

Environment and Sustainability Policy

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Open Source Arts (OSA) recognises we are in a climate and ecological crisis and that we are faced with a huge challenge globally to reduce our carbon emissions, limit our impact on the natural environment and promote global social justice. This requires us all to make changes to our lives - however great or small - and push for greater systems change from those in positions of power.

Guiding Principles

- We believe in LEADing as we **L**et **E**very **A**ction **D**emonstrate our recognition that changes towards a low carbon, sustainable, safe, socially just world is necessary and possible
- It is important to create diversity of connection and skills by engaging with a variety of groups, individuals and organisations at all levels - including emerging creatives, the education sector, Leeds Climate Commission, conservation agencies and more.
- The environment, society and arts are intrinsically linked and by working for the benefit of each we must simultaneously strengthen the others
- We must become an organisation that helps make the world a better place to live by encouraging creativity as well as environmental and social sustainability.
- We must consider environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability in everything we do.
- We must talk about the impact of our activities on the environment creating a team culture which considers climate in everything we do.
- We must ensure all current team members have received Carbon Literacy Training to help us all better understand and consider climate change and take positive climate action.
- We will encourage our team members and visitors to travel actively or use public transport where possible, and we will work to make this as suitable for everyone as possible.
- Paying people properly for their time to enable them to have more time and energy to do what they love and to have the capacity to care for others and the world we live in is important in everything we do.

- Economics is also crucial to sustainability as money is fundamental to allowing people to sustain themselves, their practices as well as afford the time to protect the environment and communities they live in
- Leeds is not an island and any individual, organisational or community action has international implications.
- All climate, environmental and sustainability-oriented action must address the international impacts of climate change and ensure climate justice.
- Indigenous, Black and brown communities as well as other minorities are disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis and neocolonial practices driving it. We must stand in solidarity with these minorities and work to develop authentic, welcoming and giving relationships with these communities welcoming in their knowledge, wisdom, opinions and insights.
- Working with those hosting events to help them consider making their events greener and more sustainable from the outset.
- Integrating environmental, economic and cultural sustainability as well as our recognition that Leeds is not an island into all the discussions we engage in.

Short Term Goals

- Increase awareness of our aim to create a Kirkstall Valley with a healthy, diverse natural environment with thriving, creative communities living sustainable, low carbon, low impact lives.
- To continue the transition to a low carbon, low impact space and ensuring the whole team is committed to this.
- To host events that provide people with outcomes and actions that they can carry out in their own lives
- To encourage local people to imagine creative projects focused on having a positive impact on climate change
- Improving the wellbeing of local people by giving them the space to explore and express how they feel about climate change
- Supporting projects in the Kirkstall Valley which align with our values, purposes and aims.
- Create an appetite for action and facilitate this by:
 - o Running workshops with clear aims, objectives and outcomes
 - o Making clear the opportunities OSA can support

- To continue the development of the collaborative and emergent Net Zero Carbon Roadmap which layouts a realistic yet ambitious pathway to reaching Net Zero by 2030.

Long Term Goals

- For Open Source Arts to be a Net Zero Carbon organisation which works in harmony with the natural world, and helps people believe that a low carbon, sustainable, safe, socially just world is necessary, possible and desirable!
- Creating projects that protect and enhance the natural environment of the Kirkstall Valley.
- Creating projects which encourage sustainable living to improve the lives and wellbeing of its residents.
- Helping local people to imagine an alternative, positive future for the Kirkstall Valley and beyond.
- Creating OSA into a low carbon, sustainable space with
 - o A low carbon footprint
 - o Socially and environmentally responsible procurement
- Growing the sense of community involvement in making the Kirkstall Valley area.
- Creating an enduring program of events which educate, empower, inspire and encourage climate-oriented action and learning that is contagious.
- Create an organisation that understands Leeds is not an island, understands the international impact of its actions, stands in solidarity with disproportionately impacted communities, and works to develop authentic, giving relationships with these communities and individuals.
- Transitioning to be a Net Zero Carbon organisation by 2030 through following the collaboratively created Net Zero Carbon Roadmap.

The next review is due August 2024.