



YOUNG AT ART

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY

2023

Adopted by the Organisation on: 6 February 2023

Signed 

Review Date: 6 February 2025

Statement of Intent

Young at Art acknowledges its role in helping the UK meet its target for net-zero emissions by 2050.

Young at Art is committed to working more sustainably and being a changemaker for sustainability with the next generation. As an international arts festival, we aim to strike a balance when presenting the best international, national and local arts experiences to our audiences with minimising our impact on the environment and ensuring ongoing access to the arts.

As 31 August 2022, our flagship event, Belfast Children's Festival, is a Bronze-certified Green Tourism event.

While this policy sets out the broad approach by Young at Art towards improved sustainability, specific actions will be set out, tracked and monitored through a three-year Action Plan.

Working Practice

A three-year Action Plan has been drafted to deliver on an Action Plan to be reviewed on a six-monthly basis to track and drive progress.

Young at Art will appoint a named Green Champion for the organisation. The current Green Champion is:

Name: Kelly-Anne Collins

Contact Details: manager@youngatart.co.uk / 028 9023 0660

The Green Champion will convene and lead an internal working group to set and then review progress against the Action Plan. The working group will include a representative from each of the following teams – Core Operations/Administration, Festival and Creative Programming, Marketing and Education & Engagement.

Young at Art's progress on its environmental and sustainability journey will be reported to the Board of Trustees every six months following the Action Plan review.

1. Regulatory Compliance

Young at Art complies with all relevant environmental regulations and legislation.

2. Communications

Young at Art will use its various communications channels to communicate to its stakeholders the actions that it is taking in relation to this policy.

Young at Art will also communicate to its stakeholders how they can act in a more environmentally sustainable way at our activities where relevant.

Young at Art welcomes feedback from our stakeholders about how we can improve the sustainability of our actions.

As a Green Tourism accredited event, we will ensure annual reassessment of our accreditation to benchmark progress being made.

3. Awareness/Training

Young at Art will raise and maintain a high level of understanding and participation of environmental best practice within our team.

During their induction, new staff members will receive a copy of this policy and the accompanying action plan to read and understand.

Members of the working group will report back on discussions to full staff preferably at the following staff meeting.

During the term of this policy, Young at Art will, at least once, convene relevant training on environmental and sustainability issues for all staff members.

Training sessions for freelancers and casual staff will provide each person with a copy of this policy as well as our product specification checklist if relevant.

4. Procurement

Young at Art will aim to procure goods and services which are environmentally responsible and work with our suppliers to raise and maintain a high level of understanding of environmental best practice to positively influence our supply chain.

To achieve this, Young at Art will:

- Prior to purchasing any new product or equipment, the Product Specification Checklist (Appendix A) will be consulted, and consideration given to both the need to purchase and how to ensure that any purchase is mindful of the whole of life environmental, social and economic impact of the product. Concerns regarding the impact of a purchase will be addressed at weekly YAA staff meetings. Freelancers will be advised to discuss any concerns with their key contact at Young at Art.
- As part of the process to select/programme/commission service suppliers to Young at Art, staff will request information from the potential supplier on their sustainability policies/practices. Appendix B sets out the types of questions asked/information to be provided by potential suppliers. Responses to these questions will be scored/assessed in terms on their proportional impact on the environmental sustainability of Young at Art's activities and will guide decisions to engage the supplier.

5. Carbon/Resource Management

- Travel & Transport

As an international arts festival, travel, transport and freight over long distances is an inherent element of bringing the best work for our audiences. It is unlikely that many in our audiences would have the opportunity to see work of this quality otherwise and we believe that it is of value to them to be able to access, enjoy, be influenced and inspired by this work.

However, we are committed to monitoring and reducing our carbon footprint. By the end of June 2023, Young at Art will have established a baseline carbon footprint for its activity. Each year, it will commit to reducing that footprint by 5%.

To achieve this end, Young at Art will be conscious of our travel and transport use and where possible and appropriate

1. reduce overall travel;
2. reduce air travel and use overland travel; and
3. use active travel options such as public transport, car sharing, bikes and walking.

- Food & Drink

When sourcing food and drink for internal or external hospitality, the default selection should be to wholly provide options that are plant-based or vegetarian and healthy.

Consumers should be notified of this and consulted as to other dietary preferences that they may have. Reasonable efforts should be made to secure these options being mindful that where possible, they should be locally-grown and ethically and responsibly sourced.

- Energy Use

Young at Art are committed to monitoring and reducing our energy use in line.

To comply with these targets, we will investigate the following:

- Use of 'switch off' policies;
- Review energy suppliers to improve levels of renewables in the mix; and
- In the office refit, ensure all lighting, heating and appliances are at their most energy efficient.

- Water Use

Young at Art are committed to monitoring and reducing our water use to ensure it is efficient and reduces waste.

6. Waste Management

Young at Art will minimise its waste production by using materials and components that either are made from recycled material or that can be recycled or reused. See above and attached for procurement guidelines.

To this end, we will prioritise communications by mainly electronic/digital means using print where there is a clear access issue justifying it, that is, to overcome an evident digital divide.

We will prioritise storing records and documentation electronically/digitally and ensure appropriate levels of data security.

Staff will be encouraged to identify ways to reduce waste in the office and feed these actions into the action plan.

7. Benchmarking & Review

Through our participation in various working groups and sectoral initiatives, we take the opportunity to benchmark our actions ensuring best practice, improved standards and shared advice. We encourage our audiences, artists and partners to join us on this journey.

APPENDIX A – PRODUCT SPECIFICATION CHECKLIST

The Checklist for Specification document is designed to help you consider the environmental, social, and economic effect of the products you procure by considering their whole life impact. The checklist can be used as a guide to assess a product, as a screening tool when procuring a product, or to compare products against each other.

Checklist for Specification	
Raw Materials	<p>Are the raw materials sustainably sourced?</p> <p>Does obtaining the raw materials cause pollution?</p> <p>Is there any recycled content?</p> <p>Does the producer have good working conditions and pay a fair wage?</p>
Manufacture	<p>What resources are used during manufacturing (e.g., energy and water)?</p> <p>Does the manufacturing process cause pollution?</p> <p>Does the product have an ecolabel (e.g., Fairtrade, FSC, or BCI)?</p> <p>Are hazardous materials used?</p> <p>How much packaging is used?</p> <p>Does the manufacturer have good working conditions and pay a fair wage?</p>
Distributor	<p>How far will your products have to travel to reach you?</p> <p>Will it travel by air, road, rail, sea, or a combination?</p> <p>Is additional packaging required/essential or can it be reduced?</p> <p>Does the distributor have good working conditions and pay a fair wage?</p>
Use	<p>Will you need to use additional resources such as energy or water to maintain and use the product?</p> <p>Will the product produce any waste or pollution?</p> <p>How easy will it be to repair the product?</p> <p>Will you, or your staff, require training to use the product?</p> <p>Are there any legal requirements for using the product?</p>
End of Life	<p>How will you dispose of the product?</p> <p>Are there any legal requirements to store or dispose of the product?</p> <p>How long do you expect it to last?</p> <p>Can it be re-used, refurbished, or recycled?</p> <p>Will it produce any hazardous waste?</p>

APPENDIX B – SUPPLIER SCREENING PROTOCOL

SUPPLIER SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE

As part of our commitment to sustainability we are interested in our suppliers and their green activities and commitments. Therefore, we would appreciate it if the person responsible for Sustainability in your company, complete the following questionnaire, provide as much evidence or information about each of the points as possible and return it to us with any supporting materials.

Contact Name:

Date:

Business Name:

Email:

Tel No:

1 – Do you have a Green, Sustainable or Environmental Policy? (If yes, provide a copy or weblink)
2 – Tell us how you share your environmental commitments and policy with your staff and customers? (Provide information /weblinks)
3 – Have you identified the environmental / sustainability / carbon / biodiversity impacts associated with the goods or services you provide? (If yes, provide information)
4 – Do you have Targets related to any of the impacts you have identified above? (If yes, provide information / figures / timeline)
5 – What measures have you put in place to reduce the impacts you have identified above? (Provide details)
6 – Do you have an Environmental Management System / Sustainability Strategy? (If yes, provide information)
7 – Do you have a Sustainable, Responsible & Ethical Procurement Policy? (If yes, provide a copy / weblink)
8 – Have you identified the environmental / sustainability / carbon / biodiversity impacts associated with the goods or services you purchase? (If yes, provide information)
9 – Do you have Targets related to any of the impacts you have identified above? (If yes, provide information / figures / timeline)

10 - Are there any other green issues you would like us to be aware of when making a decision about your products or services? (If yes, provide details)