

Macnas Sustainability Policy 2025

1. Vision

At Macnas, creativity and community are at the heart of everything we do — and we believe that sustainability should be too. As the nation’s premier spectacle company based in Galway, we are committed to delivering our work for large audiences in ways that respect people, place, and planet.

We acknowledge the urgency of the climate crisis, the need for social justice, and the role of the arts in shaping a more sustainable and inclusive future. Our commitment is to embed environmental and social sustainability throughout our productions, our year-round participation programme and our day-to-day operations.

2. Our Commitment

We strive to:

- Minimise our environmental footprint while maximising artistic impact.
- Reuse and repurpose materials wherever possible – a practice that has been at the heart of Macnas’ work since its beginnings.
- Support local suppliers and ethical practices.
- Foster community well-being and creative empowerment through inclusive engagement.

Our near-term targets are outlined fully in our **Sustainability Action Plan** which will be enacted and monitored by the Company Administrator.

Our broader targets reflected in the Action Pan include:

- **2025:** Monitor and report on our carbon footprint in order to improve our sustainability practices, continue to hold themes of climate within our works and education programmes
- **2026:** Reduce our carbon footprint following evaluation.

3. Our Values in Practice

- Creativity with Care: Reimagining resources through reuse, innovation, and thoughtful design.
- Responsibility: Understanding the broader impact of our artistic decisions.
- Integrity & Transparency: Being open with our audiences, collaborators, and funders about our sustainability journey.
- Leadership: Sharing what we learn and advocating for sustainable practices in the arts sector specifically within spectacle.

4. Areas of Impact

We assess and address sustainability across the full lifecycle of our work, including:

- **Production & Materials:**
 - Prioritising reclaimed, recycled, or biodegradable materials. Since its beginnings, Macnas has always been committed to reusing and repurposing materials across productions and will continue to keep this in practice.
 - Avoiding single-use plastics and limiting waste during builds and rerigs
- **Energy & Emissions:**
 - Using renewable energy sources where available.
 - Reducing emissions from transport, especially around touring and freight.
 - Macnas' workshop and office building in Fisheries Field (University of Galway campus) is an old and energy inefficient building, having once been a boat shed, and we acknowledge that this increases our energy uses greatly. However, there are plans in place for the building to be rebuilt by the University of Galway and that will impact greatly on our sustainability and carbon footprint
- **Community & Social Impact:**
 - Keeping sustainability and climate awareness in all of our education and participation programmes, including nation-wide digital schools programmes.
 - Championing diversity, inclusion, and access in all we do.
- **Procurement & Partnerships:**
 - Working with local and values-aligned partners.
 - Embedding sustainability criteria into supplier selection.

5. Implementation & Accountability

To ensure we stay on track:

- Sustainability will be a standing item at company meetings and part of project planning.
- We will maintain a Sustainability Action Plan, reviewed annually.
- All staff and core freelancers will be encouraged to complete Carbon Literacy Training.
- We welcome feedback from audiences, stakeholders, and community participants on our practice's sustainability

Macnas Sustainability Action Plan (Short-Term: 6 Months)

This action plan will be reviewed and monitored by the company administrator to ensure goals are being met. It will be reported on weekly to the wider team in the company team meeting.

1. Measure and Establish a Carbon Baseline

- a. **Action:** Begin tracking energy use for all productions and operations.
- b. **Why:** Supports our 2025 target of monitoring and reporting carbon footprint.
- c. **How:** Company administrator will track electricity usage in metre readings across our two buildings, track heating oil usage, monitor transport mileage in staff cars and freight, and measure material waste used in production and day-to-day office running to determine our current practices that can be improved.
Use Creative Carbon Scotland's Julie's Bicycle Creative Green Tools to monitor the overall carbon footprint of the company.

2. Transport and Travel

- a. **Action:** For staff travel (most common to Dublin and Belfast) make sure trains and public transport are used in place of cars.
- b. **Why:** Significantly reduces carbon emissions, energy use, air pollution, and traffic congestion
- c. **How:** All staff travelling for work will be informed of this policy in our team meetings and the company administrator will book trains and public transport for those travelling.

3. Workspace Energy Efficiency

- a. **Action:** Keep lights off for spaces not in use, ensure heating is turned off when buildings are empty.
- b. **Why:** Reduces unnecessary energy usage in our workspaces
- c. **How:** Brief anyone in regular use of our workspaces on these practices

4. Engage Suppliers on Sustainability

- a. **Action:** Develop a short checklist for suppliers (e.g., local sourcing, ethical standards, reduced packaging).
- b. **Why:** Embeds sustainability into procurement & partnerships.
- c. **How:** Start with top 5–10 suppliers; ask about sustainable options and highlight Macnas' commitment in communications.

5. Staff Carbon Literacy & Awareness

- a. **Action:** Include sustainability awareness in our contracts and briefings for contracted/freelance staff
- b. **Why:** Builds knowledge and embeds sustainability thinking into daily operations.
- c. **How:** Add in element to our contracts that require artists and staff to consider sustainability in their work, both artistic and administrative, including tips such as reusing materials, limited printing, and carbon usage monitoring.

6. Visible Communication & Community Engagement

- a. **Action:** Use Macnas Socials to share our productions that deal with the themes of climate change
- b. **Why:** Educates and engages our audiences on the topic of climate crises and encourages sustainability
- c. **How:** Have our communications officer design and schedule socials posts highlighting these themes in our work

7. Limitations to Sustainable Practices

Macnas currently holds certain practices that are not energy efficient or sustainable that we fully acknowledge and will strive to find solutions to. These are longer-term goals that we will address going forward as we carry out the above action plan. These limitations include:

- a. Macnas main office and workspace in Galway City is on the University of Galway Campus and is an old and energy inefficient building. This increases energy usage particularly in heating. However, the University has plans to demolish and rebuild the site in the coming years, which will result in a much more energy efficient building.
- b. Macnas workshop where our parades and large-scale images are built is located outside Athenry town, and is generally only accessible by car. We are actively looking for workshop space closer to Galway city centre which will allow for less car usage by our team.
- c. We use single-use plastic water bottles for the large team of people working on our large-scale outdoor productions, such as parades, as we must ensure the wellbeing of our artists and volunteers as they move through the streets. We will

strive to find a better solution to this while also maintaining the health and safety on our productions.