

One Planet Living at Ilkley Manor House

Ilkley Manor House is an important historic Grade I listed building that stands on the remains of a Roman fort and is at the heart of Ilkley on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales. We work to preserve the House for future generations and bring to life the story of Ilkley Manor House, its place in Ilkley, the local landscape, and the wider world.

Ilkley Manor House Trust acknowledges the connection between the climate and other environmental crises and the threat of current and future homelessness, disease, food and water shortages and poverty for millions of people around the world, as well as the major damage being caused to our natural eco-systems.

We therefore recognise our responsibility to be an environmentally responsible charity, both in the way we care for this heritage site, and through our programme of arts, cultural, wellbeing and heritage activities. We are committed to creating connections with the community to explore stories, themes and objects from the past, present and future to bring the history of Ilkley Manor House to life, raising awareness of our place in and impact on the wider world.

One Planet Living is a concept pioneered by [Bioregional](#) where, “everyone lives happy, healthy lives within the limits of the planet, leaving space for nature.” Ilkley Manor House Trust has adopted the One Planet Living [ten guiding principles of sustainability](#) as a framework for the way we work and the projects we deliver.

One Planet Living at Ilkley Manor House

1. Health and happiness

At Ilkley Manor House we recognise that whether through visiting, volunteering, learning or creative practice, engaging with heritage can strengthen confidence, resilience, hope and social connections. We can all benefit from the quality of the place we inhabit, especially if its historic environment is cared for and its historic green spaces are accessible. We are already committed to encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing by:

- Caring for and providing access to the sanctuary of the Manor House and grounds, a peaceful retreat from the hubbub of daily life, set in beautiful parkland on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales.
- Providing opportunities through cultural and arts programming for people to come together to volunteer, socialise and learn. We support active, social, and meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.

In future, we are committed to further developing our programming to encompass aspects of One Planet Living as part of our commitment to bringing to life the story of Ilkley Manor House, its place in Ilkley, the local landscape, and the wider world.

2. Equity and local economy

We are already committed to creating a safe, equitable place to live and work to support local prosperity and Fairtrade by:

- Paying at least Real Living Wage, the only UK wage rate based on the cost of living, to all paid staff.
- Providing placement opportunities for students, to support the development of skills in the heritage sector.
- Supporting a collective of 30 local artists and makers through the management of the selling Solar Gallery and online shop and providing opportunities to a wider catchment of artists to sell work at our bi-annual Makers' Fair.
- Facilitating the development of creative and artistic skills and small business through the provision of affordable studio space.
- Putting in place accessibility, fire, lone working, health and safety, privacy, and volunteer management policies to safeguard our staff, volunteers, and visitors to the building.
- Offering training in first aid and defibrillator equipment training to volunteers to ensure the Manor House is safe and to provide support to the wider community.

In future, Ilkley Manor House Trust will include environmental responsibility training in staff training and induction programmes. All staff contracts will include a clause stating that staff will be expected to help Ilkley Manor House Trust in carrying out its aim of being an environmentally responsible organisation, in how they carry out their day-to-day duties.

3. Culture and community

We use our programme of exhibitions, activities, and school visits to nurture local identity and heritage, empowering our community and promoting a culture of sustainable living by:

- Hosting events and exhibitions about Ilkley Manor House, Ilkley, and the Yorkshire Dales to promote learning about heritage, culture and all aspects of the visual arts, music, theatre, dance, and literature.
- Engaging with local schools through a programme of school visits, developed in partnership with our neighbours, All Saints Church Ilkley.
- Offering volunteering opportunities to enable people to have fun, make friends and learn new skills.
- Organising concerts and other social events that provide opportunities for people to socialise, as well as provide opportunities for emerging performers to gain experience and showcase talent.
- Offering rentable event space for people to come together to celebrate milestone events.

In future, we will continue to refine and develop our offer to our local community, exploring ways to champion One Planet Living within the context of our mission and objects.

4. Land and nature

By caring for the peaceful courtyard and gardens surrounding the House, we are already protecting and restoring land for the benefit of people and wildlife. Already we have:

- Secured funding from the *Tesco Bags of Help* scheme to work with volunteers to create a sensory heritage garden full of plants and sounds to stimulate the senses and support biodiversity.
- Hosted regular outdoor trails, promoting knowledge of wildlife, and secured Coop Community Funding to collaborate on an outdoor music initiative with LS29 Group, and Leeds-based charity *Made with Music*.
- Our volunteers have designed and created a mediaeval garden enabling people to learn about the kinds of plants that would have been eaten and enjoyed by past inhabitants of the House, such as mulberry and marigold.

In future we will seek to use drought tolerant planting to minimise water use and will continue to take opportunities to promote sustainable food and herbs.

5. Sustainable Water

We are already committed to helping to protect local water resources and reduce flooding and drought by using water efficiently. Already we have:

- Installed low-flow toilets as part of our bathroom refurbishment.
- Started only using environmentally friendly cleaning products to minimise the release of harmful toxins into the ecosystem.

In future, we will seek opportunities for rainwater harvesting, where possible within the constraints of the listing, and will explore the use of sustainable urban drainage systems / permeable surfaces in future development plans.

6. Local and sustainable food

We are taking steps to promote sustainable, humane farming and healthy diets high in local, seasonal organic food and vegetable protein by:

- Working with local caterers, wine retailers and breweries to provide food and beverages for concerts and events.
- Encouraging wedding and event customers to use local companies with ethical food practices.

In future, we will consider more sustainable food and beverage solutions including procuring local, organic, Rainforest Alliance and Fairtrade produce.

7. Travel and transport

We have already demonstrated commitment to reducing the need to travel, encouraging walking, cycling and low carbon transport by:

- Introducing an [Accessibility Policy](#), which covers all aspects of access to the House, including sustainable travel options.
- Installing cycle stands, promoting the use of public transport on our website, and supporting walking for health on the Dales Way via exhibitions and collaborations.
- Hosting both in-person and remote meetings to reduce the need for travel.

In future, we will seek to reduce unnecessary travel and make the transport that is necessary as sustainable as possible.

8. Materials and products

We are already using materials from sustainable sources and promoting products that help people reduce consumption by:

- Upcycling, sharing, and reusing equipment and furniture where possible.
- Using natural materials wherever possible, such as lime mortar to restore crumbling stonework and salvaged timber to deliver our *Inside Out* popup theatre space.
- Employing local companies and heritage skills wherever possible to deliver projects, for example the restoration of our external lantern.

In future, Ilkley Manor House Trust will seek to reduce the use of non-recyclable interpretation materials and signage/banners etc.

We will also include relevant environmental clauses in any future contracts agreed with outside bodies.

We will consider any changes to the building fabric against the [Sustainable Traditional Buildings Alliance Guidance Wheel](#).

We will also ask all our current and future suppliers for their environmental policies and for evidence of implementation of such policies and indicate that such performance will be used as criteria for supplier selection.

We will strive to use and promote heritage skills in the projects we develop.

9. Zero waste

We are already committed to reducing consumption, reusing, and recycling to achieve zero waste and zero pollution. Already we have:

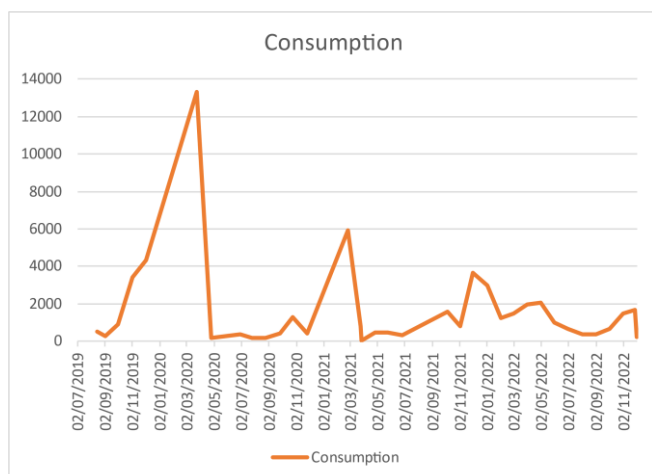
- Ensured all our paper, glass and plastic waste is recycled by [Bradford Council Commercial Waste scheme](#).
- Stopped using balloons for all Ilkley Manor House functions and encourage customers to do the same.
- Started using recyclable cups and use recyclable coffee pods.

In future, we will continue to reduce our waste production, following the 'reduce, reuse, recycle' mantra.

10. Zero carbon energy

Whilst recognising the limitations of working with a Grade I listed mediaeval building, we have already taken steps to reduce heat loss and minimise our energy consumption by:

- Replacing all the lights in the Manor House with LED lights.
- Upgrading the heating to a more efficient system in 2019.
- Installing a chimney screen in the primary fireplace in the housebody (main room) to reduce heat loss
- Introducing chimney draught excluders to the other four chimneys in the House.
- Installing hessian round the doors to reduce draughts.



Already we are seeing the benefits of these interventions. Energy consumption from July 2019-November 2022 shows a decrease in consumption, although the closures imposed by the Covid-19 crisis will be distorting those figures (figure 1).

Figure 1 Electricity consumption - Jul 2019-Nov 2022

In future, Ilkley Manor House Trust will monitor electricity consumption on an annual basis and include this data as part of our annual report.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Ilkley Manor House Trust mandates the Chair of the Trustees to take executive responsibility for taking forward and implementing the commitments set out in this policy, with support from Trustees, staff, and volunteers. They are also requested to report annually on progress made, including statistical information on Ilkley Manor House Trust's annual:

- *Electricity consumption*

Progress on improvement of Ilkley Manor House Trust's environmental performance, including electricity consumption, will be a standard item at Trustee Board meetings, and will be included in annual reporting going forward.

This policy will be reviewed annually from the date of adoption.

12th August 2023 DATE
August 2024
