

Sustainability Statement

Approved on 01.02.16 by Sybil Crouch, Head of Cultural Services, Taliesin Arts Centre, Swansea University.

The Centre has as its mission statement, agreed by Senate in its Forward Plan of 2013: *The Egypt Centre aims to collect, interpret and care for Egyptian archaeological material and related documentation in order to enhance the education and cultural life of Wales and beyond, now and in the future.*

This makes explicit the Egypt Centre's long-term goal.

The Egypt Centre supports the University's Sustainability Policy (produced 2012) which can be found here:

<http://www.swansea.ac.uk/sustainability/policy/>

In the policy Swansea University states its aims to:

1. Minimise greenhouse gas emissions from University operations.
2. Reduce the consumption of primary raw materials (including fossil fuels, water and energy)
3. Encourages sustainable travel practices by staff, students and visitors.
4. Encourage and demonstrate sustainable approaches to the built environment in our construction, refurbishment and maintenance projects.
5. Promote biological diversity on sites that the University manages or owns.
6. Minimise waste production and divert it from landfill through increasing re-use, recycling and recovery.
7. Minimise the risk of pollution and environmental damage from incidents and emergencies.
8. Consider sustainability in the procurement of goods and services.
9. Promote education for sustainable development and global citizenship (ESDGC) principles and practice throughout University curricula.
10. Comply with legal and other requirements.
11. Develop and initiate a phased environmental management system (EMS).
12. Promote environmentally responsible behaviours throughout the University Community.
13. Support staff and students engaged in activities that help create a more sustainable future.
14. Work with the students Union to enhance the sustainability of the University.
15. Set, monitor and review relevant objectives and demonstrate continuous improvements.

The Centre is reliant on the Estates Department and Finance procurement directives, thus can only play a small, direct role in the above. For example, lighting, heating, etc. is outside the Centre's control and the Centre must use University approved suppliers for most equipment and services.

However, we have, and can, take some practical steps to improve sustainability. These include:

- In the last 10 years new display cases have been procured which allow display flexibility. Any new display cases will be purchased with flexible display in mind.
- The Centre discourages the illegal trade in antiquities through ethical training of volunteers and students in museum ethics (see also Collections Development Policy). Ongoing.

- Desks, cupboards, etc. used in the Centre are second-hand. Ongoing.
- Files and other stationary is acquired second-hand where possible. Ongoing.
- Environmental controls in the galleries are for the safety of the objects rather than the comfort of visitors. Ongoing.
- We encourage visitors to use public transport where possible but recognise that this is not always possible (see Access Statement)
- We encourage staff and volunteers to use digital communication rather than paper where possible. Ongoing.
- The Centre aims to ensure the long-term survival of its collection. Indeed, preservation of the collection is one of the three core aims in its Forward Plan (2013).
- The Centre develops the abilities of staff, volunteers and visitors through education and widening participation (two of the three core aims agreed and described in the Forward Plan 2013 are those of Widening Participation and Education). It thus contributes towards the social and economic sustainability of Wales and beyond. Its local and national audiences are also described in its Forward Plan 2015.
- Because the Centre has a small team, several staff can carry out multiple roles (see Succession Plan 2015). This helps the sustainability of the museum under economic crisis.
- The Succession Plan (2015) identifies core activities.
- The Centre makes great use of volunteers, without which it would be unable to carry out services offered. This too helps economic sustainability.
- The Centre recognises the importance of volunteers through its appointment of a volunteer manager.
- The Centre aids the sustainability of academic departments by provide support through: ensuring availability and interpretation of the collection; teaching; research; etc.
- Loan agreements with other institutions and individuals (See Collections Development Policy 2015) ensure that more artefacts are available for the public than would otherwise be available.
- The collection catalogue is online, together with additional information on the collection. This helps ensure that visitors do not have wasted trips to the museum.
- The Centre aims to produce a professional and successful service with as few resources as possible. So, for example, despite having a much smaller budget than many other museums providing similar services it: provides advice to national museums on Egyptology and volunteering; is the core museum for Wales and the South West subject specialist network for Egyptology and the Sudan (ACCES); regularly publishes Egyptological and museological papers; attracts academic and public interest internationally; etc.
- The Centre aims to respond to changing needs through user surveys (Outlined in the Forward Plan 2013).