

The aims of Elizabeth Gaskell's House (EGH) are to develop, conserve and manage the house and garden as a sustainable heritage resource for people (in Greater Manchester, the UK and internationally) to learn about, and participate in, the heritage associated with this historic building and its links to Elizabeth Gaskell and her family.

The trustees, staff and volunteers at EGH are committed to long term sustainability through the following areas;

- 1. Reducing our impact on the environment**
- 2. Working with and supporting the local community**
- 3. Welcoming all visitors and volunteers to the house through events, workshops and training opportunities.**

We will review this commitment annually and look for ways to improve in the following areas. The following is an overview of what we are currently doing.

Energy

Where new appliances and light bulbs are being purchased ensure that low energy versions are chosen, replacing older non-LED lighting wherever possible, whilst continuing to monitor and control energy consumption.

Waste management

All waste is separated to ensure that paper, cardboard, plastic and glass can be recycled. Food waste is separated into raw and cooked food, with raw waste being composted on-site. Old equipment is either sold, free-cycled, given to charity or where not recyclable is disposed of responsibly at authorised re-cycling sites.

Purchasing

Where possible we use local suppliers for the tearoom and shop and local connections are actively promoted. All the china used in the tea room is vintage china and has been donated or purchased from charity shops.

Transport

Visitors, staff and volunteers are encouraged to use public transport. The house has bike racks and is on a bus route. Public transport information is promoted via the website and on leaflets.

The Local Environment and Wildlife

The garden is maintained by a team of volunteers and includes a variety of native shrubs, trees and plants. Visitors are encouraged to walk through the garden, with specific trails aimed at children and families. Over the next 12 months we aim to develop wildlife spotting guides and to install bird and bat boxes.

Community

EGH will provide free room use for local groups, when possible, and will support the annual Swinton Park Fun Day. EGH works with the neighbouring school and community to encourage volunteering and involvement with the house.

Communication

We will share and promote our sustainable commitment with staff, volunteers and visitors. This will include a Responsible Visitor Charter and we aim to have at least one Green Ambassador within our volunteer team. EGH is in the process of applying for Green Tourism Business Accreditation.

*Frank Galvin
Chair of Manchester Historic Buildings Trust
1 February 2018*