

Reading Museum & Town Hall- Environmental policy statement

Approved Reading Borough Council Decision, Issue 404, 28/9/2012

Reading Museum: Environmental policy statement

Date created: September 2012

Review date: September 2017

Reading Borough Council Environmental Policy Background

Reading Borough Council (RBC) is committed to a cleaner and greener environment for those that live in, work in or visit Reading. In the context of pressing environmental concerns such as climate change, the Council recognises that it plays a significant role in safeguarding and improving the quality of life locally, nationally and globally, now and for future generations.

A vision for Reading

The Council will lead by example to achieve a low carbon Reading which is resilient to the effects of future climate change (Reading Climate Change Strategy 2008).

Strategic Aim

To develop Reading as a Green City with a sustainable environment and economy at the heart of the Thames Valley (agreed by Council, April 1999).

Reading Borough Council has a number of policies which support work on both adapting to climate change and working to reduce our emissions.

- In January 2008 the council agreed a target of RBC being Zero Carbon by 2050.
- Our Air Quality Action Plan was approved in January 2009.
- The Local Transport Plan includes measures for reducing traffic in Reading, improving facilities for cycling and also public transport.
- A Supplementary Planning Document on Sustainable Construction and Design was introduced in 2007 and includes measures to improve energy use of all new buildings beyond the national standard.

Reading Borough Council's Climate Change Strategy

The Climate Change Strategy brings together a number of actions from across the full range of council services that have been identified as being important to a local response to climate change.

The themes of the strategy relate to:

1. Energy and Water Use
2. Access, Transport and Mobility
3. Built and Natural Environments
4. Buying Goods and Services
5. Waste Minimization and Management

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6. Communication, Education and Partnership Reading Museum & Town Hall Mission statement

Reading Museum & Town Hall ('the Museum') aims to be a leading cultural hub for Reading and the Thames Valley by:

- Maintaining and growing its nationally and internationally admired collections
- Optimising community engagement with its facilities and services
- Building on its reputation for creative outreach and learning
- Operating innovatively and cost-effectively for a sustainable future

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Reading Museum continually seeks to improve the environmental performance of its activities and is committed to reducing impacts to the environment from all areas of its operation in compliance with the Council's environmental policies and action plans.

Our aims are to:

- Ensure as a minimum standard, full compliance with Council policies which meet the relevant environmental legislation and codes of practice
- Support our staff to understand how they affect the environment and encourage them to take more care of it
- Promote the responsible and efficient use of energy and water use in our buildings and activities
- Reduce the consumption of raw materials and the production of waste in our operational activities
- Encourage the use of environmentally sound and sustainable resources in our operational activities
- Source sustainable and ethical products where possible both for use within the museum and for sale in the museum shop and cafe
- Use suppliers and contractors that recognise and address environmental matters relating to their products and services
- Raise awareness and promote sustainable options for staff and visitor travel as set out on the RBC Travel Plan
- Promote environmental awareness as part of our work with local communities