MANCHESTER MUSEUM

Roots and Branches:
Museums taking Climate Action

Proud to be part of

MANCHESTER 1824

The University of Manchester

Roots: Creating a **nationally significant co-working hub** of **cultural environmental action** at Manchester Museum

Branches: Creating a **carbon literate** environmentally aware and active **museum sector**

MANCHESTER MUSEUM

Carbon Literacy Project

museum development md england

LOTTERY FUNDED

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

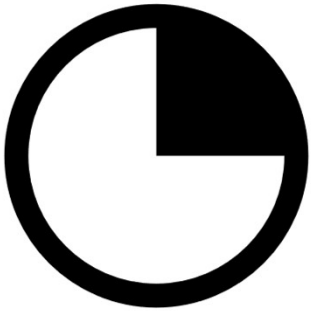
What is Carbon Literacy?

An awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions, on an individual, community and organisational basis.

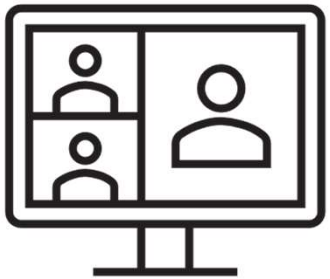
Carbon Literacy Project

Training

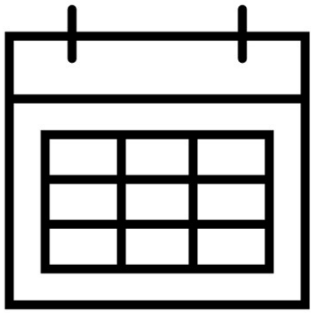
One day's worth of learning



Split into four modules



Online or in person learning environment



Allows customised schedule

Carbon Literacy Project

Branches

- Develop museum sector specific Carbon Literacy Toolkit
- Build capacity, skills and knowledge to reduce carbon and take climate action
- 9 regional Museum Development teams across England supported by new role
- Trainer support and Seeds for Action programme enabling roll-out of courses, actions and connectivity across museums and networks
- Procurement model supporting museums and networks to kickstart training and developing freelance trainers

Carbon Literacy for Museums

Carbon Literacy Project

Toolkit reach

700+ delegates trained

260+ organisations engaged

110+ attended Trainer support session

Carbon Literacy Project

What role can museums have?

Carbon Literacy Project

University museum delegate action 1

- I commit to **convening a climate action and carbon reduction working group** in my organisation, agreeing areas of focus, objectives and accountability.
- Focus areas: building infrastructure and maintenance, commercial operations, exhibitions programming, collections care, engagement, communications and visitor services. Considerations: upgrading lighting, more efficient AHU systems, procurement, facilitating climate learning through our learning programmes.
- It will allow us to make changes from a micro to a potential macro level. It will also allow us to **consider carbon reduction responsibilities that are actionable** by individuals, teams, whole organisation and influence the actions of our host University too.

Carbon Literacy Project

University museum delegate action 2

- As Collections Manager I am responsible for exhibition planning, transport, materials, identifying and booking contractors and so to look at exhibition **planning through the lens of carbon** will drive change.
- I have committed to **undertake a full sustainability audit of our recent exhibition** assessing a range of issues including road travel, energy consumption, materials used and waste. The result should be a benchmark for immediate and ongoing improvement as lessons are learned and shared, with improvements and efficiencies realised.
- It will also **feed into the University's wider sustainability agenda**, where I sit on the sustainability group, and hopefully influence at a strategic level.

Carbon Literacy Project

Building a more sustainable world

Manchester Museum is committed to building understanding between cultures and a more sustainable world. We develop programming, events and exhibitions with our communities which explore local and global social and environmental issues from many perspectives, catalysing public conversations about the climate and ecological crisis.

We build these relationships so we can support people to take action on the issues they care about and together move towards a more fair and sustainable future for Manchester and beyond.

Our Top Floor co-working hub is situated above you on the third floor of this building. It brings together a diverse range of people – from social enterprises, activist groups, charities, students, artists, and education providers - to learn, share ideas, build community, and make plans. There is a shared commitment to environmental action and social justice. It offers flexible and dynamic spaces for our co-working partners and events and activities programmed in partnership with our communities.

The **TOP FLOOR** is regularly open to public visitors. Speak to a member of the team or check our website for the latest schedule. On our website you will also find more information about our collaborators, facilities, and opportunities to get involved.

To find out more, scan the QR code

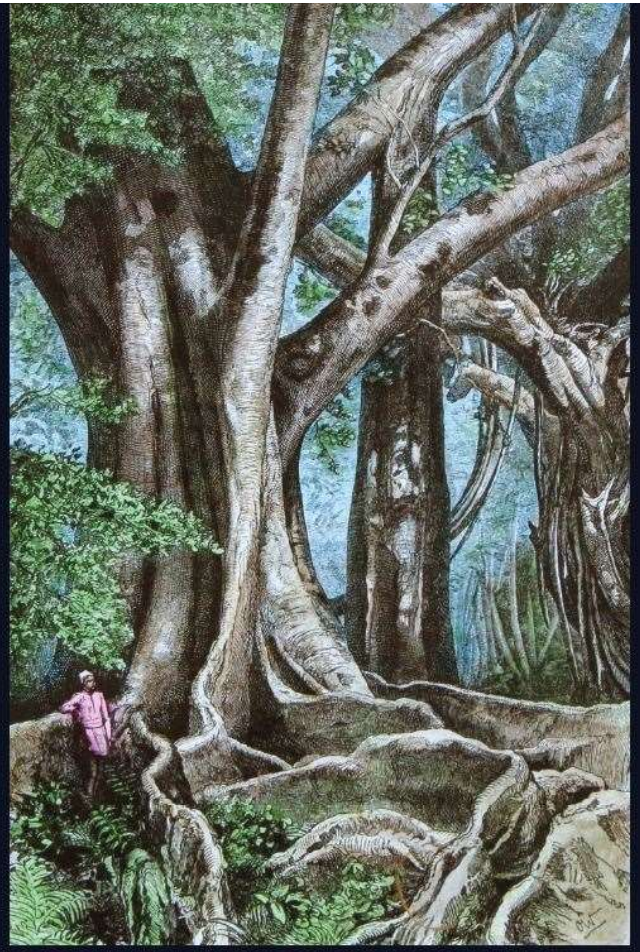
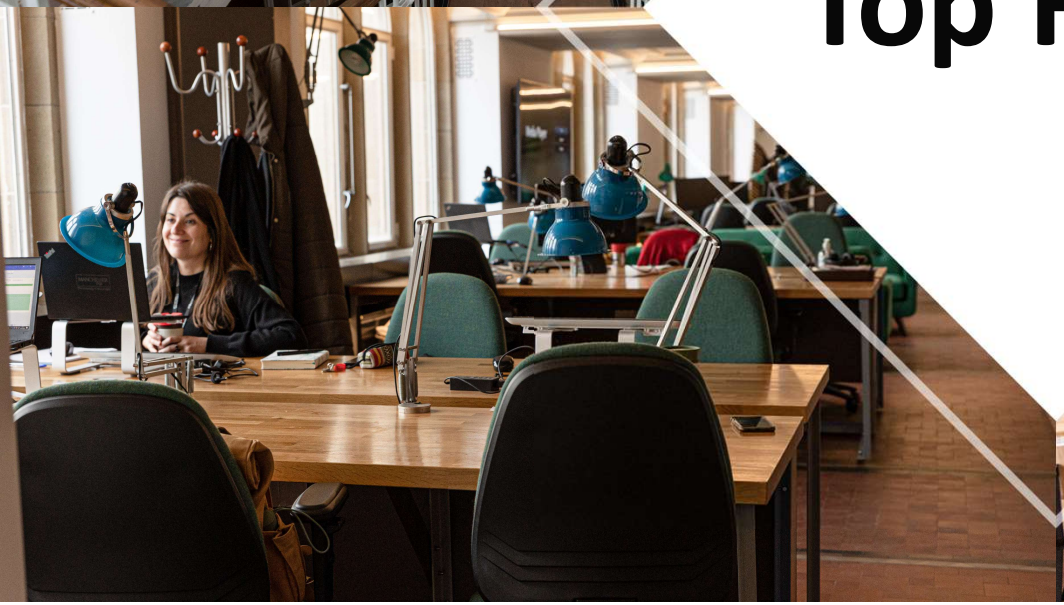


Image: *Lantern slide*, Manchester Museum, The University of Manchester.
Images produced by and available from Lucerna Magic Lantern Web Resource.

Top Floor



Top Floor Partners

- Pinc College
- Olympias Music Foundation
- Hubbub
- Ardwick Climate Action
- Invisible Cities
- Climate Emergency Manchester
- Carbon Literacy Project
- Manchester Climate Change Youth Board
- Museum Development Northwest
- Lucy Burscough – artist in residence
- Anita Sethi – writer in residence
- Greater Manchester i-THRIVE
- Occupational and art therapist student placements
- University colleagues – e.g. Environmental Sustainability Team, Sustainable Futures platform

Project Impacts

- Wide and low-cost access to training, providing a unified baseline of knowledge across levels and roles within the sector
- Museums can become Carbon Literate Organisations to confirm their commitment to being environmentally responsible
- Encouragement for museums to partner with others and get involved in policy and change in their local area
- Citizens are provided with a space for active listening, inclusive convening and action for social change
- Mobilised citizens – as ecological thinkers and activists

“More fundamentally, the university culture of experimentation and analysis empowers University Museums to act as test beds for the wider sector.”

Further information

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Find out more about the Toolkit for Museums:
carbonliteracy.com/toolkits/museums