



Climate Change Policy (2024)

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1. Introduction

Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland was established in 2017 by harpers in collaboration with The Arts Council, An Chomhairle Ealaíon to support the continuing evolution of the harp and to address the need for a professional national resource organisation to service the needs of the sector and develop and promote harping generally.

Our artistic policy acknowledges that the harp occupies a unique niche in the traditional arts eco-system in Ireland and is an integral part of our national identity. The designation of harping on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanities list reflects its critical place at the centre of our living culture. Sustaining and safeguarding harping is integral to our mission.

Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland is dedicated to reducing the impact of our work on the environment, championing sustainability and biodiversity while pursuing our central goal of promoting harping practices and traditions in Ireland. As a growing organisation with meaningful ties to the harping and other musical communities in Ireland, CÉHI recognises its role and responsibility in championing sustainable actions in all aspects of its operations.

We will adopt a leadership role in our sector to take action to minimise climate change in line with the Paris Agreement of 2016. This policy aims to encourage CÉHI staff, artists, and audiences to collectively make CÉHI activities more environmentally conscious, and to place sustainability at the forefront of the organisation's concerns as it continues to grow.

This policy is intended as a first step in committing to reducing the environmental impact of CÉHI and our events and will be expanded upon and updated as new data is collected and new strategies implemented. In line with Section 15(1) point (d) of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act 2021, CÉHI endeavours, in so far as is practicable, to perform its functions in a manner consistent with the furtherance of the national climate objective.

The policy is accompanied by an initial plan which we will revise over time. The success of this plan hinges on the collaboration and dedication of all departments and stakeholders. With clearly defined roles, timelines, and outcomes, we are well equipped to monitor progress and address challenges as we move forward.

2. Policy Scope

This policy applies to all Cruit Éireann | Harp Ireland activities which involve artists, support staff, volunteers, employees (full-time, part-time, and temporary), contractors, applicants and board members/trustees and executives.

3. Policy Responsibility

The CÉHI board has responsibility for this policy, for the review thereof and for ensuring the effectiveness of actions taken in response to concerns raised under or in relation to this policy.

4. Policy Organisational Context

CÉHI delivers a broad range of services on an all-island basis, across the harping community ranging from workshops/tuition, information-giving, concerts, and lectures across communities. We liaise with numerous stakeholders and connect with artists across multiple genres.

5. Our Dual focus

Our functions can be broadly divided into internal activities—the day-to-day activities of the organisation—and external activities—CÉHI's engagement with the wider public and artistic community through events, workshops, and festivals. Although, as a growing organisation with a small core personnel, CÉHI does not have the same impact on the local environment as that of larger organisations, awareness and improvement of our impacts is at the forefront of our sustainability strategy.

CÉHI is dedicated to implementing further strategies to reduce the waste impact of the organisation, and to serve as champion for climate action within the harping community. Green policy is a central concern as CÉHI continues to grow as an organisation and will be at the forefront of further CÉHI policy and planning.

6. Activities & Impact

In internal-and-external operations, CÉHI will endeavour to minimise waste, with the goal of adopting a zero-waste approach.

A. Internal Activities

At present, the quotidian activities of CÉHI are carried out in a co-working space. The current arrangement allows for resource optimisation through the sharing of essential amenities and reduction of waste. We use modern, high quality and secure IT hardware and software to maximise the efficient use of energy. A portable water filtration system is used in-office to reduce the use of single-use plastics during day-to-day operations. However, the use of a shared premises in some way limits the control of CÉHI on its immediate environment and outputs (i.e., energy suppliers, use of LEDs, establishment of biodiversity areas).

CÉHI has adopted a flexible working arrangement to minimise our use of resources and direct or indirect emissions. This has diminished the amount of travel undertaken on a day-to-day basis, as, in certain cases, meeting online suffices. Meeting in-person is arranged in such a way that will maximise the use of public transport solutions.

1. Environmental & Sustainability Representative

The Programme Co-ordinator will undertake the function of environmental and sustainability representative (ionadaí timpeallachta agus inbhuanaitheachta) to ensure the upholding of and compliance with climate change policy.

2. Merchandise

We will ensure that sustainable materials are used to produce any future CÉHI merchandise and prioritise the production of merchandise that encourages sustainable behaviours and reduces waste (i.e., reusable totes, water bottles, mugs).

3. Internal activities

We will endeavour where possible to further reduce our in-person meetings, necessitating less travel to office and less energy usage in-office. We aim to procure our energy supply from providers who promote power generation from renewables.

B. External Activities

The absence of a dedicated performance venue affords CÉHI less control over its production impact than other arts organisations occupying purpose-built spaces. Where possible, CÉHI chooses environmentally friendly venues with sustainable certifications or practices such as energy-efficient lighting, waste reduction programmes, and recycling facilities.

We will encourage event participants and personnel to use public transportation or carpooling by providing information on sustainable travel options to venues, thus reducing emissions. We will use energy-efficient equipment and lighting to reduce electricity consumption during events.

Similarly, the necessity for CÉHI personnel and artists to travel to event locations nationwide presents concerns regarding transport emissions due to shortcomings in public transport infrastructure. Where public transport links do not exist to host venues, however, CÉHI strives to engage in sustainable travel practices such as car-sharing.

4. Marketing

We will increase our use of digital platforms for communication and outreach to further reduce paper usage, prioritising email newsletters, social media, and online surveys instead of physical materials. Where printed/paper materials are to be provided for accessibility reasons, we will ensure that these materials are responsibly sourced and are themselves recyclable.

5. Outreach

We will effectively promote and communicate our sustainability message to all stakeholders. Internally, we will engage employees through regular updates, training, and incentive programmes, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility.

Externally, we will share its sustainability achievements and initiatives through public reports, digital campaigns, and community involvement, using various platforms such as social media, its website, and public events. By actively engaging with customers, partners, and the broader community, we aim to build awareness, encourage participation and engagement of climate crisis through creative work, and position ourselves as a benchmark of sustainability in our sector. Regular monitoring and feedback will ensure continuous improvement in these communication efforts.

Our Strategic Priorities and Goals

Strategic Priority 1: Energy efficiency and Carbon footprint reduction

Goal: Aim for maximum energy efficiency.

Strategic Priority 2: Sustainable event management

Goal: Aim for efficient and sustainably run Events Energy.

Strategic Priority 3: Travel and Transport

Goal: Aim to conserving and improve Travel Options for Energy.

Strategic Priority 4: Sustainable instrument production and maintenance

Goal: Develop a more sustainable harping eco-system involving recycling and sustainable materials.

Strategic Priority 5: Education and Advocacy

Goal: Incorporate sustainability into our teaching practices and promote its advocacy more broadly.

Strategic Priority 6: Sustainable Partnerships

Goal: Foster sustainable relationships with both sponsors and communities.

Strategic Priority 7: Communications and awareness raising

Goal: Continued awareness and communication of sustainability goals.

Strategic Priority 8: Monitoring and Evaluation

Goal: Continuously monitor and evaluate our sustainability and energy efficiency.

These strategic priorities and goals will be delivered via a comprehensive implementation plan.

7. Implementation Plan

Strategic Priority 1: Energy efficiency and carbon footprint reduction

Goal: Aim for maximum energy efficiency

Actions	Responsibility	Timing	Measure of Success
Continue to measure our energy consumption and put efficiency improvements in place	Sustainability Team	Month 1-2	By energy efficiency improvements achieved and regular reporting to board.
Provide training for employees in order to achieve energy efficiencies. Employee participation at training programmes	HR/Sustainability Team	Ongoing, Starting Month 2	Energy savings due to behavioural changes
We will ensure that sustainable materials are used to produce any future CÉHI merchandise and prioritise the production of merchandise that encourages sustainable behaviours and reduces waste.	Sustainability Team	Ongoing, Starting Month 6	50% of merchandise is produced sustainably by Year 2
We will endeavour where possible to further reduce our in-person meetings, necessitating less	Sustainability Team	Ongoing, Starting Month 1-3	50% of meetings held digitally by Year 2

travel to office and less energy usage in-office			
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Strategic Priority 2: Sustainable event management

Goal: Aim for energy efficient and sustainably run events

Actions	Responsibility	Timing	Measure of Success
Develop and promote digital alternatives to printed materials, such as digital programs, tickets, and promotional materials.	Communications Team	Month 3-6	50% reduction in printed materials by Year 1
Implement waste reduction strategies such as recycling stations.	Events Coordinator	Month 4-8	50% waste reduction at all events by Year 2.
Organise performances in natural settings such as parks, gardens, or natural reserves.	Events Coordinator	Ongoing, Starting Month 6	Reduced need for artificial lighting and sound in performances. Strengthened connection between music and the environment Aim to deliver one flagship performance each year which connects harping with the natural heritage of our landscapes and environment.
Organise concerts at sustainable venues to ensure reduced or offset carbon emissions.	Events Coordinator	Ongoing, Starting Month 3	50% of concerts held at sustainable venues by Year 2

Strategic Priority 3: Travel and Transport

Goal: Aim for energy conserving and improved travel options

Actions	Responsibility	Timing	Measure of Success
Create incentives for public transport, cycling, and carpooling for staff, musicians, and event attendees	HR Department	Month 2-6	30% increase in green travel methods among staff and participants by Year 2.
Increase the number of virtual performances, workshops, and meetings to reduce the need for travel.	Digital Media Team	Ongoing, Starting Month 2	20% reduction in travel-related emissions by Year 2. 20% increase in online resources and content.

Strategic Priority 4: Sustainable Instrument Production and Maintenance

Goal: Develop a more sustainable harping eco-system involving recycling and sustainable materials

Actions	Responsibility	Timing	Measure of Success
Collaborate with harp makers to encourage the use of sustainable materials in harp paraphernalia (e.g., cases, covers etc.)	Artistic Director	Month 1-12	15% increase in harp paraphernalia with sustainable materials by Year 2.
Launch a campaign to promote the repair and recycling of harps to extend their life cycle and reduce waste (e.g., recycling	Marketing Team	Month 6-12	50% increase in instrument recycling and repair by Year 2. Increased number of second harps available to beginners

second hand harps for children/beginner harpers)			Implementation of a social media campaign to encourage harp repair and recycling.
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Strategic Priority 5: Education and Advocacy

Goal: Incorporate sustainability into our teaching practices and promote its advocacy more broadly

Actions	Responsibility	Timing	Measure of Success
Incorporate sustainability into harp teaching practices, emphasising the importance of caring for the environment alongside musical skills	Communications Team	Month 1-12	Increase in sustainability practices as a core element of teaching by Year 2. Develop conversations with harpers around our role in caring for the environment at advisory group meetings.
Create a network of young harpers committed to sustainability, sharing best practices, and collaborating on green projects via our young harpers' forum.	Digital Media Team	Month 2-6	Fostering a more environmentally conscious and conscientious harping community online by Year 2. Develop a range of projects undertaken by young harpers' forum which incorporate themes of sustainability.
Work to sustain and maintain the traditional 16 th and 17 th century harpers'	Artistic Director/Communications Team	Ongoing, Starting Month 3	Increased performances and knowledge of traditional repertoire by Year 1

repertoire to maintain the cultural legacy of both the instrument and the country.			
Encourage compositions, performances, and projects that reflect environmental themes and inspire audiences to consider their role in climate action	Artistic Director	Month 6-12	Commission focussing on climate change theme. Connection made between harp repertoire and local ecology. Increase in Environmentally Themed Performances by Year 2.

Strategic Priority 6: Sustainable Partnerships

Goal: Foster Sustainable Relationships with both Sponsors and Communities

Actions	Responsibility	Timing	Measure of Success
Engage with eco-friendly companies for sponsorships.	Sponsorship Coordinator	Ongoing, Starting Month 3	Secure 1 green sponsorship by Year 1.
Strengthen relationships with local communities and organisations to support sustainability through environmentally conscious harping workshops, lectures, and concerts	Communications Team	Ongoing, Starting Month 4	Increased engagement and awareness of sustainability with local communities through the above events.
Explore how we might engage with harpers and their	Communications Team	Ongoing, Starting Month 6	Increased engagement and awareness of sustainability with local

local communities in collaborative projects that combine music and environmental action, such as tree planting events accompanied by live music or community-based art installations involving harping that raises awareness about climate change.			communities through events. Increased thinking amongst the harping community around sustainability and the connection between the natural environment and our harping heritage.
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Strategic Priority 7: Communications and Awareness Raising

Goal: Continued awareness and communication of Sustainability Goals

Actions	Responsibility	Timing	Measure of Success
Continue to highlight our sustainability methods and goals via updates and communications through our website	IT Department	Ongoing, Starting Month 1-2	Activity for sustainability page increase by 50% by the end of Year 1
Denote a section of our monthly newsletter to relevant sources of information surrounding current sustainability focused content and events	Media Team	Monthly, Starting Month 2	Increase in sustainability awareness via newsletter content circulated to CÉHI database.
Foster an active and regular social media presence dedicated to showcasing the	Digital Media Team	Ongoing, Starting Month 4-6	25% increase in engagement surrounding sustainability themed content by Year 2

importance of sustainability within Harping via frequent posts, updates and polls			
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Strategic Priority 8: Monitoring and Evaluation

Goal: Continuously monitor and evaluate our Sustainability and Energy efficiency

Actions	Responsibility	Timing	Measure of Success
Create key performance indicators (KPIs) for tracking progress	Sustainability Officer	Month 1-3	A set of KPIs established and monitored quarterly
Publish an annual sustainability report	Sustainability Officer	Annually, Starting Year 1	First report published by the end of year 1, and then at the end of each following year

8. Policy Monitoring

CÉHI will implement a monitoring system to assess our current carbon emissions status, with the goal of implementing a carbon emission reduction roadmap. These findings will be published in amended policy documents.

We understand the importance of the next generation of harpers in ensuring a sustainable future for the harping tradition in Ireland and acknowledge the valuable contribution that they make through increased engagement with environmental issues. CÉHI encourages the engagement and feedback of young harpers in its activities through the Young Harper's Forum. The forum, which meets virtually, is a platform for young harpers to raise their voices for Irish harping and concerns about climate change and its impacts on arts, culture, and heritage.

This policy will be reviewed annually and amended to reflect changes in legislation, industry standards or organisational requirements as necessary. Artists and our core funders will be informed of any significant changes to the policy.

9. Conclusion

This policy represents a critical step towards our commitment to environmental stewardship and long-term sustainability. Through the targeted initiatives outlined in this plan, we aim to significantly improve our energy efficiency and reduce our carbon

footprint both internally within our operations, through new environmentally conscious organisational and methodological approaches, and externally through an increased inter-disciplinary approach between harping and sustainability in education, transport, event management, instrument production and partnerships; each element thereby contributing to a more sustainable future for our organisation and the communities we serve.

Our approach, in line with the Paris Agreement of 2016 and Section 15(1) point (d) of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act 2021, is designed to achieve measurable outcomes through grounded comprehensive assessments and strategic actions. By following through with the actions and commitments outlined in this document, we anticipate reduced carbon emissions for the organisation, but also an increased awareness of the importance of sustainability among both us and our employees, as well as the different communities we work with and serve.

We will work collectively with harpers to achieve these ambitious goals and to setting a benchmark for sustainability in our sector.

10. Contact Information

For any queries on this policy, please contact CÉHI Chair or CEO at info@harpireland.ie