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Swansea University
Prifysgol Abertawe

The Egypt Centre Sustainability Policy

Name of museum: The Egypt Centre

Name of governing body: Special Collections Executive Group, SU Libraries, Swansea University

Date on which this policy was approved by governing body: 31 Oct 2019

Approval given by: Steve Williams, Head of Libraries, Archives, Culture, and Arts

Policy Review Procedure: The Sustainability Policy will be published and reviewed at least once every five years

Date on which this policy is due for review: 31 Oct 2024

Sustainability Statement

The Centre has as its mission statement:

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 Strategy (2016–2020) and Policy (2017):

<https://www.swansea.ac.uk/sustainability/>.

In the policy, Swansea University commits to:

1. Minimise greenhouse gas emissions from University operations.
2. Reduce the consumption of primary raw materials (including fossil fuels, water, and energy).
3. Encourage 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 waste from landfill through increasing re-use, recycling, and recovery.
7. Protect the environment through prevention of pollution and other specific commitments relevant to the context of the organisation.
8. Consider sustainable and ethical procurement of goods and services.
9. Promote education for sustainable development and global citizenship (ESDGC) throughout University formal and informal curricula.
10. Fulfil compliance obligations.
11. Promote and support environmentally responsible behaviours throughout the University community.
12. Work with the Students Union and other partners to enhance the sustainability of the University.
13. Ensure that the University builds resilience to climate change risks.
14. Set, monitor, and review relevant objectives and demonstrate continual improvement in our environmental performance

The Egypt 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 Museum's control and staff 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 13 years new display cases have been procured, which allow lower energy usage and display flexibility. Any new display cases will be purchased with sustainability and flexible display in mind.
- The Egypt Centre discourages the illegal trade in antiquities through ethical training of volunteers and students in museum ethics (see also Collections Development Policy).

- We use recycled furniture and equipment as well as stationery where possible.
- Environmental controls in the galleries are for the safety of the objects rather than the comfort of visitors.
- We encourage visitors to use public transport where possible but recognise that this is not always possible (see Access Policy).
- We encourage staff and volunteers to use digital communication rather than paper where possible.
- The Egypt Centre aims to ensure the long-term survival of its collection. Indeed, preservation of the collection is one of the three core aims.
- The Egypt Centre develops the abilities of staff, volunteers and visitors through education and widening participation (two of the three core aims are those of Widening Participation and Education). It thus contributes towards the social and economic sustainability of Wales and beyond.
- Because the Egypt Centre has a small team, several staff can carry out multiple roles (see Succession Plan for core activities). This helps the sustainability of the museum under economic crisis.
- The Egypt Centre makes great use of volunteers, without which it would be unable to carry out services offered. This too helps economic sustainability.
- The Egypt Centre recognises the importance of volunteers through its appointment of a Volunteer Manager.
- The Egypt Centre aids the sustainability of academic departments by providing support through: ensuring availability and interpretation of the collection, teaching, research, etc.
- Loan agreements with other institutions and individuals (see Collections Development Policy) 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 can access information from home.
- The Egypt Centre aims to produce a professional and successful service with as few resources as possible.
- The Egypt Centre aims to respond to changing needs through user surveys and visitor feedback.