

The Isle of Man is a UNESCO Biosphere, a recognition of its outstanding environment, culture, heritage and its community's sense of pride in them and desire to cherish them. Globally, all UNESCO Biospheres have three functions: encouraging sustainable development, promoting conservation, and playing a part in learning about these issues.

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man's local strategy 'Working together for a Sustainable Future' commits the Island to actions linked to these global aims under the five E's of economy, education, engagement, enjoyment, and environment.

Organisations in the Isle of Man play a leading role in creating a more sustainable future. Organisations across all sectors source materials, create products, heat and light premises, use packaging, deal with waste, travel etc. Adopting more sustainable practices will lead to a better world for us all, will enhance your own reputation and will influence others, including your own employees and customers. However, what to do, and how to do it, can be confusing and challenging, and differs greatly from organisation to organisation, and sector to sector.

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man is committed to working with organisations to assist them to adopt more sustainable practices. As part of its 'learning' function, UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man works with University College Isle of Man students to encourage and education about sustainable practices.

Its 2021/22 student Emma Sayle has created this general toolkit to engage organisations with the growing need to adopt more sustainable practices and help you on your way to doing so.

We hope you find it useful and that you adopt some of the measures outlines within it.

Our Sustainable Mann workshops operate each autumn; for further information see [our website](#)

A NOTE FROM EMMA:

When I undertook my placement with UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man as part of my Master's Degree, I knew my focus was going to be on the business community on the Island. After a year of research, development and design, I have developed this toolkit with the hope that it will help organisations, more broadly, to adopt more sustainable practices. Even if just one organisation finds the toolkit useful then it will have fulfilled its purpose.

It is our responsibility, as individuals and organisations, to sustain the Island and protect our Biosphere that we can continue to function as a society, considering environmental, social, and economic factors within this.

Our UNESCO Biosphere status should be used as a positive catalyst for change, with organisation working alongside UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man under their partner scheme to fulfil the commitment of 'Working together for a Sustainable Future'.



USING THE TOOLKIT



You may wish to adopt more sustainable practices within your organisation but lack the time or resources to invest in training or to seek expert advice. You may also be unsure of the benefits becoming more sustainable will have on your organisation. This toolkit will explore the topic of sustainability, outlining what sustainability is, what it's not, and solutions to becoming more sustainable. Not all the information within the toolkit will be relevant to your organisational context but you should be able to take some learnings from it.

The toolkit has been broken down into 4 sections which cover different elements of sustainability. Breaking the toolkit down into sections gives you the opportunity to read through each one in your own time rather than reading through one large document.

Within each section there are thought bubbles and pages asking questions about how the content relates to your organisation. Some of the pages have been exported as PDFs with editable sections so that you can answer the questions and analyse your organisation in more detail.



Please note: the editable PDF option may not be available on all devices but should work on most laptops.

Although the pages have been designed to avoid printing, if your learning style is more suited to having a physical document then please feel free to print the sections off, on recycled paper and double sided preferably.

**THINK
BEFORE YOU
PRINT**

A better understanding of the relationship between organisations and sustainability.

Start to develop a sustainability strategy tailored to your organisation.

Assess how culture plays a role in implementing sustainable practices successfully.

Explore what other organisations on the Island are doing.

WHAT COULD YOU GAIN FROM THE TOOLKIT?

Establish a base from which to improve sustainability within your organisation.

Suggestions of ways you could improve your practices to become more sustainable.

Identify internal and external factors that may impact your organisation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A huge thank you to the UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man team for their help and support throughout the creation of the toolkit.

Thank you to the interview participants and the organisations who responded to the questionnaire, which all helped to contribute to inform the development of the toolkit.



Isle of Man
Chamber of Commerce



Isle of Man

To all the organisations who contributed to the case studies, helping to provide context and inspiration to other organisations on the Island.



Ynnyd Bree as Lhiasaghey Neustroiallagh Vannin



“Evening Light on Cronk Ny Arrey Laa” – Photo credit for website image: Paul Marriot