Green Libraries Partnership

#GreenLibraries

Working together for people and planet

Kirsten MacQuarrie and Yvonne Morris, CILIP

CILIP — The library and information association

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

BRITISH LIBRARY

Libraries Connected

Julie's Bicycle — CREATIVE · CLIMATE · ACTION

Green Libraries Partnership

Developed in response to COP26 and the long-term climate commitments made by libraries and local authorities to demonstrate Environmental Responsibility.

Funded by Arts Council England, in partnership with the British Library, Libraries Connected and Julie's Bicycle.

Programme aims:

- discover and harness the existing environmental work going on in libraries

- build and support environmental understanding and action within libraries and their work with communities

- position libraries at the heart of local environmental programmes including those led by Local Authorities

Programme Outcomes

Public Library Services…

share knowledge, insight and experience and demonstrate leadership

build their understanding of environmental data to ensure that the core functions of libraries are evolving, adapting and becoming more resilient

build environmental understanding and action in their local communities while creating an open environment to include users, communities and other partners

advocate for the role of libraries in local environmental change

Programme Activities

Grant Fund

Sector Research

Green Libraries Network

Green Libraries Manifesto

Green Libraries Conference

Online Hub

Green Libraries Grants

www.cilip.org.uk/page/GreenLibrariesGrants

Research

Survey:

55 library services
- 7,500 staff
- 10,000 volunteers
- 1,200 buildings

+ focus group
16 library services

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Overall, library services are in early stages of formalising their environmental commitment

Policy and action plans

85% follow local authority environmental policy, though their relevance to library services varies

15% have their own environmental policy and plan

32% developing their own environmental policy and plan

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Environmental roles, responsibilities and training are not well-developed

People

36% have some environmental roles and responsibilities but tends to be more informal, or with local authority teams

38% have had some environmental training, mainly via their local authority, but no library-specific training

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Action has tended to be more about quick wins and behaviour change, in particular where libraries depend on local authorities for bigger change and investment

Action

key areas of focus: energy, materials and waste, plastics and green procurement + more thinking now about transport e.g. electric vans, e-bikes, book bikes

potential to share and scale up solutions in key areas

nature and green spaces was the biggest theme of the small grants projects

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Libraries have much greater scope and agency on engagement initiatives

Engage -ment

- key activities to date: environmentally-themed books and collections, environmental services (e.g. e-waste recycling), and environmental learning activities, festivals and events

- collaboration and partnerships for skills, solutions and creativity was a common thread of most small grants projects and case studies working with e.g. bee-keepers, plastic recyclers, makers, artists, poets

- social justice and inclusion also a common thread working with e.g. migrant communities, food banks, a centre for recovering addicts, care homes…

Green Libraries Partnership

Manifesto

An inclusive initiative for all libraries to come together towards a shared vision and to lead by example through their own environmental actions.
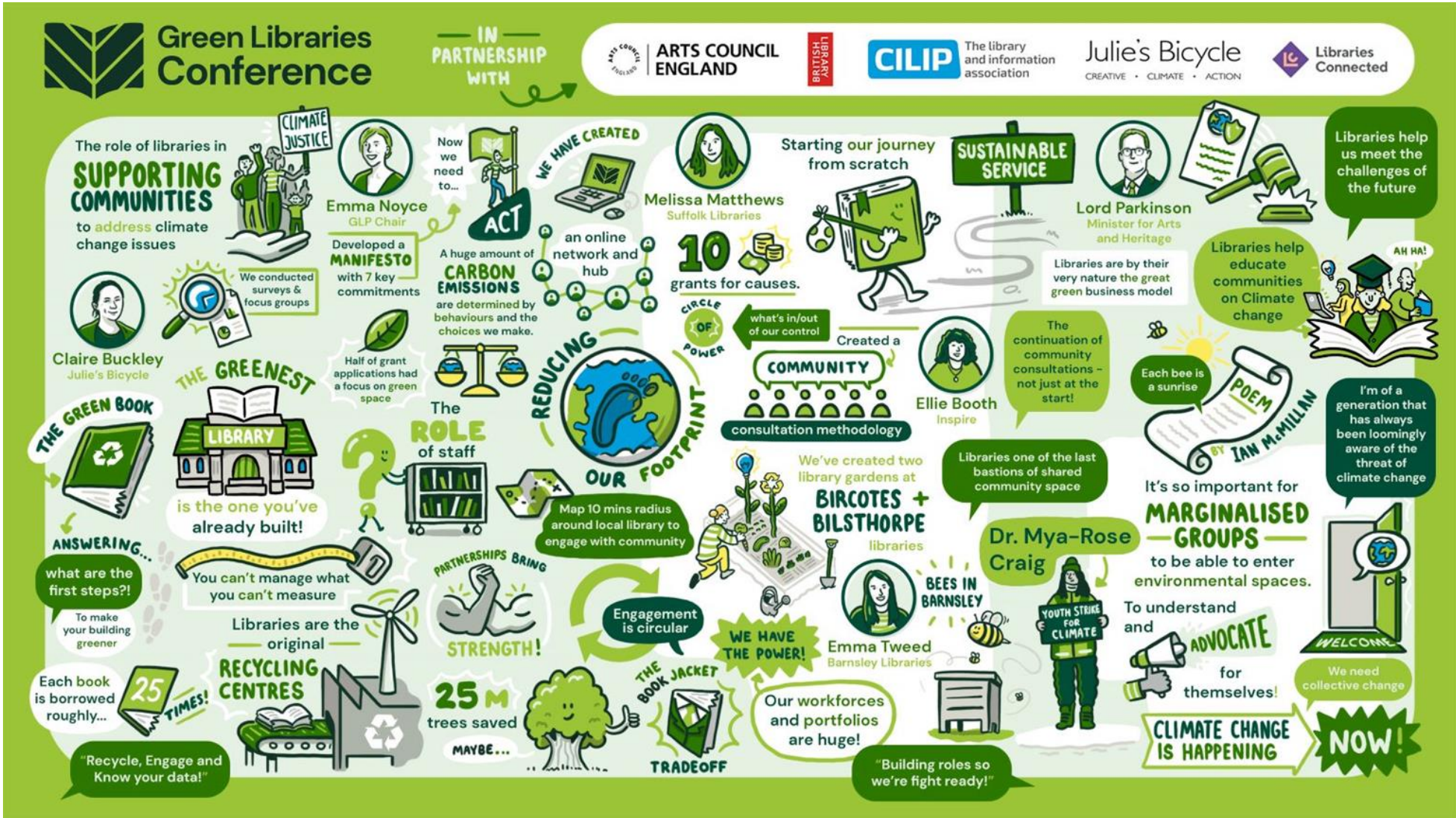
Network

'Green Libraries Network' of existing champions and practitioners in order to ensure that our future work is driven by the best current knowledge, insight and experience.

Online Hub

Green Libraries Partnership' Hub (www.cilip.org.uk/GreenLibraries) acts as the central platform for sharing knowledge, insights and case studies from the sector.

Green Libraries Conference, held at Wellcome Collection, London, March 24 2023

Illustration by **Karl Millett**

Coney, How We Save the World, Photo: Thomas Scott on Upsplash

Transition Phase

- **Phase 1B**

- **Green Libraries Campaign**

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Join Our Commitment

Sign the Green Libraries Manifesto

www.cilip.org.uk/GreenLibrariesManifesto

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Green Libraries Manifesto

An inclusive initiative for all libraries to come together towards a shared vision and to lead by example through our own environmental actions.

01 Bring environmental sustainability to the heart of decision making

02 Innovate and evolve

03 Work with our communities

04 Use our voice for more impact

05 Work in partnership

06 Grow and share our knowledge

07 Support young people

1 - Bring environmental sustainability to the heart of decision-making

We pledge to work towards making **environmental thinking and values central** to what we do. We will **work with decision-makers** in our organisations to push for **ambitious, credible and publicly communicated environmental commitment and action**, aligned with **local environmental and climate change ambitions, targets and plans** where relevant.

Where possible, we will **work with others to learn from and share** best environmental practice.

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Case Study: Cardiff University Library Service
Building a Culture of Environmental Sustainability

Recipient of Green Libraries CILIP Cymru Wales Grant Funding.

Green Libraries Grant Fun project: Cardiff University Libraries

CILIP

Research will be showcased alongside plants.

1 - increasing Carbon Literacy and Climate Awareness amongst library staff through carbon-literacy training delivered by Cynnal Cymru.

2 - themed library displays engaging with current university research in ecology, sustainability and culture.

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2 - Innovate and evolve

We will work to **evolve environmental practice** across core library functions and practices and to test and explore **new and innovative approaches and solutions** for positive environmental change.

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Case Study: Barnsley Libraries' 'Bees in Barnsley' Festival

Recipient of Green Libraries Grant Funding, creating a 'hive' of community activity - blending existing library activities with new innovations - that included bee hotel construction, Virtual Reality workshops and sharing wildflower seed bombs.

BEES IN BARNSLEY
24 SEPTEMBER - 27 OCTOBER 2022

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BARNSLEY LIBRARIES

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3 - Work with our communities

We will **learn from and support** local green initiatives, and **work with them and others** to **empower our local communities** to take positive environmental action. We will provide **a safe and open environment for learning, sharing ideas and discussing the climate and environmental crisis** and how we can work towards a better future for planet and people. In doing so, we will use creative and innovative approaches to **connect with diverse and under-represented groups**.

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Case Study: Oldham Libraries

As a Library of Sanctuary, Oldham inspired citizens to engage in environmental discussion and action via a #ClimateConnections programme, including Climate Conversations and Crafts that featured local community groups and initiatives like Northern Roots Urban Farm and Arabischer Frauenbund Arabic Women's Group.

Presented at the first Green Libraries webinar, November 2022.

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Case Study: Inverclyde Libraries

- Part of Scotland's COP26 Climate Beacons
- 'Climate Focused Recovery' addressing food security
- Climate themed storytimes, family litter picks and Eco Exchanges

- Climate Chatty Cafes with themes including grow your own vegetables; environmental issues; nature based solutions; the importance of bees; nature focused mindfulness session, sustainable fashion and junk journaling.
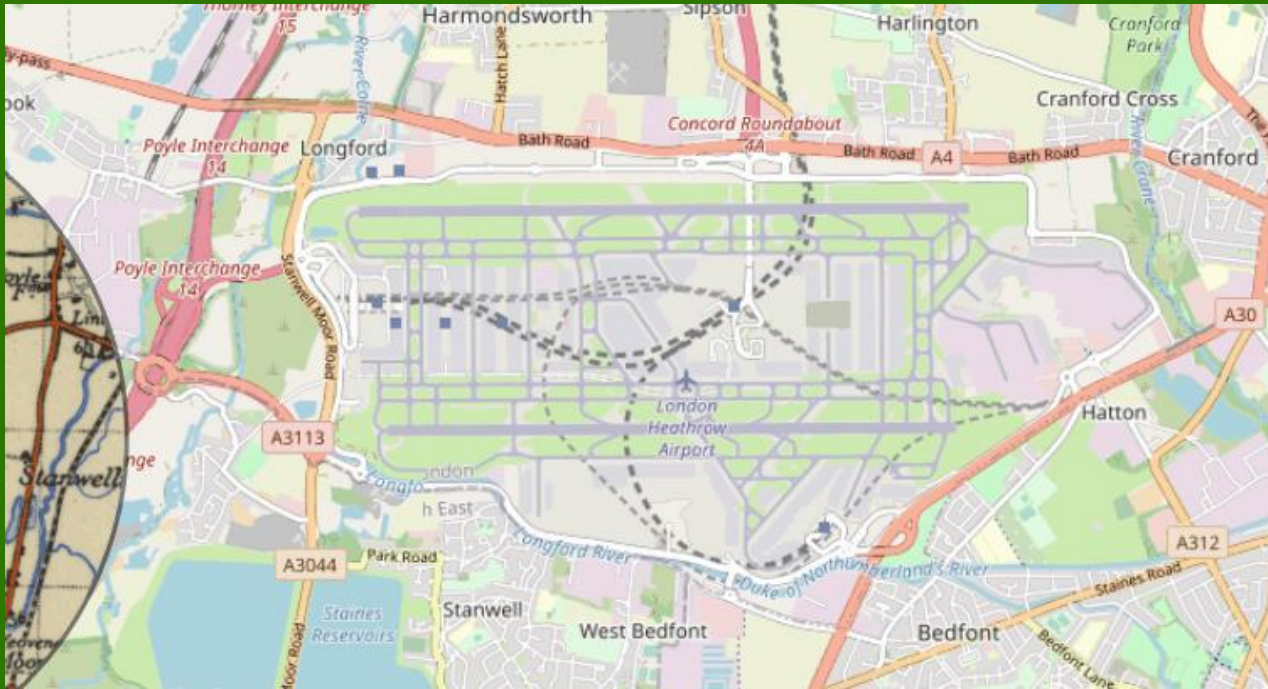

Featured in CILIP *Information Professional*, 2021.

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4 - Use our voice for more impact

We will use **our unique reach and position of trust** to share and help people find **verified information**, to combat **climate disinformation**, improve **climate and environmental literacy** and understanding and help develop critical thinking for all ages.

By providing up-to-date and accurate information, we will **help people navigate** the often-complex language and concepts around climate and environmental issues and make better-informed environmental choices.

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Case Study: National Library of Scotland Maps Collection

'Maps are a very visual medium, and an image of a map can demonstrate the effects of climate change instantly; in a way that most text simply can't.'
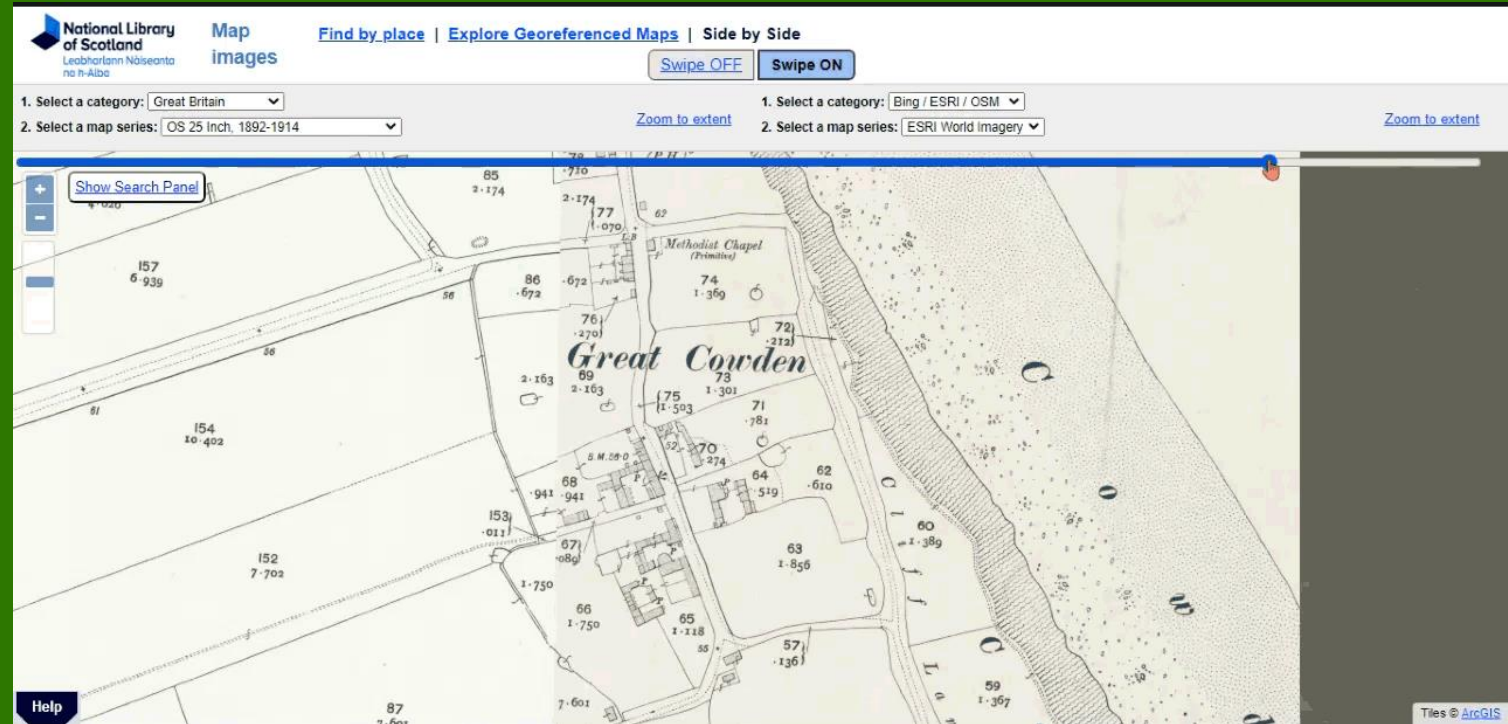
'Some of these examples show collaborative projects that the National Library of Scotland has been involved with.'

Louise Speller, The National Library of Scotland

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Case Study: National Library of Scotland Maps Collection

'Personally, the most shocking finding was the extent of coastal erosion along the east coast of Yorkshire – to the extent that an entire village has been lost. Seeing this change being visually represented on a map really brings home how much of the coast has disappeared.'

Featured in the #CILIPSGoGreen collection.

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Case Study: National Library of Scotland Moving Image Archive
Living Proof: A Climate Story
(2021, Emily Munro)
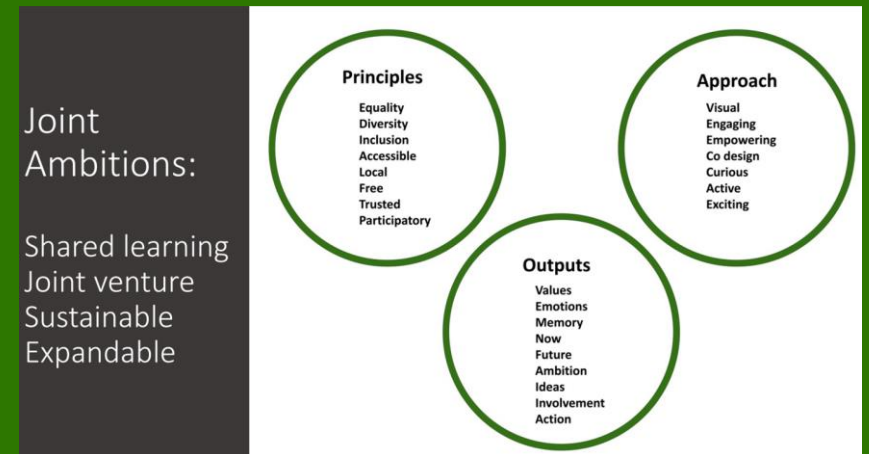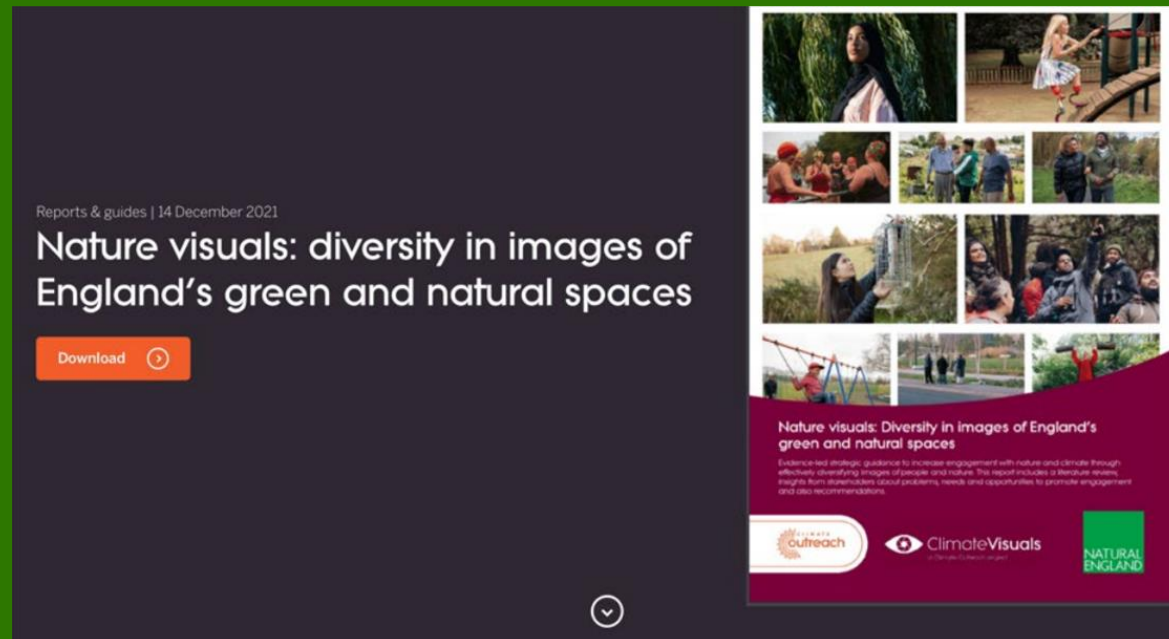

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5 - Work in partnership

We will form **partnerships** with other like-minded organisations in the private, public and voluntary sectors to enhance the positive impact of green programmes and initiatives.

We will **use our spaces and networks** to convene groups to discuss and take meaningful action for planet and people.
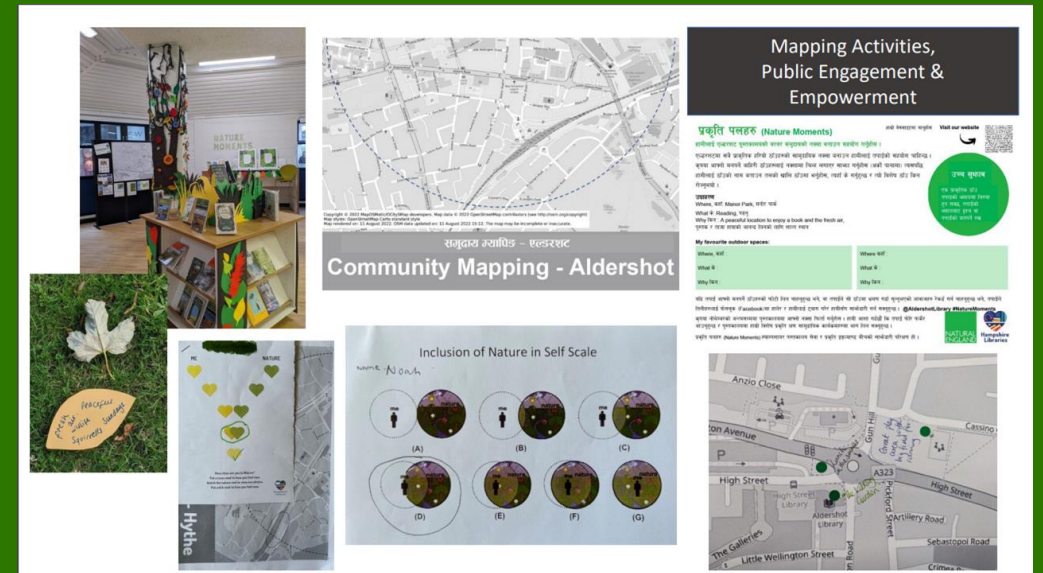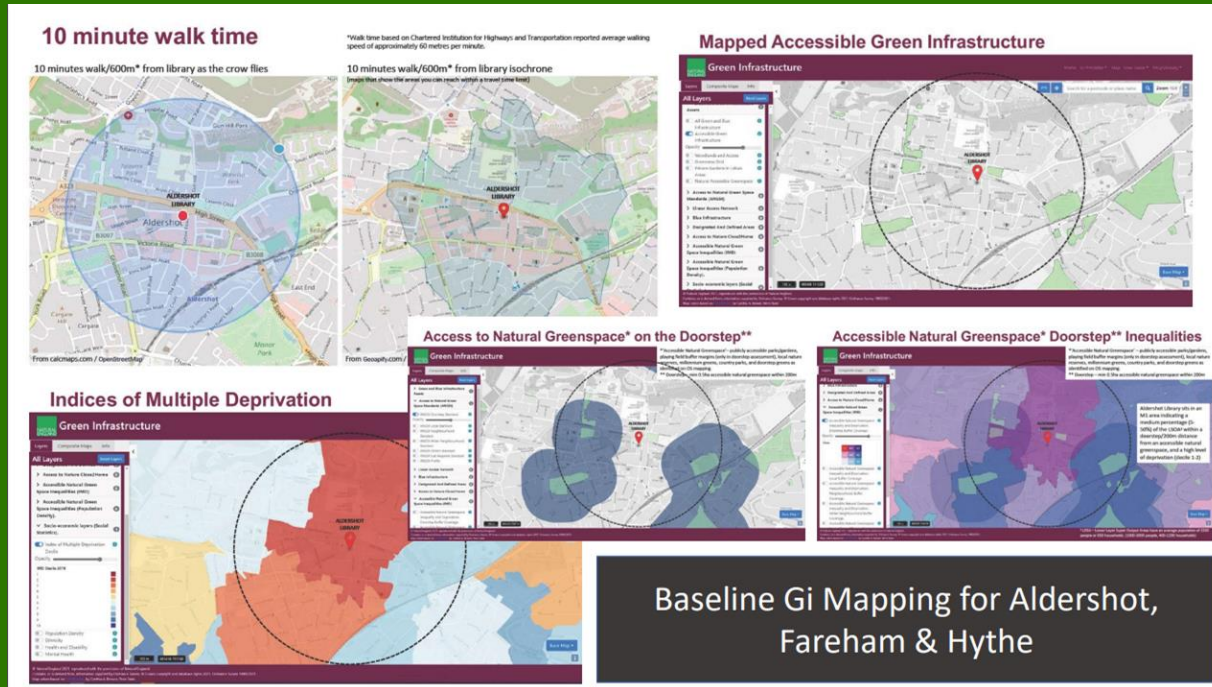
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Case Study: Hampshire Library Service

- Partnership with Natural England to deliver 'Nature Moments'
  - Inspired by Climate Outreach 'Nature Visuals' report December 2021
  - Connecting people to the diversity of natural places
  - Creating authentic representation, not tokenism

Reports & guides | 14 December 2021

Nature visuals: diversity in images of England's green and natural spaces

Download

Nature visuals: Diversity in images of England's green and natural spaces

Evidence-led strategic guidance to increase engagement with nature and climate through effectively diversifying images of people and nature. This report includes a literature review, insights from stakeholders about problems, needs and opportunities to promote engagement and also recommendations.

Joint Ambitions:

Shared learning
Joint venture
Sustainable
Expandable

Principles
Equality
Diversity
Inclusion
Accessible
Local
Free
Trusted
Participatory

Approach
Visual
Engaging
Empowering
Co design
Curious
Active
Exciting

Outputs
Values
Emotions
Memory
Now
Future
Ambition
Ideas
Involvement
Action

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Case Study: Hampshire Library Service

- Extensive research/reflection (before and during) partnership search
- Blending quantitative and qualitative insights to inform project

Baseline Gi Mapping for Aldershot, Fareham & Hythe

Community Mapping - Aldershot

Presented to the Green Libraries Conference, March 2023

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6 - Grow and share our knowledge

We will **continually expand** our environmental understanding, as individuals, teams and organisations. We will prioritise **training and professional development** that **empowers** library staff to take positive action and develop environmentally sustainable practices in their own sphere of work.

We will support **collective, sector-wide environmental action**, including promoting the role of libraries in supporting positive change.

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Case Study: The Green Libraries Network

Green Libraries Network ⭐

A collaborative platform for Green Champions across the library and information sector in the UK to create ideas, collaborate, support, and shape the future of Green Libraries.

Invite more people
89 people on this project

Catch up
on recent changes

71 Discussions   **28 Files**   **Events**   Add the first: To-do list   Text document

Latest project updates

May 31   You posted a message: Recycle4Charity - Library Partnerships

May 22   Emily M. commented on Green Libraries Manifesto 4 - Use our voice for more impact

May 19   You posted a message: Green Libraries Manifesto 4 - Use our voice for more impact

See all updates

Discussions   Post a new message

Watch a quick video about Discussions

Kirsten M.   **Recycle4Charity - Library Partnerships** - Hello everyone, We have been contacted by Jose, the programme manager at Recycle4Charity, where they are currently trying to expand their recycling   May 31

Emily M.   **Green Libraries Manifesto 4 - Use our voice for...** - Hi everyone - I haven't had a chance to contribute here but Kirsten's post about disinformation has caught my attention. It's something I've   May 22   1

Laragh Q.   **Eco-Anxiety Survey** - Sarah Younan, National Museum of Wales, is researching how people working in heritage, libraries and galleries feel about climate change, and would like to assess levels of eco-   May 18

A collaborative online platform for Green Champions across LIS (90+ members) to share ideas, support each other, and shape the future of Green Libraries.

Green Libraries Manifesto

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Email me at
kirsten.macquarrie
@cilips.org.uk to
join (or simply add
your email to the
meeting chat
today)!

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Case Study: Green Libraries Network CPD

- *SPRINGBOARD* with Creative Carbon Scotland

- *Using Archives in Building Full Multicultural Environmental Participation* at LSE Library (with the Black Environment Network)

- The Europeana Climate Action Community workshop series 2023

- CILIP ILIG *Sustainability in Czech Libraries*

- *Where do we even start? Sustainability actions for libraries and small organisations* (British Library Living Knowledge Network)

- The National Library of Scotland Sustainability Fair

- Julie's Bicycle *We Make Tomorrow*   … and many more

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7 - Support young people

We will support **children and young people** to be **leaders** in **a green and just transition** and to take action at home, at school, in communities, and in the workplace.

We will assist children and young people in advancing environmental debate and ensuring that their **voice is heard**.

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Case Study: Kirklees Libraries Discovering the Secret Garden

Supported by the Green Libraries Grant Fund, this project developed the unused garden behind Golcar Library into an accessible, environmentally sustainable area for community use with the help of three local schools and a local artist.

to just shadow a librarian and see what they actually do.

The Children's Art School

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Case Study: *Relax and Renew*
Glasgow Caledonian University

A [collaborative wellbeing space](#) within the Sir Alex Ferguson Library for students, staff and upholding their commitment to The Common Good that blends calming colours, upcycled furniture and natural elements.

Green Libraries Manifesto

Get Involved!

01 Visit the Green Libraries website **www.cilip.org.uk/GreenLibraries** and have a look at the Resource Library

02 Share your stories and resources with us by email or tag us on Twitter **@CILIPinfo #GreenLibraries**

03 Sign the Green Libraries Manifesto on behalf of your library **www.cilip.org.uk/GreenLibrariesManifesto**

04 Join the Green Libraries Network **www.cilip.org.uk/GreenLibrariesGetInvolved**

www.cilip.org.uk/GreenLibraries