Green BIC Brunch
Focus on Libraries

25th January 2024

@bic1uk #greenbicbrunch

Housekeeping

Questions for speakers

Questions will be invited after the presentation and panel discussion have finished. Please use the “Questions” box to submit your question to the organisers.

Recording

This event is being recorded for BIC to use in its marketing and to allow people who are unable to attend this session today to still enjoy the event later. Attendees will not be identified in the recording.

BIC is a neutral members organization

#greenbicbrunch @bic1uk

What is a Green BIC Brunch?

- Short online sessions
- Dedicated to the book industry supply chain's environmental impact, topics and issues
- Joins the book industry supply chain together
- Highlights steps being taken to make our supply chain greener
- Explores and inspires change in response to environmental challenges
- BIC's Green Promise: https://bic.org.uk/resources/resource-centre/bic-green-hub/bic-green-promise-and-agenda/

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Agenda

12 noon **Welcome and Introductions**
Karina Urquhart, Executive Director, BIC

12.05 pm **IFLA presents: ENSULIB - Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Section**
Harri Sahavirta, ENSULIB Chair 2021-2025, Chief librarian, Helsinki City Library

12.20 pm **CILIP's Green Libraries Partnership and Campaign**
Yvonne Morris, Projects and Programmes Manager, CILIP

12.35 pm **BIC's Designed for Recycling Project**
Simon Crump, BIC's Environmental Consultant

12.50 pm **Working Towards Net Zero at UAL Libraries**
Rowan Williamson, Associate Director, UAL
Karen Carden, Resources & Systems Manager, UAL

1.10 pm **Question & Answer Session**

1.25 pm **Wrap up and Close**

A bit about us

About BIC

BIC (Book Industry Communication Ltd) is at the heart of the book industry, creating standards, delivering best practice and improving margin.

Our Vision

We make the UK book supply chain more efficient by developing standards and encouraging their adoption. We define best practice and connect experts and stakeholders to enable innovation.

If you are in the book industry supply chain, you need to be a member of BIC.

www.bic.org.uk

BIC is the dedicated book industry supply chain organization in the UK and as such, the environment is naturally high on our priorities for 2024 and beyond.

https://bic.org.uk/resources/resource-centre/bic-green-hub/

BIC Green

BIC's Green Supply Chain Committee
https://bic.org.uk/committee-members/green-supply-chain-committee/

BIC's Green Supply Chain Work Plan
(Go to the BIC Green Hub on our website)

One of the 3 founder partners of the
Green Book Supply Chain Alliance (aka GBA):
https://www.greenbookalliance.org/

Over to our first speaker:

PH.D. Harri Sahavirta
ENSULIB Chair 2021-2025
Chief librarian, Helsinki City Library

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IFLA presents:

ENSULIB - Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Section

„Some Accurate Trends in Sustainability in the Library Framework“

PH.D. Harri Sahavirta

ENSULIB Chair 2021-2025
Chief librarian, Helsinki City Library

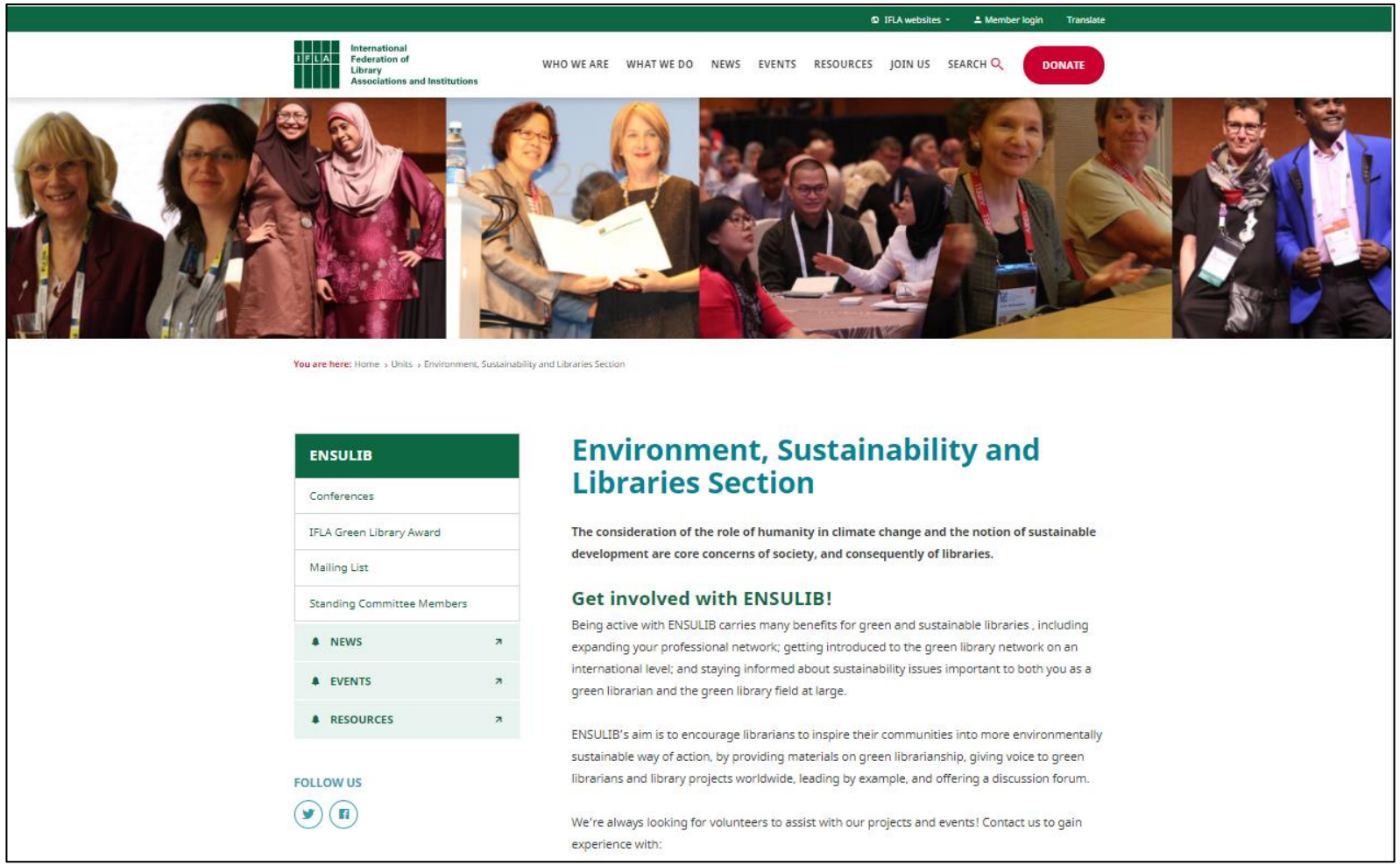
IFLA Section
Environment,
Sustainability and Libraries

Contents

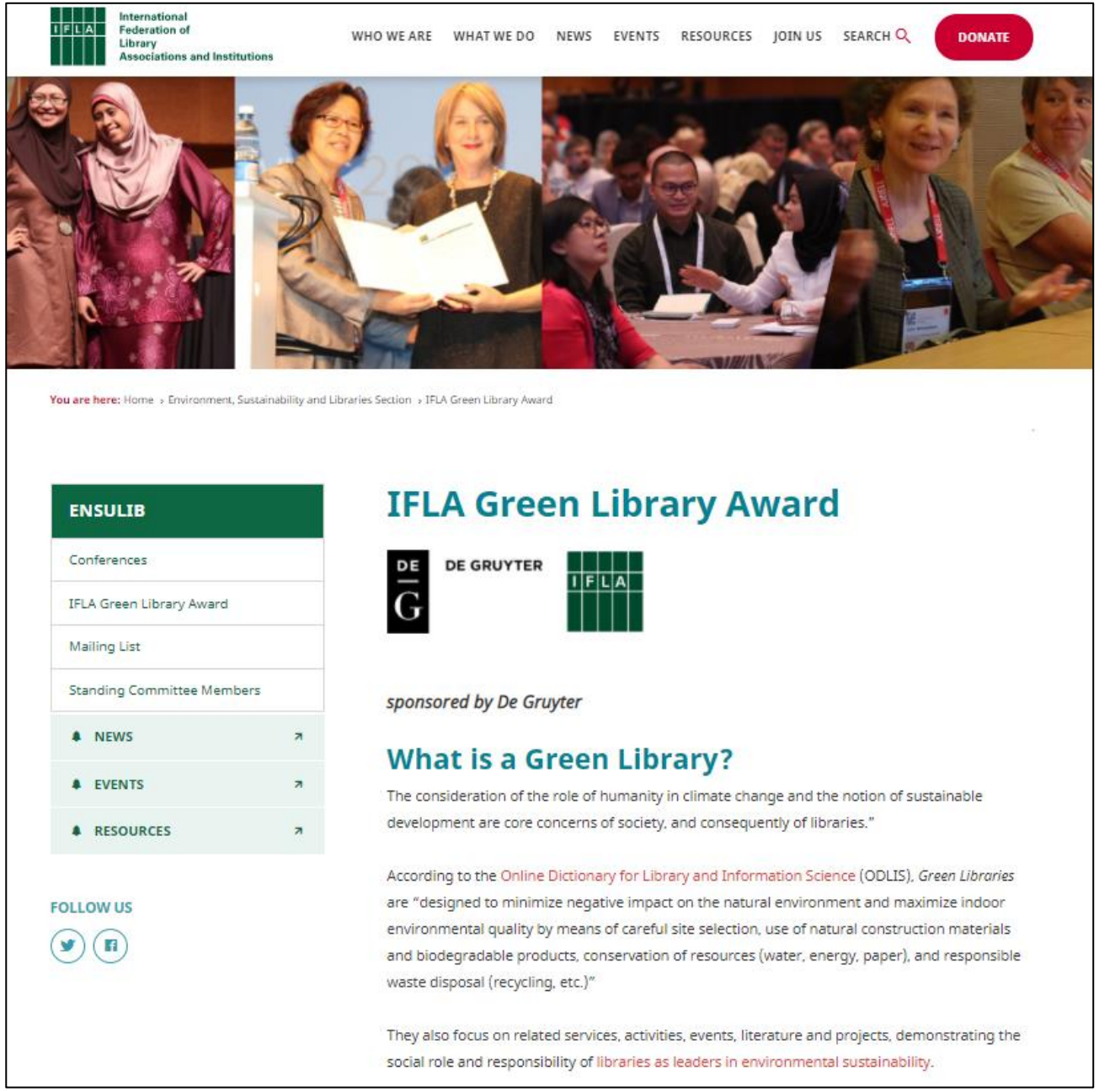
- Trends in sustainability
  - Green Library Buildings and **Carbon footprint**
  - Green Library Services
    - Collections, Facilities **and Carbon handprint**
  - Social Sustainability and Environmental Education
    - **United Nations' SDGs**
    - **Reading & Resilience**

ENSULIB - Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Section

https://www.ifla.org/units/environment-sustainability-and-libraries/



- SIG since 2009; transition to a section 2021
- 98 section members – institutions, associations and private persons
- 20 elected Standing Committee members, including 3 officers
- Webpages, Newsletter, Social Media



ENSULIB - Projects

- IFLA Green Library Award 2016-
  - To encourage and inspire green libraries
  - To create criteria for green libraries
  - Award 2024 on going

Why should we? Is it really our business?

The free rider problem:

Bad boys are responsible for great damages, so good guys don’t need to avoid little harms.

How to reach anything without taking the first little step?

Libraries should act as responsible actors do. Every little deed increases/decreases the outcome: little drops of water make a mighty ocean

→ **A call for action!**

What could we do? We can not save the world!

Library as a playing ground where one can familiarize with, or practice, new way of consuming

New economy in a small scale

Library as a laboratory: testing and developing new intrastructure

Let us begin with the building

At first, the focus was clearly on the building

+ green office principles

+ environmentally friendly routines, like waste management

The green library movement – green library buildings

The green library movement was founded by architects and the emphasis was clearly at library buildings and green office principles.

- Location
- Energy efficiency, heating and cooling
- Lighting
- Sorting waste
- Reuse and circulating

How to save energy (and money) while building environmentally friendly libraries

Advantages: **Neat criteria for ecocertificates - easy to measure** (more or less)

Green library buildings – Carbon footprint

The environmental impacts of the library building are remarkable – the **carbon footprint** of libraries consist mostly emissions from the building.

In Finland: 13 libraries of different sizes and from different parts of Finland participated in the carbon measurements in 2020 (data 2019).

In 2023, there were 11 libraries.

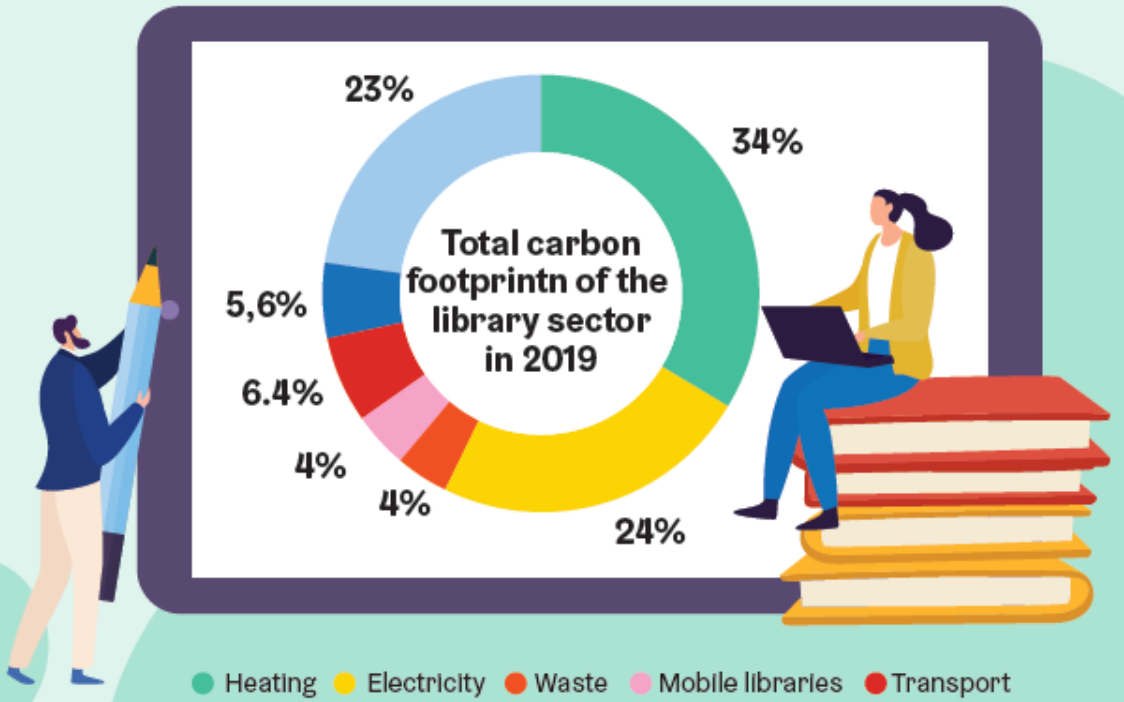
Carbon footprint /public libraries in Finland (2019)

The carbon footprint of your library

The carbon footprint of your library is very moderate, on average 32 tonnes of CO_2e – this corresponds to the annual emissions of 3130 Finns.

The majority of library emissions arise from the building itself and its daily activities: heating, electricity and waste management account for more than 60 per cent of all library emissions.

In other respects, library activities are environmentally friendly: the share of material and other purchases is approximately 25% of the emissions. Material transportation, mobile libraries and commuting account for 16% of the emissions.



'Yleisten kirjastojen ympäristötietoisuus 2020-luvulle'
Bringing environmental awareness of public libraries to the 2020s) project

The Carbon Footprint of Finnish Public Libraries 2022

All library functions together gives the total carbon footprint of 101 722 tCO2e.

The total footprint corresponds to the annual carbon footprint of 9 786 average Finn.

In 2020: 32 000 tCO2e

KIRJASTO
BIBLIOTEK
LIBRARY

Carbon footprint – some remarks

Energy consumption (heating & electricity) is the main source for emissions – but facilities are not under libraries' responsibility (property sectors).

→ cutting the emissions are tied to decisions made by the city / university = **interrelatedness** – acting in a network!

…but what about the great difference?

One must select **what is taken into the calculations**: *available* and *relevant*, *measurable* data. What is included and what is excluded?

= sufficiently accurate information – if no exact data attainable.

2019: No accurate data available for the emissions of servers or data transfer (= *digital footprint*) – or even how these should be calculated.

2022: Scope 3: ICT, cleaning, and office services make a remarkable percentace of emissions

12 % in small library

27 % in big libraries

→ The emissions from the building (scope 2) form a more modest percentace

(58 % in small libraries ja 11 % in big libraries)

The carbon footprint is not easy to measure!

Green library building… or services?

"We cannot rebuild all the libraries but must learn to run existing libraries in a more environmentally friendly way."

Green buildings are not the whole story:

- Green buildings are extensive and expensive projects, not affordable for all.
- Librarians do not make the decisions on buildings.
- Green building or green office principles are general requirements, not characteristic features of libraries.
- Sorting waste, circulating and reusing is something we all should do.

…so, what about green library services?

Green library services – access to information

Open access to _reliable_ and _updated_ information

Libraries fight for democracy and freedom of speech… and tolerance

So, should we offer all kinds of information, or only reliable, scientific information?

- Libraries should stay **neutral** and should not try to teach what is right or wrong
- Libraries **cannot check all the contents** – practical impossibility
- Historical collections/archives – also misinformation may be worth storing

Has the climate change and the Eco crisis changed the situation?

- There is a very strong scientific consensus, and resistance is politically motivated
- It's a question of the future or survival of humankind (and even more: biosphere)

Green library services – Shared spaces and devices

- Working and learning spaces, common living rooms
- Shared computers, printers, scanners etc.
- Things' libraries

Shared use decreases consumption – one does not need to buy everything

- Is this a real argument? How to measure/confirm it?

→**the sharing economy** &**the carbon handprint**: libraries enable their users to decrease their carbon footprint by adapting sharing (= library as a laboratory, or playground for new economy)

Trends in sustainability – social sustainability

UN Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (2015)

- Tipping point (only now) for IFLA and the library field?
- Paradigm shift: from library buildings to **social sustainability**

States are committed to UN 2030 agenda and the SDGs

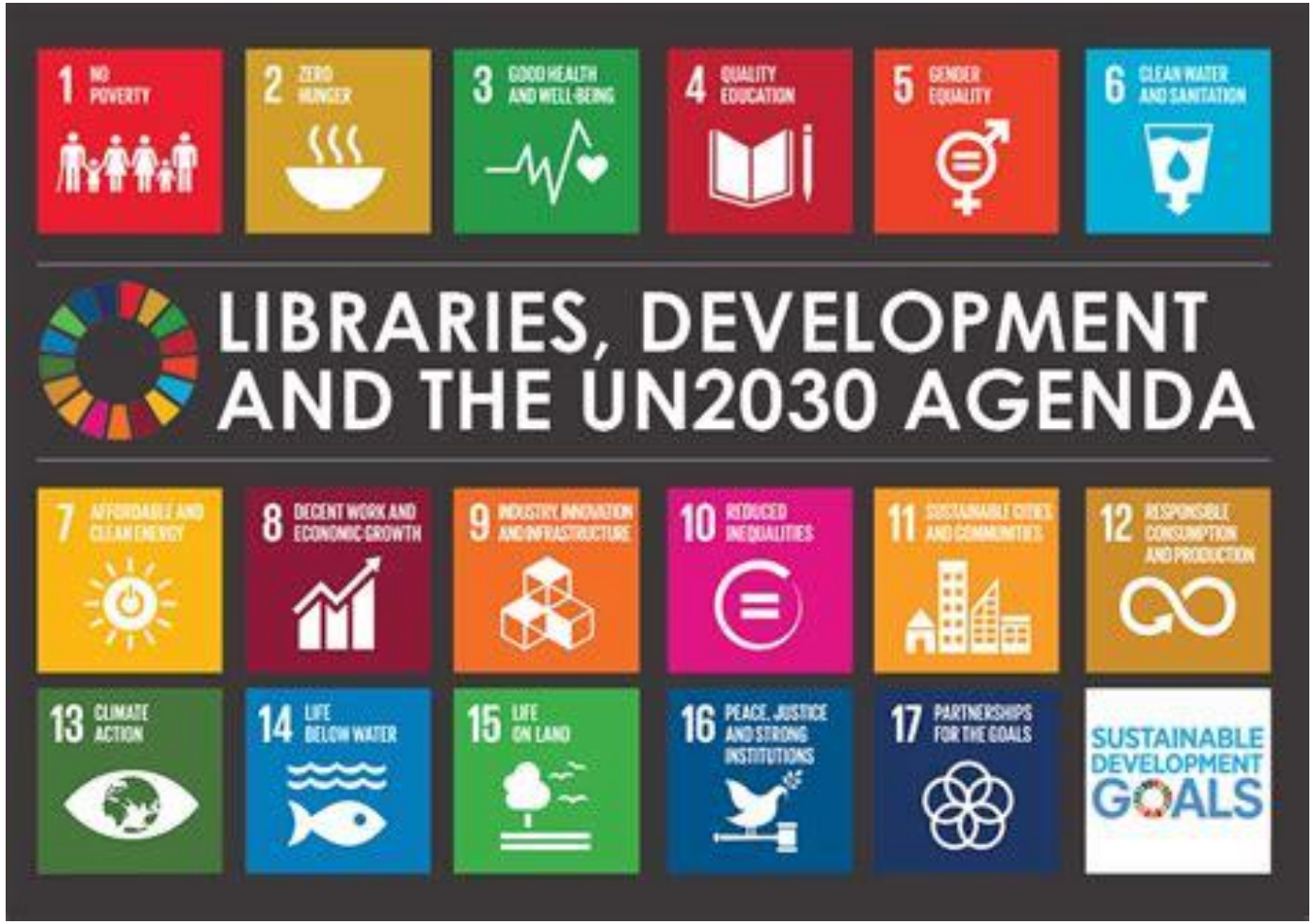
…but so are cities (New York & Helsinki) – voluntarily city reports.

→ Carbon neutrality programs, national and municipal

Suddenly, **it is not librarians who try to tell decision makers about sustainability but decision makers who demand sustainable deeds!** A shared agenda for all operators?

IFLA advocates for libraries to be recognised as essential partners for sustainable development.

IFLA. Powering Sustainable Development https://www.ifla.org/libraries-development



- The goals are **very general**... what do they mean in the library context?

- Is it enough that libraries have information concerning the different goals... or should they promote them – take action?

- **Access to reliable information is missing** – this would be an essential objective to libraries!

- Information is (only) a background condition

SDGs for Finnish public libraries

Public libraries are committed to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals

Our key objectives are:

3. Health and well-being: Reading promotes well-being and library card holders live longer.

4. Good education: Libraries support the reading and lifelong learning of children, young people and adults alike. The environmental aspect is included in all library activities, from storytime to art exhibitions and events.

10. Fighting inequality: Public libraries provide free-of-charge basic service that is available to all. Libraries do not tolerate any form of bullying or discrimination. Libraries are responsible employers.

11. Sustainable cities and communities: Libraries follow municipal environmental guidelines and many libraries have their own environmental programme, certificate or ecological subsidy system.

12. Responsible consumption: Libraries are pioneers in circular economy and act as sharing economy platforms. Libraries offer premises and tools for sharing, reducing the need for consumption.

13. Climate actions: Libraries recycle and conserve energy. Libraries provide up-to-date and reliable information on environmental issues and help to find information.

'Yleisten kirjastojen ympäristötietoisuus 2020-luvulle' (Bringing environmental awareness of public libraries to the 2020s) project

https://sdgs.un.org/goals

KIRJASTO
BIBLIOTEK

New trends in sustainability

According to the Finnish **Public Libraries Act** (2016), public libraries should:

3) promote reading and literature (on sustainability);

- Environmental literacy… resilience by reading fiction: reading opens our minds and increases empathy but can also help us face the future challenges.

How do libraries promote this goal?

6) promote social and cultural dialogue (on sustainable development).

- Libraries as neutral third places where dialogue is possible, meeting places for experts and citizen. Active promotors?

The focus has been on public libraries, hence, some modifications may be needed if we look at academic libraries.

- Academic and University libraries emphasize research and open science - how to support students and researchers and make the access to environmental studies easier.

- National libraries might find preservation and conservation as central… in the (future) era of natural and ecological diasters.

Thank you

Please, visit ENSULIB web page:
https://www.ifla.org/environment-sustainability-and-libraries

Green library website:
Green Library | Libraries.fi

Contact:
Harri Sahavirta, email: harri.sahavirta@hel.fi

Over to our second speaker:

Yvonne Morris
Projects and Programmes Manager, CILIP

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Green Libraries Partnership and Campaign

Green Libraries Campaign

Green Libraries Partnership

Developed in response to COP26 and the long-term climate commitments made by libraries and local authorities to demonstrate Environmental Responsibility.

Funded in Phase 1 by Arts Council England, in partnership with the British Library, Libraries Connected and Julie's Bicycle.

Programme aims:

- Discover and harness the existing work going on in libraries relating to sustainability
- Build and support environmental understanding and action within libraries
- Enable libraries to work with their communities to build environmental understanding and action
- Position libraries at the heart of local environmental programmes including those led by Local Authorities

Programme Activities

Sector Research

Grant Fund

Green Libraries Network

Green Libraries Manifesto

Green Libraries Conference

Green Libraries Partnership

Online Hub

Research

- Policy and plans: Library services in early stages of formalising their environmental commitment
- People: Environmental roles, responsibilities and training not well-developed
- Action: Building energy use, reducing materials use and waste, reducing plastics and sourcing sustainable products and services
- Engagement: Environmentally-themed books and collections, environmental services and learning activities
- Key issues and challenges: dependence on local authorities for bigger changes & investments, access to environmental data, a lack of time, money, knowledge and expertise

Green Libraries Grant Fund

- £40,000 grant fund
- 15 grants awarded, all projects delivered
- 7565 people estimated to have benefited from the projects

- Grants also awarded in Wales and Scotland

www.cilip.org.uk/page/GreenLibrariesGrants

Green Libraries Manifesto

An inclusive initiative for all libraries to come together towards a shared vision and to lead by example through our own environmental actions.

01 Bring environmental sustainability to the heart of decision making

02 Innovate and evolve

03 Work with our communities

04 Use our voice for more impact

05 Work in partnership

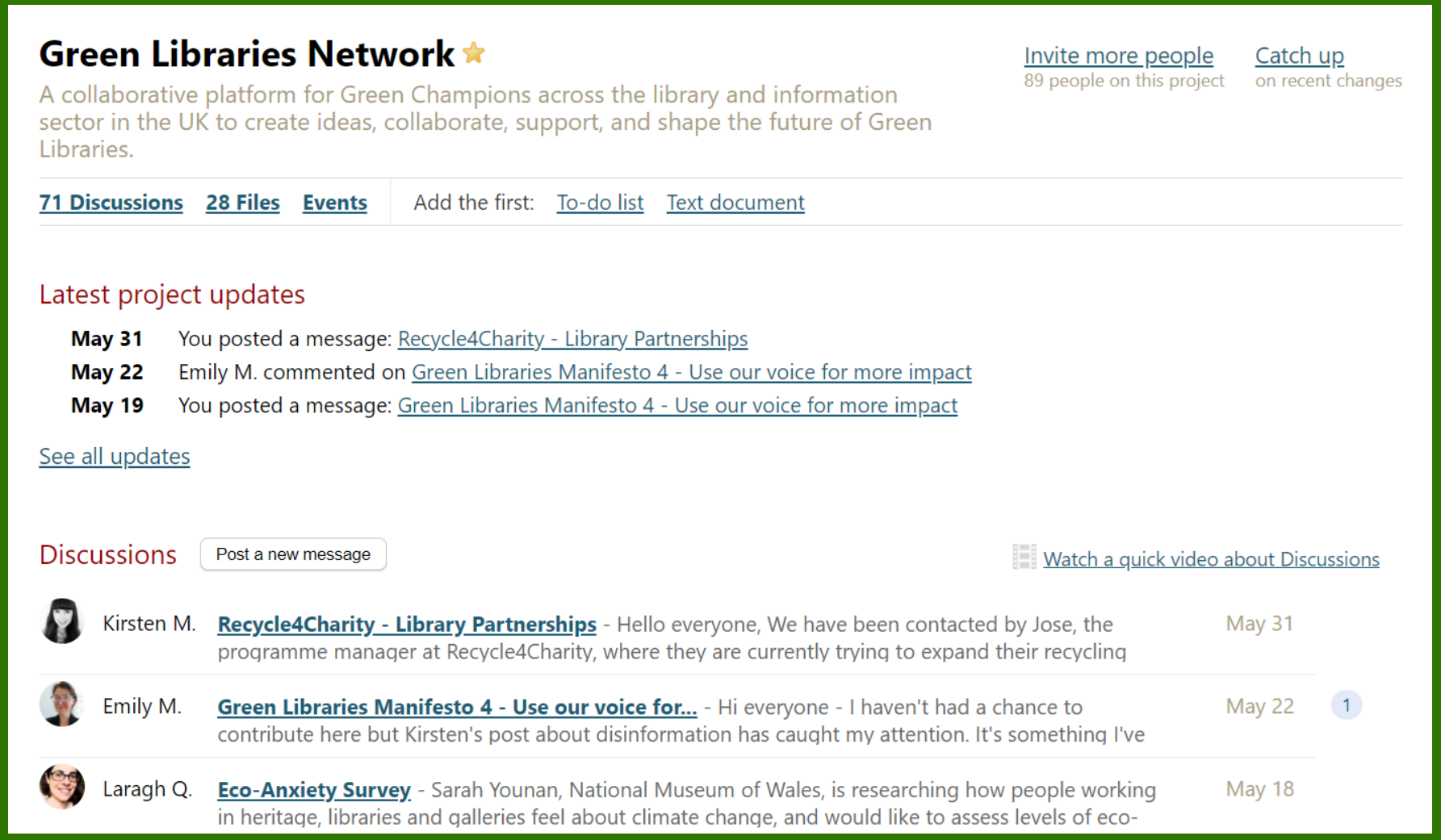
06 Grow and share our knowledge

07 Support young people

Green Libraries Conference

- Inaugural event held at Wellcome Collection, London, March 2023
- Over 130 delegates representing libraries and local government
- Speakers explored reducing the environmental impact of libraries and the role of libraries in supporting communities to address climate change issues
- Keynote speech by Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay, Minister for Arts and Heritage

The Green Libraries Network



A collaborative online platform for Green Champions across LIS (125+ members) to share ideas, support each other, and shape the future of Green Libraries.

Every library a Green Library!

Green Libraries Campaign

#GreenLibrariesCampaign

Green Libraries Campaign

Our long-term ambition is that every library is a Green Library!

We are working towards this ambition by:

- Promoting the role of libraries in addressing climate change and environmental sustainability
- Developing a cross-sector data and evidence base
- Growing the Green Libraries Network and the wider network of green champions
- Growing the grant fund to create more opportunities for libraries to innovate
- Actively adding new partners

We are championing climate activism and sustainability across UK libraries to benefit the wider public and create lasting change.

Green Libraries Campaign

#GreenLibraries

Let’s Grow Together

Sponsorship opportunities

Green Libraries Campaign

Get Involved!

01 Visit the Green Libraries website **www.cilip.org.uk/GreenLibraries** and have a look at the Resource Library

02 Sign the Green Libraries Manifesto on behalf of your library **www.cilip.org.uk/GreenLibrariesManifesto**

03 Join the Green Libraries Network **www.cilip.org.uk/GreenLibrariesGetInvolved**

04 **Support the Green Libraries Campaign!**

www.cilip.org.uk/GreenLibraries

Yvonne Morris MCLIP, Projects and Programmes Manager
yvonne.morris@cilip.org.uk

Green Libraries Campaign

CILIP The library and information association

Over to our third speaker:

Simon Crump
BIC's Environmental Consultant

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Book Industry Communication

Designed for Recycling

Simon Crump 24 January 2024

BIC – Book Industry Communication Ltd

- The book industry's supply chain organisation
- Various committees
- Green Supply Chain Committee (GSCC)
  - Created the Green Supply Chain Committee Work Plan

BIC's Membership

BIC Green Supply Chain Committee Projects

- Completed project
  - Environmental Accreditation Badges
- Current projects
  - Offsetting Schemes Guidance
  - Industry Sustainability Progress Reporting
  - **Designed for Recycling**

Designed for Recycling Project

- The project is split into three parts
- Part 1 – Life Cycle Assessment – completed
- Part 2 – Initial Design to Manufactured Book – due to publish final report January 2024
- Part 3 – Manufactured Book to End-of-life

Designed for Recycling Project Part 1 – Life Cycle Assessment

- The main points from the final report are:
  - Closed loop of books that are not sold or returned
  - Anecdotally returns are between 10 and 30%
  - 87 to 90% of all returns are pulped
  - Printers are either recycling their waste or it is disposed of under government regulations
  - Warehouses and distributors working paperless, and recycling or reusing packaging materials
  - Freight forwarders recycling all that they can from shrink-wrap to containers being used for offices or housing
  - Libraries removing the outer extra plastic added to books, responsible recycling of old books
  - Recycling books from home – still an area for improvement, form what is a book to what can be recycled

Designed for Recycling Project Part 1 – Life Cycle Assessment

- Innovation – areas being looked at include
  - Removal of plastic from packaging, although paper is not always the best option
  - Reduction of the use of plastic across the whole supply chain
  - Reducing lamination and finish waste where possible
  - Sustainability at the forefront of book design
  - Educating people how they can recycle books from home
  - Greater use of rail transport in the EU for shipping books
- Conclusions
  - Closed loop 100% recycled
  - Sold books more work needs to be done
  - Very hard to get actual figures, hence providing percentages
  - The whole book can be recycled, but contaminates need to be removed

Designed for Recycling Project Part 2 – Initial Design to Manufactured Book

- Scope and deliverables
  - Looking at design to optimising book recycling and sustainability aspects of printing
  - The deliverables will be practical examples, hints and tips and suggestions as how this can be done
- Topics covered in the final report
  - Sustainable fonts
  - Rationalisation of trim sizes and paper types
  - Balance between recycled and virgin papers – based on carbon footprint
  - Extents and printing in even workings
  - Materials used in the manufacturing of books
  - Different options to laminations and foils

Thank you

Simon Crump
BIC Environmental Consultant
Simon.crump@bic.org.uk

Designed for Recycling Part 1 Report
BIC-Designed-for-Recycling-Project-Report-Part-1.pdf

BIC's Green Hub
Welcome to BIC's Green Hub - Book Industry Communication

info@bic.org.uk

Book Industry Communication

bic.org.uk

@bic1uk

020 4551 1570

The Book Industry's Supply Chain Organisation – UK & Ireland

Over to our fourth and fifth speakers:

Rowan Williamson
Associate Director, UAL

Karen Carden
Resources & Systems Manager, UAL

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ual:

Working towards Net Zero at UAL Libraries

Rowan Williamson, Associate Director

Karen Carden, Resources & Systems Manager

UAL | Jan 2024

Being a social purpose University

Going Green

Going Greener…

ual:

The challenge

How do you drive change?

Massively engaged staff with social justice concerns

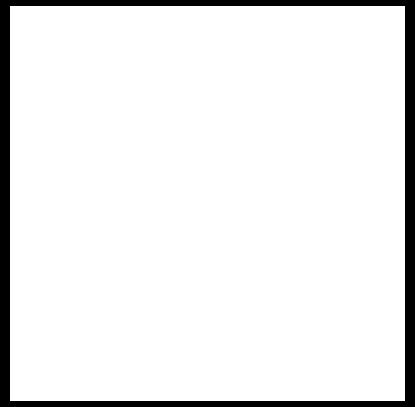
Geographically dispersed

Chief social purpose officer

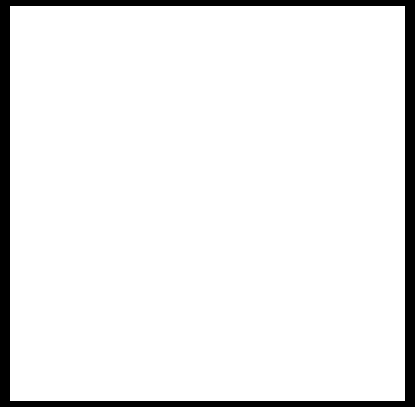
Big organisation full of bureaucratic processes

Activists and creatives

Makers and generators of ‘things’



What we did in libraries…



Climate systems mapping

- Horizon scan on our approved suppliers list and catalogues for ‘preferred’ options list of purchases e.g. bamboo pens not plastic
- Embedding sustainability and climate emergency into user education via the subject libguides, and standalone resources guides on the topic
- Terrace gardens, seed swaps and hands on making workshops
- Recycled paper notebooks for students made from discarded printer paper
- Publish/posters on how many trees used by the printers each month
- Battery rechargers

Staff engagement in libraries

- Workshops
- Local action plans
- Sustainability champions
- MS team site for a ‘community of practice’ - resource sharing and freecycle sites
- Dedicated strand in the staff development rolling programme
- Joining up action across the organisation
- Create links to climate emergency network and Director of sustainable operations for joint projects and funding bids

ual:

Story

Climate Action Plan case study: Collections combatting the Climate Crisis

Written by
Collections Action Group

Share story

The resources

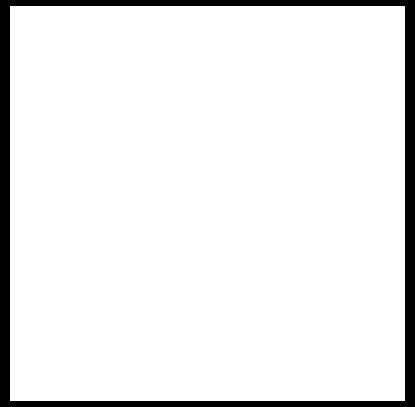
Declaring an emergency - this resource shares some of the reports and guidelines published by key organisations in the museum, library, archive and gallery sectors. It lists some of the networks you might join to find out more.

Activism - these resources explain how to cultivate an activist approach when tackling the climate crisis. They ask how collections can become catalysts for change and focal points for community building.

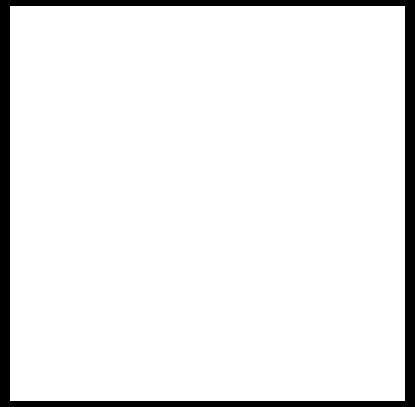
Collecting - this resource explores what and how to collect in a climate crisis, from records of the climate emergency, to activist art or work that evidences sustainable materials and processes.

Processes and practices - museums, galleries, archives and libraries need to challenge every aspect of their professional practice if they are to move to more sustainable models of working. These resources will help you think about everything you do from loans to storage conditions.

We hope you will find these resources useful and that you will add new ones so we can all play a part in combating climate change.



What we do next…



Challenging assumptions

Big immovable objects…

- Creating a narrative
- Accountability - Data and evidencing impact
- What do we stop doing V what do we do differently

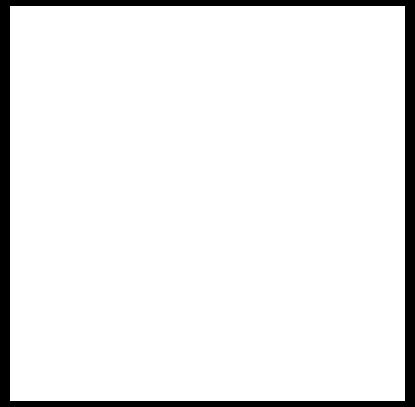
Practical examples

- Awareness & dissemination of supply chain initiatives
- Procurement – collective, local
- Collections
- Delivery services
- Disposal

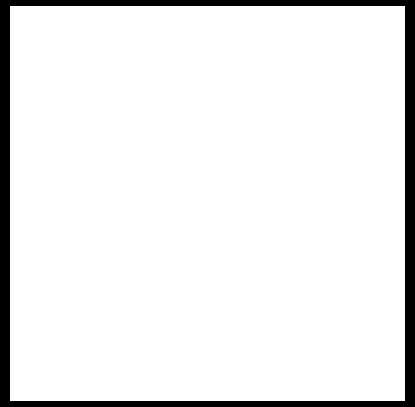
ual:

Read more

- https://www.arts.ac.uk/about-ual/social-purpose
- https://www.arts.ac.uk/about-ual/climate-action-plan
- https://www.arts.ac.uk/about-ual/climate-action-plan/stories/collections-combatting-the-climate-crisis



Questions?



Q & A Session

Please put any questions you may have in the “Questions” box

Thank you for attending

BIC Green Hub: https://bic.org.uk/resources/resource-centre/bic-green-hub/

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