The creative community is going green
Climate change, and the wider impact human society has on the environment on which we depend, is the biggest challenge we face. Increased rainfall, rising sea levels, heatwaves and more numerous extreme weather events impact our health, our food and water supplies, our energy demands, our economy, and all our lifestyles.

The Green Arts Initiative is a community of over 200 cultural organisations in Scotland, committed to reducing their environmental impact and making a positive contribution to a better, environmentally sustainable, society.

The community works in innovative and diverse ways to address the challenges that face the arts and cultural sector in carbon emissions reduction, whilst exploring the creative, conceptual and behaviour change mechanisms the arts can bring to a topic as broad as climate change.

The Green Arts community is facilitated by Creative Carbon Scotland through a variety of activities and events: connecting Green Champions, new and existing knowledge, enthusiasm, resources and shared learning across Scotland.

www.greenartsinitiative.co.uk

Our Members

The Green Arts Initiative is an open-access community, free to join and participate in, open to professional, amateur and community cultural organisations across all art forms.

As of Spring 2019: There are 220 members in total. 62% of our members are Creative Scotland Regularly Funded Organisations.

Members exist in 24 of Scotland’s 32 local authorities (those local authorities not yet represented are: Clackmannanshire, East Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, Midlothian, North Ayrshire, Renfrewshire, Shetland Islands, West Dunbartonshire)

Members are involved in a wide range of art forms:

- Visual Arts 15%
- Theatre 22%
- Festival 14%
- Music 10%
- Film 6%
- Physical Theatre 1%
- Storytelling 2%
- Literature 3%
- Heritage 2%
- Multi-form 6%
- Dance 6%
- Community Arts 8%
- Agency 6%
How Our Community is Tackling Climate Change

Climate change is a complex problem with systemic causes and solutions.

Making changes in their offices, venues and studios

We are completing a series of capital works that aim to reduce the environmental impact of our building and bring it up to PassivHaus standards. Agile City

We re-rendered our B-listed building in lime to stop water ingress and damp penetration, thereby reducing our heating costs, with support and research from Historic Environment Scotland. Pier Arts Centre

We undertook a full review of energy usage with current lighting systems across gallery, facilities and offices and calculated the cost of replacing them with low energy alternatives and potential savings over 3 years. Street Level Photoworks

64% of our members are directly reducing their energy consumption and its associated impacts

We got the ‘reclamation man’ to talk to our students about waste and introduced a waste bin into our workshop. We then hosted an eco-week and displayed a Fairtrade Exhibition highlighting the use of ethical stones in jewellery making. City of Glasgow College Craft & Design

Our season brochures are now printed on FSC approved paper and printed using vegetable inks. In addition, all the carbon emissions generated in printing will be offset by planting broadleaved trees in a local community woodland resulting in the print becoming completely carbon balanced. Beacon Arts Centre

As part of our #greenwheels touring initiative, our company members are offered items from a tour ‘green kit’ that encourages them to think about waste prevention measures whilst on the road. This includes a reusable coffee cup, water bottle, food carrier, quick-dry towel, shopping bag and a spork. A recycling system is set up in the van. Catherine Wheels Theatre Company

79% of our members are tackling the problem of waste and material consumption

We’ve switched all our event catering to be vegetarian (over 500 lunches annually), and issued all staff with a re-useable cup for hot drinks. Federation of Scottish Theatre

We turned off our office water over the Christmas and New Year period to protect against leaks and burst pipes. Plan B Creative

20% of our members are reducing their water consumption

We meet regularly with fellow building users as tenants in the ‘Grindlay Green Team’ and have begun using ‘Ecobricks’ to reduce water usable in toilet cisterns. We are also looking to source branded water bottles for performers and staff, to reduce the temptation of using single use plastic water bottles. Lung-Ha Theatre Company
Addressing climate change in their programmes, performances, activities & events

We appointed a Green Ambassador at Board level and now include a Green Strategy Update at every board meeting. Paragon Music

We held two internal annual events that focus entirely on our environmental activities and policy to ensure all staff are informed, involved and committed. Glasgow Theatre Royal and Kings

This year we toured Scotland with Friends of the Earth Scotland and Stop Climate Chaos Scotland to present 7 practical workshops and films screenings exploring climate change and the Scottish Governments new Climate Bill which is currently being drafted. Take One Action

We co-commissioned (with Music in Peebles) composer Esther Swift to write a piece of music about the impact of climate change and flooding on the Peebles community. The piece was premiered by the Brodick Quartet, and was performed alongside a video created by Tom Swift. The piece was well-received within Peebles and has subsequently been performed on BBC Radio. Enterprise Music Scotland

We began to implement a zero-tolerance policy for domestic flights for staff, and dug deeply into our travel and emissions data, conducting an in-depth comparison of coach vs train travel for the seven cities we visit most frequently (Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dumfries, Inverness, Perth and Dundee). Taking the time to make these calculations offered good evidence for us to continue prioritising trains over coaches wherever possible. Scottish Ensemble

For our manipulate Visual Theatre Festival 2019 we will not produce printed events’ programmes, instead using displays or QR codes which can be scanned by audience members for event information. As a result, we are able to offer more background commentary, context and images at no additional cost. Puppet Animation Scotland

We updated our Environmental Policy and published it online, following consultation with the whole staff team which proposed that environmental concerns should be as embedded in our work as our commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. We’ve since updated our form for prospective partners to include a question about how the proposed project takes into consideration our environmental policy. Glasgow Women's Library

59% of our members are monitoring, measuring and reducing staff travel-related emissions.

Engaging others through their audiences, artists, staff & suppliers

We included a 'Green Policy' in all our tour packs which are shared with venues before an artist arrives to perform or install a work. The policy includes action points such as providing locally sourced organic food with minimal disposable packaging and accommodation booked close to the venue to promote walking. Cryptic

We held more video meetings to reduce travel, and scheduled in-person meetings to optimise time and travel needs. North East Arts Touring

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32% of our members are reducing the travel-related emissions of their artists and performers.

- We put artists coming on residency in touch prior to arrival and encouraged them to share transport. Scottish Sculpture Workshop
- We had musicians going on an "Eco Tour" of Arran by bike, where we also co-hosted a beach clean and workshop that saw children creating instruments out of what they found. Enterprise Music Scotland
- We encourage all staff members and artists to take public transport or cycle or walk, providing them with a voucher from Stagecoach to take the bus. This has worked very well and has encouraged more people to use public transport rather than driving. Starcatchers

13% are working on the travel emissions of their wider audiences

- We operate bus tours for Spring Fling Open Studios to make the event more accessible and reduce carbon emissions. Upland Arts Development CIC
- We held a roadshow to limit audience travel to our workshops: two facilitators travel so participants can stay local. Arts & Business Scotland
- We monitored our audience’s travel to our theatre with monthly surveys which we use to look at where our audience are coming from, and to inform how we advertise the bus, train and underground services on our website at point of sale. Citizens Theatre

What help they need to take things further

Members have exciting ideas of upcoming plans

**On Energy**
- Fundraising for new sound systems with increased energy efficiency
- Installing secondary glazing across offices and putting timers on lights
- Reducing the use of diesel generators for outdoor events
- Switching to a renewable energy provider

**On Waste**
- Replacing single-use information pamphlets with a fixed number of laminated copies and downloadable PDFs
- Running a paperless office and switching to online promotional materials
- Working with promoters and venues to reduce the need for printed materials

**On Travel**
- Hosting a social media campaign around audience travel
- Training team members in fuel efficient driving for touring
- Ensuring public programmes are entirely accessible by public transportation

**On Wider Engagement**
- Implementing a building Green Team, and integrating environmental policies within staff training procedures
- Engaging with the local community to help individuals understand the impacts of climate change, by running led projects or workshops
- Organising a networking event on the topic of making work for young people about climate change
Members identify the greatest challenges to their green work

- The affordability and visibility of more sustainable materials procurement
- The cost of capital improvements
- Lack of exposure to other organisations undertaking similar work
- Reaching an impasse where it feels like all achievable green work has been undertaken
- Balancing geographic and physical accessibility and international work with the environmental impact of travel
- Knowledge of the most effective actions to take – both within internal staff teams and across public audiences
- Control over one’s space as a tenant/venue hire user
- The capacity to concentrate on sustainability ambitions, particularly with a demanding artistic programme

How the Green Arts Initiative Works

Resources – Case Studies and Guides
Downloadable guides on specialist sustainability knowledge tailored for the cultural sector and real-life examples in case studies written by Green Arts members.

Events – Green Arts Day & the Green Arts Conference
Sector and public-facing activities providing opportunities to connect and share with other cultural organisations, and demonstrate and highlight your own Green Arts work.

Networked Community – Green Arts Members Area
A one-stop shop of curated content, updated monthly to provide targeted access to support and inspiration for Green Champions.

Support and Ideas – The Green Arts Round-Up
Each month, Creative Carbon Scotland compiles news, events, opportunities, resources and relevant knowledge articles, sharing these with the community’s Green Champions. Any member can submit content or ask for help through the Round-Up.

What our members say

I find your website great with lots of information! Knowledge sharing and ClaimExpenses.com is a really valuable tool for us.

The team are very supportive of the work which we do which is really encouraging! It was great to be invited to speak at this year’s conference and it has led to several good connections which we hope to build on further.

Knowing there is a community there, and people to help at the end of the phone is very helpful!
### Members List

How to become a part of the community & participate as an active member

Any arts and cultural organisation in Scotland can join the Green Arts Initiative, free of charge. In becoming a member, you commit to undertaking actions to reducing your environmental impact, nominating a Green Champion from your organisation, and completing an annual member survey. Online registration is available at:

www.greenartsinitiative.co.uk