

**NATIONAL MUSEUMS SCOTLAND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY STATEMENT
OCTOBER 2023**

The global environmental emergency – not only the climate crisis but also the large-scale loss of biodiversity and geological resources – is the biggest challenge facing the world. Responding to the complexity of the challenge, our approach to sustainability is built on the three pillars of environmental sustainability, people and society and economic sustainability. These frame the breadth of our activities and the range of challenges ahead of us.

We have high ambitions and operate in a context of demanding national and international targets. We have already made progress through: achieving a significantly reduced carbon footprint; embedding sustainability in our procurement processes; establishing a Carbon Management Plan; developing a public engagement programme based on sound curatorial insights; leading and collaborating on large-scale research projects; and monitoring biodiversity at key sites. There is of course, more work to be done and we are committed to continuing an organisation-wide change programme involving people, programmes, places and processes.

Our third Strategic Aim is *We will be well advanced on the path to net zero carbon and a respected resource for understanding climate and biodiversity challenges*, and it will be achieved through:

- Building an organisational culture for sustainability based on a knowledgeable and confident workforce.
- Engaging with global partnership to rapidly share and aggregate data on biodiversity.
- Creating programmes for audiences that are engaging and motivating, to increase public understanding of the problems and help influence confident, proactive and solutions-based attitudes.
- Demonstrating our values and expertise to the public and peers as a trusted museum authority.
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity on our own museum sites.
- Establishing an Environmental Management System to ensure we meet compliance obligations, set robust objectives for change and pursue continual improvement.
- Developing an investment plan with the Scottish Government that supports key infrastructure milestones for net zero.
- Attracting supporters and funders to help us achieve more, by evidencing that our work is based on solid sustainable principles and plans.