

Bold Tendencies Environment Policy 2025

Last reviewed: May 2025

Date for review: May 2026

We have reached a defining moment in the history of our planet. Bold Tendencies acknowledges the climate and ecological emergency is one of the greatest challenges of our time. We are a public institution committed to supporting artists to create bold, radical new work for a broad and diverse cross-section of communities, and as a result environmental thinking must play a key role in who we are and what we do.

We are determined to understand our position and the actions we can take - both immediately and in the long term - to address the organisation's impact on the environment. This includes but is not limited to increasing the sustainability of our work, reducing our emissions and carbon footprint, improving green infrastructure and reviewing ways of working, in particular how we programme and produce our annual summer season.

Bold Tendencies has reviewed Southwark Council's Climate Strategy (published 2021) and Action Plan (refreshed annually), and is a member of the Gallery Climate Coalition, an international community of arts organisations working to reduce our sector's environmental impacts. Our environmental policy takes a prominent place in all our operations and we pledge to continually examine our systems, values and programmes to find ways to become more adaptive, more responsible and greener organisation.

What we do

- Replace outdated permanent site lighting with energy-efficient LED equivalents on an annual basis until all fixtures are upgraded. Over 80% have already been replaced.
- Our site uses only ecologically-friendly waterless composting toilets.
- All office printing uses FSC certified or 100% recycled paper.
- Use platforms such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams to reduce both staff and partner travel as much as possible.
- Avoid the use of air freight wherever possible.
- Use Fair Trade and ethically produced materials and work with reputable suppliers for all merchandise and staff apparel.
- Be environmentally conscious in the procurement of materials, working with local suppliers, tradespeople and fabricators in London.
- Maintain rigorous housekeeping standards for our office and site, especially with regard to utility usage and recycling.
- Maintain our own public green space, The Derek Jarman Garden, and use this to highlight the environment and environmentalism in our programming.
- Encourage caterers and other third-party event suppliers to use sustainable and environmentally friendly produce and to recycle to the highest standards.
- Focus our programming on London-based artists and organisations.
- Centre environmental thinking and long-term planning into the production, storage and future lives of our visual arts commissions, avoiding where possible the use of toxic or non degradable products and upcycling materials.

What we can do

- Complete our first Carbon Calculator Report (2024) to measure and analyse our consumption of energy and the carbon footprint of our annual operations.
- Use this report to identify areas of our organisation that can have their emissions optimised, explore ways to address these issues and establish both a short and long-term plan to reduce our overall carbon footprint.
- When able (post contract expiration), switch our energy provider to a green supplier such as Octopus Energy, which uses 100% renewable energy sources.
- When able (electricity summer 2024, water by summer 2026), install smart metres to closely monitor all utility usage.
- Migrate our website content management system to a Green IT supplier, which could deliver an estimated 33% smaller carbon footprint.
- 100% energy-efficient lighting fixtures by summer 2026.
- Use only organic cotton and other sustainable materials for merchandise, such as recycled plastics.
- Further exploring sustainable ways of making and materials for our visual arts commissions.
- Partner with organisations to co-produce new commissions and/or events to reduce our industry's carbon footprint through mutual efficiencies.