

Cork Artists Collective CLG

Climate and Sustainability Policy and Action Plan

Value Statement

Cork Artists Collective (CAC) recognises its responsibility to respond to climate change and environmental sustainability. As an artist-led organisation built around shared space, collaboration, and practical making, we are committed to reducing our environmental impact and improving how we use energy, materials, and resources across our studios.

We see sustainability as part of everyday studio life, from how we build and maintain our workspaces, to how we share materials, manage waste, and support each other's practices. We are committed to learning, adapting, and working together with our members, partners, and wider community to make our studios more environmentally responsible over time.

We aim to create affordable, adaptable, and low-impact studio spaces that support both artistic practice and long-term environmental responsibility.

Guiding Principles

In our commitment to sustainability, we will:

- Follow all relevant environmental laws and regulations.
- Reduce waste and encourage reuse, repair, and recycling across studio activities.
- Reduce the use of energy, water, and raw materials where possible.
- Prioritise recycled, renewable, non-toxic, and sustainably sourced materials.
- Encourage shared responsibility, learning, and practical action among members.
- Support experimentation with low-impact and resource-conscious ways of making work.
- Regularly review and improve our environmental practices.
- Promote awareness of sustainability across the organisation and studio community.

These principles guide our ongoing efforts to create a practical, low-impact, and sustainable studio environment.

Environmental Practices Action Plan

This plan supports Cork Artists Collective in building sustainability into day-to-day studio life. It is a working document that will continue to develop as our studios, practices, and understanding evolve.

Building and Facilities

Actions

- Use zoned lighting systems and energy-efficient equipment to reduce unnecessary energy use.
- Maintain safe ventilation and working conditions for material-based practices.
- Provide clearly labelled recycling and waste separation facilities across studio spaces.
- Use durable and reusable materials for studio fittings, signage, and infrastructure where possible.

Plans

- Continue upgrading lighting to more energy-efficient systems where needed.
- Improve insulation and thermal efficiency in both studio buildings.
- Explore timers or automatic shut-off systems for high-energy equipment.
- Improve water-saving systems, filtration, and water reuse where possible.

Studio Management, Materials and Waste

Actions

- Follow the principles of Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Repurpose, and Recycle in studio activities.
- Encourage sharing and reuse of materials, tools, and equipment among members.
- Build adaptable studio infrastructure using reusable systems such as UNISTRUT where possible.
- Use reclaimed and responsibly sourced materials in studio construction and maintenance.
- Encourage the use of non-toxic, low-VOC, biodegradable, and lower-impact materials.
- Provide clearly labelled bins for recycling and hazardous waste disposal.
- Work with environmentally responsible suppliers and services where possible.

- Encourage shared storage and material pooling to reduce unnecessary buying and waste.
- Ensure safe handling and disposal of paints, solvents, chemicals, and other hazardous materials.
- Replaced fire extinguishers to comply with environmental strategy standards.

Plans

- Develop a materials swap shelf or shared materials library for reusable offcuts and resources
- Create a shared tools and equipment library.
- Develop clear studio guidelines for handling and disposing of hazardous materials.
- Track material use and waste to help reduce unnecessary consumption.
- Reduce paper use and prioritise recycled paper and non-toxic inks.
- Explore ways to recycle and reuse paper waste within the studio.

Energy Use

Actions

- Use existing LED lighting systems and zoned lighting to reduce energy use.
- Encourage members to switch off lights, heating, and equipment when not in use.
- Use portable infrared heaters to heat occupied areas only and reduce wasted energy.
- Promote awareness of energy use within shared studio spaces.

Plans

- Explore switching to renewable electricity suppliers.
- Investigate renewable energy options such as solar panels.
- Improve insulation in walls, floors, and roof spaces to reduce heat loss.
- Carry out energy reviews and set realistic energy reduction targets.
- Explore long-term pathways towards lower-carbon and net-zero energy use.

Water and Chemical Use

Actions

- Reduce water use through water-saving systems and greywater reuse where possible.
- Avoid chemical-heavy processes where alternatives are available.

- Ensure safe storage, handling, and disposal of hazardous substances.
- Use environmentally friendly cleaning products in shared spaces.

Plans

- Explore rainwater harvesting and expanded greywater systems.
- Develop further guidance on reducing chemical use in studio practices.
- Research safer alternatives to commonly used solvents and cleaning products.

Digital Systems and Low-Carbon Operations

Actions

- Reduce unnecessary digital storage and duplication where possible.
- Encourage regular clearing of emails, files, and cloud storage (“Green Fifteen”).
- Use compressed media and efficient file-sharing systems to reduce energy use.
- Store and archive files using energy-efficient systems where appropriate.

Plans

- Move to greener website hosting providers where possible.
- Develop a lower-energy website with reduced data use.
- Reduce reliance on unnecessary high-energy digital platforms and storage systems.

Studio Culture, Engagement and Collaboration

Actions

- Encourage shared responsibility and open exchange of sustainable studio practices.
- Support the use of found, recycled, and low-impact materials in artistic work.
- Consider environmental impact in studio decisions, exhibitions, and events.
- Encourage low-carbon travel for studio use, meetings, and exhibitions where possible.
- Work with other studios, organisations, and community groups to share knowledge and resources.

Plans

- Organise knowledge-sharing sessions on sustainability and studio practice.
- Strengthen links with organisations such as Cork Printmakers and other artist-led spaces.
- Develop workshops, talks, or open studio events focused on sustainability.
- Encourage members to share sustainable approaches and learning through their practice.

Training, Monitoring and Assessment

Actions

- Encourage ongoing learning and awareness of sustainable studio practices.
- Regularly review studio activities to identify areas for improvement.

Plans

- Carry out a baseline carbon footprint assessment for studio operations.
- Review and update this policy annually.
- Develop simple ways to track progress on energy use, waste reduction, and sustainability goals.

Governance and Review

This policy is a living document and will be reviewed annually by the Cork Artists Collective membership and Board of Directors. It will continue to develop alongside the needs of the workspace community and changing environmental priorities.

All members are encouraged to contribute to the ongoing development and implementation of this policy.

By working together, Cork Artists Collective aims to support a practical, affordable, and environmentally responsible studio culture that benefits both artists and the wider community.

Signatories

Cork Artists Collective Board of Directors

Date: May 21st 2026