

Creative Lives Environmental Sustainability Policy

Creative Lives is committed to ensuring that our activities contribute to the promotion and protection of the environment as well as being a leader and encourager for progressive change among the groups and networks we support. Creative Lives acknowledges that environmental sustainability is a human rights issue - that the right to cultural participation is inherently linked to the right to a healthy and safe environment and that harm can cumulatively and disproportionately impact marginalised or vulnerable groups.

As a charity in receipt of public funding we recognize our responsibilities for environmental reporting. In addition to mitigating the negative impacts of carbon use, we want to learn how to adapt our ways of working to making lasting, positive changes.

This policy outlines our commitment and provides guidance on how we will implement sustainable practices in our organization.

Our key objectives are to:

1. Minimise waste and resource consumption in our own operations.
2. Reduce our carbon footprint and support efforts to mitigate climate change.
3. Promote sustainable practices in everyday creativity.
4. Celebrate and amplify stories of local communities making a positive difference.
5. Foster environmental awareness among the staff, volunteers, freelancers, artists and the communities we serve.

Key Commitments

1. Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction

- Strive to reduce energy consumption in our shared or working from home spaces, venues, and any events we host by choosing energy efficient or renewable utilities wherever possible
- Aim to minimize travel-related emissions by promoting the use of public transportation and virtual meetings where feasible.
- When catering for events, to opt for mostly plant-based choices

2. Waste Management

- Implement waste reduction measures, including recycling, reusing materials, and minimising the use of single-use plastics.
- When entering into contracts with venues or office spaces, to ask about sustainability practices, opting for eco-friendly, recyclable, and biodegradable materials whenever possible.

3. Partnerships

- Prioritise suppliers and contractors that demonstrate a commitment to sustainability, such as using locally sourced, ethical, and low-impact materials.
- Collaborate with other organisations, charities, and artists to share resources and training that promotes environmental sustainability.

4. **Research**

- Identify research opportunities to better understand both the systemic impacts of climate injustice on the communities we work with and the examples of good practice that others can learn from.
- Continue to collect equalities data in our engagement work and staff and Trustee surveys in order to contribute to studies that measure environmental impact and equalities.

5. **Engagement**

- Use our developmental support role to raise awareness about environmental issues and inspire action through creative, community engagement.
- Host workshops, exhibitions, and events that explore environmental themes and promote the principles of a cultural commons.

6. **Monitoring and Learning**

- Regularly review and assess our environmental impact and progress toward our sustainability objectives.
- Identify opportunities for improvement and adjust policy as necessary to ensure we remain at the forefront of sustainable practices within the arts sector.
- Produce an annual Environmental Sustainability Action Plan with specific and measurable actions across the Place, Policy and Profile areas of our work.

Responsibilities

- **Board of Trustees (through the Policy and Nations Committee):** Ensure environmental sustainability is a core part of the charity's strategy and operations.
- **Management Team:** Oversee the implementation of this policy and ensure staff and are aware of their responsibilities.
- **Staff and Volunteers:** Embrace and champion sustainable practices in day-to-day work.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains relevant and effective in meeting our environmental sustainability objectives.