

We The Curious declares a climate emergency – impact statement

05/06/19

Today on World Environment Day, We The Curious pledges to become carbon neutral by 2030. The aim of the declaration is to inspire both organisations and individuals to take action.

Through a combination of technological and behavioural measures we have reduced our energy consumption across site by 28% in the last 9 years, and by no longer running an ice rink this will become 31%.

Chris Dunford, Head of Sustainable Futures for We The Curious said:

“Climate change is a serious threat to our society and so we need to take positive action now. As an educational charity, we recognise that we have a responsibility to operate as sustainably as we can, and we have an important role in empowering and supporting our visitors to explore how they can make a difference themselves – providing a bridge between the science and the public. Working in collaboration with other organisations through the Bristol Green Capital Partnership we can hopefully engage and inspire people to take action and make a difference.”

What we've done:

The decision to declare a climate emergency represents the next step in a sustainability journey that we have been on since 2010, with the following initiatives already in place:

- A phase change tank that ‘recycles’ and redistributes heating and cooling, installed as part of the original building renovation in 2000
- Bristol’s largest photovoltaic array installed 2012
- Bristol’s first LED-lit carpark 2013 – and LEDs then rolled out throughout the building
- Beehives introduced 2015
- A series of rolling public art installations onsite that highlight climate disruption since Bristol’s European Green Capital Year in 2015
- Our two biggest electricity supplies have been on 100% renewable tariff since 2016
- Cross-departmental ‘Sustainable Futures Team’ established 2017, working to reduce energy consumption, reduce water use, improve environmental procurement, improve waste management, reduce unsustainable travel, and support biodiversity



- Pollinator hotels on the city centre site installed 2018
- Flush reduction devices installed in 2018, saving 1.7 million litres of water each year
- Through a combination of technological and behavioural measures we have reduced our energy consumption across site by 28% in the last 9 years, and by no longer running an ice rink this will become 31%.
- All public programming in 2019 is climate change themed, with the aim of inspiring visitors to make changes in their lives

Changes that we're going to make immediately:

- We will no longer have an ice rink over the winter period
- All remaining electricity supplies will be 100% renewable within the next 12 months
- No flying within the UK mainland, and carbon offsetting for any other flights
- All products being purchased containing palm oil are certified as sustainable by RSPO

What we'll do by 2030:

- We'll replace all gas ovens on site with electric
- We won't have any gas Bunsen burners
- We'll remove the gas supply from our main building
- We'll swap our two diesel vans for electric
- We'll install more electric vehicle charging points in Millennium Square carpark

For more information, visit <https://www.wethecurious.org/news>

