

## CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY & PLAN 2025/26

Graphic Studio Dublin is committed to conducting an annual review and update of the policy to ensure its ongoing relevance and effectiveness.

### Value Statement

Graphic Studio Dublin recognises and embraces its responsibility towards the global challenge of climate change and environmental sustainability. We are committed to climate awareness and preservation, and we continually evolve our practices to become more sustainable and environmentally conscious.

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

### Our Pledge

In our commitment to environmental stewardship, we pledge to:

1. Abide by all pertinent local and national legislation and regulations relating to environmental protection.
2. Minimise our waste production and take all feasible measures to recycle this waste responsibly.
3. Reduce our usage of raw materials, water, and fuels as part of our resource optimisation strategy.
4. Educate our staff and working members on best environmental practices to foster a culture of sustainability within our studio.
5. Prioritise the use of recyclable, renewable, and sustainable materials whenever feasible in our operations.

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

## Climate and Sustainability Policy

### **Efficient Transport and Stock Management**

We aim to adopt shared storage and transportation strategies on specific projects to reduce carbon emissions. This year we will implement a quarterly member artwork collection system from a single location to further cut down on transport emissions.

We have also streamlined our material acquisition process, ordering in bulk from a single supplier and reselling to members to minimise storage needs and reduce our collective carbon footprint associated with individual transportation.

We collaborate with other local artists' studios to purchase bulk supplies from non-Irish suppliers, thereby reducing carriage costs and carbon footprint. We source materials from Irish suppliers where possible.

Whenever possible, we purchase locally to minimise transportation distances.

We liaise with Studio Framer and Artists to arrange regular collections and drop-offs at the studio for framed works, reducing the number of journeys.

We coordinate the collection and deliveries of framed works to exhibition venues by one person, reducing journeys.

We package most of our prints into paper card rolls.

We provide ample material and paper storage for Artist members, allowing for the use of sustainable travel methods to the studio.

We offer secure bicycle storage for Artists attending the studio.

We are considering the viability of installing an EV charging station outside the studio.

### **Resource Management and Waste Minimisation**

We're proactive in minimising waste, particularly concerning our use of inks. We provide inks to our members, thereby ensuring a steady rotation, preventing wastage and excess purchases by individuals. We've established an ink bank to reduce waste further, allowing printers with excess ink to store it for use by other printers, rather than discarding it.

We constantly review the use of solvents and oil-based inks, offering direction and advice to members. Printmaking media such as mokuhanga, which uses water-based paints only, is being explored by studio members..

We are increasing the use of copper sulphate as an etching medium in lieu of some acids and establishing a waste disposal system for all products. Our management plan for waste disposal and safety issues is due for review.

## Climate and Sustainability Policy

Framing materials, such as oak and ash, have been replaced with a more sustainable moulding for Studio projects and many Artist members' use. Packaging materials are largely paper-based, unless they are likely to be subject to weather conditions.

We clean and reuse screens for as long as possible, and they are inspected periodically and recleaned if necessary.

Given the nature of our work as a print studio, paper consumption is an inevitable aspect of our operations. However, we place significant emphasis on mitigating paper waste. Our workflow is designed to maximise efficiency and economise the use of paper in printing our clients' and visiting artists' artwork. We strive to yield as little waste as possible from each print, turning a keen eye towards resourcefulness and responsible utilisation in every aspect of our operations.

Paper off-cuts are used within our Education Programme and made available to members for their practice use. Standardised pre-cut paper is provided to tutors for Education courses, who work with agreed-upon plate/block sizes to allow the use of standard sizes, reducing paper purchases.

Our efforts also extend to our equipment and materials.

Our printer cartridges get refilled when empty., We implement dry cleaning for our printing blankets, reducing the frequency of purchasing new ones. We reuse our wiping cloths to minimise material wastage and purchase our recycled cloths following hotel use.

A dedicated treated drinking water supply is available to Artist members, allowing them to refill personal bottles for use around the studio. Fridge storage and reheating facilities are provided, allowing for fewer single-packed lunches to be purchased. We use an eco setting on the dishwasher, reducing water usage, and we encourage the use of a full load.

We have a booking system for our fan flattener, which only goes on when full.

## **Waste Management**

Any chemical waste is collected and processed by a compliant chemical waste management company. We bring other recyclables to our local bring centre. We use sedimentation to collect silt produced during processes.

Some artists reuse plates, and we collect old plates and bring them to a scrap merchant for recycling.

We have six recyclable materials bins throughout the building, available to members and staff for Paper, plastics, cans, and other materials, which are collected weekly. Glass, electrical, and other appropriate materials are brought to the local bring centre.

We have introduced more substantial signage to advise members on the appropriate disposal of waste.

## Climate and Sustainability Policy

### Transitioning to Digital

In a drive to reduce our paper consumption, we are transitioning to a paperless operational system. We're transitioning all administrative and financial operations to cloud-based systems and an independent server, thereby substantially reducing our reliance on paper and paper records.

### Energy Efficiency

We plan to update our heating system with an energy-efficient gas boiler in the gallery, initiate roof repairs, replace windows, and upgrade thermal insulation to prevent energy losses. We have already upgraded the workshop heating system.

We have begun the process of replacing all our light fittings with LED fittings. Fourteen fittings on the lower floor have been replaced with LED lights, and we have started replacing stair lighting with motion sensor LED lights.

We will install a thirty-two-panel solar panel system on our roof to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels. We have put the job out to tender and will finance the project in line with the cost savings on our energy bills, ensuring the project remains within our means.

We have eliminated the use of paper towels in our washrooms and installed electric dryers, thereby reducing paper waste.

We have begun transitioning our communication systems to Google Drive. This decision aligns with our environmental commitments as Google operates some of the world's most energy-efficient servers, many of which are powered by renewable energy. Furthermore, Google is a carbon-neutral company itself, and our association with them reaffirms our commitment to sustainable practices.

We have begun promoting energy awardees in stages through signage and discussions. The first stage focuses on reducing energy waste. E.G.:-

- Turning off lights, appliances, equipment, etc when not in use.
- Reducing water usage in processes
- Reducing materials usage through forward planning.
- Reducing solvent and chemical use and/or replacement of the same with green options where possible.
- Recycling/reusing materials

### Processes

We are reviewing all our printmaking techniques to assess their impact and researching alternative processes to determine the best viable combination with the least environmental impact. We are continuing to investigate eco-friendly materials and methods.

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### **Accessibility and Inclusivity**

As a part of our sustainable approach, we are committed to making our studio more accessible to individuals with disabilities. We believe that sustainability extends beyond environmental concerns to include the promotion of inclusivity and accessibility within our community.

### **Climate and Sustainability Plan/ Further policy development in 2025**

Graphic Studio Dublin intend to review the following to complete and improve on our actions:

- We intend to upskill our members by launching courses focused on environmentally friendly printing practices, resource management, and waste reduction.
- We need to define our current environmental impact, an approx. assessment of our organisation's energy, water, and material usage. How much energy and water does our facility consume? What are the primary materials used in the fine art printing process? Could these be substituted with more environmentally friendly materials without compromising on the quality of the work produced?
- We need to assess how much waste our organisation generate, and what types of waste are produced? How can we reduce waste generation and promote recycling? Are there any specialised recycling programs for materials used in the printing process?
- We need to clearly define our environmental goals and objectives, such as setting a target for reducing our carbon footprint or waste production by a specific percentage over a defined period. These targets should be specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound.
- Specify our expectations for suppliers and partners regarding their environmental practices. This could involve preferentially selecting partners who demonstrate commitment to sustainability.
- We need to outline the processes for monitoring and reporting progress towards environmental goals, as well as for reporting on this progress both internally and to external stakeholders.
- Refer to the Health and Safety Policy and Plan for guidance on responding to environmental emergencies, such as chemical spills or other incidents that could harm the environment.
- We need to think about water conservation, how much water GSD use, and for what purposes? Are there water-saving measures that can be implemented to reduce consumption?
- What are the primary modes of transportation used by our organisation? Is there a way to make this particular activity more efficient?

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- How will we track progress toward our emission reduction goals and other sustainability targets? What key performance indicators (KPIs) will be used to measure success?
- Budget and Resources. Are there any external funding opportunities or grants that could support sustainability initiatives?