

Gallery Climate Coalition Environmental Responsibility Statement

DCA's Environmental Policy and Plan sets out our vision and commitment to tackle the climate emergency. 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.

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. 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.

As an art organisation our priority is to ensure that we reduce our international travel, using more sustainable methods when we do choose to travel, and evaluating this on an annual basis. We are also 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.

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 investment from a range of stakeholders and partners.

Our commitment also covers climate change mitigation, along with adaptation plans to ensure we can continue to operate and support our staff and cultural community in severe weather patterns. 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.

We aim to take action in line with the Gallery Climate Coalition actions and 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 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.

At DCA our vision is to enrich people's lives through art, culture and creativity, and to be true to this mission 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.

As an organisation, we know that our main direct environmental impacts include national and international flights, air freight of artworks for exhibitions, and energy use in our building. We have committed to tackling these impacts 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 40% of 2022 levels by 2027, and 10% by 2030.
 - Reducing staff international flights to 60% of 2022 levels by 2027, 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 curbside 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, where available, by 2026.
- **The actions we are taking to meet these targets include:**
 - When working with international artists we will 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 reduce 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.
 - Carrying out regular energy audits of our building to find opportunities for energy reduction and renewable generation.
 - Learn 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.

To take full responsibility for our emissions, we plan to set up a Strategic Climate Fund, with money set aside based on the number of tonnes of CO2e we emit each year. With our financial reserves currently depleted following a period of stagnant public funding, we aim to introduce this fund as soon as we are able to do so without affecting our ability to begin rebuilding our reserves. 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.

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.

Signed: _____

Print Name: Beth Bate _____

Position: Director _____

Date: _____