

Climate and Sustainability Policy

CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY & PLAN 2026/27

Graphic Studio Dublin recognises that environmental sustainability and climate responsibility are integral to the long-term resilience of our organisation, our facilities, and the wider cultural sector.

As a working fine art print studio, gallery, and education provider, we acknowledge that our activities involve material, energy, and transport demands. We are committed to continually reviewing and improving our environmental practices in a realistic, responsible, and financially sustainable manner, while maintaining the quality and integrity of our artistic and educational work.

This policy outlines both our environmental commitments and the practical actions we are taking to reduce our environmental impact across our operations.

Graphic Studio Dublin is committed to reviewing and updating this policy annually to ensure its continued relevance, effectiveness, and alignment with evolving environmental standards and organisational capacity.

Value Statement

Graphic Studio Dublin recognises its responsibility to contribute meaningfully to environmental sustainability and climate action within the cultural sector.

As a working fine art print studio, gallery, and education provider, we are committed to continually improving our environmental practices and reducing the impact of our operations where practical and feasible. We recognise that sustainability is an ongoing process requiring long-term commitment, critical review, collaboration, and gradual operational change.

We aim to foster a culture of environmental awareness and shared responsibility across our organisation by working collaboratively with staff, artists, members, audiences, suppliers, and partners to support more sustainable approaches to printmaking, studio management, education, procurement, transport, and resource use.

We recognise sustainability not only as an environmental responsibility, but also as part of maintaining resilient cultural infrastructure, accessible creative spaces, and responsible long-term stewardship of organisational resources.

Our Pledge

Graphic Studio Dublin is committed to the following principles and actions in support of environmental sustainability and climate responsibility:

1. To comply with all relevant environmental legislation, regulatory requirements, and health and safety obligations relating to environmental protection and waste management.

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2. To reduce waste generation across studio, gallery, educational, and administrative activities wherever practical, and to promote responsible reuse, recycling, and disposal practices.
3. To improve the efficient use of materials, water, energy, and other resources through ongoing review of operational practices and infrastructure.
4. To encourage environmental awareness and shared responsibility among staff, members, artists, tutors, students, and collaborators through communication, guidance, and the promotion of sustainable working practices.
5. To prioritise the use of recyclable, reusable, lower-impact, and sustainably sourced materials where financially, technically, and operationally feasible.
6. To support the ongoing review of printmaking processes, studio systems, procurement practices, and transport arrangements in order to identify opportunities for reducing environmental impact over time.
7. To review and develop this policy on an ongoing basis in response to organisational learning, technological developments, environmental standards, and operational capacity.

These commitments are intended to guide the continued development of realistic, achievable, and responsible sustainability practices across the organisation.

Efficient Transport and Stock Management

Graphic Studio Dublin recognises that transport, deliveries, storage, and material sourcing contribute to the environmental impact of our operations. We are committed to reducing unnecessary transport activity, improving logistical efficiency, and supporting more sustainable approaches to procurement and stock management where practical and feasible.

To support these aims, Graphic Studio Dublin has implemented and continues to develop the following measures:

- Shared transportation and coordinated collection systems for selected projects, exhibitions, and artwork deliveries in order to reduce unnecessary journeys and associated emissions.
- A quarterly member artwork collection system at a centralised location to reduce transport-related activity.
- Coordinated framing collections and deliveries between the studio, artists, framers, and exhibition venues to minimise repeated transport journeys.
- Bulk ordering of commonly used materials through shared procurement systems, reducing the frequency of individual deliveries and transportation demands.
- Collaboration with other Irish artists' studios and organisations to coordinate supply purchases from non-Irish suppliers where appropriate, reducing carriage requirements and overall transport impact.
- Prioritisation of Irish and locally sourced suppliers where financially and operationally viable in order to reduce transportation distances and support local supply networks.

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- Provision of on-site material and paper storage facilities for members, supporting the use of public transport, walking, and cycling to access the studio.
- Secure bicycle storage facilities for artists, staff, and members attending the studio.
- Continued review of opportunities to improve sustainable transport infrastructure, including consideration of future EV charging facilities where feasible.

In addition, Graphic Studio Dublin has sought to reduce packaging waste and transportation impact by increasing the use of paper-based packaging materials and cardboard print rolls, in place of more environmentally intensive alternatives where suitable for artwork protection.

Resource Management and Waste Minimisation

Graphic Studio Dublin recognises that fine art printmaking involves material-intensive processes and the use of specialised resources. We are committed to reducing unnecessary waste, encouraging reuse where appropriate, and continually reviewing studio practices to identify more sustainable approaches that are compatible with the technical and artistic requirements of printmaking.

We continue to review the use of inks, solvents, acids, papers, and other materials across studio operations, with the aim of reducing environmental impact where practical and feasible.

To support these aims, Graphic Studio Dublin implements and continues to develop the following practices:

Materials, Inks, and Printmaking Processes

- Provision of shared studio inks for members to reduce unnecessary duplication, excess purchasing, and material waste.
- Operation of an internal ink bank system allowing excess inks to be reused by other printers rather than discarded.
- Ongoing review of solvent use and oil-based printmaking materials, alongside guidance and support for members regarding safer and lower-impact alternatives where appropriate.
- Continued exploration of printmaking processes and media with lower environmental impact, including water-based techniques such as mokuhanga.
- Increased use of copper sulphate as an alternative etching medium in place of certain acids where appropriate.
- Ongoing review of waste disposal procedures relating to printmaking materials, chemicals, and studio processes in conjunction with health and safety requirements.

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Paper, Packaging, and Reuse

Given the nature of printmaking practice, paper use remains an essential component of Graphic Studio Dublin's activities. However, we seek to minimise unnecessary waste through careful planning, efficient print production processes, and the reuse of materials wherever possible.

To support this:

- Paper off-cuts are reused within the Education Programme and made available to members for practice and testing purposes.
- Standardised paper sizing is used within education activities, where practical in order to reduce unnecessary material waste.
- Packaging materials are primarily paper-based, where suitable for artwork protection and transport conditions.
- Framing materials used for studio projects increasingly prioritise more sustainable alternatives where operationally appropriate.
- Printmaking screens are cleaned, reused, and maintained for extended use wherever possible.

Equipment, Utilities, and Shared Resources

Graphic Studio Dublin also seeks to reduce waste and unnecessary consumption through the ongoing maintenance and shared use of studio resources and equipment.

Current practices include:

- Refilling printer cartridges where possible.
- Reusing wiping cloths and sourcing recycled cloth materials for studio use.
- Dry-cleaning and maintaining printing blankets to extend operational lifespan and reduce replacement frequency.
- Provision of filtered drinking water facilities to support the reuse of refillable bottles.
- Shared fridge and food preparation facilities for staff and members to reduce reliance on single-use packaging.
- Use of eco settings and full-load policies for dishwashing equipment to reduce water and energy consumption.
- Scheduled booking systems for equipment such as the fan flattener to maximise efficiency and reduce unnecessary energy use.

Waste Management

Graphic Studio Dublin recognises that printmaking processes generate a range of specialist waste materials requiring careful management and disposal. We are committed to reducing waste

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generation where possible and ensuring that waste materials are handled, separated, reused, recycled, or disposed of responsibly and in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety requirements.

To support these aims, Graphic Studio Dublin implements the following waste management practices:

Chemical and Specialist Waste

- Chemical and hazardous waste materials generated through studio processes are collected and processed by appropriately licensed and compliant waste management providers.
- Sedimentation systems are used to collect silt and particulate material generated during printmaking processes where appropriate.
- Waste disposal procedures relating to printmaking chemicals and materials continue to be reviewed in conjunction with health and safety requirements and evolving environmental practices.

Recycling and Material Reuse

- Used printmaking plates are collected for recycling through scrap metal recovery systems where possible.
- Some artists reuse existing plates and materials within their studio practice in order to reduce unnecessary waste.
- Paper, plastics, cans, and other recyclable materials are separated throughout the building using designated recycling stations available to staff, artists, students, and members.
- Glass, electrical waste, and other specialist recyclable materials are brought to appropriate local recycling and bring-centre facilities.

Waste Awareness and Good Practice

- Signage and guidance relating to waste separation and appropriate disposal practices are provided throughout the studio to support environmentally responsible use of shared facilities.
- Graphic Studio Dublin continues to encourage members, artists, tutors, and staff to adopt sustainable waste management practices across studio activities and educational programmes.

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Transitioning to Digital

Graphic Studio Dublin continues to reduce reliance on paper-based administrative systems where practical and appropriate through the gradual transition to digital and cloud-based operational processes.

Administrative, financial, and organisational systems are increasingly managed through shared digital platforms in order to:

- reduce unnecessary printing and paper storage,
- improve operational efficiency and accessibility,
- streamline communication and record management,
- and support more sustainable day-to-day administrative practices.

The organisation continues to review opportunities for reducing paper consumption across administrative and operational activities while recognising that certain aspects of printmaking, exhibition management, education, and archival practice may continue to require physical documentation and material records.

Graphic Studio Dublin has also continued transitioning aspects of its communication, document management, and collaborative systems to cloud-based platforms in order to support shared access, reduce duplication of materials, and improve operational coordination across the organisation. Where possible, the organisation seeks to use providers that publicly demonstrate commitments to renewable energy usage, energy efficiency, or lower-impact hosting practices.'

Energy Efficiency

Graphic Studio Dublin recognises that building infrastructure, heating, lighting, equipment, and operational energy use contribute significantly to the organisation's environmental impact. The organisation is committed to improving energy efficiency across its facilities through phased infrastructure improvements, equipment upgrades, operational review, and the promotion of energy-conscious working practices.

Building and Infrastructure Improvements

Graphic Studio Dublin continues to review opportunities to improve the energy efficiency of its facilities through both maintenance and capital improvement works, where financially and operationally feasible. While Graphic Studio Dublin was unsuccessful in securing Stream E capital funding during the initial funding round, the organisation intends to further develop the proposal and reapply should the funding stream reopen during 2026.

Current and ongoing measures include (subject to Capital funding):

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- Upgrading workshop and gallery heating systems to improve operational efficiency.
- Roof repairs, insulation improvements, and window upgrades are aimed at reducing heat loss and improving building performance over time.
- Continued phased replacement of existing lighting with LED fittings throughout the building.
- Installation of motion-sensor LED lighting in selected circulation areas to reduce unnecessary energy consumption.
- Ongoing review of renewable energy opportunities, including the planned installation of a solar panel system, subject to funding, feasibility, and organisational capacity.

Resource and Utility Management

Graphic Studio Dublin also seeks to reduce energy and material consumption through the management and shared use of equipment and utilities across the organisation.

Current practices include:

- Use of energy-saving settings on shared equipment where practical.
- Encouragement of full-load use for appliances such as dishwashers in order to reduce water and electricity consumption.
- Removal of paper towel systems in washroom facilities and transition to electric hand dryers.
- Shared equipment booking systems to support efficient operational use and reduce unnecessary energy consumption.

Energy Awareness and Sustainable Working Practices

Graphic Studio Dublin continues to promote awareness of sustainable studio practices among staff, artists, members, tutors, and students through signage, operational guidance, and day-to-day studio management.

This includes encouraging:

- switching off lights, equipment, and appliances when not in use,
- reducing unnecessary water and material consumption,
- forward planning to minimise waste,
- reducing solvent and chemical use where appropriate,
- and increasing the reuse and recycling of materials across studio operations.

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Printmaking Processes and Materials

Graphic Studio Dublin recognises that fine art printmaking involves specialised technical processes with varying environmental impacts. The organisation is committed to continually reviewing printmaking methods, studio materials, and operational processes in order to identify opportunities for reducing environmental impact while maintaining the technical, educational, and artistic integrity of studio practice.

This includes:

- ongoing review of printmaking techniques and associated material use,
- exploration of lower-impact alternatives where technically and artistically appropriate,
- continued investigation of safer and more sustainable materials and processes,
- and the sharing of knowledge and guidance relating to environmentally conscious printmaking practices within the studio community.

Graphic Studio Dublin recognises that some traditional printmaking techniques require specialist materials and processes. As such, environmental improvements will continue to be approached through realistic, phased, and technically informed operational review.

Accessibility and Inclusivity

Graphic Studio Dublin recognises that sustainability also includes the creation of accessible, inclusive, and supportive cultural spaces for artists, participants, audiences, staff, and the wider community.

As part of our ongoing organisational development, we are committed to improving accessibility across our facilities, programmes, and working practices where practical and feasible. We recognise that environmental responsibility, social inclusion, and long-term cultural sustainability are interconnected aspects of responsible organisational stewardship.

Graphic Studio Dublin will continue to review opportunities to improve accessibility and participation within the organisation in line with operational capacity, available funding and resources, as well as the evolving needs of our community.

Climate and Sustainability Action Plan 2026/27

During 2026/27, Graphic Studio Dublin will continue to review and develop its environmental sustainability practices across studio operations, facilities management, procurement, transport, education, and organisational systems.

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The organisation recognises that sustainability development is an ongoing process requiring phased implementation, operational review, staff and member engagement, and consideration of financial and infrastructural constraints.

Key areas of focus for 2026/27 include:

Environmental Impact Assessment

- Developing a clearer understanding of the organisation's current environmental impact, including energy use, water consumption, material usage, transport activity, and waste generation.
- Reviewing opportunities to reduce environmental impact through improved operational efficiency and lower-impact working practices where practical and feasible.

Waste Reduction and Resource Management

- Continuing to review waste generation across studio, educational, gallery, and administrative activities.
- Exploring opportunities to improve reuse, recycling, and responsible disposal systems relating to printmaking materials and operational waste.
- Continuing to investigate lower-impact printmaking materials, processes, and resource management practices compatible with studio operations.

Education and Environmental Awareness

- Developing opportunities for environmental awareness and sustainability-focused learning within the organisation, including workshops, training, or knowledge-sharing relating to sustainable printmaking practices and resource management.
- Continuing to promote environmentally conscious working practices among staff, artists, members, tutors, and students.

Procurement and Supply Chains

- Reviewing procurement practices and supplier relationships in order to support more sustainable sourcing and reduce unnecessary transport and packaging impacts where feasible.
- Continuing to prioritise local suppliers and coordinated purchasing systems where operationally appropriate.

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Infrastructure and Energy Efficiency

- Continuing phased energy efficiency improvements across the organisation's facilities and infrastructure.
- Reviewing the feasibility and implementation of renewable energy opportunities and other energy reduction initiatives, subject to organisational capacity, funding and available resources.

Monitoring and Organisational Review

Graphic Studio Dublin intends to continue developing systems for monitoring and reviewing sustainability actions and environmental impact over time.

Areas for ongoing review include:

- energy and water consumption,
- waste generation and recycling,
- procurement and transport practices,
- material usage,
- and operational efficiency measures.

The organisation will continue to review this policy annually and update actions and priorities in response to operational learning, organisational capacity, environmental guidance, and available resources.