



CLIMATE ACTION POLICY & PLAN

Leitrim Sculpture Centre CLG

New Line, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim, F91 EAW7

Adopted: 27 March 2025

Reviewed annually by the CEO, Operations Manager and Board

CONTENTS

1. Who We Are, What We Do & Where We Do It
2. Our Motivation for Taking Environmental Action
3. Scope – The Work We Do
4. Areas of Impact
5. Key Groups Involved in Developing and Implementing Our Approach
6. Climate Action Plan Monitoring and Development
7. Climate Action Plan – Objectives & Actions
 - 7.1 Energy & Buildings
 - 7.2 Waste Management & Recycling
 - 7.3 Materials & Processes
 - 7.4 Travel & Transport
 - 7.5 Environmental Awareness, Learning & Knowledge Sharing

1. WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO & WHERE WE DO IT

The Leitrim Sculpture Centre serves as a national resource for advancing the creative practice and knowledge of visual art making and its collaborative engagement with the ecologies of landscape, place and the rural.

Functioning as a testing ground for creativity, innovation and learning, LSC encourages experimentation in the production and display of compelling and challenging new works, while facilitating the creative and professional advancement of both the artist and the art form.

The Centre supports creative development and learning for both professionals and the public, offering equal opportunities for artists and diverse communities to realise their creative potential.

Our Centre is located in a small rural community with an extensive hinterland comprising numerous mountains, rivers, lakes, wildlife, flora and fauna, and it is also near the Atlantic Ocean. The proximity to a wide range of natural environments and waterways, along with wild lands, places an added responsibility on the Centre and its users to operate in an environmentally responsible manner.

Our key activities include residencies, exhibitions, collaborations, technical and resource support for artists, workshops, research, community engagement, creativity and youth initiatives, and talks and practical symposia.

2. OUR MOTIVATION FOR TAKING ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

As a cultural institution, we recognise our 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. This policy aims to mitigate such impacts in pursuit of a more sustainable future for all.

We aim to be part of the solution to 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 practice 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 those 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 our exhibitions.

3. SCOPE – THE WORK WE DO

The LSC programme is split into two broad areas that focus on the creative development of the art form and the artist, and on how this focus informs and feeds into public engagement.

The Artist & Art Form Development

First and foremost, the Centre supports the generative and creative production of new work by professional artists, developed through residency, exhibition, workshop and collaborative practice projects. By focusing on practical and experimental approaches to materials and ideas, we encourage artists to take risks in testing out problems and ideas as they advance their practice. This is complemented by innovation in gallery display and presentation, and a range of research and development opportunities.

Public Engagement

Complementing this first focus on artist-led creation, the programme supports public engagement with the arts that moves beyond traditional audience formats towards public involvement in the creative process. Practical involvement and collaboration in making art is developed in community settings as well as with local schools and youth groups.

Out of these two broad areas of focus, the Artistic Programme consists of ten interconnected and mutually supportive components that together fulfil the organisation's key aims. These include:

Art Form Development

- Artists' Residency Programme
- Gallery & Exhibitions
- Collaborative & Inter-Disciplinary Practice
- Artists' Technical Support & Resources
- Workshops, Masterclasses, Training & Symposia
- Web, Archive, Research & Publication

Public Engagement

- Community Engagement & Participation
- Creativity: Children and Young People
- Talks, Open Studios, Public Demonstrations
- Festivals & Public Events

4. 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 kerosene, gas and electricity for heating, lighting and artistic production across our three buildings.

- We occupy three large buildings that consume a lot of energy for heating and lighting.
- Artistic production sometimes involves significant energy consumption, e.g. foundries.
- Buildings can lose energy and heat through inadequate insulation.

Waste Management & Recycling

- We produce a large amount of waste, of different kinds.
- Many materials could be recycled or managed better.

Materials & Processes

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

Travel and Transport

- Many of our artists travel from afar to attend residencies, workshops and exhibitions.
- 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, users and audiences who use the Centre.

5. KEY GROUPS INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING OUR APPROACH

Developing 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 the Centre. This helps 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. Many of our artists also engage in projects directly connected to environmental ecology, which promote both positive and critical awareness of climate issues for users and the broader community audience.

The principles underlying our approach are collaboration, inclusivity and transparency, achieved in part through an ongoing programme of information provision and gathering, which also forms part of policy monitoring over time. Examples include:

Staff, Studio Holders, Freelance Technicians, Tutors and Contractors

These are regular users of the Centre in permanent, part-time or freelance positions, or artists leasing a studio on a long-term basis. A biannual newsletter is issued to this group, informing them of developments and inviting contributions to the review of the policy and plan.

Visiting Artists

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

Suppliers

All materials carry a carbon footprint and have social and supply chain impacts, though some have greater effects than others. LSC 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. A questionnaire will be sent to suppliers to assess the carbon footprint involved and to establish whether products are sustainable or hold relevant certifications, including the possibility of alternatives to certain materials.

Audiences

A regular survey will be presented to visitors to the Centre, asking what could make a difference both within the Centre and in the local area and beyond, in line with our vision and mission.

6. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN MONITORING AND DEVELOPMENT

Who Is Involved

Policy monitoring and review draws on a wide variety of perspectives and expertise from the Board, staff, studio holders, artists, technicians, members of the community, and building specialists/contractors.

Who Is Responsible

A Green Team, chaired by the CEO and Operations Manager, is established to create space for developing policy, discussing priorities and actions, and assessing what is effective. This includes the management and technical staff at the Centre, and representation from studio holders, with contributions from freelance technicians, artists and the wider community. The Green Team meets to foster areas of innovation and action, and to guide the evolution of the policy and plan. Responsibilities are assigned at various levels and departments within the organisation and, where applicable, are integrated into people's roles at the Centre.

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 technical staff, monitors the effectiveness of the Action Plan as it progresses, determining what is working and what may not be. The Green Team meets quarterly to reflect on what has gone well and what might be approached differently, taking into account contributions from artists, members of the community and freelance technicians.

Monitoring reports are prepared jointly by the CEO and Operations Manager every six months, including any proposals for amending operations and policy in response to changing climate conditions.

How and to Whom We Will Communicate

A biannual newsletter will contain updates and links to policy, plans and progress. This will be available to all users of the Centre and posted on our website, alongside a clear statement of values and commitments.

Informal and formal agreements will be established with all users of the Centre, including, for instance, artists' residency agreements, maintenance contracts, technical service agreements, and agreements for the hire of facilities.

Reviews and Updates

The policy and plan are reviewed and updated by the CEO, the Operations Manager and the Board on an annual basis.

7. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN – OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS

The action plan is based on priorities — listed first within each objective below — in those areas where we have the most control and influence, while gradually addressing other areas of impact over which we have less control but can still exert some influence.

The impacts we consider will also change as the climate changes and may not be fully apparent now. For example, environmental hazards and risks affecting users, audiences and suppliers may worsen in the future.

Our aim is to involve the people who will be responsible for implementing actions and delivering on objectives and targets as much as possible in defining and tracking progress against the action plan, taking into consideration any specific training or support requirements they may have.

We aim to conduct a risk assessment to identify potential threats to meeting our targets and objectives. This will allow us to anticipate the impact of these risks and to plan for appropriate monitoring and risk mitigation.

Throughout all these actions, we aim to establish a means of sharing progress on a regular basis. To this end, we will maintain a Green Team consisting of staff and studio holders, with contributions from artists, technicians and the public. The team will meet every three months, with an annual review of progress against objectives and targets.

We hope to integrate our climate action messages into our educational and learning programmes, further enriched by those engaged in environmental and ecological best practice and stewardship. We will also establish a regular — at minimum annual — management review of progress against these objectives and targets.

Key objectives of the plan

- Energy & Buildings — reduce energy use significantly, in line with review recommendations, by 2030
- Waste Management & Recycling — reduce total waste volumes (landfill and recycled) and increase the % of recycled materials used at the Centre
- Materials & Processes — review and amend the procurement of materials, advocating for eco-friendly alternatives; explore and adopt alternative, sustainable material processes where possible
- Travel & Transport — move to environmentally friendly transport systems when and where possible
- Environmental Awareness, Learning & Involvement — increase training, awareness, involvement and knowledge sharing around climate change, environmental issues and best practice

7.1 Energy & Buildings

Objective: Reduce energy use by 50% by 2030

Targets

- Reduce building & equipment energy use and related emissions
- Increase building insulation
- Use low- or zero-carbon energy sources
- Energy-efficient appliances

Actions

ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	BUDGET
Conduct a full review of energy use, with energy-saving recommendations	Dec 2026	CEO, Operations Manager	N/A	TBC
Assess the age of plant and develop a strategy and investment plan for replacement	June 2026	Technical staff	—	TBC
Detect areas that could be improved	June 2026	CEO, Operations Manager, Technical Team	—	TBC
Replace old lighting fixtures, as they fail, with energy-efficient LEDs fitted with Passive Infrared (PIR) sensors to reduce energy consumption	Dec 2028	CEO, Operations Manager, Technical Team	No. of lights changed	TBC
Raise funding for the capital improvements recommended in the SEAI Energy Audit	Dec 2028	Technical Team	—	TBC
Install solar power and triple-glazed units throughout	Dec 2029	Technical Team	No. of units changed	TBC
Ensure that all new appliances acquired for the Centre are A-rated for energy efficiency wherever possible	Dec 2029	Technical Team	No. of units changed	TBC

7.2 Waste Management & Recycling

Objective: Reduce total waste volumes (landfill and recycled) and increase the % of recycled materials used at the Centre

Targets

- Reduce volume of paper used by 50% by 2030
- Increase % of recycled waste from 40–60%
- Increase artistic use of recycled waste at the Centre
- Communicate with artists
- Printing reduction
- Minimise single-use plastics
- Water conservation

Actions

ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	BUDGET
Ensure double-sided printing as default	June 2025	CEO, Operations Manager, Technical Staff and Caretaker	New environmental commitments by staff	TBC
Separate waste into recyclable and non-recyclable components for external removal	June 2025	CEO, Operations Manager, Technical Staff and Caretaker	—	TBC
Install dedicated internal recycling bins, or a store for artistic reuse (wood, paper, metal, glass, etc.)	Dec 2025	CEO, Operations Manager, Technical Staff and Caretaker	—	TBC
Ensure all artists know what is available and where, via signage	Dec 2025	CEO, Operations Manager, Technical Staff and Caretaker	—	TBC
Review and reduce printing requirements to decrease paper waste and conserve resources	June 2025	CEO, Operations Manager, Technical Staff and Caretaker	—	TBC
Produce a guideline on how to avoid single-use plastics	TBC	CEO, Operations Manager, Technical Staff and Caretaker	—	TBC
Buy water-saving fixtures and raise awareness of water usage through signage	TBC	CEO, Operations Manager, Technical Staff and Caretaker	—	TBC

7.3 Materials & Processes

Objective: Undertake alternative and sustainable material processes where possible; establish eco-friendly cleaning practices

Targets

- Green artistic productions
- Design for circularity
- Integrate nature-based solutions
- Green procurement of supplies and services
- Mindful consumption

Actions

ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	BUDGET
Undertake a full review of all materials, processes and chemicals used at the Centre	Dec 2026	CEO, Technical Staff, Caretaker	—	TBC
Develop workshops in alternative processes and techniques	Dec 2026	CEO, Operations Manager, Technical Staff and Caretaker	—	TBC
Explore alternative practices in mould-making & casting	Dec 2027	CEO, Operations Manager, Technical Staff and Caretaker	—	TBC
Develop strategies for using and reusing materials	TBC	Operations Manager, Technical Staff, Caretaker	—	TBC
Utilise environmentally friendly cleaning products throughout our facilities to minimise chemical impact on the environment, increasing plant-based options	Dec 2025	Operations Manager, Technical Staff, Caretaker	—	TBC
Be conscious of purchases, opting for sustainable products for goods and materials purchased by the Centre	Dec 2025	Operations Manager, Technical Staff, Caretaker	—	TBC

7.4 Travel & Transport

Objective: Reduce carbon emissions from all those using the Centre

Targets

- Reduce travel and related emissions
- Move to environmentally friendly transport systems when and where possible
- Advocate for the use of train travel

Actions

ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	BUDGET
Public transport promotion: encourage staff and artists to use public transport when attending events, meetings or commuting to work, to reduce carbon emissions	Dec 2026	CEO, Operations Manager, Technical Staff and Caretaker	—	TBC

7.5 Environmental Awareness, Learning & Knowledge Sharing

Objective: Increase training, awareness, involvement and knowledge sharing around climate change, environmental issues and best practice

Targets

- Internal greening: staff awareness, staff engagement with climate goals, staff & artists' knowledge sharing
- External greening: knowledge sharing, community collaboration, increased partnerships

Actions

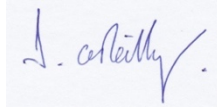
ACTION	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	BUDGET
Provide staff training in waste management systems and practices	Dec 2026	CEO, Operations Manager	New environmental commitments by staff	TBC
Create opportunities for staff to learn or train in climate literacy and environmental issues	June 2026	CEO, Operations Manager, Technical Staff and Caretaker	—	TBC
Foster engagement among all staff and visiting artists with our climate goals, creating a culture of sustainability within our community	Dec 2027	CEO, Operations Manager, Technical Staff	—	TBC
Develop and make available to all an annual review and listing of alternative practices; stay up to date on the latest sustainability practices and technologies and encourage artists to use them in our facilities	TBC	CEO, Operations Manager, Technical Staff	—	TBC
Share information with artists and the general public about content and creative work responding to environmental themes and climate justice (web & newsletter)	Dec 2026	CEO, Operations Manager	—	TBC
Highlight critical issues and ameliorative solutions in LEER and other site-specific residency projects (web & newsletter)	TBC	CEO, Operations Manager	—	TBC
Increase content generation and distribution — gallery information, portfolios and digital publication online	Dec 2026	CEO, Operations Manager	—	TBC
Collaborate with the local community to promote and support sustainable projects, enhancing our collective impact on environmental stewardship	TBC	CEO, Operations Manager	—	TBC
Locate and communicate with organisations, nationally and internationally, who share our climate vision	Dec 2026	CEO	—	TBC
Establish a network of international operators through Site-ations and LEER	Dec 2026	CEO	—	TBC

APPROVAL

This Climate Action Policy & Plan was reviewed and adopted by the Board of Leitrim Sculpture Centre CLG.

Signed: 27 March 2025

Sean O'Reilly, CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. O'Reilly'.

Richard Cavaliero, Operations Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Cavaliero'.

Padraig Cunningham, Chair of the Board

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Padraig Cunningham'.

Next scheduled review: March 2026