

NEW WRITING NORTH

Environmental Sustainability Policy Statement

Purpose and scope

New Writing North (NWN) recognises the powerful role that culture has in helping people transition to a low-carbon economy and in September 2019, trustees and staff declared a Climate Emergency. We will place NWN at the heart of creative climate thinking regionally and take a central role in initiating debate, learning and commissioning in the area of environmental sustainability.

Who is this policy statement for?

The policy applies to all working for NWN (staff, trustees and volunteers), and to any partners organisations or institutions. It also applies to operations and programmes of work that NWN might directly promote, support or participate within. The policy statement will be available on NWN's website and to anybody on request.

Context

In September 2019 NWN declared a Climate Emergency and, as part of our organisational response to this global issue, created the post of Climate Writer in Residence. We are working closely with poet Linda France and our initiative partner Newcastle University, to develop new activities, position this work as a leader regionally and engage with local policy makers and activities e.g. North of Tyne Combined Authority.

The global pandemic, covid-19 has also raised the focus of climate change and highlighted the importance of environmental sustainability at a time when people have never been more disconnected from each other.

NWN's learning and action around environmental sustainability will support our vision to positively influence social justice and civic dialogue and be delivered through our Theory of Change objectives:

1. New Talent Pathways
2. Connecting People and Communities
3. Make the North a Centre of Excellent
4. More Writers Engage in Big Public Issues

Establishing procedures

NWN's procedures will be developed following a audit process with the whole staff team, with input from trustees and following carbon literacy training which is scheduled for 2021. It is expected that some of the following will be considered

Leadership and management

- The established Environmental and Sustainability Sub-Committee and its role in accounting for NWN's carbon impact and identifying benchmarking to become carbon zero by 2030
- All staff and trustees offered Carbon Literacy Training in 2021 (November 2021)
- All staff embark on a short audit process to identify creative solutions to reduce or offset carbon across operations and all programme and will result in the creation of an action plan
- All staff take responsibility for reducing carbon impact on their area of responsibility as agreed in the action plan
- Provide opportunities for freelancers to receive carbon literacy training annually
- Identify the role NWN can take to support freelancers to reduce or offset carbon

- Links to work NWN’s CEO is leading on climate with the north east Culture Partnership and the North East Climate Coalition and the Executive Director’s work with the North of Tyne Combined Authority’s Citizen Assembly for Climate
- Sharing knowledge and learning on programme and operations with peers via networking events and conferences.

Programme

- Engagement with COP26 through the Climate Writer in Residence
- The role of the Climate Reading Group as an influencer in reducing carbon
- Identify the carbon impact of programme and actions to reduce or offset carbon with associated costs considered in programme budgets
- Climate-themed work is promoted and celebrated across programme with young people, festivals and events and specially commissioned programme e.g. New Narratives for the North East, Durham Book Festival, Young Writers City
- Engagement with funders to influence their priorities for the dissemination of funding.

Operations and capital development

- Sign Newcastle City Council’s Net Zero Pledge
- Develop a Sustainable Travel Plan
- Conduct an energy efficiency review with the Business Energy Savings Team to identify carbon and cost savings
- The development of NWN’s website and brand refresh will be updated mindful of best practice in reducing carbon footprint across NWN’s digital home
- Identify a method for benchmarking carbon usage and identify annual targets for carbon reduction and/or offsetting
- NWN considers the commitment suppliers and freelancers place on environmental sustainability
- NWN considers its response to reduce, reuse/repurpose and recycle of waste and materials
- Capital development is planned in accordance with green building practices and achieves [BREEAM](#) accreditation
- Consider the benefits of [ISO 14001](#) accreditation
- NWN considers campaigns and communications providing time for staff to join peaceful protests and initiatives e.g. [energy saving campaigns](#), [Woodland Trust](#), [Find Your Feet](#), [Cycle to Work Scheme](#), [The Climate Coalition](#) etc.

Target setting will be agreed by the board.

Agreed by the board:	September 2021
Signed by the Chair of the Board:	David Roche
Date of review:	September 2022