



Environmental Responsibility Statement

September 2023

Modern Art Oxford recognises the urgency and the gravity of the environmental emergency and is committed to taking the fullest action to mitigate its impact on the environment.

Operating in safe, ethical and environmentally responsible approaches across the organisation is vital to who we are as an organisation. This statement holds us accountable to complying with, and where possible exceeding, environmental legislation which reduces the negative environmental impacts of our organisation in energy use, water use, waste, travel and resources. We are in the process of better understanding our carbon emissions, through responding to Julie's Bicycle best practice and reporting our carbon emissions to them annually. From this we know, the biggest source of carbon emissions at Modern Art Oxford comes from energy consumption in the building. Heating is delivered by gas fuelled heating services that are over 30 years old, within a converted former Victorian brewery building.

The exhibitions programme involves the display of work by international artists. Therefore, carbon emissions are generated through shipping and freight. Wherever possible, we borrow from UK and European lenders, combine shipping journeys and avoid air freight. Some exhibitions require new temporary walls to be built. We source sustainable materials and reuse and recycle construction materials in-house. Built structures are deconstructed and reused or offered to local organisations rather than sent to landfill.

What we have done:

- Carbon Literacy training provided for the majority of Modern Art Oxford staff.
- A Small Capital project was completed in November 2018 to carry out essential maintenance and replace old plant and services in the office tower with new more efficient equipment, replaced windows with new double glazing and a new passenger lift.

- A small building project was completed in 2021 to refurbish the visitor toilets and improve lighting in the ground floor and Basement areas to reduce consumption of electricity and water. Replacing lighting throughout with energy efficient LEDs, motion controlled lighting in areas used intermittently and we have installed smart meters to help us better track and report on our energy usage.
- We promote cycling, walking and public transport as the best ways to travel to the gallery for staff, volunteers and visitors.
- An employee cycle to work scheme was introduced in 2019 and updated in 2023 to make it more accessible to colleagues.
- We introduced sustainability statements for all areas of activity from 2023/24.

Our objectives in relation to Environmental Action are as follows:

- To reduce carbon emissions and landfill annually by 5% each totalling a 20% reduction by the end of the 2026/27 FY.
- To be carbon neutral by 2040, in line with Oxford City Council's environmental charter.
- To use the opportunities arising from our content creation and programming to raise awareness of environmental concerns and encourage action.
- Continue to encourage zero and low carbon forms of transport for staff and visitors.
- Ensuring the majority of our international shipping is carried out by sea, rail or road rather than air by 2028.
- Ensuring all of our packing materials are reusable or curbside recyclable by 2026, as a step towards zero-waste operations by 2040.
- Audit building energy efficiency within 2024 ground floor refurbishment project, reducing energy use through replacement of heating services.
- To learn from and share best practice with other galleries and local businesses.
- To strengthen our evaluation and analysis methods to better understand and communicate the impact of our Environmental Action Plan.
- To be an active member of the Green Arts Charter for Oxford and the Galleries Climate Coalition, and to work with Julie's Bicycle on the Creative Green Programme, playing a leading role where possible.
- To communicate our environmental targets and practices to all stakeholders including staff, visitors and suppliers.

Modern Art Oxford will deliver these through its Sustainability Action Plan each year, which is embedded in its procurement and working processes, reviewed annually and monitored on an ongoing basis by the Environmental Working Group.