

Moving Towards Sustainability Through the Bizot Green Protocol



Speakers

November 2025



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What we will Cover

November 2025



01 Art Bridges Registrar Survey

- Why we conducted
- Survey Results
- More conversations about Bizot are needed

02 What is the Bizot Green Protocol

- Why it matters
- How it can help your bottom line
- Energy efficiency and sustainability

03 Bizot Green Protocol Journeys - A conversation on Opportunities

- Perspectives of our own experiences
- Who needs to be involved
- Conversation about how **YOU** can start internal conversations and implement Bizot

Art Bridges Registrar Survey

November 2025

Art Bridges conducted this survey to better understand the loan process, climate parameters, and how the decision making at institutions works so that the foundation can better support art museums across the country.



Survey Assessed

- Loan process (e.g. # loans per year, types of loans, approval process, etc.)
- Climate parameters (e.g. temp + humidity standards, Bizot Green, etc.)
- Workload and practices of registration / collections personnel themselves

Loan Process

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Biggest barriers to approving loan requests are: Limited staff (**29%**), Poor conditions at borrowing institution(**22%**), Prohibitive loan fees/costs for borrowers (**13%**)

How involved are you in reviewing and managing loan requests?

- Fully responsible (42%)
- Primarily responsible (39%)

60%

Respondents said that >75% of loan requests are approved

Who is involved in decision-making process?

- Registrars (25%)
- Curators (25%)
- Executive Director (20%)
- Department Heads / Directors (16%)
- Conservators (6%)
- Other (8%)

81%

Respondents report they are fully or primarily responsible for reviewing and managing loan requests

Executive Director / CEO role in reviewing requests?

- Reviews all loan requests and makes final decision (42%)
- Reviews loans over a certain value or significance and makes final decision (18%)
- Reviews all loan requests but doesn't make final decision (16%)

92%

Of applications are for 1-5 objects

Perceived Responsibility

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Survey takers **strongly agreed** that they **err on the side of caution** **reviewing requests**

“
*There's no risk to me...It's well-documented. And if what I've told you is wrong, then all of these other generations of people in front of me were wrong too ... I am completely absolved of any risk if something goes wrong with this object, because I just did what everybody does*¹”

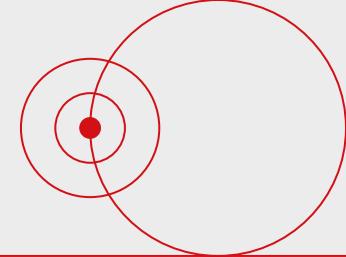
“

Interviewees said they follow the 'industry standard', without being able to say with certainty where those numbers came from, who instituted procedures, how long they have been in place, or how they compare with the most up-to-date research.¹

”

1. Taylor, J., Spangler-Bickell, C. 2025. The Costs of Changing: Factors Affecting Museum Loan Specifications and Their Revision, *Studies in Conservation*, DOI: 10.1080/00393630.2025.2515308

Climate Parameters and Bizot Green



- **58%** Standard 70°F ±2°F for temperature, 50% relative humidity ±5%,
 - **29%** Bizot Green
 - **8%** No specific standards
- **58%** apply the same standards across the board
- **69%** are **strict or very strict** with application of standards
- **29%** said they were **not familiar** with Bizot Green

Progress in adopting Bizot

- Fully adopted (18%)
- In process (11%)
- Considering (13%)
- Have not considered (45%)
- Not sure (13%)

What is the Bizot Green Protocol?

- Why it matters
- How it can help your bottom line
- Energy efficiency and sustainability



“...it is also important to state clearly that **the numbers 40-60% relative humidity and 16-25°C temperature range with 10% daily variation do not have any fundamental meaning from a scientific point of view.** Rather, they represented numbers that seemed reasonably acceptable ten years ago. We propose that they should be viewed as **a starting point** for implementing sustainable strategies of environmental management. In other words, **we do not advocate for the replacement of one prescriptive solution (50 ± 5% RH, 21±2°C) with another (40-60% RH, 16-25°C).**

Instead, we advocate for **a more nuanced determination of environmental parameters that is based on the preservation needs of the objects, as informed by scientific research and experience, and the sustainability goals of the institution.**”

Science backed

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“

AIC

These guidelines outline practical, sustainable approaches to managing temperature and humidity in cultural institutions, emphasizing flexibility, evidence-based decision-making, and the balance between preservation needs, building capacities, and energy use.

Temperate climate: T: 15-25C RH: 40-60 50 +/-10

Humid: T: 15-25C RH: 45-65 55 +/-10

Canadian Conservation Institute

The Climate guidelines (two tools and four sections) "replaces the previous CCI resource Environmental guidelines for museums."

ICOM-CC / IIC

It is acknowledged that the issue of collection and material environmental requirements is complex, and conservators/conservation scientists should actively seek to explain and unpack these complexities. Guidelines for environmental conditions for permanent display and storage should be achievable for the local climate.

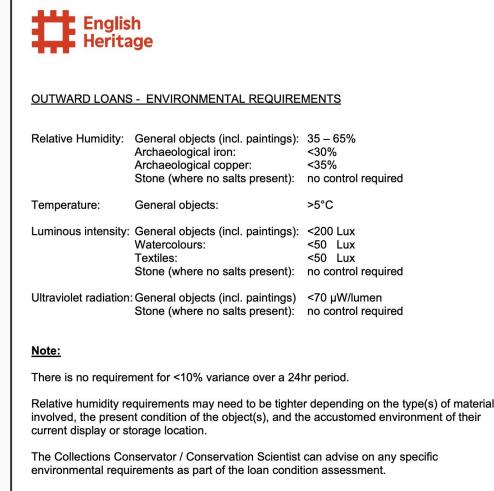
Getty Conservation Institute

Managing Collection Environments

AAM

Aligns with AAM accreditation!

English Heritage (see picture)



OUTWARD LOANS - ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

Relative Humidity:	General objects (incl. paintings):	35 - 65%
	Archaeological iron:	<30%
	Archaeological copper:	<35%
	Stone (where no salts present):	no control required
Temperature:	General objects:	>5°C
Luminous intensity:	General objects (incl. paintings):	<200 Lux
	Watercolours:	<50 Lux
	Textiles:	<50 Lux
	Stone (where no salts present):	no control required
Ultraviolet radiation:	General objects (incl. paintings)	<70 µW/lumen
	Stone (where no salts present):	no control required

Note:

There is no requirement for <10% variance over a 24hr period.

Relative humidity requirements may need to be tighter depending on the type(s) of material involved, the present condition of the object(s), and the accustomed environment of their current display or storage location.

The Collections Conservator / Conservation Scientist can advise on any specific environmental requirements as part of the loan condition assessment.

“adopting broader environmental parameters does not compromise the safety of most collections”

Bizot Green Protocol
Michał Łukomski and Cecilia Winter,
GCI MCE

International Implementation

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Association of Danish Museums

Statens Museum for Kunst (SMK)

Louisiana Museum of Modern Art

Skagens Museum

ARoS

Odense Museum

Glyptotek

Vardemuseerne

Museum Sydøstdanmark

Hirschsprung Collection

De Groene Museum

Royal Ontario Museum

Hauser & Wirth LA

Hauser & Wirth Menorca

ICOM France

Musée Tomi Ungerer

MUCEM

Musée d'Histoire de Nantes

Muséum Toulouse

Palais des Beaux Arts de Lille

Musée du quai Branly

Petit Palais

Musée des confluences

Musée Edgar Clerc

Musée d'Aquitaine

Portland Museum of Art, Maine

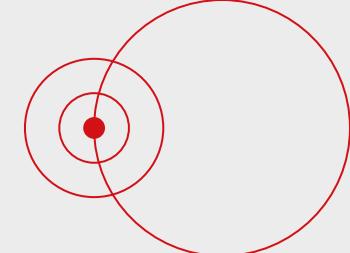
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Rasmus Bahnsen and Thor Nørmark-Larsen, SMK

Tackling Climate Change & Implementing Bizot

A Conversation on Opportunities



Portland Art Museum & Art Bridges Foundation - Bizot Green Protocol Journeys.

- a. Changes each has made
- b. Impact of those changes seen to date
- c. Challenges



Changes

- Updated aging infrastructure and building management systems
- Increased monitoring and understanding by facilities staff
- Shared insights into the physical plant, HVAC equipment, and their operating parameters

Changes

- Amended loan letters and paperwork language
- Weekly climate emails to include executive leadership team
- Increased communication-out by Facilities to Registrars on issues and course of action to fix them

Results

- energy usage cut by about 20%
- Increased understanding of climate guidelines by non-collections staff
- Strengthened interdepartmental relationships
- Increased willingness by lenders to engage in climate conversations
- Modeling behavior we wanted to see in others

Challenges

- Maintaining alignment with aging systems
- Trust among peer institutions
- Time investment for staff coupled with large layoffs and facilities team reduction
- Financial resources, internal and external competition

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Changes

- Incorporating sustainability statement - Green First approach
- Language to be more inclusive and open for climate control conversations
 - ◆ opportunities for us to find the best course of action
 - ◆ Not a blanket requirement for all loans
- Emphasizing use of more sustainable options

Changes

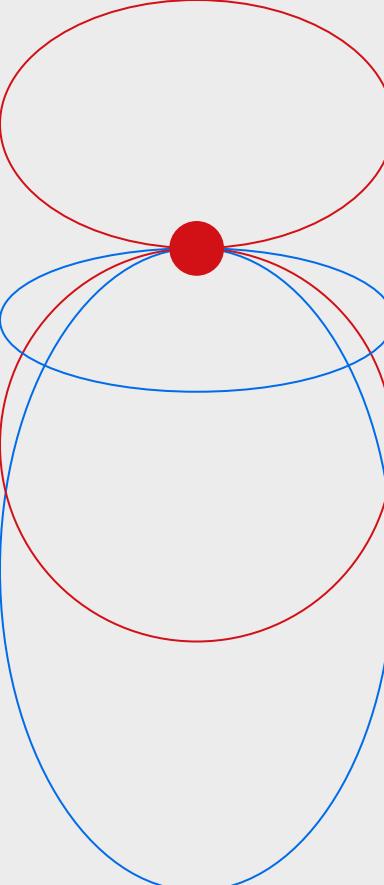
- Shipping requirements based on object needs
- Using shuttles or most sustainable option
- Use of reusable crates when possible
- No truck couriers when possible - using other options such as TIVE

Results

- More opportunities for collaboration and discussion
- Increased art sharing opportunities
- Education
- Formed trusting relationships
- Setting an example with our collection loans

Challenges

- Getting the right people involved in early conversations
- Building trust among our partners
- Time investment for staff
- How to advocate for use in other institutions



Thank You



KiFutures

www.kifutures.com

Art  Bridges

www.artbridgesfoundation.org



PORLAND MUSEUM of ART

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