

Sherborne Museum

Sustainability Policy – October 2025



SHERBORNE museum

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

October 2025 – October 2028

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Version Control		
Version 1.0	First version	
Version 2.0	Novated from SMA to CIO and updated	December 2018
Version 2.1	Amendments related to carbon footprint calculations	December 2020
Version 2.2	Minor adjustments including update to SWOT	October 2025

Review Procedure	
Name of governing body:	Sherborne Museum Board of Trustees
Date on which this policy was approved by governing body:	October 2025
Policy review procedure:	Published and reviewed from time to time, at least once every three years.
Date at which this policy is due for review:	October 20258

Mission Statement

Our mission is to increase public awareness, appreciation and understanding of Sherborne's natural, historic and cultural heritage through the acquisition, preservation and display of a unique collection of items that are particularly relevant to the area.

We will play an active role in the community, creating a centre of inspiration, education and enjoyment for all, while providing excellent standards of customer service. We will endeavour to reduce all physical, cultural, social, intellectual, financial and psychological barriers to access. Bearing in mind our commitment to future generations, our policies will be governed by the principles of resilience and sustainability and governed by the Museum Association's Code of Ethics.

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Definition of sustainability

The most commonly quoted definition is that sustainable development is one “that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Brundtland report 1987). All definitions require that the world is seen as a system, which connects both space and time. Museums have a long-term role in preservation and community engagement while balancing the needs of different generations. As well as serving today’s society, they aim to pass on collections, information and knowledge to future generations.

Sustainability principles

To flourish sustainably, **all** museums should endeavour to:

1. Value and protect natural and cultural environments and **be** sensitive to the impact of the museum and its visitors on them.
2. Strive for excellence, building deep, long-term relationships with a range of audiences.
3. Acknowledge the legacy contributed by previous generations and pass on a better legacy of collections, information and knowledge to the next generation.
4. Manage collections well, so that they will be a valued asset for future generations, not a burden.
5. Make best use of energy and other natural resources and minimise waste, setting targets and monitoring progress towards them.
6. Consider the potential for demonstrating and encouraging sustainable development.
7. Contribute responsibly to the social, cultural and economic vitality of the local area and wider world.
8. Nurture volunteers, and offer a satisfying and rewarding experience taking into account their feedback and differing perspectives.
9. Respond to changing political, social, environmental and economic contexts and have a clear long-term purpose that reflects society’s expectation of museums.
10. Plan long term, take full account of sustainable development in all their activities and policies and work within available resources.
11. Partner with other museums and other organisations, where this is mutually beneficial.

Sherborne Museum’s aims

Environmental impact

- The museum is committed to installing energy-efficient lighting and heating where possible and employing lighting sensors and timers.
- The museum will aim to procure a renewable energy tariff verified by The Carbon Trust.
- Effort will be made to reduce water waste and use water-saving devices.
- Data will be monitored regarding our recycling streams.
- Steps will be taken to eliminate single-use plastic and our purchasing policy will include as much recycled material as possible.
- The museum will make a formal commitment to purchasing environmentally friendly cleaning products and locally/ethically sourced food.

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- The museum will communicate different transport options and cycle routes to its exhibitions and external events.
- Digital conferencing and meetings will be actively promoted over travel.
- The museum will include environmental credentials/performance in its procurement and decision making and in key contracts for products and services.
- Educational programmes will include natural history, biodiversity and environmental issues.

GOVERNANCE

- Environmental sustainability will be included in core business strategies and plans.
- The Sustainability Policy will be aligned to the policy framework of the Paris Agreement (2016) in accord with science-based targets where a scale of carbon reductions is required to keep global temperature increase below 1.5/2 deg C.
- The museum will maintain an ethical partnership policy.
- A budget will be set aside to create investment in monitoring/impact reductions/any on-site green technology.
- Awareness of sustainability will be recognised in all role descriptions and a staff member designated responsible for the upkeep of the Policy.

ENGAGEMENT

- The museum will publicly report its carbon footprint and any impact data.
- The museum will collaborate with other cultural/heritage organisations in sharing solutions to environmental issues.
- Displays and programming will be as accessible and inclusive as possible.
- The museum will aim for diversity amongst its Board, members and volunteers in order to reflect the local community and provide training, work experience and skill-sharing opportunities as well as robust succession planning.
- Non-users, disadvantaged and marginalised groups will be identified through audience development consultations and contacted through outreach programmes.

COLLECTIONS

- The museum will only accept items from its specific catchment area in order to keep collections relevant to the local community.
- The museum will prioritise items that fill in specific gaps in its collections.
- Duplicate and poor-quality items will not be accepted into the collections.
- All collections will be kept in acid-free packaging using the best quality and most sustainable products possible.
- Efforts will be made to reduce the accession backlog, update inventories and complete gaps in the documentation and research.

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Maintenance of this Policy

We will periodically monitor and review our environmental performance and take corrective action where necessary.

The policy will be reviewed every 3 years.

Sustainability SWOT Analysis

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
- Installation of LED lighting - Installation of water meters and Smart electricity meters - Installation of solar panels to roof of museum - Installation of black-out blinds to upper galleries and workrooms - Motion-sensor lighting in galleries - Recycling of all waste - Use of 'green' cleaning products - Loft insulation installed - External refurbishment of masonry and lead flashing - Majority of volunteers walking to museum or using public transport - Proactive pest policy - Donations of items restricted to catchment area - Sustainability policy on website	- Difficulties of installing double glazing in Grade II listed building - Museum situated on perimeter of flood zone - Lack of space for permanent exhibitions to increase environmental awareness
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
- Inclusion of sustainability policy in new volunteer induction manuals - Secondary window glazing using Perspex wherever possible - Draught excluders around all external doors - Julie's Bicycle calculations for carbon footprint analysis - Installation of energy-efficient storage heaters	- Increasingly mild wet winters - Increased risk of new pests due to climate change - Very high temperatures in summer leading to unacceptable lux levels and temperatures on upper floor