

Sustainability Rider – Cultural Heritage

The UK government is legally committed to being net zero by 2050. The cultural heritage sector has a key part to play in the transition to a lower carbon society. The climate and environmental crises requires every cultural heritage organisation and all of us working in the sector to actively engage in minimising greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impact.

The Sustainability Rider is a tool for cultural heritage professionals. It provides a framework for you to negotiate better sustainability practices in the sector. It aims to promote sustainable practices within the sector and to encourage a collective and personal effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impact.

THE SUSTAINABILITY RIDER

[The terms and clauses below are not an exhaustive list. When negotiating your sustainability rider, you may amend/remove/add to suit your specific needs and requirements.]

This Rider forms part of the Agreement between [Organisation] (the employer/client) and [Conservator] [Curator] [Other] ('you') in relation to the [employment][project].

Cultural Heritage-Wide Sustainability Clauses

The following clauses go across multiple departments and specialisms in cultural heritage. They are intended to be negotiated before the start of any contract/project.

1. Organisation

The organisation will:

- i. Consider sustainability from the outset of all projects and ensure that it is embedded in all projects from planning, execution through to delivery.
- ii. Assess the climate and environmental impacts of all activities and proposed projects.
- iii. Invest in building the sustainability knowledge of staff to foster a culture of sustainability.
- iv. Develop a short environmental policy/strategy ensuring that staff, contractors and freelancers have read it.
- v. Develop a sustainability action plan and act on it.
- vi. Collaborate with other organisations and professionals to exchange knowledge and good practice in sustainability.
- vii. Monitor, review and report their sustainability practices ensuring that the findings are widely and easily available.

2. Energy Usage

The employer/ client will:

- i. Reduce energy consumption.
- ii. Tackle inefficient energy consumption.
- iii. Use renewable energy tariffs.
- iv. Implement a 'Switch Off Policy for lights and equipment not needed/ not in use.
- v. Use low energy lighting.
- vi. Use energy efficient equipment.

3. Workspace

The employer/client will:

- i. Make efforts to minimise waste generation.
- ii. Provide recycling bins. Recycling will be managed correctly.
- iii. Adopt a zero-to-landfill policy.
- iv. Encourage the use of second hand furniture.
- v. Avoid the use of single use items especially plastics.
- vi. Ensure space is shared where possible.

4. Travel

The employer/client will:

- i. Active travel and travel using public transport will be promoted as the first choice.
- ii. Sustainable travel options will be promoted and their use facilitated.
- iii. Taxi companies with electric fleets will be used.
- iv. Electric hire vehicles will be used.
- v. Car sharing will be encouraged and facilitated.
- vi. Flexible working will be allowed.
- vii. Online meetings will be considered as the first option.
- viii. Flying will be avoided.

5. Procurement

The employer/client will:

- i. Ensure suppliers share their environmental commitments and evidence how they meet them.
- ii. Ask suppliers to use the minimum packaging possible and reused packaging.
- iii. Combine deliveries.
- iv. Give preference to hired, reused, reclaimed and recycled materials and products.
- v. Set minimum sourcing standards, e.g certification including BCorp and FSC, human rights, biodegradable/compostable packaging and ingredients.
- vi. Avoid the use of single use items.
- vii. Avoid the use of products and materials that are harmful to the climate, the environment and people.
- viii. Source local.

6. Events

The employer/client will:

- i. Ensure that events are catered vegetarian by default.
- ii. No single-use cutlery and packaging will be used. If unavoidable, all cutlery and packaging must be fully biodegradable and must be disposed of correctly.
- iii. Food waste will be kept to a minimum. Any food remaining at the end of an event should be shared amongst staff or donated to a food charity.

Specific Clauses

As the Sustainability Rider is developed specific clauses could be added for

- **Loans**

- Exhibitions
- Conservation Studio
- Store
- And more ...

Signed: For and on behalf of [Organisation] [Employer] [Client]

By signing this Sustainability Rider, the Employer/Client and [Your name] acknowledge their shared commitment to sustainability and agree to work together to minimise their collective greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impact.

Created by: Lorraine Finch. 14th July 2023

Disclaimer:

Please note that the Sustainability Rider is provided for informational purposes only and is not intended to be a legal document. The author cannot be held liable for any consequences arising from the use, interpretation, or reliance upon the information contained herein. It is highly recommended to consult with a qualified legal professional for any specific legal advice or requirements.

**Attribution- NonCommercial-ShareAlike
4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)**

You are free to:

Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format

Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material

Under the following terms:

Attribution — You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.

NonCommercial — You may not use the material for commercial purposes.

ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original.

No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.