

FOREWORD

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 Es of economy, education, engagement, enjoyment and environment.

Businesses in the Isle of Man play a leading role in creating a more sustainable future. Businesses across all sectors source materials, create products, heat and light premises, use packaging, deal with waste, travel, etc. Adopting 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 business to business and sector to sector.

UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man is committed to working with businesses 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 Masters degree students to encourage and educate about sustainable practices.

Its 2021/2022 student Emma Sayle has created this general toolkit to engage businesses with the need to adopt 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 within it.

Please also look out for our 'Sustainable Mann' workshops.

[UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man.](#)

A note from Emma:

When starting my placement with UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man as part of my Masters Degree I knew I wanted to do 'something' that could engage businesses in sustainability issues. After a year of research, development and design I have developed this toolkit with the hope that it will help businesses adopt more sustainable practices. Even if one business finds the information within the toolkit useful then it will have fulfilled its purpose.

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

Business or not, the Island is here for us to enjoy as long as we respect it.





You may wish to adopt more sustainable practices within your business but lack the time or resources to invest in training or to seek expert advice. You may also be unsure of the benefits of becoming more sustainable. This toolkit will explore the topic of sustainability and help you on your way to understanding some of the solutions and benefits. It is important to note that not all of the information contained within the toolkit will be relevant to the context of your business as every business is different.

The toolkit has been broken down into four sections which cover different elements of sustainability, with a further section containing sector specific checklists with suggestions for change. 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 business. Some of the thought bubbles are there for you to think about as you read through the slides but some of the pages have been exported as PDFs with editable sections so that you can answer the questions and analyse your business in more detail.

Please note: the editable PDF option won't 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 preferably.



**THINK
BEFORE YOU
PRINT**

Start to develop a sustainability strategy tailored to your business.

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

Gain better understanding of the relationship between business and sustainability.

What could you gain from the toolkit?

Explore what other businesses on the Island are doing.

Establish a base from which to improve sustainability in your business.

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

Identify internal and external factors that may impact your business.

Group 1 - An introduction to sustainability;

- Defining sustainability
- UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man
- Connect with us
- Basics of sustainability
- The UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Myth busting
- Models of sustainability
- A circular economy
- How does this link with my business?
- Exploratory new business ideas

Read through section

Group 2 – Why choose sustainability;

- Understanding your context
- The business case for sustainability
- Challenges?
- For thought...
- A culture of sustainability
- How do I create a culture of sustainability?

Read through section

Group 3 – Sustainable strategies;

- The statistics
- Sustainable strategy – Q&A
- Developing a sustainable strategy
- Net Zero Isle of Man
- For thought...

Read through section

Group 4 – Sustainability in context;

- The case studies
- Capital International Group
- The Children's Centre
- Zurich Isle of Man
- Manx Hedgehog Conservation Society
- Betty Laurincova
- Manx Wildlife Trust
- Resources on Island
- Isle of Man Government's Commitments
- For thought...
- References

Read through section

Suggestions for change checklists;

- In the workplace
- Tourism
- Agriculture
- Construction and installation
- Retail
- Logistics

Completed checklist

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A huge thank you to Jo Overty and Breeshey Kermode, Project Officer and Project Assistant at UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man respectively, for their support throughout the project.



All of the businesses who have contributed to the case studies, helping to provide context for other businesses on the Island.



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

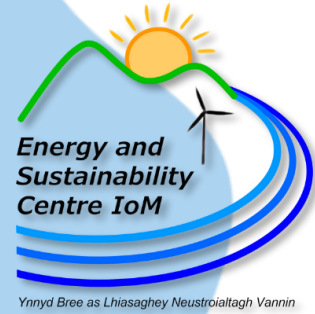


Photo credit for website image: Paul Marriot



"Evening Light on Cronk Ny Arrey Laa"