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The Culture, Heritage and Arts Assembly, Argyll and Isles (CHARTS) is a SCIO registered in Scotland: SC049113

# Environmental Policy

**Adopted: 22.09.2023**

The Culture, Heritage & Arts Assembly, Argyll and Isles (CHARTS) is a charitable organisation supporting the growth of the creative industries across the Argyll and the Bute region. This includes service delivery on mainland Argyll and across its 23 islands. Argyll and Bute includes more islands than any other local authority and is Scotland's second largest region.

The organisation operates across a landscape with a rich diversity of natural assets forming a stunning environment. This includes 121 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, sensitive marine environments, Atlantic Rainforests, rare grassland and ecosystems and almost 30% of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. CHARTS is therefore deeply concerned about the negative consequences climate change and biodiversity loss will have on our work, including staff, board, members, and the many communities in Argyll.

The board is committed to this policy which has been developed to ensure that CHARTS considers the protection of the environment in the way we work. Our goal with this policy is to embed the principles of sustainable development into everything we do. In addition, this policy is designed to sit alongside the development of an Environmental action plan for CHARTS.

Our aim is to align our work and operations with the progressive approach to carbon reduction, and net zero by 2045, as set out by the Scottish Government.

## Governance and training

CHARTS is committed to integrating consideration for the environment into decision-making processes across the organisation by developing the carbon literacy of our board, staff, freelancers and members.

Over the next two years the CHARTS board is committed to developing a climate action plan for the organisation. All board members, staff and freelancers are encouraged to:

- Share information about the practical steps the organisation can take to reduce carbon with managers.
- Access and attend training about carbon literacy, netzero and biodiversity.

At a strategic level CHARTS will forge proactive partnerships with organisations such as Creative Carbon Scotland, Argyll and Bute Council's Climate Change Working Groups, Architecture and Design Scotland and Scottish Community Climate Action network to develop projects, policy and operational approaches that support a just transition.

## Utilities

- CHARTS will encourage staff to record the use of utilities and to reduce their energy usage by switching off equipment when not in use.

## Waste

- We will keep printed materials to a minimum, double-sided printing is to be used to print out papers where possible.
- At events we will always request waste minimisation measures be put in place and work with venues to remove single use items.
- Where possible we will seek to reuse equipment or extend the life of equipment through repair and taking specialist advice.

## Procurement

- CHARTS will purchase services and equipment carefully and request environmental information from suppliers so we can assess the impact of purchases against an environmental agenda.
- We will assess the purchase of services considering the environmental criteria of suppliers giving even weight to price and environment within decision making processes.

## Travel

- We will request that all board members, staff and freelancers record and report on their modes of transport and distance travelled, connected to CHARTS.
- We will encourage the use of public transport, car share schemes and Active Travel where possible.
- As an arts and cultural organisation we understand the importance of meeting people face to face, but will continue to work as a Digital First organisation, to understand when meetings can be moved online to minimise travel.

## The development of new work

- We will commission creative work and practitioner development that explores climate change and opens new spaces for community conversations about sustainable development.
- We will encourage the development of multidisciplinary creative projects that bring people and knowledge networks together to explore new approaches to developing services in alignment with a net zero agenda and protecting biodiversity.
- We will encourage the progressive use of historic archives and artefacts to stimulate new conversations about climate change and traditional skills and materials within work.
- We will seek out opportunities for creative practitioners to learn new skills and research new approaches to producing work that supports sustainable the use of new low carbon materials.
- We will convene conversations about climate change and a netzero agenda within creative and cultural work at a regional level.
- We will seek out opportunities to share good practice across our network and promote the work of creative practitioners who are truly working towards a netzero and climate change agenda.

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### Document version control

<b>Version number</b>	<b>Change or update</b>	<b>Author or owner</b>	<b>Date</b>
1.0	First version	CHARTS Board	22.09.2023

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