



BLACK CHURCH PRINT STUDIO

Climate and Sustainability Policy & Action Plan

Introduction

Black Church Print Studio (BCPS) is an artists' collective that supports and promotes the development of contemporary art practice through the medium of printmaking. Established in 1982, with currently over 95 print artists, the studio is located in the heart of Temple Bar (Dublin's cultural quarter). BCPS is a members' organisation and we truly value the work of our artists.

Statement

Black Church Print Studio recognises and embraces its responsibility towards the global challenge of climate change and environmental sustainability. We are committed to climate awareness and preservation and are invested in continuously evolving our practices to become more sustainable and environmentally conscious. We pledge to continue working in collaboration with our staff, stakeholders and suppliers to improve every facet of our organisation in respect to its environmental impact.

In our commitment to environmental stewardship, BCPS pledge to:

1. Abide by all pertinent local and national legislation and regulations relating to environmental protection.
2. Minimise our waste production and take all feasible measures to recycle this waste in a responsible manner
3. Reduce our usage of raw materials, water, and fuels as part of our resource optimisation strategy.
4. Educate our staff and members on best environmental practices to foster a culture of sustainability within our studio.
5. Prioritise the use of recyclable, renewable, and sustainable materials whenever feasible in our operations.

These commitments serve as guiding principles in our ongoing journey towards sustainability, as we continue to redefine our practices to lessen our environmental impact. Black Church Print Studio is committed to conducting an annual review and update of the policy to ensure its ongoing relevance and effectiveness.

Actions:

Efficient Transport and Stock Management

- We seek to adopt shared storage and transport strategies on certain projects to reduce carbon emissions.
- We have streamlined our material acquisition process, ordering in bulk from a single supplier and reselling to members to minimise storage needs and reduce our collective carbon footprint associated with individual transportation.
- We engage with other Print Studios to buy bulk from non-Irish suppliers, thus reducing carriage costs and carbon footprint. We source materials from Irish suppliers where possible.
- Whenever possible we buy locally to reduce transport distances.
- We liaise with Studio Framer and Artists to arrange regular collections and drop-offs in the studio for framing works, reducing journeys.
- We coordinate collection and deliveries of framed works to exhibition venues by one person reducing journeys.
- We package most of our prints into paper card rolls or recycled cardboard boxes.
- We provide ample material and paper storage for Artist members, allowing for the use of sustainable travel methods to the studio.
- We provide secure bicycle parking for members in a semi private yard to the rear of the building.

Resource Management and Waste Minimisation

- We are proactive in minimising waste, particularly concerning our use of inks. We provide inks for our print workshops, thereby ensuring a steady rotation, preventing wastage and excess purchase by participants.
- We constantly review the use of solvents and oil based inks, offering direction and advice to members. We provide alternate eco solvents for use in the studio and in workshops. Water based inks are being explored by studio tutors and our technician.
- We are increasing the use of copper sulphate as an etching medium in lieu of some acids and establishing a waste disposal system for all products. Our management plan for waste disposal and safety issues are currently being reviewed.
- Sustainable framing materials are recommended and repurposing old frames for new works is encouraged where feasible.
- Packaging materials are largely paper based, unless they are likely to be subject to weather conditions.
- We clean and reuse screens for as long as possible, and they are inspected from time to time and recleaned if necessary.
- Copper and aluminium plates are used in a number of processes and are some of the most recyclable materials, which we reuse by reclaiming and then recycle when necessary.
- Given the nature of our work as a print studio, paper consumption is an inevitable aspect of our operations. We source our papers from three sustainable producers with a commitment to responsible production. Paper offcuts are used within our Education Programme and made available to members for their own practice use. Standardised pre-cut paper is provided to tutors for Education courses, who work with agreed plate / block sizes to allow use of standard size, reducing paper purchase.
- Our efforts also extend to our equipment and materials. Our printer cartridges get refilled when empty., We implement dry cleaning for our printing blankets, reducing the frequency of purchasing

new ones. We recycle our wiping cloths to minimise material wastage and purchase our recycled cloths following hotel use.

- A dedicated treated drinking water supply is available to Artist members, allowing refilling of personal bottles for use around the studio. Fridge storage and reheating facilities are provided allowing members to bring pre-packed lunches from home.

Waste Management

- Any chemical waste is collected and processed by a compliant chemical waste management company. We bring other recyclables to our local bring centre. We use a sedimentation unit to collect silt produced during processes.
- Some artists reuse plates, we offer members recycled plates as an alternative to new metal and we collect old unusable plates and bring them to scrap merchants for recycling.
- Paper, plastics, cans and other recyclables have a dedicated recycling area and are collected twice weekly. Any glass, electrical, other appropriate materials are brought to the local bring centre.
- We plan to introduce more substantial signage to advise members on appropriate disposal of waste.

Transitioning to Digital

- All our administrative and financial operations are stored in cloud-based systems and independent servers, thus substantially reducing our dependence on paper and paper records.

Energy Efficiency

- We plan to update our heating system with thermostats on each floor which will allow us to focus heating on the areas being used. BCPS are currently undergoing roof repairs with DCC. We will also work with DCC regarding window replacement and upgrading thermal insulation to prevent energy losses. In recent years we have replaced all lights in the studio with LEDs and have light on timers in our hallway and staircase. Solar energy collection is also an option for our roof area.
- We have started to transition our communication systems to Google Drive. This decision aligns with our environmental commitments as Google operates some of the world's most energy-efficient servers, many of which are powered by renewable energy. Furthermore, Google itself is a carbon-neutral company, and our association with them reaffirms our dedication to sustainable practices.

Processes

- We are in the process of reviewing all of our printmaking techniques to assess their impact, and researching alternative processes and their impact, with a view to introducing the best viable combination with the least impact on the environment. We are continuing to investigate eco-friendly materials and methods and substituting where possible.