

# Harnessing the Power of Libraries to Convene for Climate Action

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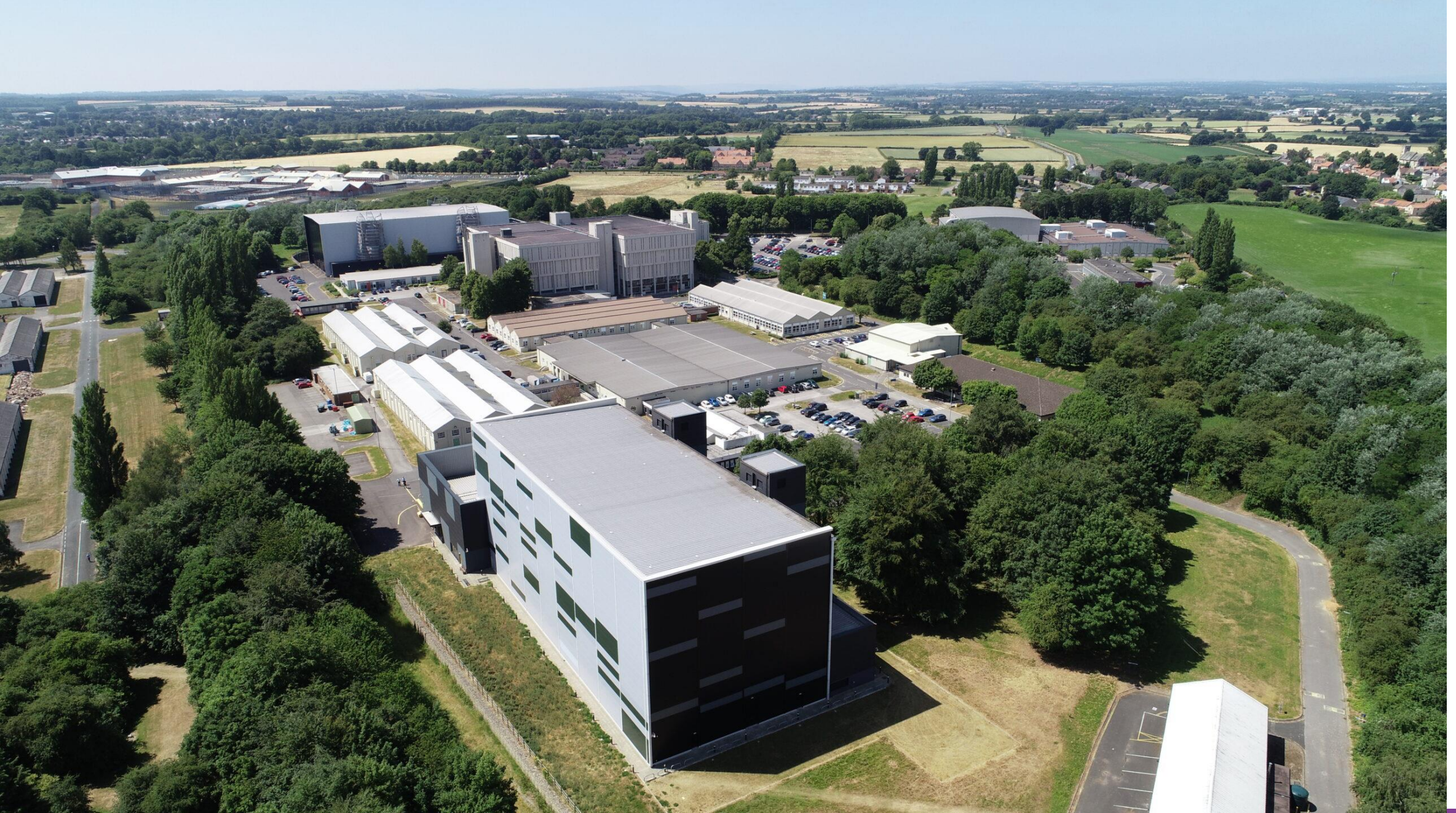
# Today

- Starting in your own library – British Library example
- Integration of different functions and competencies
- National cooperation – Green Libraries Partnership
- International cooperation

# The British Library







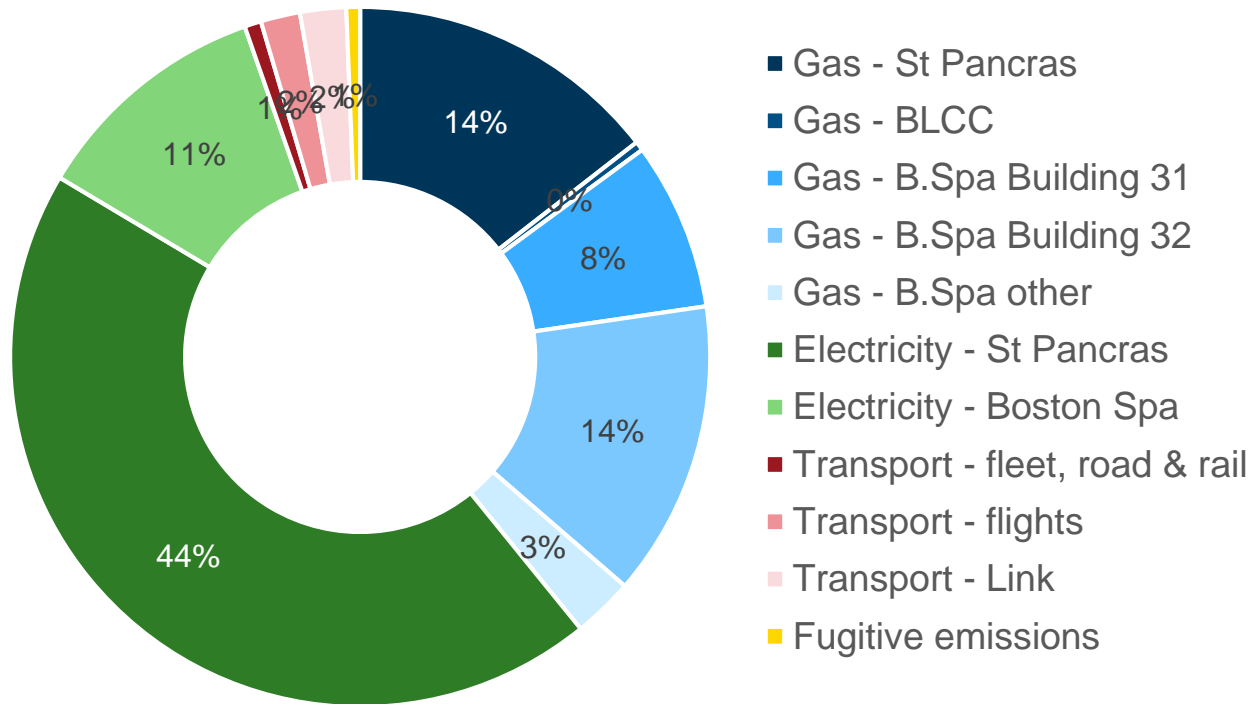






# The main sources of direct emissions are known, and the high level approach needed

Sources of BL's direct carbon emissions 2022/2023  
(scope 1 & 2, and some transport scope 3)



## The path to Net Zero Carbon for our direct carbon emissions:

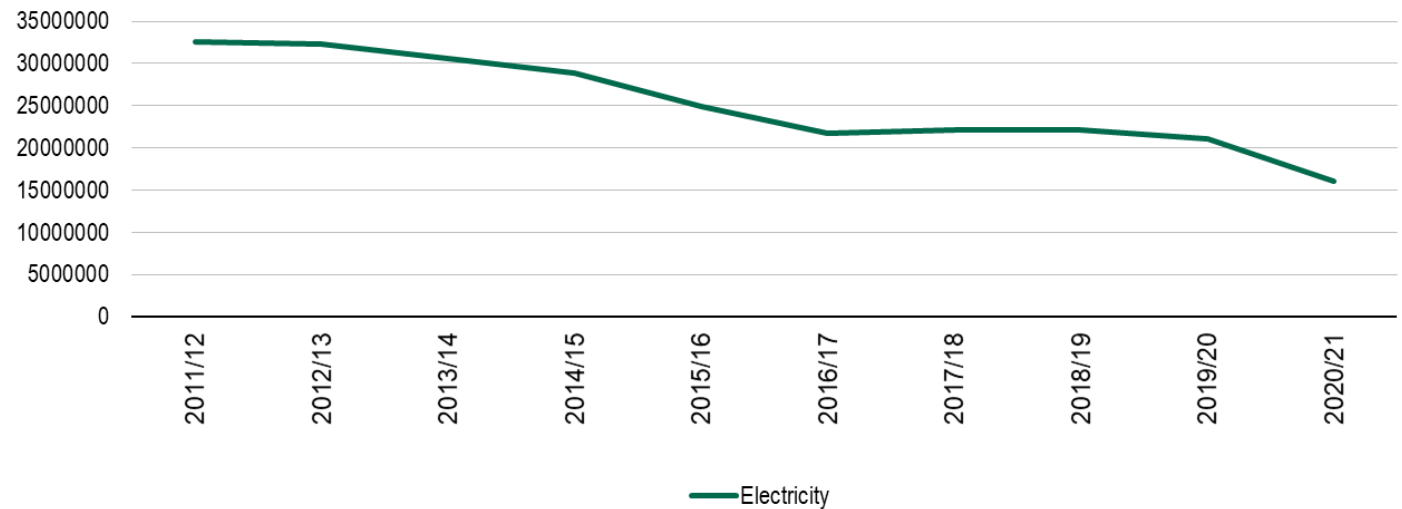
1. **Baseline and prioritise** the main sources of direct emissions
2. **Lean** – reduce energy use through more efficient systems, fabric improvements, behaviour change
3. **Clean** – avoid fossil fuels by switching from gas/oil to electric solutions, such as heat pumps
4. **Green** – generate electricity on site (e.g. solar or wind) and procure from 100% renewable tariffs
5. **Seen** – monitor, report, share
6. **Offset** residual emissions in reputable ways (max 10% recommended by SBTi)

# Reducing emissions at the BL since 2009/2010

Over the last decade and led by the Estates team, the Library has significantly reduced its carbon emissions and waste.

The Library has been working to the **Greening Government Commitments** which demonstrate how the Library is working to improve its environmental performance, measured against a 2009/10 baseline. In 2019/2020 <sup>1</sup>, for instance, we achieved targets for:

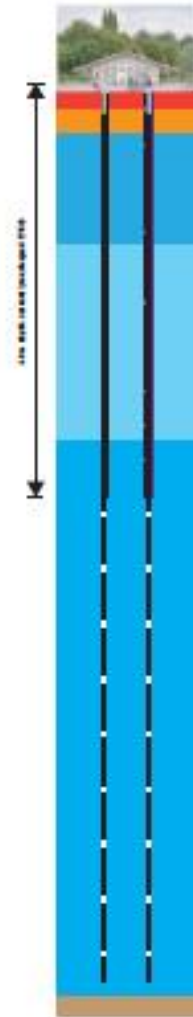
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions – a 67% reduction on the 2009/2010 baseline
- Waste: 48% reduction from 2009/10 baseline
- Recycling: 66% of all waste



<sup>1</sup> Prior to temporary effect of Covid-19



# Our Journey to Zero Carbon



# Knowledge Matters – British Library Strategy 2023-2030

## Objective 1:

Continue decarbonising our existing estate and embedding best practice in environmental performance in new buildings being constructed in this period

The Library has an existing overall goal to achieve net zero emissions by 2050

In this strategy period, we will be seeking to meet, and exceed these targets, by adapting our ways of working and our estates to radically reduce our emissions.

## Objective 2:

Continue opening up the collection in new and interesting ways for people working on the ideas and solutions to the environmental challenges we face – from climate research to enabling sustainable business and enterprise, and engaging people through culture and learning, to increasing climate literacy and visibility of climate science.

As a national library and a repository of global knowledge that resides within a powerful network of libraries, research and cultural institutions, our opportunity to have a positive impact goes far beyond decarbonisation.

Importance of collaboration with other libraries, advocacy, work with communities and audiences.



# More than buildings

- Governance and ways of working
- Resilience and real life impacts
- Enabling staff to lead the change
- Wider impact on positive environmental action, including societal impact through our programming and collection

# Staff sustainability group

SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

December 2021

BRITISH LIBRARY

Newsletter #1

### Greening the BL

Hello from the Sustainability Group! We're an action-based staff network dedicated to environmental, social and economic sustainability. We aim to do three things:

- support actions on the ground that make departments more sustainable
- use the momentum of those actions to advocate for more environmentally- and socially-just BL policy and programming
- communicate this important work internally and beyond

This first quarterly newsletter kicks off our internal communications, and we hope it will become a place for members to communicate ideas, actions, personal stories, reading recommendations – whatever! Feel free to make content suggestions or even write up a little article if the inspiration strikes.

Who can get involved? Everyone! Whether you'd like to sit in on meetings, join an action working group, volunteer to represent your department – or all of the above! - you're very welcome!

### Next Sustainability Group meetings

Everyone is invited to join us on [Teams](#):

Thursday 16 December, 10.30am  
Thursday 27 January, 10.30am  
Thursday 10 March, 10.30am

Come and hear more about the ongoing work of the Sustainability Group, and share your ideas and actions.

### Join the Group

To join us, share an idea or action, click here: [Teams](#) or contact the co-chairs:  
Morgane Lirette (St Pancras)  
Graeme Bentley (Boston Spa)  
[SustainabilityGroup@bl.uk](mailto:SustainabilityGroup@bl.uk)



### Key resources

Philp Eagle has put together the [British Library Collection Guide: Climate Change](#), describing what the BL's collections include on the subject of climate change.

Videos from recent events:  
[The Days After Tomorrow](#)  
Climate Fiction writers from around the world reimagine our relationship with nature  
[Living Nature 2021](#)  
The impact of climate change on Inuit communities (Sheila Watt-Cloutier)



Would you use an electric charging point for a vehicle or bike at work?  
Please answer this short survey for the Sustainability Group

Tue 22 February 2022



## Most recent



Useful links for  
[pinned messages]  
1 July 2022



People Team  
resources [pinned page]  
1 July 2022



# The Days after Tomorrow: Climate Fiction for the Future

Wed 22 Sep 2021, 16:00 - 17:15



Book now

Tel: +44 (0)1937 546546

Email: [boxoffice@bl.uk](mailto:boxoffice@bl.uk)

Full Price: £5.00

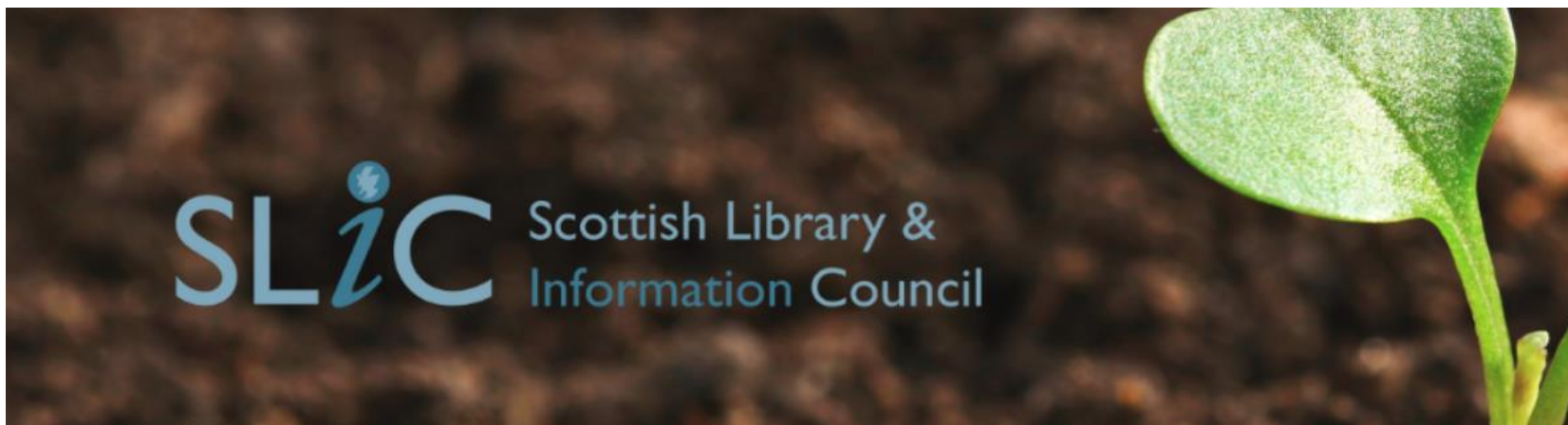
Member: £5.00



# Living Knowledge Network

Is there a role for the national library  
in bringing about a better climate future?

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# Green Libraries Partnership

# Green Libraries Partnership and Campaign

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CILIP, Libraries Connected, Arts Council, Julie's Bicycle, British Library and everyone else who wants to take part

<https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/GreenLibraries>



# Green Libraries Partnership

- Established in 2022
- Our vision is of a better future for planet and people, empowered and supported by librarians and library workers
- Our mission is to place libraries at the heart of environmental change

# Green Libraries Partnership - aims

- Discover and harness the existing work going on in libraries relating to Sustainability
- Build and support environmental understanding and action within libraries so they can play their full part in creating a better future for planet and people
- Enable libraries to work with their communities to continue to build environmental understanding and action
- Position libraries at the heart of local environmental programmes including those led by Local Authorities



# Green Libraries Survey

- Early on in environmental journey
  - 27% at the very beginning
  - 56% making initial progress
- 85% follow local authority policies (relevance varies)
- 15% have their own environmental policy and plan
- 32% are developing their own environmental policy and plan
- 36% have staff with environmental roles and responsibilities
- 38% have some environmental training

# Green Libraries Grant Fund – round 1

- 15 projects

Examples:

- **Wakefield Libraries** - Encouraging sustainable transport to our libraries
- **Blackburn with Darwen Libraries** - Environmental activities at the Blackburn with Darwen Children's Literature Festival
- **Eltham Libraries** - Wishing Well: Eltham Library's Community Garden



‘The CILIP Green Libraries Fund enabled us to use the festival to raise awareness around what can be done to make a real and positive difference in our communities to support the green agenda. It explored themes of protecting nature and the environment in a variety of ways, in two libraries across five days, and reached over 2,000 children who visited with their schools and engaged online.’

Adele Karwat, Services Manager  
Libraries and Archives, Blackburn  
Central Library

SERENA PATEL  
AUTHOR

BB TAYLOR  
AUTHOR

STEVE WEATHERILL  
ILLUSTRATOR & AUTHOR

DONAVAN CHRISTOPHER  
POET

CHRISTINA GABBITAS  
AUTHOR

DAN WORSLEY  
AUTHOR

**BLACKBURN & DARWEN FESTIVAL**  
**Children's Literature**  
**FESTIVALS**

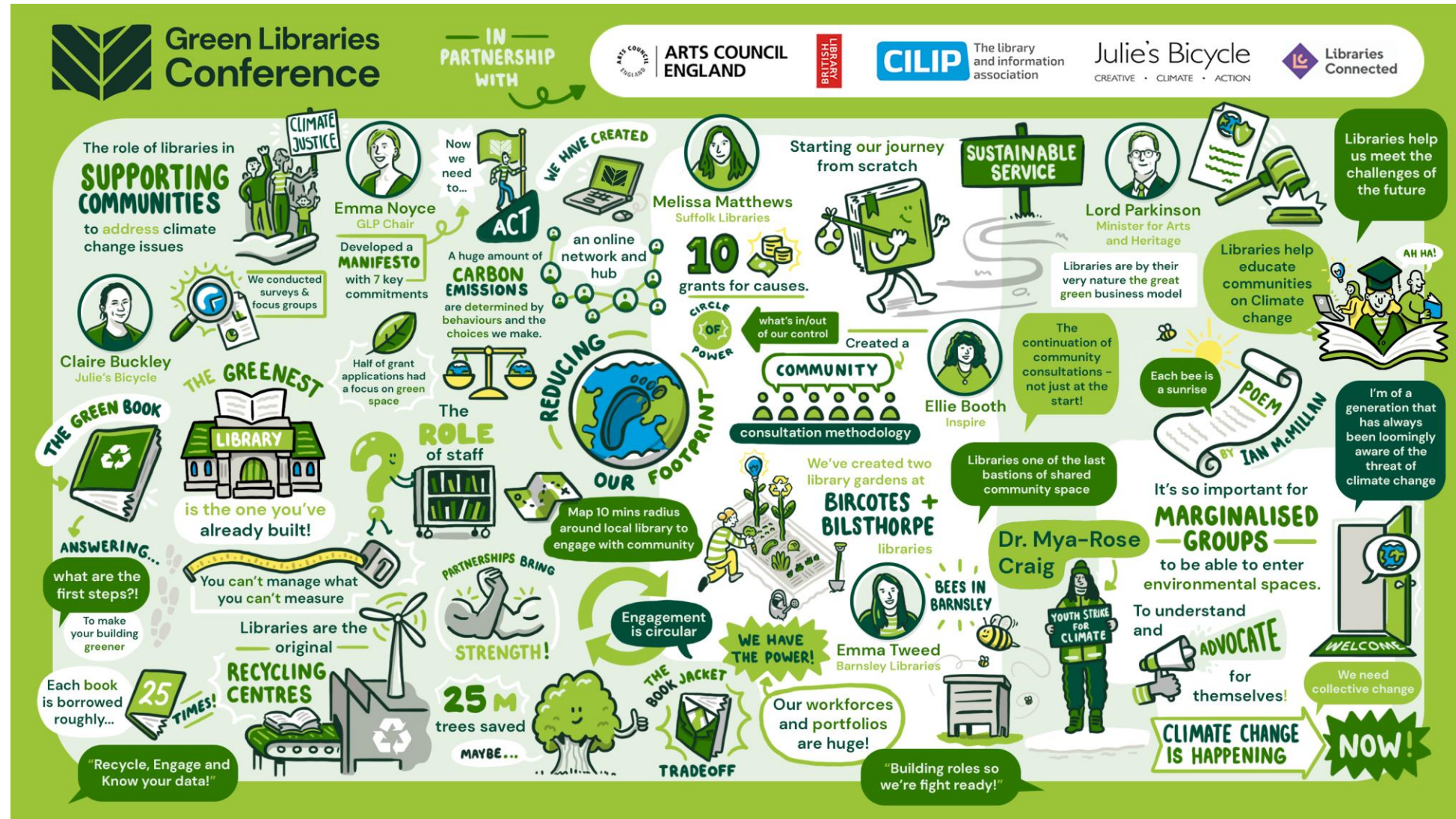
Children's Literature Festivals Charity number England & Wales 1182143

DARWEN TOWN COUNCIL LibrariesWeek 3-9 OCTOBER 2022 Green Libraries Partnership Rotary Darwen BLACKBURN with DARWEN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**WWW.CHILDRENSLITERATUREFESTIVALS.COM**

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# Green Libraries Conference



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# #GreenLibrariesWeek



## WOL WRITING OUR LEGACY Green Libraries Week: Creative Writing Workshop



Green Libraries Week  
Part of Changing Chalk  
Funded by  
Heritage Fund  
Led by  
National Trust



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# Green Libraries Manifesto

- Bring environmental sustainability to the heart of decision-making
- Innovate and evolve
- Work with our communities
- Use our voice for more impact
- Work in partnership
- Grow and share our knowledge
- Support young people

<https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/GreenLibrariesManifesto>

# International cooperation

# Learning from each other



## Crafting Climate Futures: From Story to Policy



Xia Jia      Hannah Onoguwe      Kim Stanley Robinson      Vandana Singh      Adeline Johns-Putra

Presented by:  
Olaf Stapledon Centre for Speculative Futures, University of Liverpool  
Centre for Science and the Imagination, Arizona State University



# Libraries and positive climate action international series

- Community engagement
- Sustainable buildings – 21<sup>st</sup> November, 10am GMT – bookings open on Eventbrite
- Preserving collections – 11th December, 10am GMT – bookings open on Eventbrite

# Assisting each other



## Welcome to the Endangered Archives Programme

"The Endangered Archives Programme captures forgotten and still not written histories, often suppressed or marginalised. It gives voice to the voiceless: it opens a dialogue with global humanity's multiple pasts. It is a library of history still waiting to be written."

Lisbet Rausing, Co-founder of the Endangered Archives Programme



Search all endangered archives

### For more

[View our blog](#)

[Tweet us](#)

[Email us](#)

### Blog

#### New projects on

May has been another busy month for the EAP projects going on. The first four now finished...



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# Maximising impact and global vision

What if:

- Every library is a green library
- Sustainability and climate is a part of our core services, competencies and values
- We are an engaging source of scientific evidence
- We support our communities in climate action initiatives and inspire them to imagine and create their positive climate futures
- We are prepared to support our communities to be more resilient to climate change





Thank  
you

