

# THIS IS HOW YOU MAKE YOUR EXHIBITION MORE SUSTAINABLE!

OH YES!

Yes, I want to be more sustainable!

As a cultural organization you want to become more sustainable, in fact you are probably already working on it. Yet I think that there is still a lot to gain in sustainable exhibition construction. Until now, little (or no) account has been taken of the impact that an exhibition has on the earth. The duration of a temporary exhibition is often short, the materials are only used once and then thrown away. That cannot be tolerated anymore! As a creative maker, I would like to share knowledge and provide tools to make this part of your organization more sustainable. Your sustainable choices for exhibition design can reduce or even minimize the carbon footprint of your location.

This document provides tools to make more sustainable choices when designing and realizing museum exhibitions. These tips and information can inspire you and your organization from the first phases of a new exhibition project.

## How do you use these tips?

On the next page you will see a division into three categories: reuse, share and new. Start at the beginning. Are there materials, elements or display cases within your organization that you could reuse? Yes? Great! Use them, it will save you a lot of time and money. Maybe reuse is not an option, then see if you can find a collaboration. Perhaps you can borrow or rent equipment from another organization? Have you looked at those options, but still no complete exhibition? Then look at what you can purchase new by making sustainable choices, I will give a number of examples!

You can continue down the entire path and make sustainable choices together with your team. Rest assured, not all options are likely feasible or who knows, you might think of other possibilities. That's totally okay. Every small step towards sustainability helps!

## This is how you read the symbols

To give you more insight, a theme has been added to each tip. You can read the meaning of the symbols here:



**PRICE** - making sustainable choices does not always have to be expensive, it can sometimes even save you money.



**TIME** - sometimes there is not enough time to pay attention to everything. Thinking and deciding about sustainability can take a long time, but sometimes there are quick and easy solutions. I would like to share them with you!



**CHOICE** - there are sustainable options for many 'standards'. For example, instead of an OSB panel, you can also choose a material that is produced with low CO2 emissions. I share possibilities that you might not have thought of yet. This way you can make quick choices that ensure sustainability.



**TIP** - sharing knowledge makes the world a better place, so I would like to share a quick, fun, surprising or easy tip!



**RECYCLING** - this is actually one of the most important things you can think about, when talking about sustainability; what are the consequences of your choices?

# WHAT CHOICES DO YOU MAKE FOR A SUSTAINABLE EXHIBITION?

## START

### 1/ REUSE

When starting a new exhibition design, start by thinking about all the furniture you have available and use that as a starting point.

**BUY A SECOND LIFE**  
Need construction wood? Take a look at Buurman, a workshop and hardware store for reusing materials.

[http://](#)

### DON'T THROW ANYTHING AWAY!

Once the exhibition is up, immediately start looking for opportunities to give your exhibition (or parts of it) a second life.

### USE YOUR ARCHIVE!

Do you know which furniture is in the depot? Take an afternoon to seriously investigate with an open mind what you could use for the new exhibition.

### TRANSPORT

For the transport of collection items or materials, do not order the first available courier, but look for a sustainable means of transport, such as a bicycle courier or a carrier with an electric car.



### MUSEUM MARKETPLACE

TIP! First see if you can buy what you are looking for second hand. For museums there is a special marketplace for objects and furniture where you can purchase presentations.

[http://](#)

**CLICK HERE!**

### BORROW IT!

Investigate what opportunities there are to borrow (or rent) display cases or AV equipment, for example. Start on time by sharing your needs with the market and fellow museums. Do this during or even before the design process, this way you can better match supply and demand.

### 2/ SHARE

Before you have something new made, remember that sharing is a much better choice! There are several options to prevent further depletion of the earth.

### THINK ABOUT HOW YOU TRANSPORT!

- By building modular you do not transport air. Make sure that your furniture is transported in parts, this is also called flatpack packaging.

- Exchange protective film or bubble wrap for a horse blanket, these are easy to reuse.

### 3/ NEW

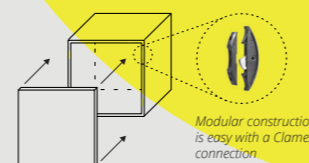
Is your exhibition still not complete and is the only option buying something new? Then make responsible choices.

### CHOOSE TREE-FREE

13% of forest clearing is used for the European paper industry. Paper can be recycled an average of five times, after which it is degraded to toilet paper. A sustainable choice is therefore tree-free paper.

### BUILD MODULAR

Modular construction makes furniture easy to assemble and disassemble. In this way, circular materials can be recycled better.



### CHOICE OF MATERIAL

Look critically at your choice of materials; could you make it more sustainable without changing the type of material? Here are a few suggestions:

MDF	→	Chipboard e.g. Pfeleiderer / Unilin
OSB	→	ESB e.g. Elka strong
Acrylic	→	GreenCast e.g. Pyrasied
Dibond	→	Cardboard e.g. de Bij
Acrylic paint	→	Biobased paint e.g. Fairf



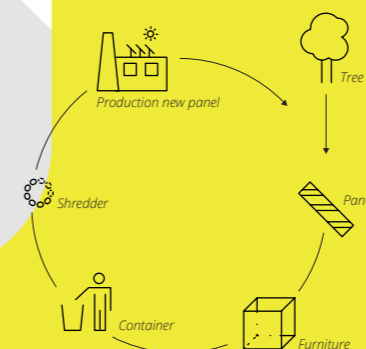
### MAKE A CONSCIOUS CHOICE OF WOOD

By choosing wood with an FSC and/or PEFC certification, you actively contribute to the conservation of forests worldwide. In addition, all opportunities for a climate-friendly, circular economy are being utilized.

FSC certification is also an instrument against deforestation.

### CHOOSE CIRCULAR MATERIALS

When a material is circular, this means that it can go back into the chain. In this way, no new raw materials are tapped from the earth. So, can you choose a circular material instead? Wood is a good example of this:



### EXPERIMENT WITH BIOBASED MATERIALS

A good alternative, both for aesthetics and construction, are biobased materials. Click on the link for biobased inspiration from the Netherlands.

[http://](#)

These tools are just the beginning. I'm curious: what inspiration will you take with you for your next choice?\*

- PRICE
- TIME
- CHOICE
- TIP
- RECYCLING