

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Mission Statement

Artichoke Trust was founded in 2005, with the vision to work with artists to create extraordinary, large-scale events that exist beyond the gallery or theatre walls and appeal to the widest possible audience. Through our work we aim to create cultural events at the heart of communities across the UK, building new skills, inspiring creativity and make a meaningful difference to audiences that experience our work. Artichoke is committed to being as environmentally sustainable as possible and to contribute to the UN's sustainability goals for People, Planet and Prosperity through working with local existing communities and creating communities of interest.

Over 100,000 people have taken part in our community engagement programmes since 2005. This includes a wide range of creative activities from workshops, community co-creation artworks and performance opportunities, to education initiatives, training and professional development schemes.

We are committed to addressing climate injustice and reducing the environmental impact of our own activities, and to influence our artists and suppliers through our sustainability commitments to do the same.

Implementation

The Sustainability Policy is supported by a Sustainability Action Plan, with Objectives and Targets, which specifies how the Sustainability Policy will be implemented. The Sustainability Policy will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis.

We work with our trustees, staff, directors, artists, production management, technicians, supply chain, and stakeholder network to ensure we consider and communicate the environmental and social impacts of our activities. Core staff and freelancers are kept up-to-date of changes to our office-based action plan in staff meetings or via email. We are attempting to reduce the use of intraoffice email to recognise the impact this has on the planet. For each financial year we assess and report our sustainability performance to the Artichoke Trustees. This information is used to update our Sustainability Action Plan for the coming year and is communicated both internally and externally. We take advice from Shirley Rodriguez, Deputy Mayor for the Environment, Greater London Authority, and Artichoke Trustee.

Our Sustainability Commitments

- A Sustainability Action Plan setting out our objectives, targets and planned actions is created and reviewed each year.
- The consideration of our impacts is a standing item at all operations meetings.
- Environmental reports are prepared and circulated to staff and stakeholders as appropriate.

- We monitor and record our environmental impacts on a regular basis and compare our performance with our policies.
- Employees are provided with the training and resources required to meet our objectives.
- We openly communicate our environmental policies and practices to interested parties.
- We consider the impacts of business travel and hold virtual meetings where possible.
- We encourage the use of zero or low carbon travel modes (walking, cycling, journey sharing and travelling by public transport) where possible.
- We have developed a Procurement Policy and take environmental and ethical considerations into account when choosing suppliers and services.
- Local suppliers are sought for items that are purchased frequently.
- We work with suppliers and contractors to communicate the importance of reducing our environmental impact and to make sustainable purchasing decisions.
- We invite our service users, suppliers and contractors to participate in our efforts to protect the environment.
- We endeavour to reduce residual waste and reuse and recycle where possible.
- We monitor and reduce our water consumption where possible.
- We control our energy use by using energy efficient lighting and equipment where possible and by switching off lights and electric appliances when not in use.
- We monitor and minimise energy usage and purchase green tariff electricity where possible.
- We minimise fossil fuel usage where possible and are continuously investigating renewable energy options.
- We comply fully with all relevant environmental legislation.
- We discuss how we met or did not meet our sustainability targets at each event debrief meeting

For our Events, we consider how pieces are constructed and what will happen to items and artworks after the event:

- We embed circularity (Take, Make, Recycle) at all stages of programming process.
- We include a budget for sustainable purchases and carbon removals.
- We minimise the use of new materials.
- We ensure pieces can be reused or recycled – consider taking apart, and recycling elements if not entire pieces.
- We allow time to plan to avoid expediting as expediting costs more.
- We encourage partners, suppliers and stakeholders to be sustainable.
- We work with manufacturing teams to optimise resources and reduce waste.
- We encourage audiences to use low-carbon modes of transport.

In our Artichoke Office we ensure that:

- Team members recycle all paper and other materials where possible by having recycling bins stationed around the office.
- All of our electronic waste is recycled safely; in accordance with the WEEE Directive and the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- We control our energy use, water use, and waste is controlled by switching off lights and electric appliances when not in use.
- Rechargeable batteries are used in all appliances which require batteries.
- All our accounting records (such as sales invoices, purchase invoices and payroll) are paperless.
- Encourage staff and individuals to travel via public transport or where possible, by foot or by bike.
- A Cycle to Work Scheme makes cycling more accessible to all staff members.
- We are considerate with our communications materials: use of resources (mainly paper and inks) are limited and recyclable where possible. Reduce the print run of event programmes, to reduce waste at the end of a project.
- Encourage staff to reduce email traffic by speaking in person to colleagues or via a quick phonecall.
- We are considerate when using transport for printed materials and use of energy for storage, downloading, streaming and/or online reading for digital communications.
- The goods and services we choose for our offices: notably stationery, IT and electronic equipment, furniture and cleaning products are recyclable or environmentally sustainable where possible.
- Artichoke rents office space from Artsadmin. All of the electricity in the building comes from 100% renewable sources - from solar panels on the building, or through our green energy provider Ecotricity.