

TATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND STATEMENT 2025-2028

Approved by the Board of Trustees in March 2025

The climate and ecological emergency is one of the greatest challenges of our time and Tate is committed to continue working towards increasing sustainability, protecting the environment and becoming one of the world's most sustainable art institutions.

Tate declared a climate and ecological emergency in July 2019, recognising the unique role art and art museums can play in creating fundamental societal change. We exceeded our target to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2023 from the baseline year of 2007/08 and we are working towards reducing emissions to net zero by 2030.

In 2023, Tate hosted the first ever museums COP sustainability summit, where representatives of UK museums, sector bodies and funders agreed actions to address the climate crisis. Tate worked with the Bizot Group of international museums to develop and agree on a refreshed Green Protocol, providing key principles, guidelines on climate controls, and a series of handbooks to support best practice. This helps museums make collection care less energy intensive, change the way we transport items and reduce the carbon footprint of our buildings.

'I'm not a scientist or a campaigner, I'm an artist. [...] I'm coming at it from a different perspective by asking the question: what is philosophically, ethically and morally at stake here if we continue on this course? I don't think you need to be licensed by the scientific community to ask that sort of question about the times we live in or to reflect on the anxiety many of us feel about the future of the planet.' – John Akomfrah

We are determined to inspire environmental change, amplify the voices of our artists and audiences, and make our long-term commitments ambitious and effective.

Progress so far

Here are some of the recent ways in which Tate has gone green:

- Switched to a 100% renewable energy green electricity tariff across all galleries in 2019.
- Reduced staff business travel by 44%
- Harvested around 226m³ of rainwater annually which is used to flush toilets at Tate Modern.
- Installed 330 solar panels that produce 100% renewable energy. The energy generated could boil 654,560 kettles or power 12 homes for a year.
- Re-used and recycled approximately 75% of our waste. Any non-recyclable waste is diverted from landfill to produce energy.
- Revised temperature and humidity conditions in our galleries in accordance with internationally recognised guidelines in accordance with internationally recognised guidelines, and installed a Wi-Fi environmental monitoring system to monitor gallery conditions.
- Innovated the way we store and transport art. Packing cases are made from sustainable wood.
- Used FSC certified or recycled paper for Tate Publishing books and art prints as well as recycled or recyclable packaging for shop deliveries.
- Made T-shirts in our [Shops](#) from sustainable cotton.
- Made our own honey, encouraging bees with hives at [Tate Modern](#) and [Tate Britain](#).

COMMITMENTS

Environmental stewardship

We pledge to continually examine and review our systems, structures, business models, values and programmes to find ways to become more adaptive, more responsible and greener. This applies to all activities and operations across all Tate sites, and is effectively applied to all our employees, volunteers, working partners and visitors.

We are committed to reducing the negative environmental impact of our activities and will be providing guidance, information and tools, in particular those relating to:

- Continuing to reduce the energy, water and materials used in our galleries, offices and storage facilities, and tackling waste through 'refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle' approaches.
- Auditing and reducing our business travel. Reducing air travel by operating a 'train-first' policy for travel in the UK and Europe.
- Continuing to examine the goods and services provided through our shops, cafés and restaurants.
- Working closely with our partners and suppliers to reduce the impact of our supply chain and integrate environmental considerations into our procurement processes.
- Fostering biodiversity across all our sites and monitoring and reporting progress.
- Encouraging staff through educational workshops and training to work in an environmentally responsible manner, making carbon literacy training part of standard Tate training
- Tracking and monitoring our progress by submitting quarterly Environmental Impact Reports to our Trustees via the Audit Committee.

Art and Artists

We commit to raising awareness of climate and ecological emergency through our programme both within the walls of our galleries and across the world, responding to and amplifying the concerns of living artists through:

- Programming exhibitions and events that address climate and ecological emergency and highlight the important intersection between climate change and other social injustices.
- Adapting the ways in which we collect, care for, store and transport the artwork in Tate's collection. Our strategy includes an Environmental Risk Rating for artworks entering the collection to help us identify and mitigate their effect on our carbon footprint.
- Adapting the ways in which we curate, install and de-install exhibitions. Our strategy includes borrowing artworks from fewer locations and reviewing the length of our exhibitions.
- Using enhanced communication to support the transport and installation of artwork on loan to Tate and on loan from Tate's collection, further reducing the need for business travel.

'Art is always about reappraising the way we look at the world. It can speak more eloquently than propaganda because it can inject emotion into facts. And sometimes it can work like a Stealth Bomber: it can slip under the radar and hit home.' – [Cornelia Parker](#)

Collaborating and Communicating

We commit to working in partnership with other arts organisations to support sustainability initiatives across the sector internationally and to working in collaboration with community organisations to embed sustainability in our neighbourhoods. We commit to informing and engaging the public in our sustainability work, including by:

- Measuring and communicating our environmental performance. See our carbon footprint in this [report by Julie's Bicycle](#) and in [our annual accounts](#).
- Providing information about the environmental impact of exhibitions, commissions and facilities. Visitors can find labels throughout the galleries explaining how we are making our work more sustainable.
- Shaping international museum principles for sustainable practice through groups such as the [International Committee for Museums and Collections of Modern Art](#) (CIMAM), [International Council of Museums](#) (ICOM) and [the Bizot museum group](#).
- Running until September 2025, the [GREENART](#) project is working with international partners to research ways to preserve cultural heritage using environmentally friendly 'green' sustainable materials made from renewable natural sources or recycled waste.
- Working with Better Bankside to achieve net zero neighbourhood status by 2030.