

Backwater Artists Environmental Policy

Created by: Elaine Coakley	Reviewed by:	Approved by:	Document Ref: 2
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Policy: Our policy is to reduce the impact of the organisations operations on the environment and to promote sustainability and environmental awareness to our staff and member artists.

Purpose: The purpose of the Environmental policy is to define how Backwater Artists will reduce our environmental impact, promote sustainability and raise awareness within the organisation.

Scope: This policy applies to all Backwater Artists work including facility provision, exhibition making, projects and workshops.

Responsibilities: This policy applies to all staff, studio members, darkroom members, network members and board members of Backwater Artists. All are required to ensure that, in any activities which they undertake or projects that they manage or co-manage as part of their duties, they ensure that the Environmental Policy is complied with. Board members are required to ensure that their decisions and the work of Backwater Artists and its staff comply with the Environmental Policy.

To realise our goals, we commit to the following:

- To ensure the organisation complies with all applicable environmental legislation and sustainability commitments
- To develop a sustainable and energy efficient way of using our building, to investigate renewable energy options and to preserve energy consumption where possible
- To encouraging employees and artists to choose greener commute options
- To minimise the impact of our exhibitions and projects by reusing, recycling and borrowing equipment as appropriate

- To train staff and artist members in environmental best practice and to work in a sustainable way
- To prevent pollution and reduce consumption of resources through waste management strategies which promote waste minimisation re-use, recovery and recycling, as appropriate
- To host exhibitions, projects and events which promote an awareness of environmental best practice and sustainability

To minimise our environmental impact, we commit to working with Wandesford Quay CLG, Cork Printmakers & The Lavit Gallery on the following upgrades and improvements:

- An energy audit has been completed and opportunities for improvement have been identified, which include the upgrade of all lighting in the building to led lights and improvements to the heating system.
- All lights to be replaced with LED lights.
- A new boiler to be installed.
- Solar panels to be installed on the sculpture block roof.
- To the redesign and redevelopment of our courtyard (which currently provides carparking space) as an outdoor events/working space/garden and to phase out car parking.

Backwater Artists also commits to the following with regard to minimising our environmental impact:

Energy Usage

- Energy consumption will be monitored and recorded.
- All lights and equipment to be switched off when not in use.

Travel

- To encourage employees and artists to choose greener commute options.

Printing

- To keep printing to a minimum. To send all files electronically where possible.
- To use printers which use refillable inks.

Recycling, Reusing & Borrowing

- To encourage members and staff to reuse and recycle.
- To encourage staff and members to reuse, recycle and borrow equipment as appropriate for exhibitions and projects.

Sustainable Procurement

- To purchase goods as locally as possible from companies who are aligned with our sustainability goals.

Waste Management

- To commit to purchasing less as a means to stop waste production.
- To record and report our waste including our water usage.
- To avoid the use of single use items and use reusable items such as crockery, glasses and cutlery for all our events and meeting.

Green Initiatives & Awareness

- Our organisation is a member of the Green Arts initiative.
- Our organisation commits to promoting awareness of environmental best practice and sustainability through our exhibitions, projects and events.
- Our staff have been trained in Carbon Footprint Training and Environmental Sustainability & Governance Training.
- Our organisation has completed a Carbon Footprint Assessment and an ESG Maturity Assessment.

Revision History

Revision	Date	Description of changes	Requested by
1	18 June 2024	Timeline of improvements as a result of energy audit to be agreed with all relevant organisations to be developed and added at a later date	Elaine Coakley

