



Firms' new focus on protecting the planet

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ACTIONFUNDER is a website, brought to you by Semble, that brings community groups and charities together with responsible businesses to Make Change Happen. We make sure that under-the-radar community projects get the support they need to survive and thrive. In this section, you'll find the latest news from people taking action in your local community, as well as inspiring events, big ideas, and opportunities to get involved. Be part of the action at www.actionfunder.org

WITH #COP26 high on the agenda, businesses everywhere are finding a new focus on their environmental impact. Baltic Creative CIC manages workspace in Liverpool's Baltic Triangle to support the creative and digital sectors by reinvesting money in its buildings, tenants and sector. It houses tenants across seven sites, prompting an increasing look at its environmental impact over the last 18 months.

"We know that, as a community-based landlord, we need to be a leader in this," says Alex Christy-Kelly, who manages its Northern Lights building and oversees Baltic Creative's environmental and carbon reduction work. "We're using our learning to filter down into business support, so that we can educate and support our tenants to do the same thing," she says.

Baltic Creative taps into expertise from the city's academic institutions, and has partnerships with both LJMU and the University of Liverpool. "The university is helping us write a sustainability strategy for Northern Lights, which we'll also use to inform future buildings. We have two Masters students working with us, including reporting on our carbon footprint," says Alex. "We work with Changing Streams to look at our plastic use; our energy supply is next. We've also looked at procurement, so we know that the detergents and

products our cleaners use, for instance, are environmentally-friendly and use as little single-use plastic as possible."

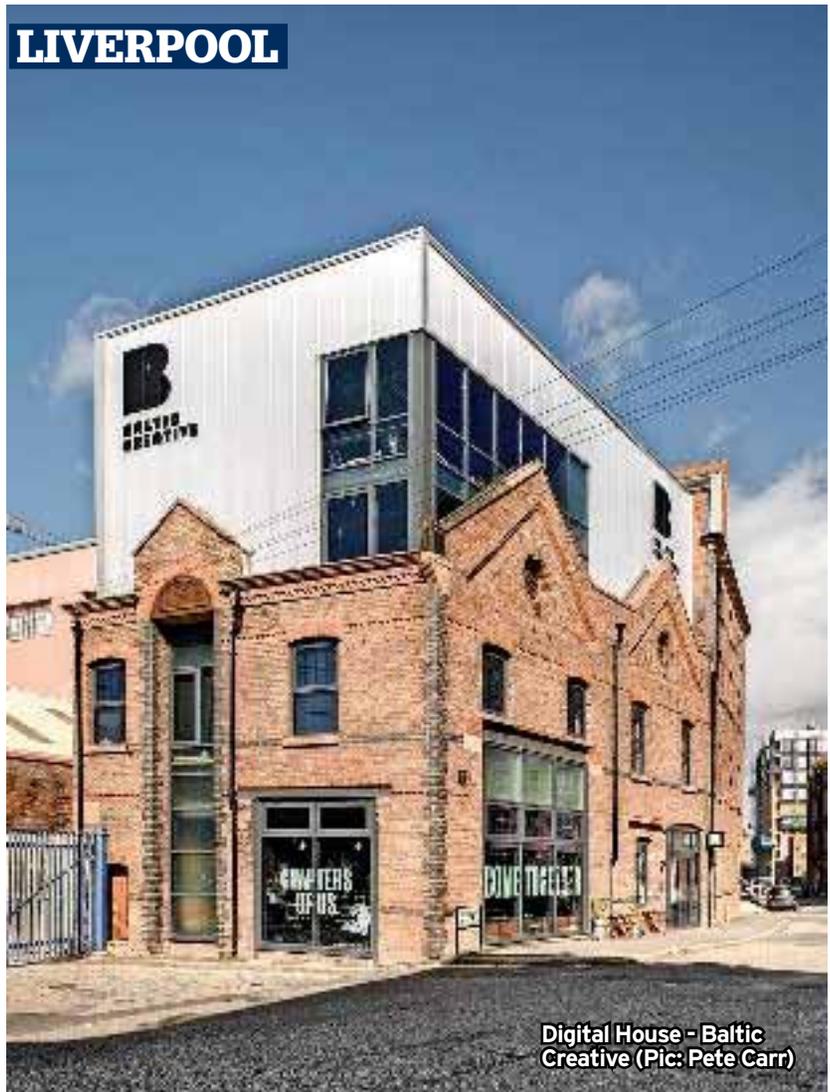
David Connor runs Liverpool's 2030hub - the world's first UN-recognised SDG Local2030 Hub.

"Climate challenges will hit harder and longer than Covid," he says. "Having a credible net zero plan is now essential for every business. If you want access to finance or you want to win any contract in the future, you'll need to provide evidence you understand your company's carbon impact - and what your plan is to reduce it. Creating a net zero plan is most effective by connecting abstract global climate issues to your own local challenges such as poverty, jobs, education and housing."

David is spearheading a new zero-carbon campaign, 2030zero, which supports the region's businesses to begin their journey to net zero, with advice, resources, events, peer-to-peer support and promotion.

"We need to do everything we can, from sole traders to multi-nationals - public, private and third sectors - for business, for local communities and for the planet," he says.

■ Sign up now to the 2030zero pledge by visiting www.2030zero.co.uk



LIVERPOOL

Digital House - Baltic Creative (Pic: Pete Carr)

Get outside this autumn!

DO you live in Liscard or the surrounding area? GROW Well-being CIC is offering FREE Forest school and Adult Wellbeing in Nature sessions throughout November (funded by Wirral Council and Liverpool City Region).

Forest school provides opportunities for children to learn more about nature, wildlife, trees and birds, and develop new skills which build confidence and resilience, as well as learning to manage their own risk taking. GROW believes that having a deeper connection with nature can have a powerful impact on the well-being of people and the planet.

- Sessions are as follows:
- **Kinder Garden Stay n' Play** for 1-4 years - Monday, November 15, 10am-11.30am
 - **Woodland Explorers** for 5-14 years - November 13, 20 & 27 (Saturdays) 10am-12pm
 - **Family Forest Workshops** - November 13, 20 & 27 (Saturdays) 12.45pm-2.45pm
 - **Wellbeing in Nature workshops** for adults - Monday, November 13 12.15pm-2.45pm (for all adults); Monday November 22, 10am-12.30pm (for women); Monday, November 22, 1pm - 3.30pm (for men)

For further information and to receive a booking form to reserve your place please email contact@grow-wellbeing.com. For more information about Grow Wellbeing CIC: Visit the website www.grow-wellbeing.com.

HOMOTOPIA, the annual arts and culture festival held in Liverpool, continues until November 14 with a programme celebrating LGBTQIA culture and Queer joy through theatre, performance, spoken word, film, music and more.

The theme, Coming Out, is a call to arms for a queer community to tell their own stories and control their own narrative, as well as a show of support for artists and cultural venues after months of lockdown.

Artists include Jade Anouka, David Hoyle and Harry Clayton Wright. Events include the Family Vogue Ball, Queer Gaze, a special night at Preach and more. A digital programme sits alongside.

Homotopia's festival director is Char Binns: "After months of fear

and isolation, at this year's Homotopia Festival we aim to showcase queer joy and offer a festival full of fun.

"While we'll never shy away from the big issues affecting LGBTQIA people and our work always has a social justice message, we want to see LGBTQIA people enjoying themselves and re-connecting as a community while we share a passion for art and culture.

"Sadly, as we've started to come out into the world again, Liverpool's city centre hasn't been the most welcoming place for our community, with a summer marred by violent hate crimes. This year's festival is a reminder that we're here, we're queer, and we're ready to combat any negativity by being even more loud, proud and extra fabulous."



Top left: Family Vogue Ball, bottom left: Artist in Residence Jade Anouka (Pic: Michael Shelford), above: Dietrich: Live

Want to share your story? Email hello@actionfunder.org

