

Environmental Statement 2020



THE INSTITUTE OF CONSERVATION

This Addendum was agreed by the Board of Trustees in September 2020.

Conservation and environmental sustainability

The conservation sector has a responsibility to embed environmental sustainability within its practices. Cultural organisations have explicitly been given responsibility for achieving the targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 11.4 encourages the safeguarding of the world's cultural and natural heritage. The sector is also in a unique position to encourage others to take climate action.

This Statement outlines opportunities for Icon and conservators to promote and support sustainability and protect the planet.

The Statement supplements *Icon's Strategy 2017-2022*.



Conservation supports communities dealing with climate change through direct rescue and protection of threatened cultural heritage assets but also by helping to inform environmental action. We do this by building understanding of materials and change.

- Conservators provide knowledge and expertise to protect and conserve heritage at risk and to inform mitigation and adaptation responses to the climate crisis.
- Conservation and heritage science can be used to understand and demonstrate the impacts of climate change and make informed predictions about the future.



The conservation community is uniquely positioned to foster conversations on sustainability and to inspire positive change through influence, leadership and innovation.

- Conservation extends the lives of objects and encourages us to care for our possessions, inspiring sustainable lifestyles over throwaway culture.
- Working in or with leading organisations and institutions, conservators can call for environmentally sustainable missions, visions and day-to-day habits, setting an example for others.
- Conservators are well placed to be influential champions for environmental causes. By connecting with clients, colleagues and the public they can raise ambition and amplify calls for change.
- Conservation and heritage science can support innovation through the use and development of sustainable materials and techniques.
- Contemporary artists and cultural professionals are exploring environmental themes from new perspectives. Conservators ensure cultural responses to the climate crisis are accessible and preserved as a record for future generations.



Icon's environmental policies

We will

- Ensure that the principles of environmental sustainability are applied throughout our work. In short, we want to reduce the resources that we use, to waste less of what we use, to use resources for longer and re-use or recycle resources we no longer need in order to reduce our carbon footprint.
- Encourage members (organisations and individuals) to take action to tackle climate change by adopting sustainable practices and embedding environmental sustainability into their operations and professional practice.
- Promote the positive role that cultural heritage and conservation can play in informing responses to and communicating climate change issues through our policy and advocacy work.
- Mobilise the cultural heritage sector to act on climate change in collaboration with partners such as the Climate Heritage Network and the Fit for the Future network.

- Seek out new partnerships and share information with colleagues and stakeholders, both within and outside the world of conservation, to help develop radical ideas and solutions to pressing environmental challenges.





HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

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EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

WE ARE TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE



Route Map

Activity strand	Progress	Future plans
<p>Internal actions How to be an environmentally sustainable professional body</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published Environmental Statement • Changed to paper envelopes for Icon News • Switched to virtual meetings rather than in-person meetings where possible • Adopted the Default Veg UK policy for events catering • Implemented an office recycling policy • Became a member of Fit for the Future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with our publishers to reduce the carbon footprint of the Journal of Conservation • Carry out an environmental audit leading to environmental action plan
<p>Supporting the conservation profession How to be an environmentally sustainable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental issues were considered during the revision of the Professional Standards (published July 2020) and the drafting of the Ethical Guidance (published July 2020) • Working with Sustainability in Conservation and Ki Culture to promote best practice and share resources • A new Icon Environmental Network was set up in June 2020 • Mapped out how we will work in partnership with Fit for the Future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with Pest Odyssey to deliver a conference in 2021 • Publish regular articles in Icon News – practical guidance and also case studies • Collaborate with the Chantry Library to produce a subject bibliography for environmental sustainability • Scope and deliver training courses (in partnership with others e.g. Julie’s Bicycle)
<p>Leadership role How to be an advocate / champion / change-maker</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Executive is a member of the international steering group of the Climate Heritage Network • Icon is co-ordinating Activity 1 of the Madrid-to-Glasgow Arts, Culture and Heritage Climate Action Plan (COP26) • Chief Executive is a member of the Senior Leaders Group within Fit for the Future • Icon is a signatory of Heritage Declares 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to respond to Government and other consultations on climate change / cultural heritage issues • Continue to publish advocacy stories on the Icon website • Advocate for climate action in sector networks and fora