

Green News

HOME



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Sustainability in Lockdown

Covid-19 and a Creative Climate Community

Welcome to the fifth edition of HOME Green News. This edition has been written from my kitchen table rather than from the bustle of the HOME office.

During the global COVID-19 pandemic, priorities have shifted, daily habits have been overhauled and uncertainties loom. Our sustainability commitments are ongoing, with a full awareness that our actions now impact on the future that we want to see.

With green recovery in mind we're adopting new practices and continuing our creative innovation. Now more than ever we need collaboration, responsibility and positive action. These three things drive change. As Rachel Carson wrote in *Silent Spring* (1962), "In nature, nothing exists alone."

Whilst we might not be able to be in physical contact with one another, we're all connected as a community sharing the same planet. There's no place like HOME. Read on to find out more about what we've been up to during the first six months of 2020.

- Alison Criddle, Projects & Sustainability Coordinator, HOME



HOME's Carbon Literacy trainers delivering to BFI Film Hub North & FAN members in January . Image credit: Fim Hub North

Carbon Leadership

Training for Organisations

Carbon Literacy continues to go from strength to strength. In 2019-20, HOME developed and began delivering Carbon Literacy training for external organisations. The training grows our links across the sector and wider business networks at local, national and international levels.

Delivering Carbon Literacy furthers HOME's leadership in environmental sustainability whilst enabling external organisations to have the skills and confidence to implement carbon reduction initiatives.

The training has also strengthened internal cross-team collaboration and climate action. In 2019-20 HOME trained **110** external individuals from Manchester and beyond. Organisations trained in the first months of 2020 include:

- BFI Film Hub North & FAN network
- Manchester Animation Festival
- Manchester City Council Parks & Events team
- Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
- 1st Street Sustainability forum including Vertigo, Sainsburys, WSP and CBRE site management

We are now working to develop a remote training package to deliver online - watch this space!

Manchester Open

Sustainable Stories

The Manchester Open ran from 18th January until HOME's closure due to COVID-19 in March. It was the most successful exhibition in HOME's history – with over 32,000 visitors experiencing 543 works created by 451 artists.

Alice Wilde, Talent Development Producer in Visual Art at HOME selected three pieces from the Manchester Open 2020 that provoke discussion around sustainability and our environmental impact on the world. On one of our regular #SustainableHOME Fridays where we bring green stories to share with audiences on social media, Alice also took us on an Instagram Stories tour of the exhibition.

You can still experience the Manchester Open [online](#).



Above: *Broken Britain*, Nerissa Cargill Thompson



Sustainable Awards

Local Makers Create Green Prizes

The Manchester Open Awards 2020 at HOME are made by On The Brink Studio in Stockport, home to Gareth Batowski and Elle Brotherhood. The shape of the awards is inspired by the frontage of HOME. It was our wish to provide an artwork and functional object in exchange for the hard work of the winning entrants; not simply a trophy but a desirable item with a story and meaning attached. It is formed from Manchester Black Poplar, ancient bog oak and beeswax from HOME's honeybee hives.

Above: Gareth creating the awards at On the Brink's studio.
Below: the completed awards. Images: Elle Brotherhood



Arts Council England

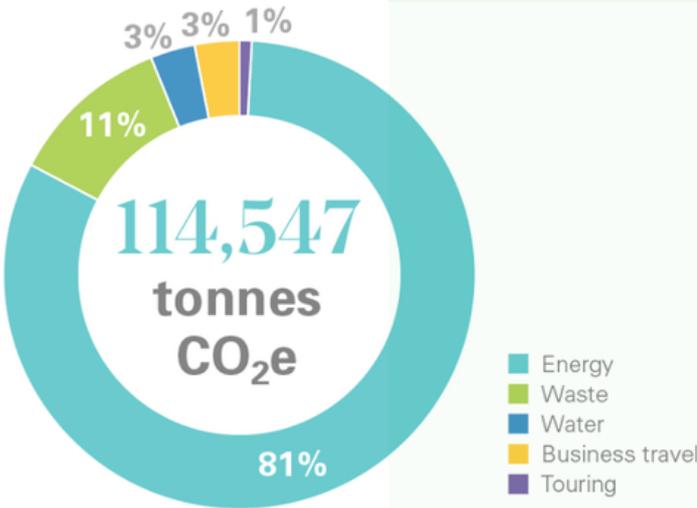
Annual Environmental Report

In January, Arts Council England published its annual [environmental sustainability report](#) for the sector for 2018.19. The sector's emissions are calculated by Julie's Bicycle with National Portfolio Organisations reporting through the Creative Green [carbon calculating tool](#).

Key findings include an increase in organisations making sustainable energy choices and a change in business communications, actively promoting sustainable initiatives and alternatives. A newly emerging creative ecology with sustainability is powering creative expression.

The footprint paved the way for environmental responsibility to be one of four key investment principles of ACE [Let's Create 2020-30 strategy](#).

In 2018-19, 747 NPOs or 89% reported on impacts across 646 venues, 508 offices, 105 events, 256 tours and 76 productions. The total carbon footprint of 114,547 tonnes CO₂e is based on the most commonly reported impacts (energy, water, waste, business travel and touring). HOME contributed 1773 tonnes CO₂e.



Source: [Arts Council England: Sustaining Great Art & Cultural Report 2018.19](#)

WE MAKE TOMORROW

Julie's Bicycle



We Make Tomorrow

Julie's Bicycle Symposium

On 26th February the Environmental team attended Julie's Bicycle's [We Make Tomorrow #ClimateEmergency](#) at the Royal Geographical Society. The symposium brought together environmental sustainability leads from across the UK's cultural sector alongside climate scientists and a diverse range of panel members including artists, activists and young people to share best practice and consider what the sector's roles can be in driving carbon reduction, tackling the net zero challenge and inspiring action through leadership and programming

ahead of the COP26 climate talks in November. In light of COVID-19, COP26 has been postponed until 2021, however the sustainable momentum continues to grow. The event highlighted the need for collaboration, accountability and direct carbon reduction in every area of the sector's activities.

For HOME's Building & Environmental Manager Debbie Bell, a meaningful action is to cut travel emissions by digitally attending future events. She says that "a positive from lockdown has been the effective adaptation to distanced working, paving the way for low carbon participation and innovative ways to engage with our networks."

Earth Day 2020

Climate Action Campaign

On 22nd April [we celebrated the 50th Earth Day](#), with an online campaign and series of events and features. With social and environmental responsibility at the heart of what we do, we wanted to mark the day's theme of 'climate action' and provide some insight into HOME's commitments and invite some positive actions whilst the majority of us were sheltering in place due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Activities included an Instagram Live Q&A with Digital Communications Manager Nazma Noor and Projects & Sustainability Coordinator Alison Criddle.

Staff and volunteers got involved too, sharing snapshots of their home environments and how they are engaging with nature during lockdown. Contributions including everything from goat herds in Australia to potato 'chitting' and bug hotels in South Manchester! The full article is available [here](#).

We have a multi-talented team here at HOME, including our Head of Marketing Ruth Jones who shared her sustainable sewing projects, repurposing fabric and clothing to create something new. Read the piece [here](#).

Earth Day at HOME in numbers:

- 375** people tuned into HOME Instagram Live Q&A
- 559** page views for Earth Day articles on HOME website
- 7,302** Instagram impressions for 2 grid posts
- 18,698** Facebook impressions for 5 posts
- 35,898** Twitter impressions for 8 posts



Sun Over West MacDonnell Ranges (detail), Beverley Coleclough, exhibited in the Manchester Open

Green Screens

Sustainable Independent Cinema

In February, we were interviewed by the Independent Cinema Office to shed light on HOME's leadership in sustainability and share our learning with other exhibitors.

The [interview](#) highlights some of the ways in which HOME's commitments to climate action are realised through collective and individual responsibilities across the entire team.

In addition, HOME also features as a case study for best sustainable practice in ICO's [Green Cinema Toolkit](#), created in partnership with Julie's Bicycle.

The Toolkit emphasises the important role that cinemas have in inspiring, provoking and challenging audiences in uniquely impactful ways. Cinemas are also important community hubs, bringing individuals and organisations together to create opportunities for positive change - a principle that's embedded across HOME's organisational values and programming.

Our Zero Carbon City

2020-2025 Carbon Reduction

In Spring, Manchester City Council formally endorsed the [Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-2025](#). The framework outlines a city-wide action plan to reduce direct carbon emissions (from homes, workplaces and transport systems) by 50% over the next five years, while preparing Manchester to deal with the impacts of climate crisis, improve the health and well-being of the population, and keep the city growing. Read the full announcement [here](#).

HOME is actively committed to this target, with our CEO Dave Moutrey as Manchester City Council's Director of Culture to lead action across the sector.

As well as strategies for businesses, the framework identifies [15 key action areas](#) for individuals to get involved and take responsibility for carbon reduction.

The actions shared by HOME staff for Earth Day demonstrate our team's commitment to driving change in each aspect of their lives, not just at work. From supporting biodiversity by creating back yard habitats for pollinators, to reducing waste by repurposing fabric to eliminate single use cosmetic waste, these daily practices are fantastic examples of positive change.

We'll continue to drive the carbon reduction campaign as we develop our action plan.



Above: Reusable cosmetic cotton pads made by Ruth Jones, Head of Marketing

Left: Cornerhouse Publications & Box Office Assistant Claire Dorsett's back yard featuring vegetables grown in repurposed guttering

5 actions you can do today:

- [Calculate](#) your carbon footprint
- [Switch](#) to renewable energy
- [Eat](#) seasonally
- [Change](#) your bank
- [Take](#) active travel

HOME Hives Welcome Spring

Beekeeping 2020

When we closed our doors in March, we left our rooftop residents behind as HOME's custodians. At the start of May, HOME apiarists were able to inspect the hives for the first time this season. After a bit of a struggle to get into the boxes (prising through eight weeks' worth of propolis, AKA bee superglue, requires some muscles), we were thrilled to see lots of pollen and honey stores collected by busy foraging bees during the sunny Spring days.

We're over the moon that the bees made it through their second winter. You can see the hives live via the [beecam](#).



Above: Detail of new honeybee brood cells
Below: HOME hives inspection in May 2020



Green June 2020

Annual Campaign Returns

From 5 - 19 June 2020, we'll be holding our environmental sustainability awareness campaign through our digital channels. After the fantastic success and feedback of 2019, Green June has become an annual fixture in the HOME schedule.

Launching on [World Environment Day](#), this year we'll be promoting positive action and inviting you to share your stories with us. This year's World Environment Day theme is Time for Nature so we'll be sharing more about the HOME bees and how we can all support biodiversity to care for our planet.

Join us as we delve into green programming, share our sector collaboration stories, provide tips for change and challenge you with carbon reduction actions. Get involved by following our social media channels and looking out for announcements on our website. We look forward to hearing from you.

Continue to follow us to find out more about green recovery at HOME

Issue 6 coming December 2020

Visit: homemcr.org/green

Contact: environmental@homemcr.org

#SustainableHOME