

Environmental action plan

Lil Creative Studio

Created: Oct 2023

Last Reviewed: N/A

Next Review: Apr 2024

Renewal date: Jan 2024



Activity / Environmental impact	Action	Advice	Priority	Responsibility	Timescale	Progress
Lighting/heating/powering premises						
Emissions from energy use for light, heat and power	Ensure all unnecessary lights and IT equipment are switched off when not in use		High	Claire	Ongoing	We continue to do this (for ongoing actions only)
	Use focus heating only in office	The best way of heating a home office will very much depend on the specific arrangements. Click here for further advice and information.	Medium	Claire	Ongoing	We continue to do this (for ongoing actions only)
	Use a 'deep green' energy tariff	'Green' energy tariffs are rarely as green as you might think but there are a few 'deep green' tariffs available. These are based on genuinely 100% renewable electricity. Click here for more on these issues and for some recommended tariffs.	High	Claire	Ongoing	We have completed this
Running the office						
Emissions & resource use from paper	Use 100% post consumer waste (PCW) recycled paper	When it comes to recycled paper, 'recycled' can mean various different things. You should look for paper that is made from 100% post consumer waste (PCW). This is paper that has been made from recycling previously used paper products. For suggestions of PCW paper products, click here.	Medium	Claire	Ongoing	We continue to do this (for ongoing actions only) All paper in the office is now PCW paper
	Minimise printing		Low	Claire	Ongoing	We continue to do this (for ongoing actions only) All admin in greyscale draft All record keeping now digital We have also bought a new printer - Epson ecotank - which uses refill ink bottles rather than cartridges.
General waste	Minimise use of non-recyclable items	e.g. cardboard job bags instead of plastic	Low	Claire	Ongoing	We continue to do this (for ongoing actions only) We have bought refillable pens for the office We use highlighters which are wooden pencils Job bags are changing from plastic pockets to cardboard folders
	Re-use and recycle waste paper	It's always good to try and re-use paper, e.g. using the reverse side of printed paper that is no longer needed, prior to recycling. Perhaps you could keep a stack of used paper for note-taking etc?	Low	Claire	Ongoing	We continue to do this (for ongoing actions only)

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	Recycle all used printer consumables	This is free and can even generate income or a donation to charity. We generally refer clients to Recycle4Charity	Low	Claire	Ongoing	We continue to do this (for ongoing actions only) We have bought a new printer - Epson ecotank - which uses refill ink bottles rather than cartridges. The refill bottles are easier to recycle.
Purchasing goods and services						
Environmental impacts of supply chains	Source ethical and local office supplies		Medium	Claire	Ongoing	We continue to do this (for ongoing actions only) We have found ethical stationary suppliers, but struggle to meet the minimum order requirements. Instead we are focusing on buying office supplies from local shops.
	Incorporate environmental considerations in your equipment purchasing	Click here for advice on purchasing electrical equipment.	Medium	Claire	Ongoing	We continue to do this (for ongoing actions only) We are committed to only purchasing new equipment when absolutely necessary, and will buy second hand equipment where possible
Emissions from cloud computing	Find ethical cloud storage space	When you find one let me know! Microsoft, Google and AWS all have very strong environmental positions but it's hard to assess them thoroughly as there is little independent scrutiny.	Medium	Claire	Ongoing	We continue to do this (for ongoing actions only) Currently using Google Docs as there doesn't appear to be an ethical alternative.
	Implement a policy for rationalising project file storage	We would suggest having a policy of rationalising the files retained whenever a project is closed. It is probably not worth filtering through text documents but instead focus on deleting all unnecessary photo, video and other files which do not need to be retained prior to archiving the project.	Medium	Claire	Aug 2023	We have completed this
Delivering projects						
Environmental impacts of project delivery	Specify 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper where possible	FSC or FSC/recycled combination where 100% PCW is not possible	High	Claire	Ongoing	We continue to do this (for ongoing actions only)
	Set sustainability targets for each print project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printer have ISO 14401? • Is the paper FSC/recycled? • Finished product be recyclable? • Printer use renewable energy? • Locality of Printer • Are the inks used sustainable? Aim to have maximum targets possible reached for each job	High	Claire	Ongoing	We continue to do this (for ongoing actions only)
	Work with local print suppliers who focus on sustainability		High	Claire	Ongoing	We continue to do this (for ongoing actions only) We re working mainly with Cerberus Printing and H&H Reeds both which have environmental commitments
	Put together a UK wide list of print suppliers, list and rank their services		Medium	Claire	May 2023	We have not completed this yet The list has been started but we have to cross check everyone's credentials

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	Use a sustainable web host		High	Claire	Ongoing	We continue to do this (for ongoing actions only) We continue to use our existing host which are a recognised green hosting company by the Green Web Foundation. We are also staying aware of other companies as they change and improve
	Continue to maximise the efficiency of websites you are responsible for	See here for further information, although I think you know more about this than I do!	High	Claire	Ongoing	We continue to do this (for ongoing actions only)
	Undergo training on energy efficient web design		High	Claire	May 2023	We have completed this
	Formulate a benchmark guide to optimising websites		High	Claire	May 2023	We have completed this We have worked with Lancaster Uni to investigate optimal WordPress options and develop a best practice guide. The report needs to be reviewed and written up as an official best practice guide.
Business travel						
Emissions from vehicles	Continue to maximise use of video-conferencing for meetings		Medium	Claire	Ongoing	We continue to do this (for ongoing actions only)
	Transition to an electric car when feasible	The technology is evolving rapidly and the costs are decreasing rapidly. It's also very important to take into account the fuel savings when assessing feasibility, as well as any other costs associated with petrol/diesel alternatives, such as low emissions zones, congestion charge, higher maintenance costs (for petrol/diesel versus electric) and road tax. For information on any tax reliefs and available funding, click here.	Medium	Claire	Long term	We have not completed this yet
Company administration						
Environmental impacts of banking	Bank with a bank that has a strong ethical investment policy	Bear in mind that the indirect environmental impacts (how they invest your money) are significant and gaining increasing attention. For advice and information on your options, click here.	Medium	Claire	Ongoing	We have completed this In 2021 we switched to Triodos. However, in 2022 Lil Creative Studio became a Ltd company. As Triodos are not taking on any business customers we had to switch back to the Co-Op.
Environmental impacts of insurance companies	Incorporate environmental considerations into your choice of business insurance provider	For advice and information on your options, click here.	Medium	Claire	At renewal	We have not completed this yet
Environmental impacts of personal pension fund investments	Invest in an ethical personal pension	See here for further information. Not financial advice!	High	Claire	Nov 2023	We have completed this

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Potential for positive influence on environment	Start supporting an environmental cause	<p>Check out the 1% for the Planet initiative. Business members commit to giving 1% of gross sales each year to environmental projects.</p> <p>Or find something else, perhaps local, that aligns with your values and support that. This isn't a scientific exercise so find a project that you believe in and go for that!</p> <p>Support might also be given in-kind, e.g. through staff volunteer days.</p>	Medium	Claire	Ongoing	We continue to do this (for ongoing actions only)
	Engage in design sector climate initiatives	I think it's important that we capture your work on this (e.g. Design Declares) in the action plan	High	Claire	Ongoing	<p>We continue to do this (for ongoing actions only)</p> <p>Signed up to Design Declares and are part of the support team who meeting informally to progress the initiative. Also attend the yearly Design for Planet Festival run by the Design Council and follow up on what comes out of that.</p>
	Add the Green Small Business Certified logo to your website		High	Claire	Jan 2020	We have completed this
	Add your environmental policy to your website		High	Claire	Ongoing	We have completed this