



Carlisle's home of culture

Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery Trust

Environmental Strategy and Action Plan

Environmental Strategy

Overview

Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust (Tullie) operates and manages Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery in Castle Street, Carlisle, which is the principle place of business. Additionally, the Trust occupies industrial premises for off-site storage and Herbert Atkinson House on Abbey Street, Carlisle, which provides additional office space. All of these premises (except the off-site storage premises at Longtown) are leased to the Trust by Cumberland Council, as are the collections. The Trust manages all these buildings and the collections on behalf of Cumberland Council. In 2022, the Trust took on the freehold of 6-24 Castle Street which abuts the museum. Following capital development work carried out between 2024 to 2026, these premises will be fully integrated as part of the main site.

Who We Are

Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery Trust (Tullie) is a cultural hub in Carlisle, dedicated to inspiring, educating, and engaging our diverse audiences. We celebrate art, history, and nature, and we recognise our responsibility to protect the environment for future generations. As a leading museum in Cumbria, we are committed to embedding sustainability in everything we do – from the way we care for our historic buildings and collections, to how we welcome and inspire our visitors.

Our Mission

“To be Carlisle’s home of Culture. Tullie has been a centre for community and learning since 1893 when it was opened as the City’s ‘Public Library, Museum and School of Art’. We want to celebrate these roots and re-present them for 21st century audiences. We will use the history and legacy as a centre for inspiration as a unifying concept across all spaces, programmes and withing Project Tullie”.

Our motivation

To deliver exceptional cultural experiences while reducing our environmental impact, protecting biodiversity, and inspiring positive change towards a more sustainable future.

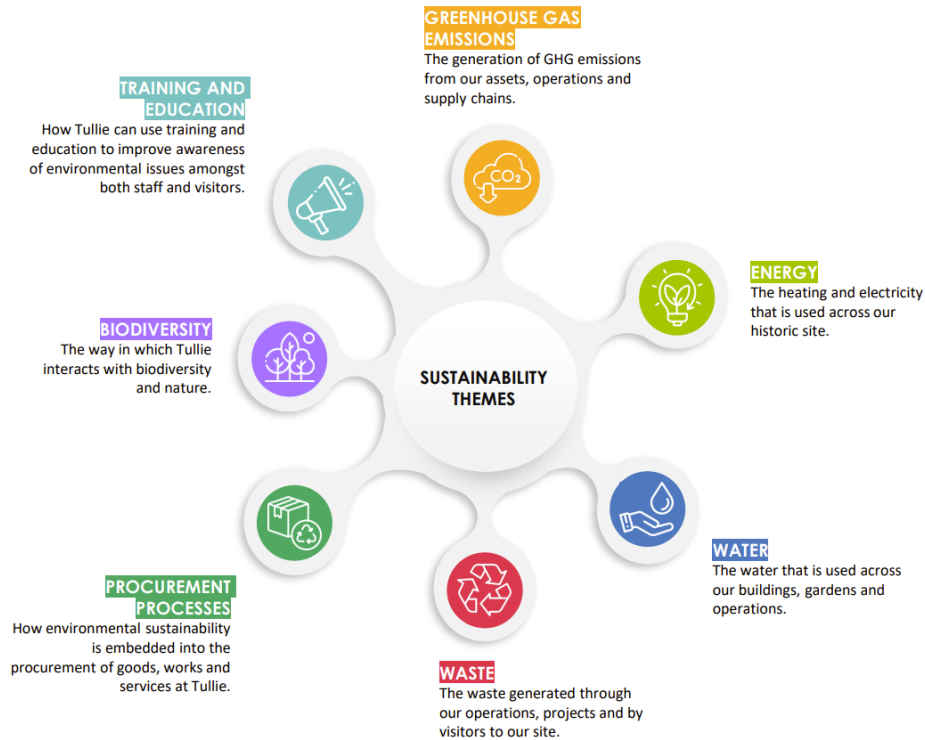
Our Aims

- **Lead by example** in environmental responsibility within the museum and heritage sector.
- **Reduce our carbon footprint** through smarter energy, travel, and procurement practices.
- **Protect and enhance biodiversity** in our gardens and through our collections.
- **Promote sustainable behaviours** among staff, volunteers, visitors, and partners.

- **Work collaboratively** with suppliers, funders, and the wider community to drive positive environmental change

Our Objectives & How We Will Deliver Them

Our Environmental Action Plan focuses on **seven key themes**:



Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Establish a comprehensive emissions baseline, set a net-zero target, and take practical steps to reduce energy use, decarbonise heating, and promote low-carbon visitor travel.

1. **Energy** – Develop an Energy Strategy aligned with the energy hierarchy, invest in energy-efficient technologies, and increase the use of renewables.
2. **Water** – Reduce consumption through improved fixtures, rainwater harvesting, and more efficient use in public and back-of-house areas.
3. **Waste** – Design out waste in exhibitions and operations, improve recycling, and adopt a “digital by default” approach.
4. **Procurement Processes** – Embed sustainability into all purchasing decisions, favour local and ethical suppliers, and reduce packaging and single-use plastics.
5. **Biodiversity** – Enhance our gardens as spaces for wildlife, integrate biodiversity into programming, and promote awareness among visitors.
6. **Training and Education** – Provide carbon literacy training for staff, appoint departmental Green Champions, and integrate environmental themes into exhibitions, learning, and community programmes.

Our progress will be **monitored and reported annually**, with governance structures ensuring accountability and continual improvement.

Key Achievements to Date

- Updated Sustainability Strategy and Environmental Action Plan developed in consultation with staff and stakeholders.
- Integration of sustainability into capital redevelopment planning ("Project Tullie").
- Participation in national programmes such as Julie's Bicycle Spotlight, NLHF Fit for the Future and ACE's Capital Readiness Programme
- In 2023 Tullie won a Kids in Museum Award for Best Sustainable Youth Project for our exhibition; Diggsby; A Whale's Tale
- Increased recycling rates and adoption of greener materials in exhibitions.
- Ongoing work with suppliers to improve environmental performance.
- Public engagement on biodiversity through gardens, collections, and events.

Our Commitment

Tullie commits to:

- Meeting or exceeding all relevant environmental legislation and sector standards.
- Continually reviewing and improving our sustainability practices.
- Reporting transparently on our progress.
- Using our platform to inspire change in our community.