

## Policy Statement

The RHA is an artist-owned and operated organisation constituted by Royal Charter in 1823. The RHA consists of 55 full artist members and 10 associated members elected for life by the Assembly of the Academy. The RHA is based in a purpose-built building sited in the centre of Dublin City. The building was designed and partially constructed in the 1970s, completed in the late 1980s and refurbished in 2007.

The RHA has an active temporary exhibitions programme in the numerous gallery spaces in which it operates. The RHA features artists in its exhibition programme, at all stages of their careers - emerging, established and senior. The RHA curates solo, thematic and international exhibitions and is supported by a lively learning and public engagement programme. The RHA is very well attended and supported by its public audience.

The RHA operates an accredited School (accredited by TUD) which offers modules in drawing and painting. The RHA administers a studio programme with seven studios (four in-house), one residential studio and two residential time-limited programmes on islands off the West Coast of Ireland.

The RHA is committed to being a diverse, equal and inclusive organisation in all of its programmes and institutional activities.

As a major cultural institution in the community, the RHA is cognisant of its role and participation in ensuring the adoption of best practices to minimise its contribution to the various factors that are causing climate change. The RHA is committed to raising awareness amongst the artists it serves and the public it engages with about the actions that can be taken to minimise the effects of carbon usage on our global environment.



The RHA supports the Arts Council's Consultation Summary, 2022 on the role of the arts community in climate action and the larger goals and objectives of the National Climate Action Plan.

Through its venue operations, exhibition and engagement programmes, School and studio provision, the RHA is committed to practical measures and conscious raising to reduce carbon usage.

The RHA has examined each area of its activity to set a number of actions that will in a structured and measurable way begin the RHA's journey to a carbon-neutral organisation.

### **Action Plan 2025 / 2026**

1. To conduct an audit of its current carbon emissions for heating, lighting, air conditioning, digital usage and installation materials to establish a baseline for the purposes of measuring the progress of agreed actions.

#### **2. Venue Based**

To monitor, measure and seek ways to reduce its current energy usage

- a) by seeking clean energy providers
- b) by full migration of its lighting systems to LEDs
- c) recently installed BMS system to reduce heating and ventilation usage
- d) Research the feasibility of solar panels on the roof space
- e) by long-term planning for capital improvements that would identify key areas for upgrading to reduce energy loss e.g. double glazing older areas of the building

#### **3. Transport:**

- a) by encouraging its shippers to use electric vehicles for the collecting and return of art works.
- b) By requiring all staff and artists to use public transport when available to travel to installing, studio visits, out of office meetings.



c) By encouraging staff to use the Bike to Work Scheme

**4. Waste Management:**

- a) fully adopt waste management and recycling practices in relation to exhibition installations, studio practice and materials, paper usage, and the use of single-use plastics.
- b) to reduce the use of bubble wrap for the protection of artworks
- c) to continue to use segregated bins

**5. Catering**

- a) To install the water refill station in the foyer of the gallery
- b) To liaise with our café provider to eliminate paper cups, food waste, single-use plastics

**6. Public Programme**

- a) To include in our exhibition programmes from time to time artwork that addresses issues of climate change and biodiversity to raise awareness in our audience
- b) To augment such programmes with lectures, workshops and talks that focus in on the issues of climate change and personal and institutional responsibility.

**7. Monitoring and Review**

- a) The RHA Council to review these actions annually to monitor progress
- b) The RHA Council to renew this policy regularly and redefine its objectives in the light of progress achieved.

