Oxford City Council – Environmental Reporting Year 1

In May 2013, Julie's Bicycle, in conjunction with the Culture Team at Oxford City Council (OCC) embarked on an environmental reporting initiative. The proposed project was developed to assist 10 OCC cultural organisations with the Oxford area to understand, and begin to manage, the environmental impacts of their buildings and/or activities. The grouping of the 10 organisations was purposefully diverse, and included organisations that traversed both buildings and events as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Oxford City Council Cultural organisations and activities

Organisation	Cultural Building	Office	Event(s)
Alice's Day (by the Story Museum)	X		X
Arts at the Old Fire Station	X		
Cowley Road Carnival		X	X
Film Oxford	X		X
Fusion Arts		X	
Modern Art Oxford (ACE)	X		
Oxford Contemporary Music (ACE)		X	X
Oxford Inspires		X	X
Oxford Playhouse (ACE)	X		
Pegasus Theatre (ACE)	X		

Reporting Requirements

In order to ensure a robust baseline was set for year 1, and to encourage organisations to participate in the project, two requirements were set for organisations which were contingent on the provision of funding from OCC. These were:

1. To have an environmental policy and environmental action plan in place.
2. To have submitted 12 months of relevant environmental impacts on the Julie's Bicycle Creative IG Tools (relating to 2013/14 financial year).

Regarding requirement 1, as a minimum, organisations were asked to report on:
- energy consumption
- water consumption

And encouraged to voluntarily report on:
- waste
- travel (business, fleet, production, artist, audience/visitor)
- production (timber, steel, lighting, PA)

Support from Julie's Bicycle

To help organisations understand and manage their environmental impacts, Julie's Bicycle provided a workshop in autumn 2013 and a webinar in winter of 2014. In addition OCC arts organisations had access to one-to-one support from Julie's Bicycle throughout the project.

Workshop

Eight of the ten organisations attended a workshop organised by Julie Bicycle on 4th October 2013, which was hosted at Pegasus Theatre, Oxford.

Content

The workshop consisted of two sessions:

1. The Bigger Picture
2. Taking Action

Part 1 consisted of introductions from the head of policy, communications and culture at Oxford City Council, and from the founder of Julie's Bicycle, Alison Tickell. Both speakers set the context for the morning, explaining the importance and significance of engaging with this project and with the issues of environmental sustainability.

A leading climate modeller, Dr. David Stainforth, who works at LSE and Oxford University, also provided a fascinating presentation about the potential impacts of climate change on the local temperatures of Oxford region now, and in the future.

Finally, the director of finance at Pegasus Theatre gave an overview about what the theatre was already doing to reduce their environmental impacts.

Part 2 Was a practical session focusing on the 'how' in terms of reducing the organisation's environmental impacts. Environmental Sustainability Manager at Julie's Bicycle (Luke Ramsay) presented key information on understanding and managing environmental impacts. As part of this presentation participants understood how to develop an environmental policy and action plan. Finally 'breakout' groups were organised which allowed participants to discuss challenges and actions associated with this issue.

Main Themes and Reflections

Part 1

Content from part 1, including slides were shared with participants and are available from Julie's Bicycle on request.

- Alison Tickell set the scene for action on sustainability in the arts, and explained the role of Julie's Bicycle.
- Dr David Stainforth gave some fascinating insights into how local minimum and maximum seasonal temperatures might be expected to change across the 21st Century in Europe. Summer daytime minimum temperatures are expected to rise, particularly in the east and southeast of England (and the western coast of Europe), with direct consequences for Oxfordshire. Predicted impacts including the number of summertime heat related deaths increasing, and a significant increase in the demand for energy to cool buildings

Part 2

Organisations were invited to give their feedback on experiences of developing an environmental policy and action plan, and the stages they went through. Some of the following insights were given:

- Experience of developing an environmental policy for the first time can be quite daunting, and one organisation felt they weren't qualified to produce such a policy, even with the help of resources. The same organisation therefore found it useful to start with a template document (supplied by Julie's Bicycle)
- Cost savings were a deciding factor for some organisations, who had already begun to implement energy saving measures and rationalise their printed material.

Ideas discussed in breakout groups

- There was a desire to establish a network, in order to:
  - o share best practice
  - o facilitate joint procurement on energy, stationary, paper
  - o work in partnership with other organisations, such as Sustrans, on Oxford-wide initiatives
  - o lobby County Council for further provision of public transport and cycling facilities

- Understanding how to conduct effective staff & audience communication on this issue.
- Understanding how to implement effective travel surveys in order to understand barriers to sustainable travel
- Effective recycling infrastructure/ provision (including current provision from City Council)
- Gaining sufficient building management software (BMS) knowledge and understanding in order to manage energy in building efficiently
- Artistic integrity and environmental sustainability
- Storage and cycle infrastructure – safe location etc.
- Understanding a systematic approach to good housekeeping incl. printing and switch offs

Webinar

A webinar was also produced to help participants understand how to create an environmental policy and action plan. The webinar included best practice examples from other arts organisations, as well as top tips for reducing environmental impact. Areas of impact covered included both buildings and outdoor events. There was particular interest in the use of renewable power at events, and this was followed up with further information subsequently.

All slides, and a recording of the webinar, were made available afterwards for the OCC cohort to watch at their convenience.

Engagement

Table 2 shows engagement of the OCC cohort. The table shows where organisations have developed an Environmental Policy (EP) and Environmental Action Plan (AP). Types of impacts accounted for on the Creative IG Tools are also shown. Some organisations were not able to report because data for a specific activity wasn't meaningful, or they didn't have access to the information. This is particularly true with outdoor events, where disparate and small sources of energy are used, and gathering waste data from incumbent local authority contractors isn't possible.

In some cases Julie's Bicycle are still corresponding with organisations to understand if they have the relevant documents in place, and encouraging them to submit their final data on the Creative IG Tools.

Table 2: Engagement across the OCC cohort.

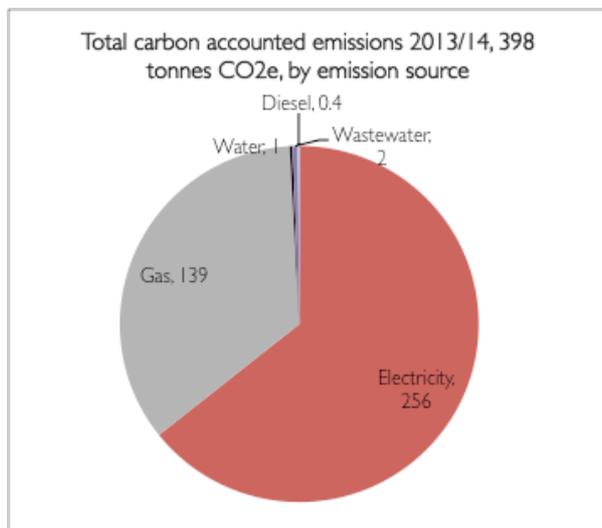|	Documents (Req. 1)		Measurement of impacts (Requirement 2)		
	EP	AP	Cultural Building	Office	Event(s)
Alice's Day (by the Story Museum)	✓	✓	⚡ ♻		No meaningful data available
Arts at the Old Fire Station	✓	✓	⚡ 🚰 ♻		
Cowley Road Carnival	✓	✓		No meaningful data available	⚡
Film Oxford	✓	✓	No data submitted		No data submitted
Fusion Arts	✓	✓		⚡ 🚰 ♻	
Modern Art Oxford (ACE)	✓	✓	⚡ 🚰		
Oxford Contemporary Music (ACE)	✓	✓		⚡ 🚰	No meaningful data available
Oxford Inspires	?	?		No data submitted	No data submitted
Oxford Playhouse (ACE)	✓	✓	⚡ 🚰		
Pegasus Theatre (ACE)	✓	✓	⚡ 🚰		

Symbols represent type of environmental impact accounted for on the Julie's Bicycle Creative IG Tools. From left to right the represent: energy/fuel, water and waste.
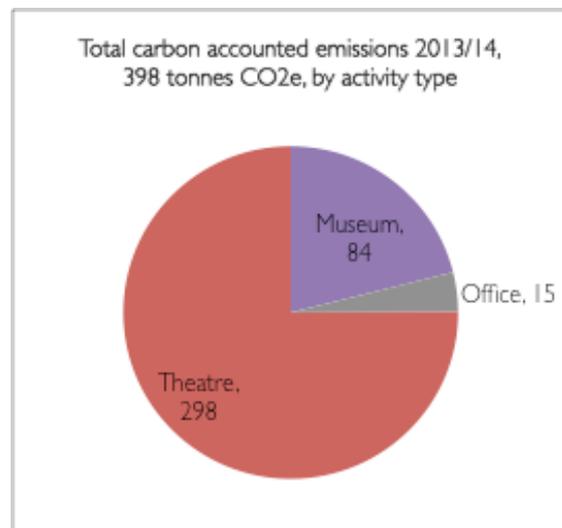
Carbon Emissions

Organisations were asked to account for their environmental impacts on the Creative IG Tools. The Creative IG Tools allow organisations to quantify their environmental impact in carbon emissions. The Creative IG Tools provide analysis which helps organisations to understand priorities for action, and benchmark their environmental impact.

Some of the data gathered on the Creative IG Tools (identified in Table 2) was robust enough to aggregate and analyse to get a sense of the overall carbon emissions of the OCC cohort. Total *accounted* carbon emissions equate to just under 400 tonnes CO2e. All emissions accounted for by the OCC cohort were direct emissions (i.e. those for which the organisation had full control and responsibility), meaning impacts such as audience travel are not considered. However, strategically, this is something OCC could consider trying to address in the future, as audience travel emissions can make up a significant proportion of total carbon emissions. The full table of reported data is shown in Appendix 2. Most organisations reported on energy and water, but few on waste.

Graph 1: total emissions by source

Total carbon accounted emissions 2013/14, 398 tonnes CO2e, by emission source

Diesel, 0.4
Wastewater, 2
Water, 1
Gas, 139
Electricity, 256

Graph 2: total emissions by activity

Total carbon accounted emissions 2013/14, 398 tonnes CO2e, by activity type

Museum, 84
Office, 15
Theatre, 298

Graph 1 shows that the largest proportion (64%) of emissions comes from electricity, followed by gas consumption (35%). Energy is usually expected to have the highest carbon impact for a cultural organisation, and this is compounded by the fact that electricity and gas were the two most reported impacts from the OCC participants.

Graph 2 shows how these environmental impacts break down by activity type. Those with built infrastructure have the highest impacts. Data for outdoor events was too insignificant to be included in this graph (0.1% of overall annual OCC carbon emissions).

Graph 3: Energy consumption, per m² for the OCC cohort
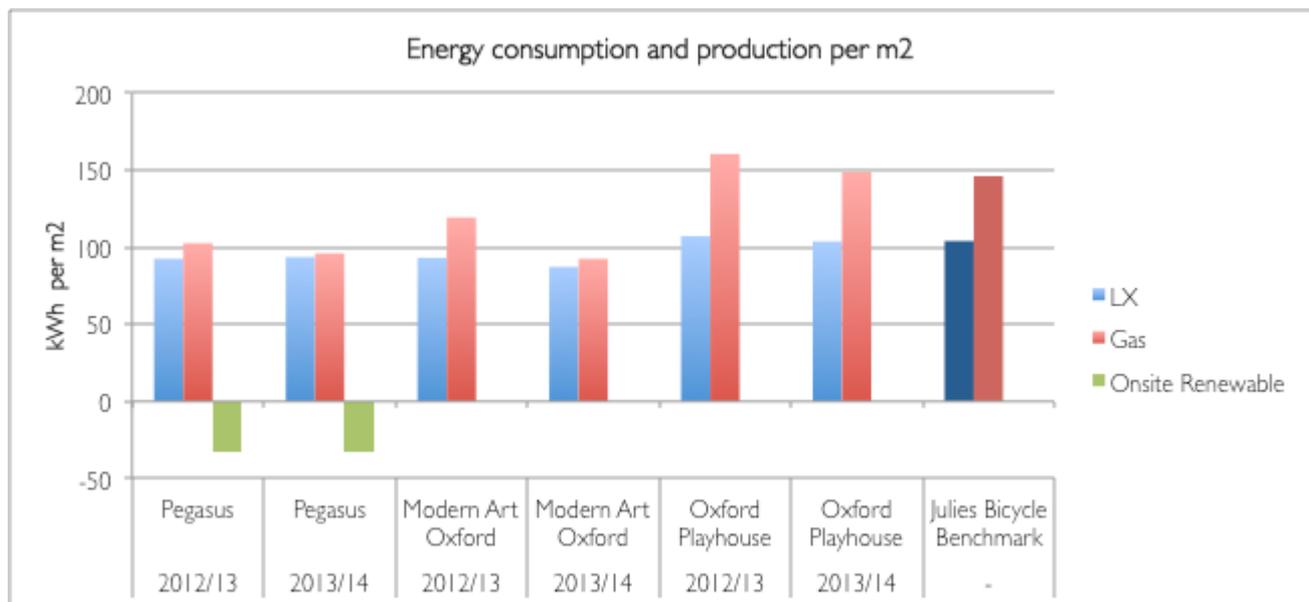
Graph 3 shows the energy consumption of the three main buildings in the OCC cohort who were able to provide robust energy data and floor area data. As these organisations are already covered by Arts Council environmental reporting, Julie's Bicycle were able to analyse two years' worth of data. Encouragingly all of the buildings are operating in line with the Julie's Bicycle energy benchmark for cultural buildings, and year to year trends show that energy consumption has been decreasing. Pegasus also produces a significant amount of energy from its on-site solar PV panels (c. 25% of energy demand).

Appendix 2 provides the full list of environmental impact data collected from the OCC organisations.

Key Recommendations

- The quarterly Cultural Partnership Group meetings might be a good opportunity to discuss issues around environmental sustainability. It's recommended that this could be added as a permanent agenda item. This should help facilitate group action on procurement and increase knowledge sharing opportunities, something the group were keen on pursuing after the October workshop.
- The culture team and environment team should use their position within the City Council to broker meeting with other departments such as waste management and transport planning. The group expressed interest in speaking to the council about the provision of public transport, cycling facilities and waste management.
- Collectively, OCC organisations could aim to work in partnership with other organisations such as Sustrans on Oxford-wide initiatives.
- OCC cultural organisations could play a bigger role in the annual Green Week both by hosting talks and seminars, but also by providing 'open-house' days where visitors can come to learn about some of the ways in which the organisation is reducing their impact.
- A baseline of environmental impact has now be set for the OCC cohort across 2013/14. But it is important to remain mindful of the differences in types and magnitude of impacts between organisations. Some of the OCC organisations are committed to reducing their

environmental impact, but don't have access to any robust data. In year 2 this project could advocate for organisations to address other areas of impact (e.g. food, procurement, governance).

• Organisations may also benefit from understanding how to affect change through staff engagement.

Appendix 1: Engagement with environmental reporting across OCC cohort

| | Documents | | Activities | | | Engagement | | |
	EP	AP	Cultural Building	Office	Event(s)	Workshop	Webinar	Notes
Alice's Day (by the Story Museum)	✓	✓	⚡ ♻️		No meaningful data available	✓		Extensive capital work though project.
Arts at the Old Fire Station	✓	✓	⚡ 🚰 ♻️			✓	✓	Working with Crisis (landlord) to effect change across building.
Cowley Road Carnival	✓	✓		No meaningful data available	⚡	✓	✓	Committed, but difficult to get data for event.
Film Oxford	✓	✓	No data submitted		No data submitted			
Fusion Arts	✓	✓		⚡ 🚰 ♻️		✓		Building attached to community centre, so data is apportioned.
Modern Art Oxford (ACE)	✓	✓	⚡ 🚰			✓		Good systematic approach, realised savings across 2 years.
Oxford Contemporary Music (ACE)	✓	✓		⚡ 🚰	No meaningful data available	✓	✓	Committed with innovative actions. Building data derived from entire uni. campus.
Oxford Inspires	?	?		No data submitted	No data submitted			Office based in tourism centre.
Oxford Playhouse (ACE)	✓	✓	⚡ 🚰			✓	✓	Pragmatic approach to reducing building impacts.
Pegasus Theatre (ACE)	✓	✓	⚡ 🚰			✓	✓	Committed, and benefit from efficiently designed building.

Appendix 2: Raw data on environmental impacts received from OCC organisation

	Year	Floor area (m2)	Elec. (kWh)	Gas (kWh)	Renewable (kWh)	Water (m3)	Wastewater (m3)	Waste (Tonnes)	Recycling (Tonnes)	Composting (Tonnes)	Diesel (Litres)
Arts at the old fire station	2012/13		235577	182533		423.5	423.5	6.99	11.59	2.98	
Cowley Road	2013/14										168
Fusion Arts	2013/14	160	1117	1095		65	65				
Modern Art Oxford	2012/13	1490	138716	177607		1263	1263				
Modern Art Oxford	2013/14	1490	129931	137738		566	566				
Oxford Contemporary Music	2013/14	35	12899	47048		30	30				
Oxford Playhouse	2012/13	2990	320175	479385		25578	25578				
Oxford Playhouse	2013/14	2990	310144	444546		1681	1681				
Pegasus	2012/13	1280	118397	131276	41546	460	460				
Pegasus	2013/14	1280	119785	122871	41500	434	434				
Story Museum	2013/14	172	149.6								