CILIPS

Scotland's library and information professionals

The CILIP Scotland

Carbon Neutrality

Plan

Progress Update

August 2022

#CILIPSGoGreen

Calculating CILIP Scotland's Carbon Footprint

To calculate, we used two freely available carbon calculators: one from the [World Wildlife Fund](#) for individuals and one from the [Gallery Climate Coalition](#), specifically for GLAM sector organisations. Key points from the WWF calculator included:

- Food - whether at work or at home, Carbon Footprints are reduced by vegan/vegetarian locally produced food and increased by takeaways, imported items and high levels of food waste.
- Travel - private vehicle use exacerbates Carbon Footprints (although the size and fuel type of vehicle are also important) and a priority is minimising commuting time overall. Flights increase Carbon Footprints and a priority is to minimise them/reduce their impact by financial carbon offsetting as a last resort.
- Space - in a home or office environment, issues to consider include the number of rooms, how they are heated and the baseline temperature, as well as whether electricity is provided by a company with a green tariff. Technology should be turned off, not left on standby during non-use. Small changes that can improve Carbon Footprints include energy saving lightbulbs, double glazing and low flow taps.
- Equipment - buying new mobiles/laptops/appliances has a detrimental impact on Carbon Footprints, with improvements possible through recycling and/or composting.

While not all the points of the Gallery Climate Coalition calculator are relevant to CILIP Scotland operations (e.g. in contrast to art galleries and museums, we very rarely need to package and ship large items), it reinforced the importance of reducing private travel to improve our Carbon Footprint and even calculated exactly what the carbon impact of any given mode of transportation would be.

- Travelling by train to the CILIPS office once a week creates 0.02 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e) in a year, while travelling to and from our Annual Conference in Dundee by train equates to 0.01. Interestingly, this is equal to the same tCO2e produced if a person travelled the 80 miles by car (0.01tCO2e) but purchasing a tank of fuel beforehand increases the total impact of the car journey to 0.09tCO2e. As an organisation, this means that if 150 delegates purchase a train ticket to attend one of our events (for simplicity, assuming an average cost of £20 per ticket) the impact equates to 0.26tCO2e. If 150 delegates all attended by car, however, the carbon impact would be at least 13.5tCO2e.
- Compared with electricity use, [analysis by the University of New South Wales](#) suggests that a hypothetical Zoom meeting with 1000 participants for 1 hour generates a maximum of 37.125KWh, creating 0.01tCO2e. By our own calculations, 100 participants for 7 hours (x 2 for two conference days) therefore equates to no more than 51.8KWh, still creating 0.01tCO2e.
- If we print a low-weight paper item like our conference programme 200 times, this results in 0.02tCO2e.

Find out more about our ongoing library sustainability work in Scotland at [#CILIPSGoGreen](#).

Action Plan Aim 1: make CILIPS events and meetings carbon neutral

Collaborators: Head of CILIPS, CILIPS Membership Officer, the CILIPS Trustee Board, CILIPS Council and CILIPS members

Specific Actions	Measure of Progress	Resources Required	Timeline	Status
Travel - continue hybrid working and identify benefits of all in-person meetings and events	Assess 2022 calendar (now and at end of year)	Website and communications updates; captioning subscription services	6 month review	In progress
Travel - incentivise public transport for in-person meetings/events (with appropriate exceptions)	Anonymized and voluntary delegate survey, including retrospective comparison with last in-person event	Conference programme and expenses form updates	Review after June 2022 conference	At least 1/3 reduction in travel Carbon Footprint
Food - ensure in-person event food is locally produced with minimal packaging and a reduced waste strategy	Record and liaise with venue to retrospectively compare	Communications with venue and members	Review after June 2022 conference	Achieved with delegate ideas for next time
Printing - prioritize digital programmes	Compare number printed and estimated carbon cost from 2021	Communications with members (e.g. invite in advance to opt in for paper copies)	Review after June 2022 conference	>50% reduction

Action Plan Aim 2: make CILIPS travel carbon neutral

Collaborators: Head of CILIPS, CILIPS Membership Officer, the CILIPS Trustee Board, CILIPS Council and CILIPS members

Specific Actions	Measure of Progress	Resources Required	Timeline	Status
Continue hybrid working in 2022	Carbon Calculator of travel compared with previous year	Regular check-ins (e.g. technology needs); CILIPSGoGreen blog on benefits	Every month for 2022	In progress
Sustainable travel into office	Carbon Calculator of travel compared with previous year	Train tickets; liaise with office staff	Every month for 2022	In progress
Offset travel further afield (as a last resort)	Carbon Calculator	Relationships with and ongoing learning from Keep Scotland Beautiful/Creative Carbon Scotland	12 month review	#CILIPS22 residual impact offset

Note on travel: At a recent 'Exploring the Climate Crisis at the National Library of Scotland' workshop (online, 08/12/21), we discovered that transport accounts for 35.6% of Scotland's carbon emissions.

Action Plan Aim 3: make CILIPS resource use carbon neutral

Collaborators: Head of CILIPS, CILIPS Membership Officer, the CILIPS Trustee Board, CILIPS Council and CILIPS members

Specific Actions	Measure of Progress	Resources Required	Timeline	Status
Switch off technology when not in use	Carbon Calculator	CILIPSGoGreen blog	Monthly self-reflection	In progress
Meet with office staff to ask about energy and temperature on site	Carbon Calculator	Meeting with office staff	Within six months	Achieved
Switch to green energy tariffs at home and/or lower temperatures	Carbon Calculator	Research best options	Monthly self-reflection	Achieved
Reduce/recycle existing technology rather than buying new	Log all new items	Recycling point of contact	6 month review	In progress