



## Royston Museum: Embedding Environmental Sustainability into Everyday Practice

Royston Museum is a community museum that has used Carbon Literacy to transform environmental sustainability from a standalone initiative into a core part of its strategy, operations and public engagement.

Through its 'Royston Museum Goes Green' project, the Museum is embedding climate action into everything from procurement and collections care to exhibitions, events and community partnerships.

## The Challenge

- **Engagement & collaboration:** The Museum wanted a coordinated approach driven by engaged staff to embed meaningful change across the organisation.
- **Limited capacity:** As a small organisation supported by volunteers and trustees, the Museum needed an approach that could create lasting change with limited resources.

# The Solution: A Practical & Scalable Framework

Carbon Literacy became the foundation of the Museum's wider Royston Museum Goes Green programme, providing a practical framework to embed sustainability into long-term planning, daily operations and community engagement.

**Before: Standalone initiatives**

**After: Shared responsibility**

## Actions & Outcomes

### Action

Carbon Literacy became compulsory for all staff and strongly encouraged for volunteers and trustees.

The Environmental Sustainability Policy and Environmental Plan were strengthened and aligned with the Museum's Forward Plan.

The team agreed on a shared organisational commitment supported by individual pledges, allowing everyone to contribute through their own role.

Sustainable procurement principles were introduced across purchasing, contracts and operational decision-making.

The Museum used exhibitions, events and partnerships to share its sustainability journey with visitors and the local community.

### Outcome

Carbon Literacy became a core part of staff development, with sustainability embedded into everyday working practices.

Environmental sustainability became embedded within long-term organisational planning rather than operating as a separate initiative.

Created a coordinated approach to climate action that was easier to implement and maintain across the organisation.

Environmental considerations now influence supplier selection, retail products, collections care and everyday purchasing decisions.

The Museum has positioned itself as a local leader, encouraging climate action among the wider community it serves.

# The Impact: Embedding Sustainability & Inspiring Community Action

## Measurable impact



**100% of Museum staff** are Carbon Literate, with training now a core part of staff induction



**70% reduction** in energy usage (kWh) during the first four months after installing air source heat pumps



**17% reduction** in energy costs over the same four-month period



**Zero Scope 1 emissions** following the replacement of the Museum's fossil fuel boiler with air source heat pumps



### **Environmental Sustainability Award**

Winner of the Hertfordshire Association of Museums Environmental Sustainability Award in 2025 and 2026.

## Strategic impact

### ➤ **Embedded decision-making**

Carbon Literacy and environmental sustainability now underpin organisational strategy, procurement and day-to-day decision-making, rather than being treated as an additional responsibility.

### ➤ **Sustainable procurement**

The Museum has embedded environmental considerations into purchasing decisions, prioritising sustainable, local suppliers, refill systems, recycled materials, renewable energy and pre-loved resources wherever possible.

### ➤ **Community leadership**

Through initiatives such as the Green Festival, the Reduce, Repair, Reuse exhibition and partnerships with local organisations, the Museum is using its platform to inspire environmental action across the local community.

### ➤ **Leading by example**

The Museum openly shares its own sustainability journey, from procurement choices to renewable heating, to demonstrate practical climate action and encourage others to make similar changes.

## Future: Continuing the Journey

1

Reviewing supplier contracts as they renew to improve sustainability and reduce waste.

2

Continuing to measure and reduce its Scope 3 emissions.

3

Expanding partnerships, exhibitions and outreach to engage more visitors and community groups.

*"Carbon Literacy has been invaluable in helping us make changes to become a more environmentally responsible organisation. Environmental responsibility is now core to our decision making; it's not just another thing to think about or a box we need to tick. We started off making lots of small changes, before thinking about bigger projects, all of which are adding up to make a big difference."*

– Emma Canterbury, Museum Director