

ENVIRONMENT POLICY

This policy is aligned to the Environment Action Plan.

The Culture, Heritage & Arts Assembly, Argyll and Isles (CHARTS) is a charitable organisation supporting the growth of the creative industries across the Argyll and 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, and on our staff, trustees, members, and the many communities in Argyll.

This policy has been developed to ensure that CHARTS considers how to protect and enhance the environment in the way we work. Our goal is to embed the principles of sustainable development into everything we do. In addition, this policy is designed to sit alongside an Environment action plan for CHARTS.

Our aim is to align our work and operations with a progressive approach to carbon reduction and net zero by 2045, as set out by the Scottish Government. To assist this, we have implemented an Environmental Action Plan, against which staff report on a quarterly basis.



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 trustees, employees, freelancers, volunteers and members.

All those who work with CHARTS are encouraged to:

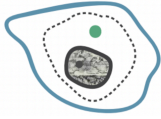
- Share information and ideas about the practical steps the organisation could take to reduce carbon with managers.
- Access and attend training about carbon literacy, net zero and biodiversity.

The Head of Finance and Operations is the nominated CHARTS 'Green Champion' and is supported by all staff to reduce our carbon footprint with the aim of achieving net zero.

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.

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 the sustainable use of new low carbon materials.
- We will convene conversations about climate change and a net zero 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 net zero and climate change agenda.

At a working level, we expect all our people to consider environmental issues in all the work they do. Protecting the environment is one of the eight reminders on our checklist for planning and implementing projects.

The CHARTS handbook covers all the following points

Utilities

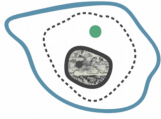
- We will encourage employees and freelancers to record the use of utilities and to reduce their energy usage by switching off equipment when not in use.

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

- We 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 give even weight to price and environmental issues in decision making processes when we assess the purchase of services.

Travel

- All those who work for CHARTS, including trustees, are asked to record and report on their modes of transport and distance travelled, in connection with their work. This information acts to capture carbon data for regular report to the Board.
- 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.

This policy has been developed with the support of Hannah Clinch, CHARTS member and Steering Group area champion for Cowal, who has represented the organisation to date in national strategic planning discussions regarding Climate Change.

Document Version Control

Any questions, contact info@chartsargyllandisles.org

Reviewed 10 October 2025