

draíocht

Environmental Policy And Action Plan

About Draíocht

Opening in 2001, Draíocht is a multi-disciplinary art centre located in the heart of Dublin 15. With two theatre spaces, two galleries, a workshop space, an artist's studio and a cafe, Draíocht has 50,000 plus visits per year. Our programme presents work from the local, national and international spheres and we aspire to reaching as wide an audience as possible. We programme high quality performances, have an extensive and rich Children/Youth Arts programme, exhibition programme and arts participation programme, all aiming to engage and challenge.

We have a deep commitment to access to our facilities and programme. underpinned by our belief in the transformative power of the arts. We work closely with artists to both support, enable and develop their own practice as well as deliver high quality performances and engagement programmes for all ages. We have a particular commitment to children and young people.

Draíocht has always placed its audience at the heart of its vision providing a programme that is one part invitation to one part challenge. In Dublin 15, Draíocht is synonymous with participation and creativity. It is also synonymous with a high-quality performance and exhibition programme that aims to engage, stretch, and challenge its audience. We are known for delivering high quality ambitious projects such as Hallelujah, a Community Clown Choir (2013 to 2015), Home Theatre (Ireland) 2018, Our Place, Our Stories in 2019, PlayGround Orchestra Project (2022/2023) and NEST (2024).

Draíocht is a CLG and registered charity. We are overseen by a voluntary Board and a full-time professional staff of 9, with part time staff and contract staff in addition.

We are generously funded by Fingal County Council with additional funding provided by the Arts Council.

The building in which Draíocht operates from is owned by Fingal County Council.

At Draíocht we strive to promote good practice in all areas of our work.

Environmental Policy

Draíocht recognises that we have environmental responsibilities and therefore operate, as far as is practicable, in a way that conserves the natural environment and minimises the organisation's impact on same. We recognise the profound impact of climate change and the role that the arts community can play in creating a sustainable future. This Policy confirms our commitment to reducing our environmental footprint, promoting sustainability, and encouraging ecofriendly practices throughout all of our operations.

Over the last number of years, Draíocht has developed practices and procedures to assist us in having a multifaceted approach to integrating sustainability and environmental awareness into all areas of operation. (See Appendix 1).

Over the coming years, in consultation with our Board, staff, artists and audiences, we will build on the policies/procedures/practices currently in place, proactively seek to develop same and introduce new ones, working with all our stakeholders to do so.

We strive to create an environment that not only inspires creativity but also champions sustainability. By adopting an Environmental Policy, we are committed to continuously improving our environmental practices and creating arts experiences and spaces that support the wellbeing of our stakeholders as well as the planet. We will encourage all staff, artists, audiences, participants, and stakeholders to actively participate to make a positive impact.

Draíocht's Board, working with the Director and General Manager, is ultimately responsible for policy development and review. Draíocht's staff are integral to the process given their role in day-to-day operations and expertise in their own areas.

Draíocht's Environmental Policy is, after consultation with staff, brought to the Board for approval and adoption and then reviewed on an annual basis.

Key Actions 2025:

Draíocht will:

1. Develop a better understanding of our impacts (energy, waste etc)
 2. Develop a relationship with Fingal County Council's Climate Action Officer to see how we can work together on common aims and actions
 3. Work closely with the Facilities Department of Fingal County Council to assist in the identification of actions required to ensure the building operates to best standards
 4. Working with staff, interrogate our current procedures/practices and seek to develop same where possible
 5. Apply for funding to upgrade equipment as those opportunities arise
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Appendix 1. Policies/Practices And Procedures In Place

Environmental Impact Reduction

Energy Efficiency:

- We implement energy-saving measures across the Arts Centre by using energy-efficient lighting (e.g., LED bulbs where available), and promoting the use of natural light in our spaces.
- Lights in spaces are switched off if not in use
- Sensory lights are used in corridors/storerooms
- All electrical appliances are regularly maintained to ensure they are operating efficiently
- We switch off electrical equipment when not in use.
- We only switch heaters on if the office/working spaces are cold and occupied. Only use electric fans if the room temperature cannot be lowered by opening windows and closing blinds.
- We strive for a reduction in overall energy consumption by adopting renewable energy sources and incorporating smart energy management systems.
- Hand dryers switch off automatically
- Working with the building owners, Fingal County Council, we incorporate sustainable building practices where possible
- Working with Fingal County Council, we facilitate audits of the building re its environmental impact and required improvements.

Waste: Minimise And Recycle

- Use paper and card on both sides. Double sided printing and multiple pages per sheet are used whenever possible to minimise paper and ink usage.
- Documents and correspondence only printed when necessary
- Reduce stationery wherever possible.
- Remove reusable items or parts before disposing of any waste. Printer inkjets are recycled/disposed of appropriately.
- Draíocht promotes a "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" policy, with designated recycling bins for paper, plastics, glass and electronics
- Recycle bins are in all spaces
- We facilitate the collection of used batteries for proper disposal
- We proactively reuse and re purpose materials for events and performances
- We encourage ticket holders to download their tickets to their smartphones if possible Scanners introduced to facilitate the checking of e tickets
- We have a 'getting here and parking' tab on our website (in order of least environmental impact)
- In house Reports/Strategies are developed digitally, nor printed and available through web links
- Evite emails are used. Invitation cards are no longer printed
- Unwanted goods are donated to local voluntary, community and charitable organisations

Water Conservation

- We reduce water usage through the installation of water-efficient appliances.
- We encourage staff, visitors, and participants to adopt water-conserving habits. Drinking water is available to all building users to reduce the use of plastic bottles

Indoor Air Quality

- Only non-toxic paints and finishes are facilitated to ensure a safe, healthy environment for visitors and staff.
- We maintain good indoor air quality through regular ventilation

Travel

- Zoom is used as a regular meeting platform enabling less use of transport
- Public transport is used for person to person work related trips on a national level where time appropriate
- International travel is kept at a minimum.
- We encourage schools to walk to events here when possible. We are seeking funding to assist local schools in the purchase of Leap Cards to enable them use public transport, not private buses.

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www.draiocht.ie