

Environmental Policy

Stills is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. Our vision is to be one of the world's leading centres for photography. Our purpose is to be a centre of excellence for the advancement, understanding, practice and enjoyment of photography; to provide learning and empower diverse communities; to champion the important role that photography plays in the world today; and to be a foundation for the future of the photography sector in Scotland.

In line with our purpose and as an organisation in receipt of public funding, we believe in our responsibility to demonstrate best practice in the environmental sustainability of all our activities. We recognise the urgency of this and that we are living and working in a time of climate emergency. As well as adapting and changing our own ways of working, we aim to inform and influence our audiences, stakeholders, suppliers and partners to adopt a more responsible and sustainable approach to environmental impact.

Stills' Environmental Policy was established in 2014 and is monitored and supervised by our nominated Green Champion staff member and our Executive Director. The policy informs our Environmental Action Plan in which specific actions are delegated to team members. We are committed to playing our part in supporting the Scottish Government's commitment to achieving [net zero emissions by 2045](#).

Addressing the climate emergency: how we will inform and influence

- We will ensure that information on our environmental commitment is incorporated into inductions for new facility users, staff, volunteers and Board members.
- Our Executive Director will report progress on our Environmental Action Plan within our quarterly Board meetings.
- We will publish our Environmental Policy on our website.
- We will continue to be a member of Creative Carbon Scotland's Green Arts Initiative, and we will promote our membership of the scheme by displaying the logo in our premises and in a prominent place on our website.
- We will continue to research and deliver courses around sustainable photographic processes, and our technical staff will continue to research and implement sustainable practices in our facilities.

Reducing impact: year-round activities that we commit to undertaking:

Exhibitions | Courses | Production Facilities | Creative Learning | Events

Gallery Tues – Sat, 12-5

Technical Facilities Tues, Fri, Sat, 12-5 | Weds, Thurs 12-9

www.stills.org

Waste

- We provide bins in the staff offices and public areas for paper and mixed. Our recycling collection is made by Brightwaste, a reputable waste management company. All staff members, volunteers, trustees and visitors can recycle on site and are encouraged to do so.
- We will continue to ensure that 80% of our promotion is digital. For example, we use e-invites, e-newsletters and the Eventbrite ticketing system for exhibitions, announcements and event tickets.
- We only use printing where necessary. All essential printing should utilise double-sided printing and multiple pages per sheet whenever possible to minimise paper and ink usage.
- All paper supplies purchased for office will be FSC certified recycled paper
- We have switched to e-billing with all suppliers that offer this option to reduce the amount of paper bills we receive.
- We avoid purchasing and using single use plastic, such as for catering or lamination. We are investigating sustainable alternatives to vinyl for building and exhibition signage.
- We recycle darkroom chemicals.
- We have introduced a policy to stop using disposable cameras in our workshops and we no longer sell them in our shop.
- In-house signage reminds our visitors to use less paper, such as paper towels

Energy saving

- We are investigating infrared heating a sustainable replacement for our gas boiler.
- Throughout the building we use signage to highlight our 'Switch it off' policy to reduce energy consumption.
- Exhibition lighting is only switched on immediately prior to public opening hours.
- We use energy-saving lighting in all public areas and are no longer maintaining or replacing light fittings that are not energy-saving.
- We isolate central heating radiators that do not need to be switched on.

Transport and Travel

Core to our purpose is the audience experience of photography in-person, such as viewing photographic objects in a gallery, handling cameras and learning in the darkroom. For this reason, we are unable to eliminate transport and travel. However:

- We consolidate and share shipments as much as possible to avoid using dedicated vehicles or unnecessarily bulky crates or packaging.
- We reuse crates or packaging and recycle any waste.
- All travel to and from Stills is done by public transport where possible
- We review environmental impact as a priority when researching our programme.
- We produce artwork locally when possible, to avoid unnecessary shipments.
- Unless making an exception due to an individual's health or accessibility issues, we do not travel by plane within the UK.
- We buy bulk and choose ethical supermarkets when shopping online, otherwise, we shop locally

Monitoring and review

- Our policy is reviewed annually by Stills' Director and Green Champion. It is updated annually by staff and Board against current examples of best practice and any changes to relevant legislation.
- We undertake an annual energy audit to measure our consumption and to help identify areas for improvement.
- We monitor travel by staff and will begin to research ways to monitor audience travel
- We monitor our use of gas, electricity and water.
- We undertake annual environmental and energy reporting to our core funders: City of Edinburgh Council and Creative Scotland.

Version control: Approval and Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically, or following change in legislation, or other significant factors.