employs an Energy and Environment Manager and has in place an Environmental Policy which aims to reduce the environmental impacts of normal business practices across the university. Implementation of this Policy is overseen by a Sustainability Committee.

Key areas identified by the Environmental Policy include:

- Promotion of sound environmental management policies and practices throughout the university.
- Compliance with the requirements of relevant legislation.
- Reduction of pollution.
- Implementation of a carbon reduction strategy.
- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 34% by 2020.
- Promotion of efficient and environmentally responsible use of water with the aim of reducing water use across the University.
- Setting targets for reducing resource use and increasing recycling.
- Implementation of sustainable resource management practices based on reduce, recycle and reuse principles.
- Implementation of sustainable transport practices across all activities.

In February 2013 the Sustainability Committee formally adopted a Carbon Management Plan with a published Carbon Dashboard launched during Green Week. (The University supports Green Week every year through a programme of events that promote and share good practice and launch launching new initiatives.)

Judy Willcocks, Head of Museum & Study Collection

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University wide policy is reflected in the working practices of the Central Saint Martins Museum. The Museum is also committed to upholding section 3.8 of the Museums Association Code of Ethics 2015 and the Additional Guidance section 3.6, relating to being sensitive to the impact of on natural and human environments, making the best use of resources, using energy and materials responsibly, minimizing waste, and working to improve well-being through environmental sustainability.

Activities which support the university’s Environmental Policy and the MA Code of Ethics are outlined below:

- All waste, including paper, cardboard, plastics and aluminium is recycled. Recycling bins are placed in all public areas and all work areas.
- Recycled paper is used for all activities except where archival standard paper is required.
- Lights in all areas are activated by movement sensors and switch off if no activity is detected.
- Computers are programmed to switch off automatically at night.
- Central Saint Martins is a closed environment heated and cooled by a low energy air circulation system.
- Doors are set to close automatically and there are no opening windows anywhere on site.
- Sinks in bathroom areas are fitted with push taps which switch off automatically.
- The Museum encourages visitors to use public transport and gives travel advice on its web site.
- A secure cycle facility is provided in the basement of Central Saint Martins.

Climate Control in Museum Stores

The Museum store rooms are environmentally controlled and the required air handling equipment is resource intensive. Following consultation with professional conservators the decision has been made to keep the stores at a steady 21°C rather than the lower temperature of 16 - 19°C recommended by BSI PD 5454 for mixed organic collections and archival collections. This enables a balance between collections care and our commitment to sustainable ways of working.

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