



Dundee Contemporary Arts

## **DCA Environmental Policy**

### **VISION AND MISSION**

DCA's Environmental Policy sets out our vision and commitment to tackle the climate emergency. We are absolutely committed to managing our environmental impact, reducing our carbon footprint and eradicating our pollution. We recognise the significant role that we, as an arts organisation can take in acting responsibly, reducing our environmental impact, and helping us all imagine and create a better and more sustainable future.

Our mission as an internationally renowned centre for contemporary arts is to enable audiences, artists and participants to see, experience and create through our four programme areas: exhibitions, cinema, print and learning. At DCA our focus is to ensure our environmental policy is embedded throughout the organisation by actively encouraging our staff, visitors, building partners and stakeholders to embrace a responsible approach and to be accountable for the impact of their actions on the environment.

At DCA our vision is to enrich people's lives through art, culture and creativity. To be true to this vision we recognise our significant role in engaging the public and our communities, being sensitive to cultural context, and in particular continuing to provide a platform for marginalised voices and artists, those who are at most risk from the climate crisis.

### **TRAINING AND ACTION PLAN**

DCA's Environmental Policy applies to all activities and operations, and we will ensure that the policy is applied effectively to all our employees, partners and visitors.

Carbon literacy training is provided for all DCA staff to educate on and train in environmental issues and the impact of our activities. We have a Green Group made up of staff from each part of the organisation to ensure wide acceptance of best practice, to provide a space for ideas exchange, and to monitor progress against DCA's Environmental Action Plan.

Our Environmental Action Plan, which details how our policy will be implemented, covers 3 key areas:

1. People: communication, awareness, community and finance

2. Place: destination, experiences, travel, food and drink, biodiversity
3. Planet: energy, water, waste, carbon, chemicals

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

At DCA, we know that our main direct environmental impacts are caused by:

- National and international flights
- Air freight of artworks for exhibitions
- Procurement and purchasing
- Energy use in our building.

Working in line with our Sustainable Travel Policy, our priority is to ensure that we reduce our international travel, using more sustainable methods when we do choose to travel, and evaluating and reporting this on an annual basis.

Our Sustainable Procurement Framework provides a decision-making process to guide all organisational purchasing is in line with our commitment to reduce or eliminate our environmental impact. We are committed to reducing the impacts of transport, including arts shipping, print transport and deliveries for all DCA programme areas, and our use of energy and materials for all programme areas. We have already taken steps to drastically reduce waste for each exhibition, with materials being reused for different shows, and recycled with other artists and organisations using the circular economy, such as the Circular Art Network. Our contracts stipulate that artists making exhibitions with us must make a commitment to minimising their environmental impact, through careful planning for transport and materials. We are accredited members of the Gallery Climate Coalition which relies on DCA providing annual carbon and environmental information, supporting an impactful Green Group and sharing an Environmental Statement with our audiences.

We understand that the single greatest impact we can have, is to reduce our emissions and that doing so will require major capital investment, with commitments from a range of stakeholders and partners.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION**

Our commitment covers climate change mitigation, along with adaptation plans to ensure we can continue to operate and support our staff, audiences and cultural community in severe weather patterns. These sit as key areas on the organisational risk register and form part of our emergency risk planning, as covered in our Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Risk Assessment.

We will also use our public platform and cultural influence to drive forward conversations and opportunities to encourage and support others to take action and help shift the public debate.

## **TARGETS**

We have committed to tackling our environmental impact by:

- Joining the Gallery Climate Coalition and pledging to at least halve our carbon emissions by 2030, from a 2020 baseline.
- Regularly calculating the carbon footprint of our operations, to track progress towards this target.
- Setting specific targets for the major parts of our footprint, including:
  - Reducing staff domestic flights to 50% of 2022 levels by 2025, and 10% by 2030.
  - Reducing staff international flights to 75% of 2022 levels by 2025, and 50% by 2030.
  - Ensuring the majority of our international shipping is carried out by sea, rail or road rather than air by 2028.
  - Reduce the building's energy consumption by up to 78% as part of capital developments, in line with research already carried out.
  - Ensuring all of our packing materials are reusable or curb side recyclable by 2026, as a step towards zero-waste operations by 2030.
  - Using only low or zero emissions vehicles for staff taxis and for national transport or deliveries by 2025.

## **COMMITMENTS**

We commit to meeting these targets by:

- Ongoing compliance with all relevant environmental legislation and standards, also ensuring the sustainability of any capital development work.
- Carrying out regular energy audits of our building to find opportunities for energy reduction and renewable generation.
- When working with international artists we plan for the most sustainable way to send artworks and consider the most environmentally friendly travel options, including alternatives to air freight.
- Fabricating work at DCA onsite as an alternative option to art shipping.
- Dramatically reducing our staff domestic and international air travel and finding alternatives.

- Working in line with our staff travel policies and practices and planning our attendance at international events to reduce the need for air travel.
- Supporting staff with active daily travel, including walking, wheeling and cycling, including cycle to work scheme and regular Bicycle User Group meetings.
- Learning from best sectoral practice to help develop more sustainable packaging, transport and energy saving solutions for the whole sector.
- Speaking to our suppliers and service providers about their carbon footprint and looking for opportunities to encourage them to take action, or to switch to alternative suppliers, in line with our Sustainable Procurement Framework.
- Maintaining a Green Team with representatives from different parts of the organisation, that meets to create pro-active projects, share information and track progress on all of these targets and actions at least once a month.

### **STRATEGIC CLIMATE FUND**

To take full responsibility for our emissions, from 2025 we plan to set aside £15 per tonne of CO2e we emit into a Strategic Climate Fund, rather than purchasing carbon offsets, and hope to increase this over time. Following guidance from the Gallery Climate Coalition, this money will be spent on measures to accelerate our emissions reductions and support frontline climate solutions around the world that are making a difference right now. We will report on how we spent this money at the end of each financial year.

### **CLIMATE JUSTICE**

We aim to take action in line with the principles of climate justice, recognising the connections between the climate crisis and other global injustices. We want our environmental actions to support - rather than undermine or ignore - the needs of people on the frontlines of marginalisation and injustice. We have set these targets and are taking actions in the knowledge that we aren't yet doing everything right. We still have a great deal to do and much to learn. We welcome feedback from our artists, audiences and stakeholders on this environmental statement, our targets, and on our plans for action.