

Climate Action Policy

Signatories	Mary Conlon (Director) Joanne Laws (Chair)
Issue date	August 2025
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Policy links	The Dock EDI Policy The Dock Programme Policy The Dock Staff Handbook The Dock Strategic Plan 2025-2029

Purpose Statement

The Dock Arts Centre recognises the climate crisis as one of the defining challenges of our time. We believe that the arts can play a powerful role in shaping a more sustainable future. This Climate Action Policy affirms our commitment to climate justice, cultural leadership, and environmental stewardship in response to the climate crisis. It provides a framework for reducing our environmental impact, aligning with national and local climate goals, and using our platform to engage the public in climate awareness and action.

Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to the full lifecycle of activities at The Dock including: building operations and facilities management; procurement and supply chain decisions; programme and production; travel and transportation logistics. All staff, board members, artists, contractors, and collaborators are expected to uphold and support the aims set out in this policy. It aligns with The Dock's Strategic Plan 2025-2029 and supports local and national climate action frameworks.

Goals and Objectives

The primary goal of this policy is to embed climate action and environmental sustainability into the core of our organisational practices. We aim to reduce our operational emissions, increase renewable energy usage, support sustainable artistic production, and engage meaningfully with our communities.

Strategic goals:

- To reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and environmental footprint;
- To embed sustainability into all organisational decision-making;
- To engage audiences, artists, and communities in climate action and dialogue;
- To foster climate-conscious cultural production

Key objectives:

- To achieve measurable reductions in energy, water, and waste;
- To adopt sustainable procurement and reduce single-use materials;
- To promote sustainable travel and reduce transport-related emissions;

- To support artistic work that addresses climate and ecological issues;
- To provide training and resources for staff and artists on climate action;
- To establish partnerships that support climate resilience in our region.

Implementation Strategy

To achieve our objectives, The Dock will take specific, strategic actions across its facilities, programme, staff engagement, and partnerships. We will review our energy audit and prioritise areas for improvement. Energy-saving technologies and retrofits will be planned and introduced subject to successful fund-raising, including LED lighting upgrades, solar PV system, and other recommendations outlined in our Green for Micro report (2023). Staff will receive climate action training.

Accountability and Responsibilities

The Director will lead the implementation of this policy. The Board will oversee compliance and ensure that climate goals are incorporated into governance and reporting structures. Each staff member will be responsible for implementing sustainable practices in their role.

The Dock is a member of the Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) registered with SEAI as Carrick-on-Shannon Climate Action. Leitrim County Council's Climate Action Plan has identified Carrick-on-Shannon as the Decarbonisation Zone (DZ) for Leitrim, a spatial area test bed of what is possible for decarbonisation and climate action at a local and community level. The SEC will:

- Oversee the planning, implementation, evaluation of community projects;
- Ensure alignment with local, national, and international climate action targets;
- Facilitate stakeholder engagement and community involvement;
- Monitor and report on the progress and outcomes of decarbonisation initiatives.

Monitoring and Review

The Dock will monitor progress through annual environmental audits, key performance indicators, and staff and audience feedback. An annual sustainability report will be published and shared with stakeholders. The Climate Action Policy and Plan will be reviewed annually

and revised based on new data, feedback, and developments in climate legislation and sectoral guidance.

Communication Plan

This policy will be communicated through induction materials, staff briefings, website content, and public reporting. Climate commitments will be embedded in artist contracts, supplier agreements, and programming callouts. Updates will be shared with stakeholders and the wider community through communications channels and public events.

Contact Information

For further information or to offer feedback on this policy, please contact:

Mary Conlon

Director, The Dock Arts Centre

Email: mary.conlon@leitrimcoco.ie

Phone: +353 (0)71 965 0828

Website: www.thedock.ie