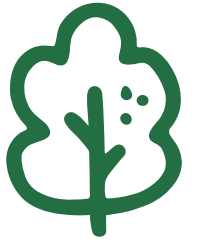


Roots & Branches

Seeds for Action Case Study 2022-23



A Sky Garden and more...

Warrington Museum & Art Gallery

Warrington Museum & Art Gallery

We are a Victorian Museum & gallery with an eclectic mix of collections and temporary exhibitions.

Our gallery highlights include geology, world cultures (including Egypt), and traditional art alongside an exciting changing programme of contemporary exhibitions.

We have a well-established schools programme that offers workshops, a loans service and a teachers CPD programme throughout the year.



The project: A Sky Garden and more...

We are taking a multi-faceted approach to climate change at the moment. Most staff have attended carbon literacy training. We felt this was important so we all had the same knowledge and facts available to us as a team.

Our actions from this were various including reducing consumables used in workshops to adding climate change to the agenda of the various groups we all belong to. I applied for funding from MDNW to build a 'Sky Garden' on our local shopping centre roof.

Its early days, but wildlife has already been using the garden and from Spring 2023 the garden will be used as an extension of the museum.

We want people to learn about the nature around them and In the future, use the garden as a base for looking at wider climate change issues.



Impacts and Outcomes



As a team we all now **understand the basics** of climate change and can **think of solutions** from the same starting point.



For the first time, we have a **space to focus** on the value of the botanical world and slow the loss of 'Botanical Education Extinction'.



We **don't waste much** anymore:

- Unwanted education items are offered to local groups and schools
- Exhibition cases and materials are reuse
- Learning doesn't have to use so much paper!



From building the Sky Garden, I've made lots of **new connections** across the northwest with like-minded people to ask for help and advice from.



Even a small space can attract a wide array of biodiversity that you wouldn't expect.



Culture Warrington has shown their commitment to working more sustainably by giving a staff member **a full day of extra work per week** to focus on sustainability projects and policies.

Challenges and Barriers



There are a lot of things that just take **more time**...

Watering the garden with **watering cans** not hosepipes (until we get our water butt) has taken a long time especially during the very hot summer of 2022.

Meetings with a **new climate change agenda point** take longer to get through.

Asking colleagues if they **want your unwanted items**, then arranging storage, collection or charity shop runs is more time intensive than throwing things away.

Maybe this is all good though?

Maybe the things that we need to do **more thoughtfully should take longer** and we should just allow for this?

The main reason for doing this project is to make the town centre a greener and more biodiverse place to work and live, as well as showing people what you can do in your own space to encourage nature as well as growing some of your own food.

Amanda Moore,
Education & Learning Officer



The Sky Garden is something we've wanted to do for a couple of years and partnering with Amanda at Culture Warrington to turn that from a concept into a reality has been amazing.

We want to educate the children that you only need a small space to be able to grow things and hopefully they'll take that ethos home with them.

Kim Moate,
Training and Social Development Officer
at Golden Square, quoted in the Warrington Guardian



Next steps and future climate actions

- Work with the council and other local groups on **ways to demonstrate that air quality and urban heat are better** in a garden area.
- Firm up a **programme of adult / family workshops** that include things like:
 - growing food for free,
 - gardening swap shop,
 - planting for pollinators...
- Firm up a **mission statement** that reflects our climate friendly museum ethos and make this **useable** for the team, not just words for a report.
- Deliver **in-house Carbon Literacy training** to our board members and Senior Management Team and then look into applying to become a Carbon Literate Organisation (CLO).

Find out more



Cheshire Wildlife Trust An interview with Manda Moore from the Sky Garden Project, 25 October 2023



Amanda Moore, Education & Learning Officer
amoore@culturewarrington.org

Roots & Branches

Seeds for Action – case studies



The **Seeds for Action Programme** is part of the Roots & Branches project. It aims to connect Carbon Literate Certified museum people across England to develop and build on their carbon reduction strategies and approaches to taking climate action.



By pooling our **collective expertise and resources**, we can save ourselves time and money, and tackle the climate emergency more effectively together. Feel free to **share this case study** with others.

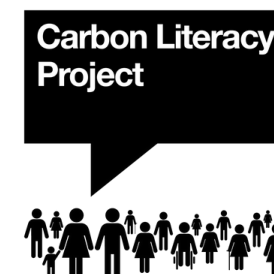


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- Case study submitted by Amanda Moore
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