



# NET ZERO PILOT PROJECT

# Welcome

- The Voice to Advocate for Culture in Every Climate Conversation
- Sarah Sutton, Co-founder and CEO
- Environment & Culture Partners

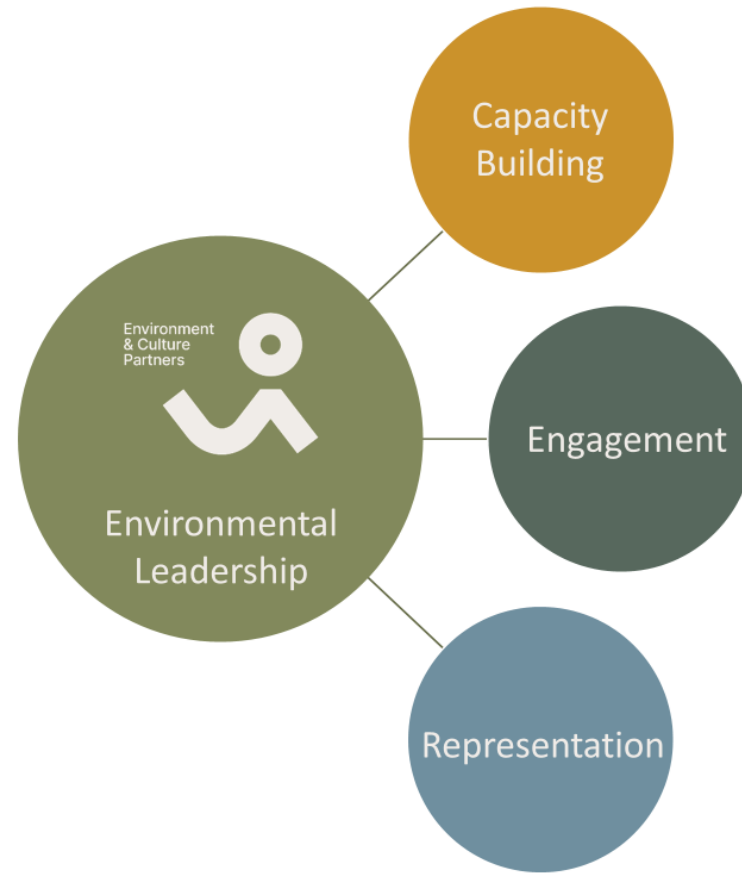
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## Mission

Strengthening  
and broadening the  
cultural sector's  
environmental  
leadership

[ecprs.org](http://ecprs.org)



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**Environment & Culture Partners (ECP)** empowers museums, zoos, gardens, aquariums and historic sites with the

- knowledge and skills needed to influence change,
- partnerships needed to do the work, and
- voice to advocate for culture in every climate conversation.

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Metal flower made out of scissor blades at the Madison Children's Museum (Wisconsin, WI)



The focus today is on you, not on climate.



# Guiding Principles

1. No one goes green all at once.
2. No one goes all green, yet.
3. Let go of guilt; it interferes with progress.
4. It's different for everyone.
5. First: start where you can.

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# Agency

## Individual

The ability to create change within your personal means

## Collective

Pooling knowledge and skills to act together

## Proxy

Influencing others to act on your behalf



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# Why Change Our Practice?

Climate Change is Real

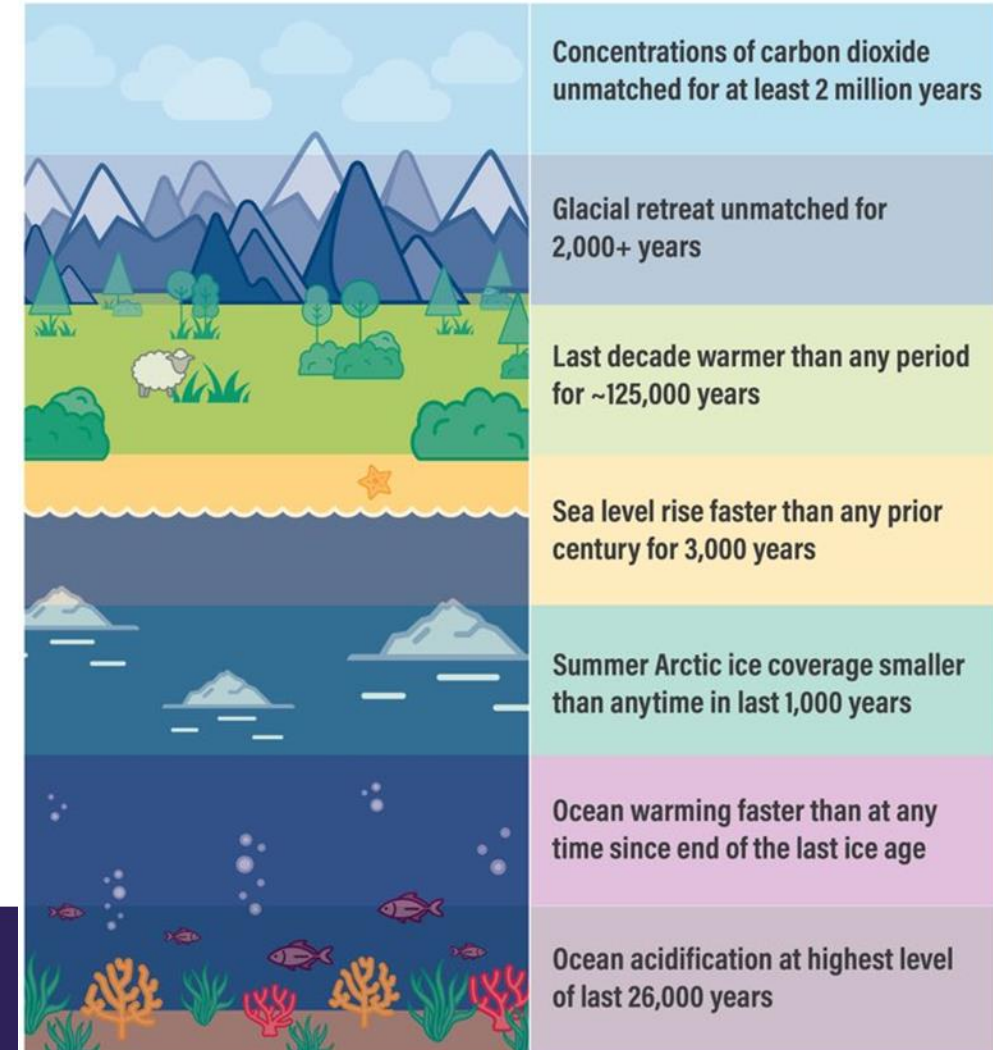
It's Happening Now

The World is Not on Track

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## Explaining the 2021 IPCC Report

### Evidence of Global Warming Already Underway





# This is Climate Governance

We are Capable

We Care

We have a Voice

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Alaska Burning, 2019, Parker Brophy

# “Pruning the Dystopiary”

“...the longstanding concern that **talking about adapting to climate change would diminish momentum to avoid it seems to have faded**. We’ll need to have both hands working at the same time; **every tenth of a degree of warming that we can avoid is vital**, while we simultaneously prepare for inevitable impacts.”

- Jason Anderson, Climate Works Foundation

Afterward, *The Climate Action Almanac*

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# Fifth U.S. National Climate Assessment (NCA5) 2023

KEY  
MESSAGE

1

Human Activities Have Caused  
the Observed Global Warming

Human activities—primarily emissions of greenhouse gases from fossil fuel use—have unequivocally caused the global warming observed over the industrial era. Changes in natural climate drivers had globally small and regionally variable long-term effects over that period.

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- “**Effective and equitable climate governance builds on engagement with civil society** actors, political actors, businesses, youth, labour, media, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.”
- “**Most observed adaptation responses are fragmented, incremental, sector-specific and unequally distributed across regions.** Despite progress, adaptation gaps exist across sectors and regions, and **will continue to grow** under current levels of implementation, with the largest adaptation gaps among lower income groups.”

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ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

# CLIMATE CHANGE 2023

## Synthesis Report

### Summary for Policymakers

A Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

# But Why Us? (*Why Not? She Says*)

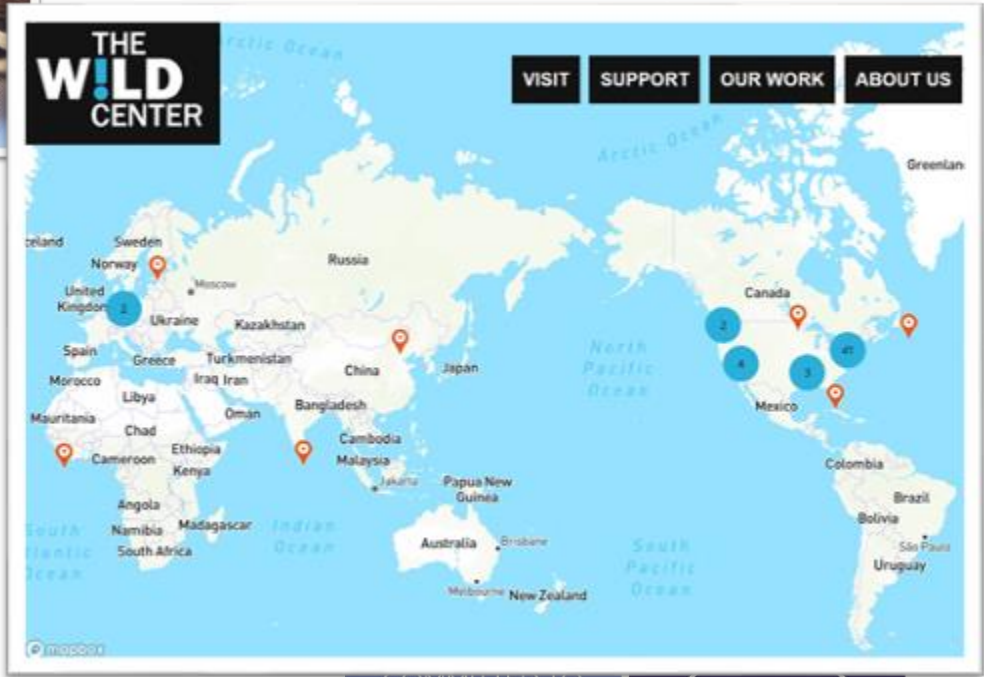
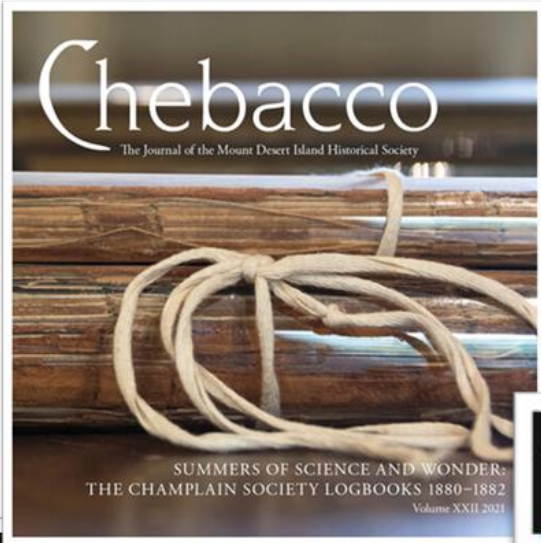
- Climate change is an Everyone problem.
- Other sectors are stepping up.
- Other parts of the cultural sector are taking steps.
- The tools are getting better.
- The more we all do, the better our result will be.
- Doing this work is good for your health and the health of everyone and everything around you.
- And, to make it so that everyone and everything on the Planet can thrive.



# What Others Are Doing

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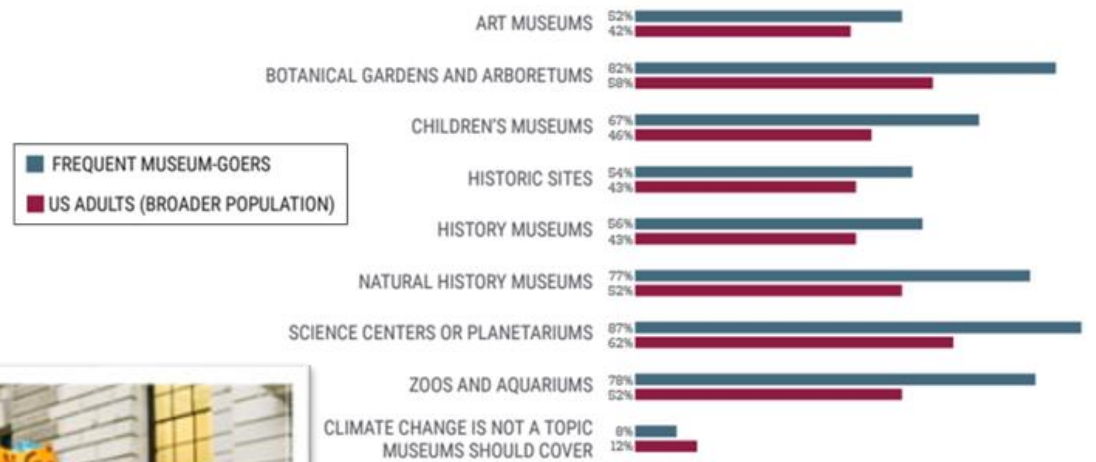
# CARBON INVENTORY PROJECT



CALCULATING THE CULTURAL SECTOR'S CARBON FOOTPRINT  
ONE STEP AT A TIME



What types of museums should be educating the public about climate change?



Sources: 2022 Annual Survey of Museum-Goers, n = 90,747; 186 museums participating 2022 Broader Population Sampling, n = 1,017



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# US CULTURE ASSOCIATIONS AGREE TO CLIMATE COLLABORATION

These professional membership associations for museums, aquariums, historic sites, etc. are leading the nation in commitment to collaborative peer-led advancement of the cultural sector's climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience work.

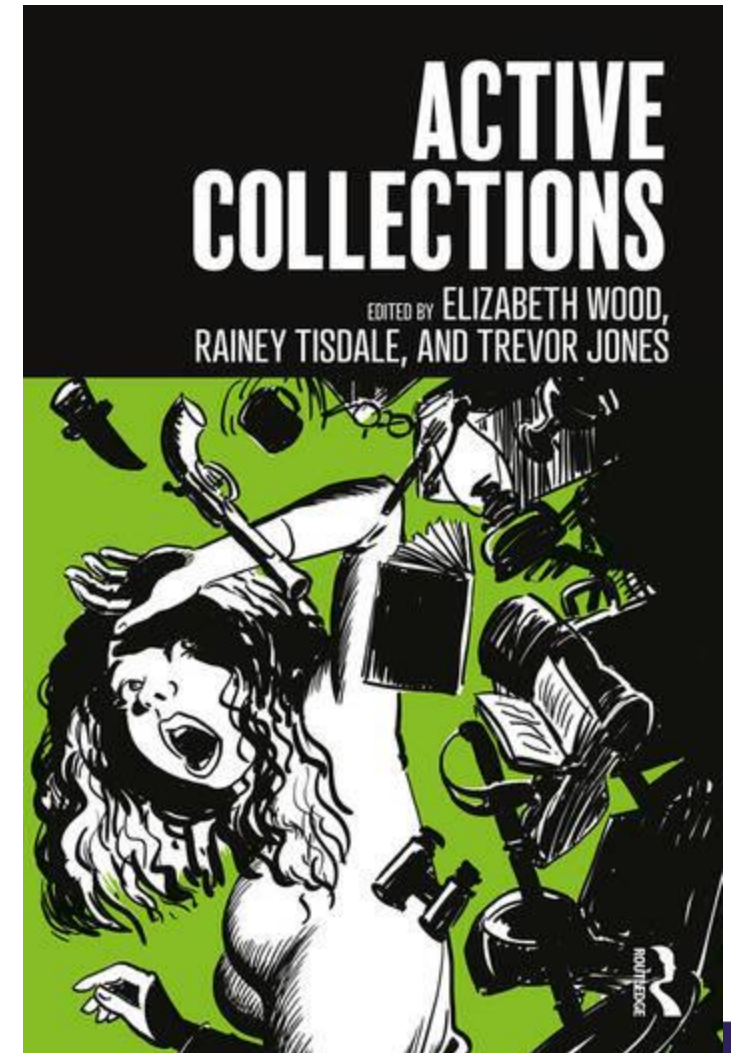


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# Julie's Bicycle

CREATIVE • CLIMATE • ACTION

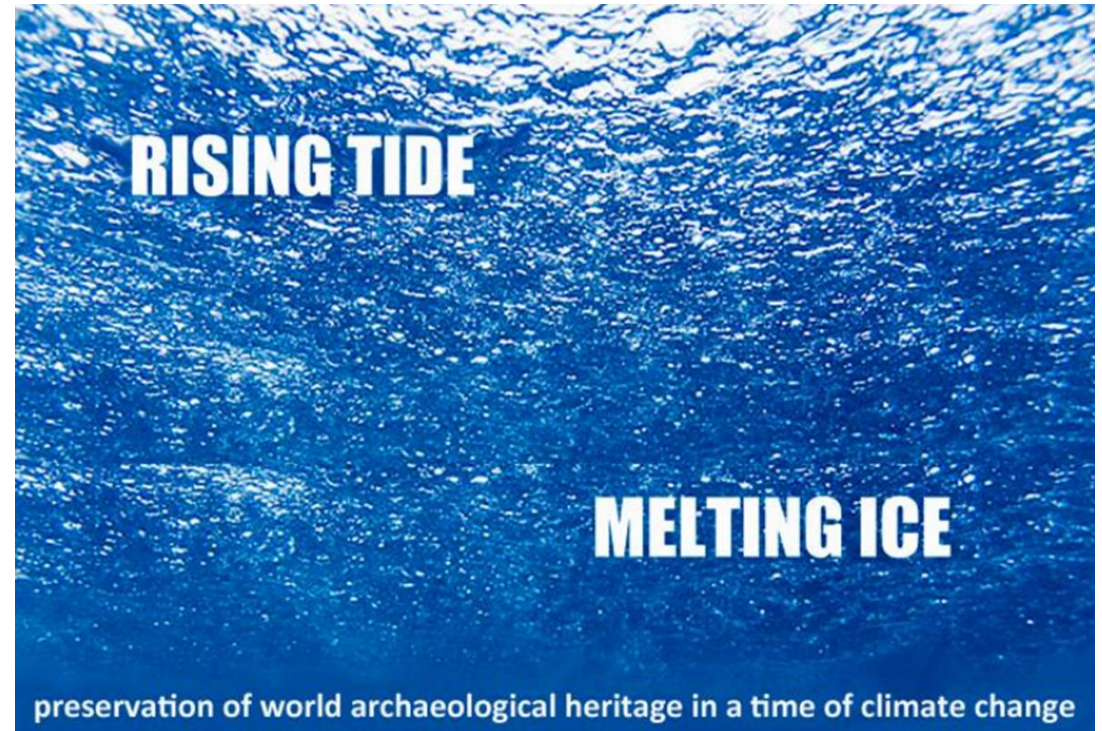


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## Environmental Guidelines ICOM-CC and IIC Declaration (2014)



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# How Do I Do This?

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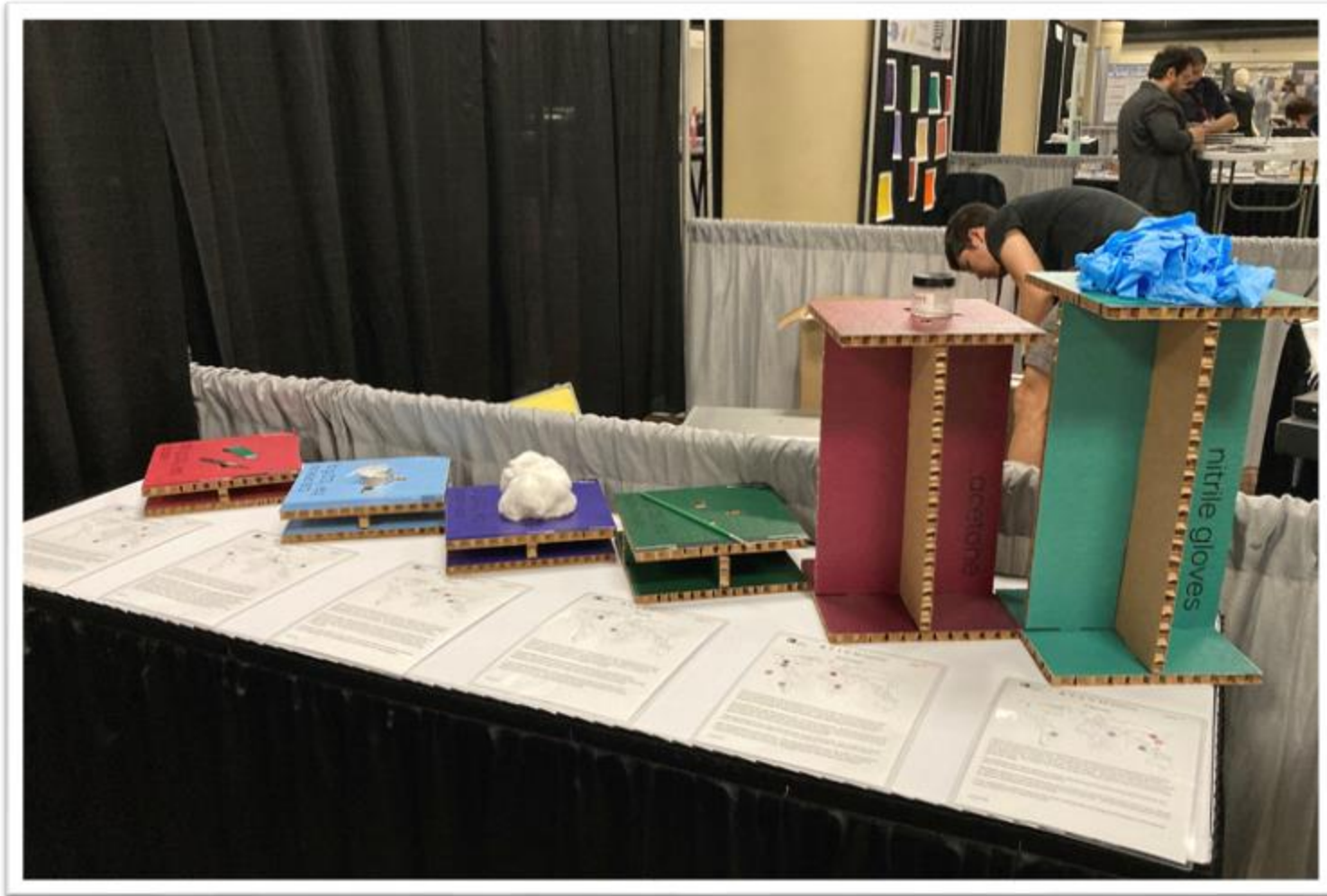
Sustainability Tools  
in Cultural Heritage

[CARBON CALCULATOR](#) [CASE STUDIES](#) [INFORMATION SHEETS](#) [ABOUT US](#)



# Tools for Informed Sustainable Choices





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Storing and reusing crates and packing materials  
Courtesy Bruce Geyman, 2016



Recycling and reusing exhibit and collections care materials.  
Courtesy N. Sinyutina, 2019

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# Your Building May Be Design Well!



## Government Museum and Art Gallery, Chandigarh, India (Getty study)

- Clerestories
- Central open spaces
- Raised floors
- Managed sunlight

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# UK Museums and Heritage Sustainable Packaging Group (b. 2021)

Pandemic shortages “...led institutions to rethink their current practices, concentrating on what they need to do differently in their daily work, taking on board new ideas, new terminology, new techniques, new ways of describing what is done as well as looking at practices that need to be remodeled...”



January 2024 Study Day at the National Gallery (UK)  
Photo by Lynne Harrison, captured from IIC website

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# No One Does This Work Alone, At Least Not Well.

- “Lynne [Harrison, paintings conservator, National Gallery, London] said that “early on I shied away from the idea of looking at packing cases from a sustainability perspective, because it seems like such a massive task. I can't honestly say that I chose to do this. I was asked to investigate it, and I'm very happy to say that after the first couple of meetings [I] realized I was surrounded by colleagues with the same challenges—the same concerns—so that we could help each other. I don't think the task is any less big, but it feels a bit more manageable.”

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- Alexandra Gent, paintings conservator at the National Portrait Gallery in London. “Maybe the focus will shift over time, or we could have more people involved to look at different types of objects, because at the moment it is very painting and frames focused,” said Alex. Lynne and Alex would like to see more professionals from different disciplines involved and expand the Group. The more variety in group members, the more development can occur by looking at issues from different perspectives. The ambition is to establish new sustainable standards for packing and transporting artworks.

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# Examples of Agency

| <b>Individual Agency</b><br>The ability to create change within your personal means   | <b>Collective Agency</b><br>Pooling knowledge and skills to act together  | <b>Proxy Agency</b><br>Influencing others to act on your behalf   |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Search</b> sustainable options for your own responsibilities</li> </ul>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Create or Join</b> a group of seekers</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ask</b> your association to help you find training</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tell researchers</b> what items and case studies you need to learn about. Join them.</li> </ul>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Host or contribute</b> to programs sharing ideas and practices</li> </ul>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tell</b> your funders you need support for this research and for new practices</li> </ul>                   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Build</b> your own go-to resources for calculating impacts or buying materials.</li> </ul>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coordinate and consolidate</b> purchasing to decrease deliveries and increase bulk savings</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Demand</b> that vendors improve selection of high quality, low-impact materials</li> </ul>                  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Share</b> your climate action activities and plans with peers in meetings and on social media.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Create</b> cooperative funding applications to scale change and distribute support</li> </ul>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tell</b> your professional association that it's important to you that this is part of standards</li> </ul> |



# Climate Messages for advocates

If you use materials for care, exhibits, and transportation:

- Learn all you can.
- Join a group or create one to tackle an area of interest to you.
- Say yes when invited to join a group or lead one.
- Specify materials in RFQs and treatments that are good for us, not just objects
- Reuse and borrow, and adapt found materials to reduce impacts
- Create preferred purchases lists using certifications, STiCH, and shared learning
- Demand that providers and manufacturers to do better

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# Climate Messages for advocates

## If you use fossil energy:

- Manage Buildings Better
  - Tighten and insulate buildings
  - Improve T/RH and controls policies
  - Adopt passive systems for cooling, warmth and lighting
- Spend energy savings on green exhibit and collections materials
- Showcase your solutions to provide a vision of what a clean energy future can look like
- Plan now for any future changes to be clean and renewable

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# Climate Messages for Advocates

- Climate change is a global challenge with actionable solutions for reducing all our carbon and the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that drive a warming world.
- We are critical community resources that can help visitors, donors, and other communities understand the problem and see solutions globally and locally.
- We are experiencing climate change risk and damage to living and material collections, buildings and natural spaces, and the lives of staff and community members.
- We can help visitors, donors, and other stakeholders understand the challenges of climate change and we can model new practices.
- Those same communities our institutions have colonized, are feeling climate change worse than most. It's our responsibility, too.

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# Climate Messages for Advocates

- Everyone's actions matter.
- My future matters and so does yours. And things are bad enough that no one is exempt from doing what they are can to relieve climate burdens from us all today and far into the future.
- Why bother saving all these buildings, objects, and cultural lifeways now if by the end of the century there's no safe place for it?
- But doing this work starts by thinking differently. What got us into this mess won't get us out. So I'm starting with the work I do everyday, and I'm learning how to do it well *and differently* for a better outcome.

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# You Might Run Into These "Cognitive Holes"

## For a Conservation Professional

- The object is my primary responsibility.
- I know this way works, I can't risk a new way.
- I use such small amounts.
- We're not the problem, Big Oil is.

## About Climate Change

- The climate has changed before.
- Not all the scientists agree it's happening anyway.

## About Taking Action

- It costs too much.
- I don't have time.



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# Conclusion

By 2030, I, Sarah Sutton, want to have done as much as I can to erase my impact and to secure the future of others.

And I want to see a global cultural sector that has standardized climate action as a mission-driven priority, and normalized climate practices in our work, so that there is not need for presentations like mine today.



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# Contact Us

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Environment  
& Culture  
Partners

