

Our Social and Ecological Values:

How we act in companionship with each other and nature

*We find it hard to love what we can't give a name to and
what we do not love we will not save.*

*Curiosity, landscape, imagination, creativity, childhood, wildness
- the organisation's passions and values could hardly be
more important or inspiring right now.*

*Every one of its projects makes me see things strangely again,
tips a little more wonder back into the world.*

Robert Macfarlane, writer and CCI Patron

*As the world struggles with a climate emergency, a Covid crisis, and a racial injustice crisis,
there can be no better time to imagine how things could be different. Cambridge Curiosity and
Imagination is an inspiring example, showing that learning and teaching can be re-imagined and
that the next generation is not bound to repeat the mistakes of the past.*

Daniel Zeichner, MP Cambridge

Nature is good for you, and nature with art is even better.

*If we do nothing else after the coronavirus crisis,
let's make every child, everywhere, an ArtScaper.*

Dame Fiona Reynolds, Master, Emmanuel College and
former Director General of the National Trust

CCI came together with a vision for a society of individuals and communities for whom creativity is such a valued and accessible part of their lives that it empowers them to become more fully themselves, more richly alive and more responsive to the challenging, difficult and beautiful world.

We seek to have a positive impact by:

- Sharing our vision of an inclusive, accessible and creative society
- Working with artists and communities through collaborative art programmes to enable the full creative potential of everyone we work with
- Actively co-creating a regenerative future that cares for the planet and everyone on it
- Championing creative activism for improving social and environmental justice.

We affirm the principles of the Tree Charter so that people and trees can stand stronger together and makes this visible through the annual Fantastical Forest celebration – a city-wide celebration of creativity, community and the natural world on Tree Charter Day – and at all other events where for the Forest is shared.

We recognise the climate and ecological emergency facing us all and have joined Culture Declares Emergency (CDE), a growing global community of arts and culture champions declaring a climate and ecological emergency.

Alongside this CCI is committed to actively reducing its negative impact on the environment by minimising as far as possible without compromising our ability to address our mission and aims: the resources we use, ensuring these are biodegradable and sourced locally and ethically where possible; the waste we produce; the emissions we generate.

BACKGROUND

Part one of this commitment – how the charity seeks to have a positive impact - will be enacted through our strategic work with partners and colleagues. We will actively seek opportunities within projects to make visible and explain these commitments.

Part two – minimising our negative impact - is articulated in this document as we recognise also that we need to minimise any negative impacts that we have on the environment in undertaking our charitable work. CCI uses resources such as paper and energy, and generates waste and carbon emissions, and less directly through the suppliers we use. Again we will actively seek opportunities with our partners to highlight these.

PRINCIPLES

In order to achieve this, we will:

- a) **Consider the environmental impact in all decision making throughout CCI's operations**
- b) **Comply** with all applicable environmental regulations and exceed them where it is reasonable to do so.
- c) **Understand** our use of resources, generation of waste and emissions throughout our operations, and **quantify** wherever possible.
- d) **Identify** our most wasteful actions and seek to make them more sustainable.
- e) **Apply a “reduce, re-use, recycle” approach** to minimise consumption and waste of resources.
- f) **Minimise carbon emissions** as far as is economically practicable, while considering the costs and benefits.
- g) Make efforts to **minimise the environmental impacts** of our procurement.
- h) **Encourage awareness and commitment** to implementing the requirements of this policy amongst our employees, volunteers, suppliers and partners.

RESPONSIBILITY

CCI trustees are ultimately responsible for ensuring that this environmental policy is implemented, however they have delegated this task to the Director. All employees and volunteers have a responsibility to ensure that the principles of the policy are met.

GUIDELINES FOR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS – for the practical implementation of the Environment Policy

The following guidelines are in broad categories that aim to encourage environmentally beneficial improvement rather than be prohibitive to our day-to-day operations.

Must = You must do this, failure to do so will be considered a breach of CCI policy.

Should endeavour to = you should try and do this where it is practical and effective to do so, however this may not always be possible. For example, taking several hours to cycle to a meeting that is a long distance away would not be considered an effective use of your time for the charity even though it might be the best option for the environment.

1. Acquisitions

1.1. Purchasing Supplies and Equipment

Must:

- Consider whether items are necessary or whether the need can be met in another way.
- Consider if renting/sharing/second-hand is an option before purchasing new equipment.
- Evaluate the environmental impact of any new products we intend to purchase.
- Take into account the energy consumption and efficiency of new products when purchasing (eg light bulbs).

Should endeavour to:

- Favour more natural and home-made materials and purchasing only those that are environmentally friendly and efficient products (taking into account anticipated life, whether they can be repaired, re-used, recycled, etc).
- Purchase equipment, materials and contractors/services that you believe will minimise impact on the environment.
- Eliminate the use of single-use plastics, primarily through encouraging staff, suppliers and third-party providers to switch to alternatives to single-use plastics wherever feasible and through regularly reviewing procurement policies.
- Evaluate the environmental impact of equipment and materials when you are purchasing them, while also considering the costs and benefits. [This includes consideration of the environmental impacts of discarding and replacing cheap products compared with longer-lasting but more expensive products, or our ability to recycle or maintain them.]

2. Operations

2.1. Energy and water

Whist CCI maintains no buildings of its own, it may be possible to influence energy and water use of other spaces we are working in, advocating for adjustments and modifications.

2.2. Transportation

Must:

- Consider the need to travel, restricting to necessary trips only.
- Consider travelling on foot, cycle, public transport or sharing a lift.

Should endeavour to:

- Only take carbon fuelled single-occupancy car journeys when other options are not practical.
- Share lifts or travel on foot, cycle, public transport or electric vehicles
- Provide visitors to CCI events with information about sustainable and local transport options.

2.3. Charitable Activities

Must:

- Evaluate the environmental impact of existing activities, and any new projects, and consider how any environmental impacts can be reduced or minimised.
- Store and handle potentially polluting substances so that they cannot accidentally pollute the environment, including when using such substances.

- Specify appropriate environmental standards when commissioning work from contractors. Where appropriate, this should cover the purchasing of materials and ensuring that contractors have relevant environmental policies in place for the work that they are being contracted to do. You must also monitor their work to ensure that they comply with any environmental requirements.

Should endeavour to:

- Provide opportunities for participants in our events to reduce, re-use or recycle their waste.

3. Output

3.1. Waste Disposal

Must:

- Reuse, recycle or rehome everything we are able to, before sending it to landfill (eg. donating items).
- Follow the local council guidance regarding what can be recycled.
- Avoid contamination of recycling bins by communicating effectively to colleagues and participants.
- Dispose of items no longer of use appropriately and according to regulations.
- Dispose of any potentially polluting substances as required legally and in order to prevent pollution.
- Only use licensed and appropriate organisations to dispose of waste.

4. Culture

Must:

- Share our pledge with all our partners and actively explore how it will be enacted together.
- Provide staff and volunteers with relevant environmental information and training.
- Challenge ourselves to be better accountable.
- Review this policy regularly and where necessary update it.

Should endeavour to:

- Involve staff and volunteers in the creation of and implementation of this policy, for greater commitment and improved performance.