

# **STEAM**

# **Museum of the**

# **Great Western Railway**

## **Environmental Policy Statement**

**2016 - 2018**



MUSEUM OF THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY



# Environmental Sustainability Policy Statement

**Museum: STEAM – Museum of the Great Western Railway**

**Governing body: Swindon Borough Council**

**Date approved by governing body: 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

**Date at which policy is due for review: August 2018**

## 1.0 Swindon Borough Council Environmental Policy Background

### 1.1 A Vision for Swindon

Swindon Borough Council's vision for Swindon is that by 2030, Swindon will have all of the positive characteristics of a British city with one of the UK's most successful economies; a low-carbon environment with compelling cultural, retail and leisure opportunities and excellent infrastructure. It will be a model of well managed housing growth which supports and improves new and existing communities.

### 1.2 Swindon Borough Council Plan 2016-2020 – Strategic Aims

Swindon Borough Council has committed to a number of aims and outcomes, which support adapting to climate change and working to reduce emissions. Two of the Council's answers to the question "What will Swindon be like in 2020?" are that people will care for their environment, and that Swindon's housing and business growth will be well planned so that we do not damage the environment.

### 1.3 Swindon Borough Council Priority One: To improve infrastructure and housing to support a growing, low-carbon economy

Outcomes include:

- Construct solar arrays on Council owned land and a solar noise barrier along roads including the M4 at Wichelstowe.
- Ensure that Swindon enjoys a national and international reputation as a centre for sustainable technologies that generate significant revenue for the Council.
- Monitor and control the level of pollutants emitted by industry and other sources.
- Improve existing locations of poor air quality linked to traffic pollution
- Encourage contractors to use sustainable materials and re-use and recycle building materials
- Make sure that the Council reduces the carbon emissions from its activities.
- Use LED lighting sources in street lighting to reduce energy consumption and the carbon footprint.
- Identify further sources of funding to continue innovative work with solar and hydrogen schemes, and develop a waste to energy proposal.
- Promote effective walking and cycling routes throughout Swindon as part of a healthy lifestyle approach.

### 1.4 Swindon Borough Council Priority Three: To ensure clean and safe streets and improve our public spaces and local culture

Outcomes include:

- Improve the efficiency of the Council's waste and recycling collections service to households and businesses.

## 1.5 Swindon Borough Council Priority Four: To help people to help themselves while always protecting our most vulnerable children and adults

Outcomes include:

- Develop new models of volunteering so residents can make bigger contributions to local issues including looking after the local environment.

## 2.0 STEAM – Museum of the Great Western Railway: Environmental Sustainability Policy Statement

### 2.1 About STEAM

STEAM is a local authority museum, located within Swindon, which is governed by Swindon Borough Council. The Museum employs 15.75 FTE staff and 55 volunteers, and welcomes 123,845 visitors p.a. (including 8222 school visitors and 38,705 corporate visitors). It also hosts functions and weddings. The Museum's core purpose is to unlock our heritage collections for everyone, to celebrate Brunel's historic Great Western Railway and its legacy.

The **key purpose** of STEAM is: *Unlocking our heritage collections for everyone, to celebrate Brunel's historic Great Western Railway and its legacy.*

Our **organisational ethos** (guiding principles for staff, volunteers, Friends, visitors and users) is:

- Collecting, preserving and safeguarding objects, archives and photographs pertaining to Brunel's historic Great Western Railway and its legacy for the public, now and in perpetuity.
- Designing and delivering vibrant and relevant displays, exhibitions, activities, events and experiences, now and in the future.
- Informing, educating, engaging, entertaining and inspiring all of our visitors, by making our collections available to them, now and in the future.
- Enriching the lives of the community local to Swindon, and the wider Great Western Railway community, and celebrating Swindon's status as the hub of the GWR ("Made in Swindon"), now and in the future.
- Establishing STEAM as the authoritative source on the Great Western Railway and as a centre of excellence commensurate with the size of the Museum.
- Achieving quality recognition regionally and nationally from professional bodies, funders and our peers.
- Where possible, sourcing goods and services from Swindon and its surrounding area, to support our local economy and celebrate our region, emulating the founding principles of the Great Western Railway.
- Attracting at least 100,000 general paying Museum visitors per annum.

STEAM's major environmental impacts are energy and resource consumption.

### 2.2 Our Commitment

At STEAM we recognise that environmental protection is one of the most important issues facing the world today for the benefit of current and future generations, both locally and globally. STEAM continually seeks to provide a sustainable service and to improve the environmental performance of its operation, including the way in which it cares for its collections. The Museum is also committed to adopting best operational practices to reduce the environmental impacts of its activities and policies, wherever and whenever possible, in compliance with the Council's vision and aims. With respect to the museum's collection, STEAM will take account of the expected collection lifetime and the energy demand arising from the conditions needed to achieve this. In undertaking this, the Museum will take account of the sensitivity, significance and use of individual

collection items. We will ensure that the collections are kept in the most appropriate conditions, and wherever possible we will reduce the amount of energy used in caring for the collections. Further details of how STEAM cares for its collections can be found in the Collections Care and Conservation Policy and the Collections Care and Conservation Plan.

### **2.3 STEAM's aims**

1. To ensure as a minimum standard, compliance with Council policies, which meet the relevant environmental legislation and codes of practice.
2. To reduce waste through increased recycling and re-use.
3. To encourage the use of environmentally friendly transport for staff during working hours.
4. To raise awareness and promote sustainable options for visitor travel.
5. To monitor and reduce consumption of energy and water, and promote their responsible and efficient use in STEAM's building and activities.
6. To encourage environmental criteria to be taken into account in the procurement and provision of goods and services.
7. To consider environmental factors in STEAM's decisions and activities, including giving due consideration to environmental issues and energy performance in the design, refurbishment and use of the building.
8. To measure and take action to reduce the carbon footprint of STEAM's activities and ensure our buildings and services are able to adapt to climate change.
9. To encourage STEAM's workforce to understand how their activities affect the environment and develop them to conduct their activities in an environmentally responsible manner.
10. To encourage all members of STEAM's workforce to actively develop new ideas and initiatives for enhancing the Museum's environmental sustainability.
11. To promote environmental awareness as part of our work with schools and local communities.

### **2.4 STEAM's Environmental Targets 2016 - 18**

Our targets are itemised in the attached Environmental Action Plan.

## **3.0 Review and Availability**

**3.1** In order to promote continuous improvement throughout the Museum's operations, this policy is subject to an annual audit of environmental performance and management, and to an annual review process to ensure the completion of previous targets and the setting of new objectives.

**3.2** STEAM's Management Team is responsible for implementing, communicating and reviewing this policy.

**3.3** STEAM's Environmental Policy has the support of its governing body, Swindon Borough Council. It has been communicated to all members of staff and volunteers and is publicly available on STEAM's website.