



EVA INTERNATIONAL
IRELAND'S BIENNIAL

EVA International: Environmental Policy & Action Plan

Last Updated: July 2024



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CONTEXT

About EVA

EVA International is Ireland's Biennial of Contemporary Art. EVA leads in the commissioning and curating of contemporary art by Irish and international artists, culminating in a programme of artistic encounters, exhibitions and education projects, that takes place every two years across venues in Limerick city and beyond. It was founded by artists in 1977 and it remains one of the longest running visual arts organisations in Ireland.

EVA's vision is 'To lead in creating experiences and encounters of world-class contemporary art that activate Limerick as a place of creative endeavour and cultural destination'.

Key values that inform our work:

- Artistic Ambition and Excellence
- Access and Opportunity
- Place and Partnership

Key organisational priorities:

- Programme and Production
- Engagement and Impact
- Sustainability and Development

OUR COMMITMENTS TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

EVA recognises its responsibility to protect the environment and it is continually working to reduce the environmental impact of its activities. The impact of climate change is increasingly apparent, with more frequent extreme weather events and growing risks to global food supplies and security. This Environmental Policy and Action Plan has been developed by the EVA to provide a pathway for how the organisation will continue to play an active role for a green and just transition.

In line with EVA's 'Strategic Plan 2024-2029' (published later this year in 2024) we are continuing to embed more sustainable working practices across our activities. This includes putting an increased focus on resourcing artists' projects regionally and nationally, and reducing the level of reliance on international shipping, travel, and transport logistics. EVA also encourages sustainable working practices with local partners, suppliers and contractors where feasible, and through the provision of free equipment sharing services with local partners, reducing over-purchasing within the region.

EVA is keen to further reduce waste across all aspects of its activities, introducing reuse and recycling policy practices to improve the environmental impact of our work. This is particularly important as EVA partners with venues to present exhibitions at spaces that are not always purpose built for such. The production team will be required to use sustainable materials where possible, minimising our contribution to landfill waste.

EVA produces exhibition print material such as labels, guides, and flyers as part of its communications and engagement plans to meet the access needs of different audiences. Although EVA produces these materials in limited quantities, for the 41st EVA edition it will be introducing 'drop off' zones for visitor guides so that they can be reused and shared by different public audiences.

All members of the Board and Staff are required to become familiar with the values and commitments outlined in this policy and to work towards its effective implementation.

MONITORING, EVALUATION & IMPLEMENTATION

This policy is a commitment to an important piece of work ahead. In order to ensure the effective implementation of the policy, we have developed the following plan for monitoring and evaluating progress.

- At Board level, there will be a progress report on the policy roll out at alternate Board meetings and it will be an agenda item in the annual review and planning sessions. At these sessions, the Board will evaluate whether the aims and objectives of the policy are being achieved or whether additional measures are required.
- Staff will be encouraged to provide feedback on the implementation and review of this policy through team meetings and as part of feedback sessions on individual projects and events.
- The EVA Director will be responsible for ensuring that the environmental policy is implemented. However, all employees have a responsibility to ensure that the aims and objectives of the policy and action plan are met. The Board is responsible for reviewing this policy after each edition of EVA, and monitoring its effectiveness.



ACTION PLAN

Overview & Timeline

	01-02 / 24	03-04 / 24	05-06 / 24	07-08 / 24	09-10 / 24	11-12 / 24	01-02 / 25	03-04 / 25	05-06 / 25	07-08 / 25	09-10 / 25	11-12 / 25
#1 Policy Familiarisation, Values and Commitments												
#2 Consultation and Training												
#3 Minimise exhibition waste through resource sharing and recycling practices												
#4 Embedding environmental care through our communications strategy												
#5 Commit to measuring key impact areas of international shipping, travel, and transport logistics to create a baseline of data												

ACTION PLAN - Detailed view

	Policy familiarisation, values and commitments
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disseminating copies of the policy (digital/hardcopy) to the whole team; - Producing a progress report on the policy roll out during alternate board meetings; - Including Environmental Policy as an agenda item in the annual review and in planning sessions to evaluate whether the objectives of the policy are being achieved; - Facilitating staff meetings to provide feedback on the implementation and review of this policy, as part of feedback sessions on individual projects and events.
Timeline	August 2024 - December 2025
Resource requirements	Environmental policy, general administration, website updates, meeting space, Board participation, and Staff participation.
Outcome	Board and Staff are familiarised with the values and commitments outlined in this policy, and are actively participating in its implementation and ongoing review.

	Consultation & training
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engaging staff with online and in-person climate training as part of the Arts Council's SFO & Arts Centres Environmental Training Programme (ACETP).
Timeline	May 2024 - October 2024
Budget / Resource	Staff participation, general administration, and meeting space.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased awareness and understanding of sustainability issues, climate change, and the importance of reducing carbon emissions; - Implementing behavioural change, through learning practical ways to reduce environmental impacts, such as energy conservation, waste reduction, and sustainable practices that can be embedded into current and future working practices.

	<p>Minimise exhibition waste through resource sharing and recycling practices</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of free equipment resource sharing with organisations in Limerick when not in use (e.g tv monitors, projectors etc.); - Provision of drop-off zones for visitor guides available at all exhibition venues, encouraging the sharing of resources and reduction of print quantities; - Materials from the exhibition build and installation will be sourced locally and made from sustainable materials where possible, and should either be recycled, reused or repurposed afterwards; - EVA is committed to producing exhibition mediation materials that can be recycled afterwards.
Timeline	January 2024 - December 2025
Budget / Resource	Equipment, general administration, communication assets, recycle centre, EVA staffing, and local transport.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimising exhibition waste; - Encouraging broader community engagement, promoting environmental stewardship and sustainable practices with our local partners and audiences.

	<p>Embedding environmental care through our communications strategy</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrating our sustainability values into our communications, for example communicating public transport networks and access details, the re-use campaign with EVA visitor guides etc; - Identifying and communicating the positive steps we are undertaking to promote more sustainable practices; - Utilising print materials that support our environmental actions, producing in limited numbers and recyclable, with digital versions of all printed matter available.
Timeline	August 2025 - November 2025
Budget / Resource	EVA staffing, general administration, communication assets, and local transport.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educating stakeholders about our sustainability efforts; - Providing clear and transparent information about the steps EVA are taking to minimise its environmental impacts.



	Commit to measuring key impact areas of international shipping, travel, and transport logistics to create a baseline of data
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Collect data- Analyse and interpret data
Timeline	May 2024 - November 2025
Budget / Resource	General administration, and EVA staffing.
Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Establishing data to enhance strategic decision-making and future policy development.