



Scotland's library  
and information  
professionals

# The CILIP Scotland Carbon Neutrality Plan

## Progress Update

May 2023

## #CILIPSGoGreen

## The CILIP Scotland Carbon Neutrality Plan

To discover the first [CILIPS Carbon Neutrality Plan](#), our [mid-year update from August 2022](#) or our [downloadable template](#) that can be adapted to suit library operations across all sectors, please click the links above or visit the [#CILIPSGoGreen resource collection](#).

As always, our starting point has been to use two freely available carbon calculators to assess our current footprint: one from the [World Wildlife Fund](#) for individuals and one from the [Gallery Climate Coalition](#), specifically for GLAM sector organisations.

We were also inspired by delegate feedback at our 2022 Annual Conference - and [our first ever carbon neutral in-person event](#) - to implement several further environmental changes for 2023, based on our members' recommendations. These included:

- Our first exclusively digital programme (with alternative formats available for accessibility)
- A reduced food/water waste strategy and a locally-produced vegetarian lunch menu, in conjunction with the Dundee Apex Hotel
- [A car sharing scheme for delegates](#)
- [Signposting to electric car charging points](#)
- Recycled lanyards, [carbon captured name badges](#) (including a tree-planting donation to the Woodland Trust) and other sustainably sourced items – including the now iconic CILIPS library garden seeds! – in our optional delegate gift bags
- An environmentally friendly [Conference Exhibitor Challenge](#).

Find more details [on the CILIPS blog](#) or scroll below for information about our Action Plan Aims for the rest of 2023.



### 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
1.1 Travel - continue hybrid working and identify benefits of all in-person meetings and events	Assess 2022-23 calendar	<a href="#">Website and communications updates</a> ; captioning subscription services	Annual review	In progress (see reflections below)
1.2 Travel - incentivise public transport for in-person meetings/events (with appropriate exceptions)	Anonymized and voluntary delegate survey, compared with data from 2022	<a href="#">Dedicated padlet page to promote car sharing scheme and signpost to car charging points</a>	June 2023	Padlet created; awaiting delegate feedback
1.3 Food - ensure in-person event food is locally produced with minimal packaging and a reduced waste strategy	Compare conference menus, also informed by delegate feedback	Communication with conference venue; <a href="#">Communication with members</a>	June 2023	In progress with local-produced vegetarian lunch menus for both days of CILIPS23.
1.4 Printing - prioritise digital programmes at CILIPS23	Build on 2022 learning to implement digital-first strategy in 2023	<a href="#">Communication with members</a> ; <a href="#">accessibility awareness training</a>	June 2023	Achieved (0.02 tCO <sub>2</sub> e reduction)

### Reflections

Delegate feedback has been invaluable in highlighting tangible steps that we can take to further grow the sustainability of our Annual Conference. Building on the success of 2022, we were delighted to expand into a 2023 digital-first environmental strategy: maximising efficiency whilst saving resources and energy by no longer printing 200+ ten page full-colour programmes, as well as introducing vegetarian, locally-produced lunches across both conference days.

Post-pandemic, the return of in-person meetings has made it more challenging (but not impossible) for professionals to take control of our travel carbon footprints, which is why we have preserved Action Plan Aim 1.1: committing us to 'identify [the] benefits of all in-person meetings and events'. Happily, the need to articulate not just *what* we are coming together for but *why* has enriched our event planning more broadly - encouraging us to incorporate more collaboration, networking and informal opportunities to connect with colleagues - and we have also witnessed a welcome shift in partner organisations prioritising environmental responsibility, from speakers no longer relying on air travel to more than 100 of them signing up to our [Green Libraries Manifesto](#).

*Kirsten MacQuarrie, CILIPS Membership Officer, May 2023.*

### 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
2.1 Continue hybrid working in 2023	Carbon Calculator of travel compared with previous year	Regular check-ins (eg. technology needs); <a href="#">CILIPSGoGreen blog on benefits</a>	Annual Review	In progress including <a href="#">Scotland's Climate Week blog series</a>
2.2 Sustainable travel into office	Carbon Calculator of travel compared with previous year	Train tickets; liaise with office staff; flexibility and support; partnerships e.g. Sustrans.	Annual Review	In progress
2.3 Offset travel further afield (as a last resort)	Carbon Calculator	Ongoing learning from Keep Scotland Beautiful/Creative Carbon Scotland	Annual Review	Not required so far in 2023.

### 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
3.1 Switch off technology when not in use	Carbon Calculator	CILIPSGoGreen blog	Annual Review	In progress
3.2 Reduce/recycle existing technology rather than buying new	Log all new items	Recycling point of contact; learning from NLS Sustainability Fair and SLIC Lend & Mend.	Annual Review	In progress

### Reflections

Eighteen months after COP26, embedding our Carbon Neutrality Plan Aims into our annual reviews will help the CILIPS team to maintain momentum in how environmental action informs our day-to-day activities, hopefully also inspiring the rest of the sector. Alongside everyday operations, we see an increasingly strong connection between library-led sustainability and our advocacy mission, and we are eager to highlight the link between libraries and climate justice. 2023 will see the first CILIPSGoGreen online conference, taking place during Scotland's Climate Week, and we are also moderating the [Green Libraries Network](#) as a space for Green Champions across LIS to connect, collaborate and amplify diverse voices. Through the unique role that libraries play in society, blending information with community, we believe that they can catalyse both environmental literacy and climate justice. After reflecting further on our progress during the rest of 2023, future iterations of the Carbon Neutrality Plan may make this an aim in its own right.

*KM, May 2023.*