

We Are Ipswich Sustainability Principles

We are Ipswich (WAI) is a network of Ipswich-based cultural and creative organisations which vary in size, funding model, and artform. We work together to advocate for arts and culture in our town and share the common goal of making our work more environmentally sustainable.

WAI members have already achieved success in this area, for example by installing solar panels, setting up paperless box offices, switching to green energy tariffs, making and programming art with environmental themes, and engaging the public in conversation about the climate crisis. We believe that by working together we can achieve even more.

Together, we follow six shared principles to help us achieve our collective sustainability goals:

1. We acknowledge the climate emergency
2. We reduce our carbon emissions
3. Where it is feasible to offset the carbon emissions we cannot reduce, we use ethical offsetting initiatives
4. We loan equipment to each other
5. We work together to track levels of waste and recycling
6. We meet at least twice a year to monitor our progress

We acknowledge the climate emergency

We acknowledge that the world is facing a climate emergency and WAI members share that acknowledgement publicly. We educate our staff on the climate emergency and deliver environmental messages to our audiences.

We reduce our carbon emissions

We are committed to reducing our carbon emissions wherever possible. For example, we utilise greener energy options, change how and when we travel, make our buildings more energy efficient, and prioritise sustainable suppliers in our procurement processes.

WAI members are encouraged to engage with the [Suffolk Carbon Charter](#) to receive support to reduce their carbon emissions and access sector-specific sustainability training.

Where it is feasible to offset the carbon emissions we cannot reduce, we use ethical offsetting initiatives

Where we offset the carbon emissions we cannot reduce completely (such as those generated by core and necessary activities like artist travel), we will use reputable and ethical carbon offsetting initiatives offering tangible outcomes for our region.

One example of this is [The Woodland Trust](#), which cares for trees in our area.

We loan equipment to each other

We maintain a shared catalogue of items for loan between members to minimise new purchases and delivery mileage. This reduces the carbon emissions associated with purchasing new materials and ensures that equipment is used throughout its life.

We work together to track our levels of waste and recycling

We track our waste and recycling data as a reminder of our reduction goals and to discuss and review our environmental actions.

We meet at least twice a year to monitor our progress

We commit to twice-yearly environmental subgroup meetings to share best practice and monitor our achievements, both individual and collective. One meeting is scheduled to follow Arts Council England and Julie's Bicycle reporting deadlines for NPOs, ensuring data for discussion is up-to-date.

More information:

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