



## Royston Museum: Our Carbon Literacy Journey

Royston Museum is a family-friendly, accredited museum and registered charity in North Hertfordshire, caring for a collection of around 20,000 objects that reflect the town's social history, archaeology, industry and culture. Our mission is to celebrate and share Royston's heritage, connecting people and places while serving as a community hub that nurtures curiosity and inspires conversation.

### Starting Our Journey

Shortly after Museum Director, Emma, who was already certified Carbon Literate, joined the organisation, we became part of the SERM Cutting Carbon programme from SHARE Museums East (now Museum Development South East). This sparked our commitment to becoming an environmentally responsible organisation and laid the foundations for our wider [Royston Museum Goes Green](#) project, which is now guided by our Environmental Sustainability Policy and Forward Plan.

As part of this commitment, our whole team became certified Carbon Literate, embedding sustainability into everyday practice and long-term planning.

### Why We Chose to Become Carbon Literate

Before undertaking Carbon Literacy training, we were becoming increasingly aware of our environmental impact but were still operating in traditional ways. Our ageing gas heating system and long-standing practices had not yet been fully assessed through a sustainability lens. Becoming Carbon Literate offered us a structured way to minimise our impact, modernise how we work, and use our platform to inspire positive climate action, both inside and beyond the museum.

### Delivering Carbon Literacy at Royston Museum

Carbon Literacy training was delivered through the SERM Cutting Carbon programme, which also provided training, hands-on guidance, funding and support for taking measurable action.



*Green Festival, June 2025*

Engagement came naturally, supported by simple changes and larger projects; improving energy efficiency, reducing waste, choosing greener materials, and designing exhibitions that model sustainable choices. We also took part in community-facing climate events, strengthening motivation and shared responsibility.



*Air Source Heat Pumps,  
installed January 2026*

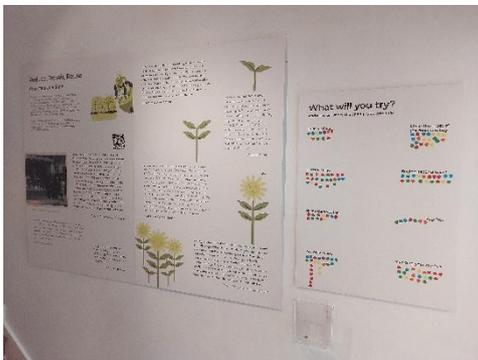
Balancing training with day-to-day operations and navigating complex infrastructure changes, such as replacing the heating system, were real challenges. We overcame these through phased learning, strong support from our partners in the community, and by building sustainability into our work rather than treating it as an add-on.

### **The Impact of Carbon Literacy**

Carbon Literacy has significantly reshaped our organisational culture. We are now more confident, proactive and values-driven in our decision-making, with environmental responsibility forming a central strand of our identity. This shift contributed to us winning the Environmental Sustainability Award at the Hertfordshire Association of Museums Awards 2025, and we have since been featured in several case studies about our work.

Practical benefits include:

- Lower carbon emissions thanks to the installation of air source heat pumps and a more efficient heating system.
- Reduced waste through greener materials and more conscious purchasing.
- Greater community engagement, including climate-focused events, exhibitions and workshops that help visitors take their own environmental actions.



*Reduce, Reuse, Repair Pop-Up Exhibition,  
summer 2025*



*Examples of pre-loved and recycled  
materials for hands-on activities*

### **What Comes Next**

Our next steps include enhancing biodiversity in our museum courtyard and continuing to deliver accessible, community-centred climate events. We will maintain momentum through ongoing involvement in environmental programming and transparent reporting on our sustainability progress, ensuring we continue moving forward together, with purpose and optimism.