

Environment & Sustainability Policy 2026 - 2028

Background

The Bluecoat is Britain's oldest arts centre. It was a school between 1717 and 1906 until the building proved too small and larger premises were acquired in the suburbs. The Grade 1 listed building is Liverpool's oldest city centre building and, since it was built at the same time as the port began its mercantile expansion, can be regarded as a physical manifestation of the start of modern Liverpool. The Bluecoat has played an active role in the life, arts and heritage of the City of Liverpool.

As the building needed refurbishment, the organisation planned, secured funding for and completed a major capital redevelopment, which necessitated three years of closure. This project created an award-winning 21st Century, purpose-built arts wing within the listed building. A successful reopening was timed to coincide with Liverpool's tenure as European Capital of Culture 2008.

Building on previous capital investment, including the development of the Hub and the refurbishment of the Bistro into a flexible event and performance space, Bluecoat continues to improve its facilities and environmental performance. The Hub project introduced water-efficient fittings, including self-closing taps and motion-sensor faucets, improvements to our Building Management System, energy monitoring and lower-energy lighting.

Our more recent capital project included new heating measures, low-energy lighting, blackout curtains to our event space windows and secondary glazing to help reduce heat loss. Alongside enhancing our public spaces and the range of activities we can accommodate, these investments support our commitment to reducing energy consumption and developing more sustainable facilities within a Grade I listed building.

The Bluecoat site is extensive, containing a gallery, studio performance space, artists' studios, shops, a new event space, café, rooms for hire, courtyards, library and offices, all within a historic structure. On the whole, it has worked well in accommodating our activities to date. We are able to forecast and control costs, identify imaginative and alternative uses for our spaces and turn the challenges posed by the building into opportunities for future development.

In keeping with the constant process of evolution and adaptation that is a hallmark of its longevity and continued relevance, we are redesigning our operations, adapting our business model to respond to changes in the artistic, economic and public policy

environment. An Environment and Sustainability Plan is an integral part of this process.

Our vision, mission and values

Vision

Our vision is to be a thriving centre for artists in the heart of Liverpool, celebrating our historic building and continuing its tradition as a meeting point between public and artists.

Mission

Our mission is to:

1. Support diverse artists to develop their practice at all stages of their careers, engaging with audiences and communicating the power and value of art to as broad a spectrum of people as possible;
2. Preserve, reveal and interpret the multifaceted story of our historic building, making it accessible to a range of audiences through exhibitions, events and activities, and digital content in appropriate formats;
3. Help more people find a meaningful place for the arts in their lives, creating safe and inclusive spaces for everyone to engage both as audiences and participants; and
4. Develop increasingly sustainable facilities that generate income and support from a range of sources, which will support local and international artists and arts participants.

Values

Our values are shaped by the people we work with, but they belong to Bluecoat and are the cornerstones that inform all our practice: These values are:

Dynamic: investing in great artists and great art, including through co-authoring and co-creating; creating even greater depth in our participation work and disseminating best practice; and taking calculated risks in our programming, energetically advocating the value of the arts and artists in society.

Inclusive and Open: warm, welcoming, receptive and eager to learn from others; respecting and valuing difference; and making our programmes reflect diversity in its widest sense.

Reflective: learning from the past, building on our unique heritage to ensure there is a great legacy for future generations; understanding the impact of our work and responding to it creatively and thoughtfully.

Challenging and fun to work with: not taking things for granted; seeking fresh ideas through collaborative and inclusive programmes; taking calculated risks and asking audiences to go on a journey with us, encouraging others to celebrate our successes and the challenges; being thoughtful and joyful in our approach to growth and development in everything we do.

Our Environment & Sustainability policy is as follows:

Bluecoat wants to lead on practical solutions for heritage properties used for contemporary arts within the Liverpool City Region,

We are committed to reducing energy consumption year on year

We will develop an ambitious advocacy and public education programme led by artists.

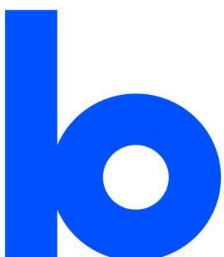
Working with partners and making the most of our city centre location, we will play a key role in greening the city.

Bluecoat will comply fully with the requirements of all relevant environmental legislation and is also committed to continued efforts to:

- Publish and review our Environment and Sustainability Policy;
- Promote our Environment and Sustainability Policy and practices at every level and in every department and area of work;
- Increase our awareness and understanding of the environmental impact across all strands of our operation among staff and volunteers;
- Minimise waste and develop and operate environmentally sound waste management procedures;
- Continue to monitor energy consumption and to incorporate long-term strategies for energy efficiency into planning and development, through the conservation of energy and the introduction of new technology;
- Reduce water consumption;
- Set and publish energy and environmental benchmarks against which performance will be monitored;

- Promote purchasing good practice, giving preference, as far as practicable, to those products and services which cause the least harm to the environment;
- Avoid wherever practical the use of environmentally damaging substances, materials and processes;
- Maintain the building in an environmentally sensitive way, having regard to protection of local natural habitats and preservation of biological diversity;
- Work with other local, national and other agencies as appropriate to promote environmental policies; and
- Consider the environmental impact of all new refurbishment and capital projects.
- The action plan will be reviewed annually

The Environment and Sustainability Policy and Action Plan, which sets out structure plan for our future improvement, is a live document, and reviewing this policy annually does not necessarily result in any updates. Bluecoat will update the Policy and Action Plan as required by legislative changes, changes in funder requirements, and updates or amendments approved by Bluecoat's Leadership Team and/or Trustees.



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