



LIMERICK PRINTMAKERS

CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

CLIMATE & SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

To be reviewed annually

LIMERICK PRINTMAKERS/ ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

A vibrant printmaking studio and creative space located in the heart of Limerick City's cultural quarter. Established in 1999, LP is a leading Irish fine art print studio that supports artistic development and innovation through the provision of high quality facilities in printmaking and photography, while also promoting additional learning and career opportunities for printmakers.

Limerick Printmakers – An epicentre for printmaking, community and creative experiences.

Limerick Printmakers is a community of creative practitioners that influence, support and promote printmaking and tangible creative experiences.

We do this by providing high calibre facilities and maker spaces, and through exhibition, residency, education and community engagement programmes.

CAPACITY & PROGRAMS

LP EMPLOYEES 1 x Full Time 1, 3 x Part Time – Total of 2.6 Full Time staff based on total hours

PREMISES Three storey Georgian era building with basement, currently renovating the building's first floor

STUDIO MEMBERS Approx. 70 annually, maximum capacity of 80

EXHIBITIONS On average 2 per annual program + 1 as part of Print Network Ireland

INTERNATIONAL RESIDENCY x 1

GRADUATE BURSARIES x 2

EDUCATION PROG: ADULTS Approx. 14 – 18 courses annually

EDUCATION PROG: CHILDREN & YA Year-round activities

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT Approx. 14 - 20 on & offsite standalone workshops or events/
multi-workshop projects annually

PRINCIPLES

- Collective Responsibility: LP involves our board, team, & studio members in the decision making process, & will gather inputs & feedback from many other stakeholders as it delivers on its Action Plan.
- Consistency: LP' focus is over a long-term period, and on creating and implementing a clear roadmap on how these long-term goals are achieved at a granular level.
- Collaboration: LP shares knowledge and resources with a network of print studios that share similar concerns and challenges, & communicate changes - & why they are being made – to our demographics.
- Integrity: LP will act & communicate from an ethical standpoint at all times, providing clear & honest information about adaptations as its Policy & particularly its Action Plan evolve over time.

COMMITMENTS/ AIMS

- To meet & exceed relevant regulatory requirements.
- To ensure sustainability is a factor in all decision-making/ actions related to on-going LP renovation projects.
- To continue to embed sustainable habits/ practices within the organisational structure and day-to-day activities of LP in a realistic and manageable manner.
- To research, invest resources in, and gradually offer more environmentally sound alternatives to existing printmaking & photographic processes, either in lieu of or in tandem.
- To continue to reduce waste of all types across all areas of the organisation, from water to energy to packaging.
- To consult, centre, & survey LP' studio members in relation to all studio focused adaptations.

KEY IMPACTS

- LP Building & Energy Retention Measures
- Studio & Energy Management
- Studio & Printmaking Processes
- Waste Management & Disposal – water, refuse, acids, white goods
- Procurement & Materials Use
- Travel & Transport

- Digital & Communications
- Biodiversity

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY: MONITORING/ ADHERENCE/ REVIEW

- Devised by LP director with input from the LP team/ feedback from studio members
- Approved by LP board of directors
- Reviewed annually by LP team

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN: MONITORING/ ADHERENCE/ REVIEW

- Devised by LP director with input from the LP team/ feedback from studio members
- Approved by LP board of directors
- Implemented by LP team in partnership with (dependent on action) board members, tradesmen, studio members, visiting artists, and other stakeholders
- Action plan will be assessed for progress each month, with contributing actions embedded in the LP' team's workflow charts which are updated weekly.
- Reviewed annually by LP director & team

LIMERICK PRINTMAKERS ACTION PLAN/ CURRENT ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN BY LP & 2025/26 NEXT STEPS

BUILDING, ENERGY CONSUMPTION & RETENTION

- Undertook energy audit of building with Antaris Consulting through the LEO Green for Business program in 2024.
- Conducting repairs & ongoing improvements to premises to maximise energy retention.
- Heating is managed by room/ area in order to minimize superfluous use.
This is included assessing a range of measures such as solar panels and conversion kit for heavy load equipment – both options deemed unsuitable/ not possible.
- Began monitoring energy usage - electricity
- Considering renewable energy when time to renew contract with supplier
- Ongoing monitor use of lights/ heating/ equipment on standby by entire LP team to ensure proper usage
- Created & install signage with instructions regarding optimal timing on 3 phase equipment

ACTION PLAN 2025/26: NEXT STEPS

- Initiate repairs & replacement of porous section of flat roof along with smaller gaps/ loose tiles – requires sourced funding
- Initiate addition &/or of insulation across multiple sections of ceiling – requires sourced funding
- Initiate installation of door closers throughout ground floor – requires sourced funding
- Staggered replacement of all lights to led lighting

STUDIO MANAGEMENT & PROCESSES

- Recycling & non- recycling bins clearly labelled throughout studio
- Cloth towels & cloths are washed off-site & reused in order to reduce disposable paper roll use.
- Rags & cloths for wiping plates are rotated & reused as much as possible throughout the studio
- Newsprint is reused, with separate storage shelves to differentiate new & 'ready to reuse'
- Storing & use of packaging/ household materials/ consumables e.g. cardboard from deliveries, other packaging for programming needs, shoe boxes & toilet roll inserts etc. for children's activities
- Regular replenish of cleaning material containers, decanting from full size bottles to smaller ones in order to manage & influence sensible usage.
- Repairing equipment, repurposing items, inviting donations, offering items for donation to local network if no longer suitable for LP.
- Repurposing of packaging for other uses e.g. emulsion buckets
- Donations small
- Small to medium repairs are carried out in-house.
- Maintain & patch LP' own collection of screens wherever possible and re-stretched only when absolutely necessary.
- Screens are re-stretched in Dublin, with LP extending this service offer to studio members, reducing transport of a large number of screens to one round trip
- Donations large – letterpress & electro etch set up
- Loan, borrow, & share resources with other local organisations & institutions
- LP encourages food waste management & minimal use of packaged items by offering a fridge, & food re-heating facilities in its kitchenette.
- Proper disposal of acids with trusted specialist company
- Energy audit carried out Feb 2024 through LEO Green4 Business scheme

ACTION PLAN 2025/26: NEXT STEPS

- Research & test alternative natural cleaning products (both purchased & made in the studio) alongside regular but highly environmentally unsound cleaning products such as white spirit for trial period.
- Consult with team & studio members after trial period as to whether some chemical cleaning products can be removed entirely from the studio based on efficacy of alternative natural products.
- Establishment of subcommittee to research & test donated electro etch set up to offer as an alternative to acid baths for use in intaglio printmaking.
- LP will research available composting bins or consider investing in one in-house that can be used to fertilize bedded areas of soil in LP' rear yard.

WATER USAGE

- Water usage is tracked using Irish Water bills.
- LP has repaired several toilets that were found to be using high volumes of water, which has had an immediate impact on consumption.

ACTION PLAN 2025/26: NEXT STEPS

- Continue to identify & repair minor leaks – bathrooms, taps, pipes etc.
- Conduct research to work towards fitting a water filtration system in silkscreen area as this printmaking process uses large volumes of water throughout.

PROGRAMMING

- Materials are recycled & re-purposed for use in educational & community settings e.g. cardboard, paper, paper off-cuts, pre-mixed inks.
- LP' onsite community events – Groups are encouraged to travel in groups to the studio. LP' offsite community events – The team will travel together in one vehicle along with all equipment and consumables.
- Use of sustainable materials in packaging and sending artworks.
- Paper offcuts are used within the studio and made available to members for their own practice use.
- Standardised pre-cut paper is provided to tutors for Education courses, who work with agreed plate/block sizes to allow use of standard size, reducing paper purchase and wastage.

ACTION PLAN 2025/26: NEXT STEPS

- Utilise programming to communicate LP commitment to more sustainable practices to stakeholders.
- Incorporate related topics or approaches into programming e.g. themed portfolios, themed community workshops, & eco-printing in children, YA, & adult educational activities, addressing climate change, sustainability, biodiversity and the environmental crisis

PROCUREMENT

- Wherever possible, the team aims to prioritise more regional/ local suppliers. LP acknowledges that this is not always possible due to the specialist nature of some printmaking/ photographic materials.
- Renovations & repairs are carried out by local tradesmen.
- LP compiles bulk orders at points during the year in order to minimize transport & carriage, particularly for international orders.
- LP currently spends approximately 4% to 5% of its annual turnover on materials (2024).

ACTION PLAN 2025/26: NEXT STEPS

- Conduct audit of materials purchases, & where-ever is reasonably possible, identify & use more sustainable suppliers, taking into consideration locations & transport distances, suppliers own sustainability policies & actions, choice of materials offered etc.

DIGITAL & COMMUNICATIONS

- Electronic devices are repaired as needed, & most devices are used for 6 – 10 years & are only retired when it is clear they are beyond restoration.
- The studio does not use wireless chargers.
- The studio team ensures that all socket switches across the studio are turned off when not in use.
- LP employs a cloud-based service - Google Drive – that facilitates the inclusion of links to files within emails, reducing email size.
- LP' email Junk folder is emptied at least once a week.
- LP utilizes Zoom for online meetings & offer board members the facility to join some board meetings virtually.
- Minimal office-related printing, & no printed matter produced for marketing or other purposes.
- Exhibition posters are now printed in-house on uncoated natural fiber paper.

ACTION PLAN 2025/26: NEXT STEPS

- Communicate aims & encourage buy-in for 2025 to studio members.
- LP team is committed to reducing the overall number of folders & total number of emails by 20% in 2025.
- LP will assess its website using the Website Carbon Calculator, & will identify how sustainable its website hosting provider is.
- Create marketing materials that communicates LP commitment to more sustainable practices.

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

- As team members currently all reside in Limerick city, they currently travel to the studio on foot, by bicycle, or via public transport.
- Provision of ample material and paper storage for studio members, supporting the use of sustainable modes of transport to the studio.
- International travel as part of the LP team's job description only occurs in exceptional circumstances e.g. once every 4 – 5 years.
- LP team members prioritise public transport when engaging in national travel as part of their role.
- Meetings are held over Zoom or similar whenever possible unless visiting the studio space or an off-site location is a key reason for the meeting.
- Renovations & repairs are carried out by local tradesmen.
- Sub-contracted workers for specific events e.g. facilitators, curators are made aware of public transport links.
- Participants taking part in courses, events etc. in LP are made aware of the studio's close proximity to Limerick's bus & train station, Colbert Station.
- International residency artists are made aware of suitable transport links (encouraging travel via Shannon Airport over other Irish airports), including slow travel options.
- International residency artists' accommodation is booked by LP in designated apartments located directly beside LP to minimize daily travel.
- In the case of national group exhibitions that either feature multiple LP artists (such as with Print Network Ireland) or are LP touring exhibitions,

the studio at minimum encourages travel by public transport/ carpooling or if numbers support, hire a minibus to transport the entire group.

- LP' onsite community events – Groups are encouraged to travel in groups to the studio. LP' offsite community events – The team will travel together in one vehicle along with all equipment and consumables.
- Taxi's are used in rare circumstances e.g. late at night.
- Packages of unframed work are transported by courier or via An Post, or enquiries are made within networks to send work with someone already travelling to that location for other reasons (a fee is provided). Bodies of framed work are sent by specialist courier due to the often fragile nature of framing/ use of glass.
- International portfolios are always dispatched unframed to minimize weight contributions to freight.

ACTION PLAN 2025/26: NEXT STEPS

- International residency artists will be encouraged to engage in slow travel through the provision of information on alternative travel routes.

AUDIENCE TRAVEL

- Studio members can store their bikes in the private rear yard while working the studio.
- Participants taking part in courses, events etc. in LP are made aware of the studio's close proximity to Limerick's bus & train station, Colbert Station.

ACTION PLAN 2025/26: NEXT STEPS

- Monitor audience travel through an bi-annual survey issued to participants and audiences from a cross section of LP' programming e.g. adult education, children and young adults, residency artists, exhibitions etc.
- Encourage sharing travel, cycling, public transport – list parking options last.

2025: KEY OBJECTIVES/ TARGETS

1. Energy retention: Repairs & replacement of porous section of flat roof along with smaller gaps/ loose tiles, addition &/or of insulation in sections of ceiling, installation of door closers across ground floor.

2. Water Waste: Continue to identify & repair minor leaks, conduct research & work towards fitting a water filtration system in silkscreen area.

3. Studio Procurement: Research, test, & offer alternative natural cleaning products alongside regular cleaning products such as white spirit for test period.

Consult with team & studio members as to whether some chemical cleaning products can be removed entirely from the studio based on efficacy of alternative natural products after notable trial period.

4. Procurement of Materials: Conduct audit of materials purchases, & where-ever is reasonably possible, identify & use more sustainable suppliers & service providers.

5. Studio: Research & testing of the electro etch process as alternative to acid baths for use in intaglio processes, following the generous donation of an electro etch set up, alongside training provided by LP board members & Limerick School of Art & Design staff through PNI programming.
Create specific sub-committee made up of studio technician, board & studio members.

Object/ targets	Actions	Responsibility	Deadline	Budget	KPI
Energy retention	Understand energy use - track electricity usage under key headings	Director	Monthly (Action Commenced)	STAFFING HOURS	Tracking excel that provides clear insight into electricity usage
Energy retention	Source funding & initiate repairs & replacement of porous section of flat roof along with smaller gaps/ loose tiles	Sourcing of Funding - Director, Physical Work - Tradesmen	Matched Funding dependent - preferred timeline for works April to June	€13,500.00	Monitor Energy Usage as recorded on tracking excel, feedback from studio members & team
Energy retention	Source funding & initiate addition &/or of insulation in sections of ceiling	Sourcing of Funding - Director, Physical Work - Tradesmen	Dependent on other work being carried out first - preferred timeline for works April to June	€3,900.00	Monitor Energy Usage as recorded on tracking excel, feedback from studio members & team
Energy retention	Source funding & initiate installation of door closers throughout ground floor	Organising - Director, Physical Work - Technician	Matched Funding dependent - preferred timeline for works April to June	€300.00	Monitor Energy Usage as recorded on tracking excel, feedback from studio members & team
Water Waste	Continue to identify & repair minor leaks	Technician	Sep-25	€250.00	Water Usage recorded on Irish Water bills, team member observations
Water Waste	Conduct research to work towards fitting a water filtration system in silkscreen area	Studio Technician	Research Phase completed by Sept 2025, renovation timeline will be dictated by budgetary considerations	STAFFING HOURS, MATERIALS COSTS UNKNOWN WITHOUT FURTHER RESEARCH	Observed & recorded
Studio Management	Research & test alternative natural cleaning products (both purchased & made in the studio) alongside regular but highly environmentally unsound cleaning products such as white spirit for trial period.	Director & Studio Technician	Research Phase Feb - May 2025, Studio Trial May - July 2025	€80.00	Assessment of comparative environmental impact of cleaning products (ingredients) by studio team, assessment of efficacy of products across areas of the studio, and programs by team, studio members, facilitators etc.

Studio Management	Consult with team & studio members after trial period as to whether some chemical cleaning products can be removed entirely from the studio based on efficacy of alternative natural products	Director & Studio Technician, studio members consult	Jul-25	STAFFING HOURS FOR SHORT SURVEY, INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MEMBERS	Following assessment of efficacy of products across areas of the studio, and programs by team, studio members, facilitators etc., consult with affected parties on whether to offer alongside traditional chemical cleaning agents, or to replace entirely
Procurement of Materials	Conduct audit of materials purchases, & where-ever is reasonably possible, identify & use more sustainable suppliers	Director & Studio Technician	Audit April - Oct 2025	STAFFING HOURS	
Print Processes within Studio	Establishment of subcommittee to research & test donated electro etch set up to offer as an alternative to acid baths for use in intaglio printmaking	Studio Technician & Sub-committee	May - Dec 2025	STAFFING HOURS	Rigorous testing of electro etch