



CLIMATE ACTION POLICY & PLAN

An Chéad Tíne Art Organisation
De La Salle House,
10 The Parade,
Co. Kilkenny, R95 TYP9

29th August 2024

As a cultural art organisation, *An Chéad Tíne* recognise the responsibility to address climate change. We are dedicated to adopting practices that reduce our carbon footprint, minimise waste, and promote environmental awareness among our audiences, staff, and artists.

Our central motivation arises from our deepening understanding and strong belief that all life forms and their habitats are increasingly under threat from climate change, with human activity being the primary cause of this and environmental degradation. Therefore, this policy aims to mitigate such actions in pursuit of a more sustainable future for all.

We aim to be part of the solutions for climate change now and for future generations, to foster resilience and sustainability within our organisation and to protect the planet and its life forms.

Our overarching objective is to establish a solid foundation for environmental best practices as we move into the future and to actively engage in a green and just transition across various fronts. In doing so, we believe that artistic culture can play a critical role in raising awareness of the wide-ranging and complex issues that contribute to climate change and environmental degradation, as well as in revealing and promoting positive approaches and actions towards a sustainable future.

We hope that this policy and action plan will genuinely influence the attitudes and practices of staff, users and audiences and we strive to promote positive change in behaviour and awareness among all connected to the Centre. This applies to staff, studio holders, artists in residence, workshop tutors and participants, school children, and the general public who visit the exhibitions.

AREAS OF IMPACT

The primary factors contributing to climate impacts in these areas include energy use for heating and lighting buildings, waste production, the processes involved in creating art and procuring materials, transportation use, and the need to enhance environmental awareness among staff, users, and stakeholders. The primary areas of impact addressed under this policy are:

ENERGY

Our most substantial environmental impact arises from the use of gas, and electricity for heating, lighting and artistic production across our three locations:

1. We occupy three buildings that consume energy for heating and lighting.
2. Artistic production sometimes involves significant energy consumption.
3. Building can lose energy and heat through inadequate insulation.

WASTE MANAGEMENT & RECYCLING

1. We produce waste and of different kinds.
2. Many materials could be recycled or managed better

MATERIALS & PROCESSES

1. We procure materials from a diverse range of suppliers
2. We undertake many types of process in the making of art and craft

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT

1. Many of our artists travel from afar to attend residencies, workshops and exhibitions.
2. Many local artists and staff use cars to get to work or the nearest large towns.

ENVIRONMENTAL THEMES & AWARENESS

There is significant potential for increased environmental and climate change awareness among the staff and volunteers, visitors and participants who utilise the our facilities.

KEY GROUPS INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING OUR APPROACH DEVELOP POSSIBILITIES AND PRIORITIES

Our aim is to highlight the impact of these areas for stakeholders, inviting them to contribute to positive change and attitudes at *An Chéad Tine*. This will help prioritise our actions and identify where we can make a difference, both in our material impacts and in broader social and environmental issues within our influence. Additionally, many of our artists engage in projects directly connected to environmental ecology, which promote both positive and critical awareness of climate issues for users and the broader community audiences. The principles underlying our approach are collaboration, inclusivity, and transparency. One way to achieve this is through a programme of ongoing information provision and gathering, which also forms part of the policy monitoring over time. Examples include:

STAFF,

STUDIO HOLDERS,

FREELANCE TECHNICIANS,

TUTORS AND CONTRACTORS

VISITING ARTISTS

As many of our users evolve over time due to the prominence of resident artists, a regular feedback survey will be conducted every six months in addition to the newsletter. We will aim to understand what they consider most important, what actions could or should be taken to facilitate change, and identify any barriers to change.

SUPPLIERS

All materials have a carbon footprint and entail social and supply chain impacts, though some have greater effects than others. Therefore, *An Chéad Tine* will implement measures

to enhance its procurement practices by identifying the most significant areas of impact and determining where products are sourced and how they are made.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN MONITORING AND DEVELOPMENT WHO IS INVOLVED

Policy monitoring and reviews incorporate a wide variety of perspectives from the Board, Staff, Studio Holders, Artists, Technicians, members of the community.

A team, chaired by the and Operations Manager, is established to create space for discussing environmental priorities and actions, developing policies, and assessing what is effective. This will include the management and technical Staff at the Centre and representation from studio holders with contributions made by freelance technicians, artists and the wider community.

HOW WE WILL MONITOR AND REVIEW PROGRESS

It is crucial to understand what is effective, what isn't, and why. The operations manager, with assistance from the technical staff, monitors the effectiveness of the Action Plan as it progresses, determining what is working and what may not be. The team periodically meets to reflect on what went well and what might be approached differently. This also includes any proposals for the amendment of operations and policies in response to the ongoing changing climate conditions.

HOW AND TO WHOM WE WILL COMMUNICATE

A biannual newsletter will contain any updates and links to policy plans and progress. This will be available to all users of our locations and posted on our website.

REVIEWS AND UPDATES

The plan is reviewed and updated by the Board on an annual basis.

Signed

14th September 2024

Mary Doyle Burke