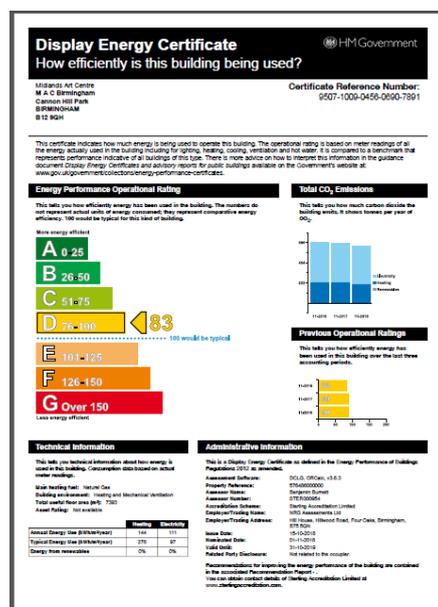


MAC Green Newsletter 2018/19

Energy



Public buildings are required to show a Display Energy Certificate and MAC's can be seen at the Sales and Information desk. This shows that we have achieved a year-on-year reduction in energy use since 2016.

We monitor our energy use weekly, and our half-hour electricity meter allows us to view our electricity consumption in detail, using online analysis tool, Stark. We have recently signed up to Pilio Energy Management in order to better communicate MAC's energy use.

We continue to identify areas to convert to LED lighting and aim to have a rolling programme of replacement. The most recent space to have LED lighting installed is the Randle Studio in March 2019, reducing the electricity consumption by 40%.

In January, The Carbon Trust surveyed the site and produced a report with several useful suggestions. MAC staff have since signed up to Carbon Trust seminars and webinars.

Waste

MAC recycled 8.5 tonnes of cardboard and 1040 litres of cooking oil in 2018/19. All of the general waste is sent to a processing centre for sorting and recycling, while anything that cannot be recycled is incinerated to produce energy. Our waste management company has been collecting compostable waste from MAC's kitchen since February 2018 and this goes to anaerobic digestion. Used coffee grounds are also re-bagged and made available to customers as garden fertiliser.

Sandwich packaging is mainly cardboard and disposable cups are biodegradable. We no longer supply plastic straws or drink stirrers.

MAC has also recently become a Business Champion for local campaign group, Plastic Free Moseley, in a partnership that will be useful for advice and for profiling MAC's work.



Creative Programmes

Green Lens was an exhibition which ran from 1 September to 28 October 2018. Organised by ecobirmingham in collaboration with Ampersand Projects, it invited young people across Birmingham to voice the green issues that matter to them, locally or globally, through the medium of photography.

Learning and Participation courses which explored environmental themes included Make a Squirrel Feeder in Easter 2018, and Make a Bat Detector in October 2018 which was followed by a bat walk in Cannon Hill Park. MAC also hosts Nature Tots run by the Wildlife Trust.

Catering

MAC has significantly increased its meat-free offer with a range of vegetarian and vegan options always available, including options for children. We also have a selection of non-dairy milk and vegan/vegetarian cakes. We offer vegan/vegetarian breakfasts and vegan/vegetarian pizzas, which have proven to be very popular, and we will continue to increase and improve our range.

We also run a regular event called 'Dirty Vegan', with themed food and entertainment. All of the food and drinks served throughout the night are vegan. These have proven very popular and usually sell out!



Engagement

The Green Group continues to meet regularly to discuss ongoing projects and new ideas.

During 2018/19 we held two initiatives for staff engagement: The Plastic Free Lunch Challenge asked MAC staff to avoid single-use plastic for every meal they brought into work while Energy Week involved a quiz and top tips for staff to consider how they use energy throughout the building.

MAC Ecofest had its third annual event in September 2018. As well as workshops, exhibitions and screenings showcasing MAC's environmental work, we invited local green organisations to hold stalls. These included Friends of the Earth, The Badger Trust, The Real Junk Food Project, Climate Action West Midlands, Plastic Free Moseley, Eco Birmingham and The Wildlife Trust.

MAC is a founder member of Sustainable Arts West Midlands; a group of local arts organisations who meet regularly to share best practice and challenges.

MAC is receiving 12 hours' free consultancy support from BASIS (Birmingham and Solihull Industrial Symbiosis Project). So far we have made several useful connections, including with The Carbon Trust, and updated MAC's procurement policy. With their help we are currently working on an Energy Policy.

During 2018/19 MAC staff attended the Sustainability West Midlands Conference, The Ashden Sustainability conference on the wider benefits of climate action, a Julie's Bicycle Accelerator Workshop and Julie's Bicycle webinar on Making Data Meaningful.

Future planning

On 29 September 2019 the fourth MAC Ecofest will build on previous years' successes to become a larger scale event. Linking with the Year of Green Action and Birmingham's Big Green Conversation, we are planning even greater connections with MAC's programme through exhibitions, performances, screenings and workshops. MAC Makes Music and Celebrating Age will be taking part with workshops and stalls respectively.

Birmingham Allotments Annual Fruits, Flower and Vegetable Show took place in the Theatre for the first time in August 2018. This was such a success that they booked again for August 2019 and both parties hope that it will become an annual event.

Following the large potential energy savings available from switching to LED lighting highlighted in the Carbon Trust report, we have identified lighting in the public areas which will be next for this investment. Initial estimates show an 80% reduction in electricity use; replacing 25 fittings would result in an annual saving of around £750.

The Learning and Participation Programme is hoping to develop a series of 'A day in the life of...' courses looking at ants, bees, and other things nature-related.

In 2019, we hope to install a smart meter to MAC's existing water meter which would allow us to monitor water flow via an online portal. The data on water use would allow us to actively monitor and manage water consumption, and identify and respond quickly to issues or irregularities such as leaks. It would also alert us to issues out of hours, allowing water contingency plans to be implemented for business continuity.

We're also working with Moor Green Allotment on a major season of visual arts work in 2019/2020 with artist Aboubakar Fofana. Aboubakar is an internally renowned artist and designer, born in Mali and raised in France, best known for his work in reinvigorating and redefining West African indigo dyeing techniques. He proposes to work with members from Moor Green Allotment to grow a unique form of European indigo, which will be later harvested and prepared for use as part of his exhibition. The artist is keen to engage directly with a wide range of communities to share ideas about sustainable and organic practices and to document their own processes. This partnership will strengthen our ties with the local community at the same time as providing an extremely rare artistic and educational experience for our visitors and learners.

