

OUR CLIMATE IS CHANGING

Warmer summers and winters

Average temperatures have increased by around 1°C between 1961 and 2006.

More rain

The annual rainfall rate has risen 27% since 1962

Extreme weather

Unusual weather events have increased in frequency, e.g. 'Beast from the East' and the 2018 Summer heatwave

Changing seasons

The growing season has extended by around 30 days, and there are fewer frosty days.

WHAT IS CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION?

Mitigation

reducing greenhouse gas emissions, e.g. renewable energy use, cycling to work, recycling and most sustainability measures.

Adaptation

a technological, behavioural, managerial, or practical response to the changes in the climate, either already occurring or projected. Not just being able to recover from an extreme event, but to change how we work to become less vulnerable in the future.

HOW IS THE SCOTTISH VISUAL ARTS SECTOR VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE CHANGE?

Physical Risk to Collections:

Lack of ventilation, difficult of interior climate control and poor maintenance ageing and leaky historic buildings could damage work.

Financial Risk:

Lack of funds for retrofit or refurbishment intensify issues of indirect financial loss and increased operational costs from cancelled events.

Disruption of Logistics:

Disruption of power grids, I.T. networks and local and national transportation of visitors, staff and supplies will reduce capacity to operate.



Visual Arts And Climate Change Adaptations In Scotland

2019

KEY TRENDS

There is poor integration of sustainability personnel resource.

Adaptation needs to have the backing of key individuals in leadership, and integrated into the rest of the organisation and its operations, rather than siloed with Green Champions.

Those who are enthused to take action are suffering from information overload.

A key obstacle is not knowing where to start.

Very little activity is currently taking place when it is an urgent concern.

This is part of a larger societal problem in attitude to sustainability and climate change.

Compromise is necessary.

We will have to change the way their societies operate, but currently no one is willing to compromise – there will be no technological or financial solution that will absolve the problem.

There is a general lack of understanding & denial of climate change impacts.

Many are focused on recycling and sustainability and there is a general absence of adaptation knowledge and understanding. Even in the face of flooded buildings, or snowed in offices, many have no awareness of their connection to climate change, or the fact they will get more severe.

Most Visual Arts organisations underestimate the impact of heat.

Scottish cultural associated heat as exclusively positive, but risks from dehydration, sunburn and sunstroke are increasing.

Managerial Adaptation

BE TRANSPARENT ABOUT IMPACTS, vulnerabilities and adaptation with all staff.

CHALLENGE THE NARRATIVE

and communicate strategically to change behaviour and drive adaptation of your organisation. Avoid 'business as usual' preservation ideas: things are going to change.

CREATE AND IMPLEMENT A CLEAR EXTREME WEATHER EVENT DISASTER PLAN

which will safeguard the building, its contents and people inside (and outside), and contingency plans for supplier or audience disruption.

IMPLEMENT A WARNINGS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM,

which is not dependent on one medium of communication (in case of network disruption etc).

EMBED SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT PRACTICE

in all areas of the organisation and source dedicated resource to support this.

INCLUDE CLIMATE CHANGE IN RISK PLANNING, BUSINESS CONTINUITY STRATEGY,

and other organisational long-term goals.

LOOK FOR REFURBISHMENT, RETROFIT AND RELOCATION FUNDING

connected to climate change and financially prepare for climate-related losses.

Practical Adaptation

CREATE GREEN SPACES ON YOUR SITE TO REDUCE HEAT AND FLOOD RISK.

CONSOLIDATE STORED COLLECTIONS TO EASE SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT.

COMPROMISE ON INDOOR CONDITIONS FOR STAFF AND VISITORS

and communicate why these changes are happening.

MONITOR AND MAINTAIN BUILDING CONDITION AND MAKE SHORT-TERM CHANGES

(e.g. maintaining guttering) which minimises ongoing vulnerability and long-term risk.

If possible, retrofit, refurbish or relocate.

CREATE A 'DISASTER CABINET'.

This may include: tools, batteries, hard hats, boots, wellies, goggles, waterproofs, torches, hi-vis, extension leads, buckets.

REGISTER TO USE A CITY OR REGION WARNING SYSTEM IF SUCH EXISTS.

Understand your ongoing local risks.

This research is an exploratory study into the attitudes, impacts and implications for the visual arts sector of expected climate change in Scotland, it provides a series of insights and recommendations for the visual arts and wider cultural sector.

#GreenArts

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