

ENERGY EFFICIENCY: What Can Cultural Organisations Do?

TOP TIPS

1. Get control of your data

You can't manage what you don't measure. It is a legal requirement for large business energy users to have half hourly metres installed. If your organisation has a peak load energy usage over 100 kW, you will need to get a half hourly metre. These are free for small users from your supplier. Having a half hourly metre is also the best way to understand your energy use and make changes to reduce your overall consumption. Doing a night audit can also show you where devices and energy are being drained which could be energy saving opportunities.

"We have 53 sub metres installed across site in our 2014 refurbishment."

Sadler's Wells Trust

2. Get an energy audit

Employing an energy assessor to carry out an audit of your building can help you to understand opportunities to reduce and save energy, and put together an energy action plan.

3. Implement energy efficient technologies into your buildings

In 2020-21, 59% of NPOs had installed energy efficient lighting systems. Lighting has a significant energy consumption, therefore it provides opportunities for energy efficiency and emissions reduction.

4. Take control of your energy generation

Investing in onsite renewable energy generation is one of the best things you can do to reduce your footprint. Assess whether installing an air source or ground source heat pump is an option and whether your roof space or other areas of your site might be suitable for solar thermal or solar PV.

Glyndebourne Opera built their own wind turbine in 2012. Within six years it had paid for itself, and continues to create profit and provide energy security for the organisation.

Between 2012 and 2021 it has generated the equivalent of 105% of the electricity used by the company in that period, resulting in a 50% cut in carbon emissions. Any electricity not



Glyndebourne Opera house & turbine. Photo © Sam Stephenson

5. Work with others to build community owned renewable energy systems

used directly on-site goes back into the National Grid providing clean power to the local community.

Glyndebourne have also signed up to the [Race to Zero Campaign](#), and undertaken a number of other activities aimed at reducing energy consumption including: installation of new, more efficient gas boilers that could reduce gas consumption by 20%, making changes to the air conditioning system to lower energy consumption, replacing auditorium lights with low-energy LEDs, and installing timers and light sensors.

Examples:

- Bristol Music Trust: Are investing in solar PV in their redevelopment, the system will potentially generate 111000KWh.
- Chichester Festival Theatre: Have a ground source heat system where the ROI is approx £8000 per annum during a normal year.
- Sadler's Wells Trust: Invested in solar panels their roof and fly tower during their 2014 refurbishment, they produce approximately 17,000 kWh per year.

Working with other local organisations and groups can be a great way to pool resources for mutual shared benefits. In 2020-21, 10% of NPOs were a part of a community-based or government energy scheme or group.

Knowles West Media Centre have solar panels from Bristol Energy Cooperative (BEC). BEC is a community-owned energy cooperative growing Greater Bristol's local green energy supply, they make the benefits available to all. They develop renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, and help others to do the same.

Examples:

- Museum of London: is part of [Citigen](#) – a district heating system serving the City.
- B:Music: is part of the [Birmingham District Heating Scheme](#).

“Energy communities are a valuable tool in order to accelerate the energy transition and sufficiency in a just and fair way”

Climate Action Network Europe



© Glyndebourne Productions Ltd. Glyndebourne Opera House site and turbine. Photo: James Bellorini

6.
Hire a dedicated energy manager, and recruit voluntary energy champions

Having a dedicated energy manager responsible for monitoring, reporting and evaluating energy use will help you to deliver ongoing energy reductions, support installation and understanding of new systems and technologies, monitor and evaluate their impacts.

In 2020-21, 55% of NPOs formally recognised environmental responsibilities in job roles.

Z-arts have two permanent (CL-trained) staff lead the Green Champions Team which has recently been re-launched post-Covid with an all-staff Environmental Strategy workshop. Three senior managers have now received Carbon Literacy Training (including Chief Executive) and they are hoping to roll out Carbon Literacy Training to the rest of the permanent staff.

Opera North rolled out Climate Literacy training to the majority of their staff during 2020, as well as training staff from Leeds 2023, Leeds Playhouse and Leeds Conservatoire.

7.
Implement science-based targets

Whilst this action requires some expertise and an investment of time, you will be certain that your organisation aligns with the Paris Agreement and global emissions reductions targets.

Currently, 26% of NPOs environmental policies align with science-based targets.

Manchester City aims to be Net Zero by 2038, HOME Manchester, SICK! Festival, Walk the Plank and Z-Arts have aligned their organisational targets to the 2038.

8.
Employ sustainable production and exhibition methods

52% of NPOs have trialled sustainable productions or exhibition methods.

Read about [SS Great Britain's unique approach to energy efficiency](#) and working towards carbon neutral whilst conserving this important heritage site.

For more information about digital impacts see [Environmental Sustainability in the Digital Age of Culture](#).

9.
Switch to a green supplier (procurement)

This is one of the easiest ways to support and invest in renewable energy generation in the UK. However, it is important to look carefully and compare the energy sourcing of the energy supplier. Check that the supplier invests and directly **builds renewable energy** capacity rather than through buying REGOs (Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin) or other loopholes which could be greenwash.