

## **1. Statement of Policy**

Escape Arts is committed to providing a quality service in a manner that ensures a safe and healthy workplace for our employees and participants, which minimises our potential impact on the environment. Escape Arts acknowledges that whilst there are areas that are outside of our control, we will operate in compliance with all relevant environmental legislation, and we will strive to use pollution prevention and environmental best practices in all we do.

Escape Arts has a responsibility to the environment that extends beyond the legal and regulatory requirements. We are actively committed to reducing our environmental impact and carbon footprint, and will strive to improve our environmental performances, as part of our mission, strategic objectives, and operational procedures.

Escape Arts has always advocated reuse, repurpose and recycling across all its creative and delivery procedures. We will encourage beneficiaries, volunteers, partners and stakeholders to do the same, working across our procurement processes to work with partners organisations and supplier who share our environmental ethos.

This policy will be reviewed annually, and action taken as necessary.

## **2. Scope of this Policy**

This policy applies to all those who work for or volunteer with Escape Arts and third parties, whether part time or full time on a substantive or fixed-term contract; including those receiving a service from the charity:

- Trustees
- Employees
- Artists, contract workers/suppliers
- Trainee workers, including apprentices and students on work experience or placements
- Volunteers
- Participants.

## **3. Environmental Commitments**

Escape Arts will undertake an annual environmental review, supported through advice received from local advisors and energy impact assessments. This will enable us to establish an understanding of our carbon footprint and establish the baseline for measuring progress going forward.

This will include analysis includes measurements of:

- Energy
- Travel
- Procurement Procedures
- Food
- Waste
- Water Waste

This will help us develop monitoring and reporting of environmental impact, including waste reduction, fuel use and building impact.

Once a baseline has been established, Escape Arts will aim to reduce its carbon footprint and incorporate annual reviews which further explore our systems, values, and our programmes to ensure we are continuing to adapt and response to the climate emergency, actively striving towards long-term Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

#### **4. Implementation**

In the last 12 months, Escape Arts have implemented this policy through:

- Undertaken energy improvement analysis at the Escape Arts & Heritage Centre to explore the impact of solar panels, roof insulation and an air source heat pump to reduce energy consumption.
- Continued to implement a hybrid working model, reducing staff travelling into our venues every day using their cars.
- Using donated materials from members of the public in our community art projects.
- Incorporation of natural rain collection across our sites to support our greenspaces and with aim of introducing a no tap water irrigation system.
- Delivered environmental projects as part of our creative health programme, including creating insect habitats and developing a green community garden with our participants, using recycled materials to create plant pots and planters. These projects are designed to increase knowledge and awareness to empower local communities to take steps to achieve their climate change ambitions.
- Supporting nature and plant growth by investing in our outdoor space at the Escape Arts & Heritage Centre.
- Use of a recycling bin at the Escape Arts & Heritage Centre, which has enabled us to encourage participants, volunteers and users of the space to recycle.
- Online meetings or car sharing policy has been adhered to when visiting projects in Stratford-upon-Avon, Nuneaton and other venues across Warwickshire.
- 12 months usage of new Upshot CRM system for storing participant data and monitoring information. This has enabled us to significantly reduce the amount of paper waste we produce.
- Development of our Nourish & Flourish, formerly Grow Cook Create, community group at Lifeways Garden, encouraging sustainable growing/cooking of local produce and peer sharing of environmental skills and knowledge.

- Creation of educational resources to share positive messaging around climate change.
- Secured three-year funding to create a People's Archive of our work, enabling us to digitise artefacts, exhibitions and creative work.
- Hosted three workshops open to the public as part of Big Green Week to showcase how recycled materials, food scraps, seeds and plants can be reused into a creative medium.

Escape Arts are exploring the following environmental targets:

### Energy

- Explore funding opportunities to support the installation of solar panels, roof insulation and heat pump.
- Ensure energy suppliers are ethical and cost-effective/optimisation of energy usage.
- Continue to incorporate environmental skills and knowledge across our creative programme.

### Travel

- Offer staff incentives for use of public transport, including free travel by train where applicable on London Northwestern Rail & West Midlands Trains.
- Ensure travel impact continues to be minimised through car sharing, digital meetings, working from home procedures and smart travel decisions.
- Advocate incentives for walking and cycling to work.

### Procurement

- Use local artists, contractors and suppliers who can demonstrate good environmental practice.
- Including demonstrative environmental requirements when commissioning services.
- Analysis of materials, equipment, and sundries costs across the organisation.

### Food

- Advocate local, organic and refills schemes across our organisation, including at projects and events.
- Work with local foodbanks to support waste reduction by using their excess stock from at our community groups, whilst also supporting food projects across our delivery areas.
- Continue to invest in growing and edible gardening across our sites, incorporating growing projects across our creative programme.

- Petition Stratford District Council for a green waste bin for gardening waste that needs removal from the service yard around the Escape Arts & Heritage Centre by Escape Arts volunteer gardener.

### Waste

Escape Arts is committed to using recycled and discarded materials not just as a money-saver but also as an awareness and developmental tool.

- Continue to reduce waste through re-use and recycling and by purchasing recycled, recyclable, or refurbished products and materials where available.
- Use recycled and discarded materials in our projects, which conserves Escape Arts financial resources as well as conserving resource on a wider level.
- Escape Arts teaches the value of an objects or substance beyond its perceived life and helps develop an innovative approach to alternatives uses for 'waste'.
- By re-using every-day objects, skills learnt in the project can be implemented within the participants' own environment at no or little costs.
- Reduce paper usage through the development of the new Upshot CRM system for all participant data, develop further digital storage and investing in data sharing programmes. This includes finding ways to offset digital footprint.
- Develop food waste management by procuring a food waste bin which can be used as compost for the community garden at the Escape Arts & Heritage Centre and for the Nourish & Flourish project at Lifeways Garden.

### Advocacy

We will:

- Integrate the consideration of environmental concerns and impacts into all our decision making and activities.
- Use recycled products promotes an awareness of environmental preservation and re-use generally.
- Promote environmental awareness with our employees and encourage them to work in an environmentally responsible manner.
- Train, educate and inform our employees about environmental issues that may affect their work.
- Promote efficient use of materials and resources throughout our organisation and delivery facility including water, electricity, raw materials, and other resources, particularly those that are non-renewable.
- Teach the value of an objects or substance beyond its perceived life and helps develop an innovative approach to alternatives uses for 'waste'.
- Communicate our environmental commitment to participants, partners and the public and encourage them to support it.
- Actively build environmental impact advocacy projects, such as Plastic Planet, across our creative delivery, creative educational resources, and local, national

and international events to demonstrate arts advocacy and environmental protection. Please see [Plastic Planet Webpage](#) for more information.

## **5. Monitoring & Evaluation**

Escape Arts will review this policy every two years with the Board of Trustees to ensure that environmental targets are being met and commitments are being adhered to. This also allows for the opportunity to set new environmental targets on an annual basis.

**This policy and procedure was reviewed and adopted on:** 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025

**Date for review:** July 2027