



Cork Printmakers

Climate and Sustainability Policy & Action Plan

Value Statement

Cork Printmakers recognises and embraces its responsibility towards the global challenge of climate change and environmental sustainability. We are committed to climate awareness and preservation and are invested in continuously evolving our practices to become more sustainable and environmentally conscious.

We pledge to continue working in collaboration with our staff, members, stakeholders, and suppliers to improve every facet of our organisation in respect to its environmental impact.

Our Pledge

In our commitment to environmental stewardship, we pledge to:

- Abide by all pertinent local and national legislation and regulations relating to environmental protection.
- Minimise our waste production and take all feasible measures to recycle this waste in a responsible manner.
- Reduce our usage of raw materials, water and fuels as part of our resource optimisation strategy.
- Educate our staff and members on best environmental practices to foster a culture of sustainability within our studio.
- Prioritise the use of recyclable, renewable and sustainable materials whenever feasible in our operations.
- Undergo training and continuous professional development to stay informed about the latest environmental best practices, technologies, and innovations, ensuring that our operations remain at the forefront of sustainability efforts.

These commitments serve as guiding principles in our ongoing journey towards sustainability, as we continue to redefine our practices to lessen our environmental impact.

Transport and Stock Management

Actions:

- Provision of ample material and paper storage for artist members, allowing for the use of sustainable travel methods to the studio.
- Material bulk acquisition process, from single suppliers where possible and reselling to members to minimise storage needs and reduce our collective carbon footprint associated with individual transportation.
- Source materials from Irish suppliers where possible.
- Coordinate collection and deliveries of works to exhibition venues thereby reducing transportation.
- Bicycle storage for artists attending the studio.
- Promote the use of public transport, cycling, walking to staff and members accessing the studio.

- Prioritise using public transport when travel is required to attend meetings and events in person.
- Use of sustainable materials in packaging and sending artworks.

Plans:

- Increase bicycle storage capacity.
- Prioritise where possible suppliers who environmentally friendly modes of transportation.

Studio Management, Techniques and Waste Minimisation

Actions:

- Halved our waste and doubled our recycling in 2024.
- Dispensing of ink to members through weighing system reducing excessive usage.
- Constant review of the use of solvents and oil based inks, offering direction and advice to members.
- Constant reviewing of all of our printmaking techniques to assess their impact, researching alternative processes and their impact, with a view to introducing the best viable combination with the least impact on the environment.
- Introduction of Copper Sulphate etching medium as a possible alternative to nitric acid
- Clean and patch screens for as long as possible and only re-stretch when necessary
- Paper offcuts are used within the studio and made available to members for their own practice use.
- Standardised pre-cut paper is provided to tutors for Education courses, who work with agreed plate / block sizes to allow use of standard size, reducing paper purchase and wastage.
- Fridge storage and reheating facilities are provided allowing for less single packed lunches to be purchased.
- Reuse of wiping cloths to minimise material wastage.
- Cleaning of our printing blankets, reducing the frequency of purchasing new ones.
- Ensure that all waste chemicals are disposed of according to local environmental standards, never pouring solvents or inks down the drain.
- Transition to a paperless operational system shifting all administrative and financial operations to cloud-based systems and an independent server, thus substantially reducing our dependence on paper and paper records.

Plans:

- Research Mokuhanga relief printing using water based inks.
- Introduce Electro Etching into the studio and provide training to members.
- Establish a waste disposal system for all products.
- Research the possibility of reusing all paper off cuts to make new paper.
- Research new office printer that uses refillable ink cartridges.
- Research greener products for cleaning.
- Research replacing methylated spirits with alcohol for removing aquatint

Building and Facilities

Actions:

- Turn off all equipment and lights when not in use.
- Installation of sedimentation filtration system in screen wash out room and acid room.

Plans:

- Replacement of all lights to led lighting
- Filtered drinking water supply in kitchen allowing refilling of personal bottles.
- Install timers on screen drying heater and studio extraction fan.

- Install reusable Dibond signage on gates.

Engagement, Advocacy, Education and Collaboration

Actions:

- Host and participate in workshops on sustainable printmaking practices and collaborating with other artists, organisations, partnerships and local communities to share knowledge about climate-conscious art production.
- Encourage printmakers to adopt sustainable practices through mentoring, resources, and shared knowledge.
- Exhibition programme exploring themes of climate change, sustainability, biodiversity and the environmental crisis.

Plans:

- Through social media channels promote sustainable printmaking practices, tips, successes, and sustainable materials.

Training

- Energy Management – Istars 2024
- Food Waste Management – Istars 2024
- Water Management – Istars 2024
- Digital Upskilling – Istars 2024
- Stakeholder Engagement – Istars 2024
- Waste Management – Istars 2024
- ESG Maturity Assessment – Istars 2024

Assessments

- Energy Audit – Climeaction 2024
- Carbon Footprint Audit – Istars 2024

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Seek feedback from colleagues, members, organisations and the printmaking community about your sustainability practices, and use that feedback to improve.
- Conduct an annual review and update of the policy to ensure its ongoing relevance and effectiveness.

Conclusion

By following this **Climate and Sustainability Policy & Action Plan**, Cork Printmakers can significantly reduce our environmental impact and contribute to a more sustainable art community. As artists, we have the power to shape the future not only through our work but through the choices we make about how we work and the resources we use. Together, we can forge a path toward a more sustainable printmaking practice—one that respects the planet, reduces waste, and builds a lasting, positive legacy for future generations of artists.