



Climate Action Policy & Plan

Context – Here & Now

South Tipperary Arts Centre (STAC) recognises and accepts our responsibility as a publicly funded arts organisation to contribute to the Government of Ireland's response to climate change. We are motivated to reduce the environmental impact of our operations while promising to continue to support the very best of Irish and internationally renowned contemporary arts practices, creating opportunities for year-round public engagement. Through this Climate Action Policy and Plan, STAC intends to align our work with national climate targets. We are conscious of maintaining our current sustainability practices while continually assessing the reality of our situation, making efforts toward expansion. STAC also recognises the limitations we as an organisation must mitigate while operating within two historically protected, adapted-use structures: STAC and STAC Chapel, each of which offer their own distinct barriers to and requirements for climate positive change.

It is undeniable that older buildings were designed to function in a climate that has changed significantly over recent decades. Like many arts and cultural institutions who occupy heritage buildings today, STAC most pressingly faces a considerable need for increased heating and/or cooling systems due to global warming, to protect artworks as well as ensure suitable conditions for arts centre staff, artists and audiences. In the case of both our venues, which maintain their original, single glazed windows, this unfortunately involves energy heavy actions and indirect retrofitting solutions.

STAC dates back to the 1948, built as the CIE bus station for Clonmel. It also served as a home for the Credit Union, before its opening as an arts centre in 1996. It uses a combi boiler and gas central heating, operated via a manually programmed timer. In 2021 STAC undertook an agreement with Tipperary County Council to use the former military chapel at Kickham Plaza for use as an ancillary arts facility. The army barracks to which the chapel originates dates back 1860c. The chapel has undergone several upgrades and repairs in recent years, particularly when first acquired, overseen by Tipperary County Council and supported by a Heritage grant of €15,000. The venue opened its doors to our publics in 2023 and has been a continual work in progress regarding energy efficient modification measures.

This Policy and Plan transparently outlines our current capacity to deliver meaningful climate action over the coming 12–36-months, to be reviewed by the Artistic Director and Board annually. We feel the practical targets and actions outlined herein are both timely and deliverable. As of June 2026, STAC have secured Climate Action funding which will assist in the implementation of this Plan.

STAC's Climate Action Policy promises:

- To make environmental sustainability part of our everyday decision-making.
- To work within the limitations of our two historic buildings while continually seeking improvements.
- To continue to prioritise reduction, reuse, repair and recycling before resorting to replacement.
- To continue to support local procurement and minimise unnecessary transport.
- To review and improve our practices and objectives annually.

Means of Delivery:

This Policy will be delivered across four key areas:

1. Programming & Production
2. Daily Operations
3. Our Buildings
4. Our Relationships

STAC's commitment to 'living' this policy is evidenced most clearly through our daily operations at our main building, Nelson Street, where our offices are based. Office staff already support organisational sustainability on a day-to-day basis through:

- the continued proper recycling of batteries, ink cartridges, single use plastics, glass and engagement in the national bottle-return scheme. Green and general waste bins are clearly labelled, with bin collection arranged only when strictly necessary. Many of our children's events/art classes repurpose recycled materials collected by us or donated from local businesses in the area.
- emphasising digital over physical correspondence e.g. newsletters, board reports, invoices etc. and the use of double-sided printing where printing is necessary.
- the mandated shutting down of PCs and other electrical equipment each evening to reduce energy consumption.
- the use of physical glassware and crockery on site.
- working closely with local businesses, e.g. Sure Print, Clonmel and Lion Print, Cashel for our physical print media requirements; Artisan Frames, Clonmel for our framing needs. We keep print quantities, where possible, to a minimum, reducing unnecessary waste.
- donating unused materials back into the community to reduce waste e.g. Cruinniú na nÓg 2026's decorative illustrations and children's books gifted to Clonmel library; leftover paint samples donated to local Garda to support mural production with service users of Cuan Saor (2026).
- Shopping locally for daily essentials such as office supplies, cleaning products etc.
- green mobility. A number of core team members opt for environmentally friendly travel methods to and from STAC, including walking and public transport, reducing carbon emissions and air pollution.
- the inclusion of sustainable travel information to/from our events and venues on our website and within circulated publicity materials.

Our Aims & Objectives

Programming & Production

- To create a programme that is cognisant of its impact on the environment, balancing environmental responsibilities with artistic/curatorial vision, always operating within our means.
- To support and represent artists engaging with climate advocacy, research and/or environmental themes in our programme.
- To reduce unnecessary organisational transport.

Daily Operations

- To continue to reduce waste and resource consumption.
- To ensure our Climate Action Policy is accessible on our website, and that our environmental commitments are unambiguous to our audiences.

Our Buildings

- We will continue to monitor our energy efficiency at STAC and STAC Chapel.
- We will continue to seek opportunities to improve our buildings' compliance with this Policy in partnership with Tipperary County Council, who own both buildings.

Our Relationships

- We will continue to work closely with Tipperary County Council in the custodianship and maintenance of our two protected structures.
- We will continue to build and grow beneficial relationships with local suppliers.

- We will seek to engage in circular economy practices where suitable.

Actions/Plan

To implement this policy, South Tipperary Arts Centre will carry out the following:

Within the next 12 months –

Programming & Production

1. Prioritise local procurement and reuse of exhibition materials, where possible.

Daily Operations

1. Continue to assess and monitor existing green practices (listed above).
2. Publish this Climate Action Policy on our website.
3. Ensure board meetings continue to be held predominantly online to reduce unnecessary organisational travel.

Our Buildings

1. Install an energy efficient over-door heater at STAC (already purchased) to help with heat retention in winter, and purchase cooling fans to mitigate summer temperatures.
2. Upgrade electrics at STAC Chapel increasing energy efficiency.
3. Install outdoor LED lighting at STAC Chapel.

Our Relationships

1. Contract local technicians and fabricators when appropriate and feasible.
2. Minimise online purchasing where possible, prioritising Irish online suppliers when possible.

Within next 1- 3 years

Programming & Production

1. Actively continue our commitment to programming exhibitions/events/projects that deal with issues around climate change/ecology/sustainability etc.

Our Buildings

1. Continue to work with Tipperary County Council to try to obtain the following assessments and upgrades (funding dependant) –
 - commission an energy audit or a conservation architect to survey STAC and STAC Chapel and advise on future modification requirements/efforts.
 - investigate funding options for further energy upgrades at both STAC and STAC Chapel (including windows/heating etc).

The Artistic Director will be responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring this policy in conjunction with the Board sub-committee. All members of staff will assist the Artistic Director in executing and monitoring the Climate Action Policy, with formal and informal suggestions toward improving the efficiency of our Plan welcome by all staff members at all times.

All contract and project personnel will be encouraged to think about the environmental impact of their work, and to opt for greener solutions where possible, in line with our values. This policy will be reviewed by the Artistic Director, staff and Board sub-committee every 12 months, including an evaluation of objectives and outcomes, with revisions and updates implemented as required.