

Environmental Policy and Action Plan

Updated July 2025
Next review due May 2026

Policy Objectives

The aims of this policy are to bring awareness around the environmental impacts of the business so that areas of focus and improvement can be identified. Embracing policies with an environmental leaning can generate savings not only in carbon emissions but also reduce waste and ultimately business costs.

Internally, the policy aims to educate and increase awareness of environmental issues amongst staff and trainees. More outward facing, these policies will improve Kinetika's reputation and strengthen our public image.

Our Business

Kinetika unites communities through exceptional silk-based designs and public spectacles that inspire social action and enrich local environments. Guided by a vision to pioneer community-driven art and design, we aspire to ignite enduring positive change, cultivate cultural diversity, and empower resilient, sustainable communities worldwide.

Our 27 years of experience champions an adaptable and accessible approach to co-creating designs in silk. Our methods engage and empower diverse communities, enhance social cohesion and foster a sense of pride and belonging.

Flagship projects include Thank You Dance for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Pageant (2022); Silk River a British Council commission for the UK/India Year of Culture in (2017); T100 Festival a walking, talking and making outdoor arts festival in Thurrock and En Flag as part of the Cultural Olympiad for the Paris Olympics (2024).

Founded in 1997 by Ali Pretty, Kinetika is a charity and a National Portfolio organisation of Arts Council England. We are committed to fostering creativity and artistic expression while recognising our responsibility to the environment.

Our Location – High House Production Park

Kinetika currently occupies 3 of the studios at High House ACME Artists' Studios. The Studios have been designed to maximise day lighting, provide high levels of exposed thermal mass and natural ventilation to all units. Studios are daylight dimmed to increase the efficiency of the building. The studios are unheated but there is a high standard of thermal insulation.

Environmental Features of our Studio Spaces

All lighting in our studios is energy efficient i.e. compact fluorescent bulbs, no halogen or incandescent bulbs are being used.

All lighting in transient areas such as corridors, kitchenettes etc is controlled by PIRs, and automatically switches off if the space is left unoccupied for a period of time.

All studios benefit from excellent daylighting and high levels of exposed thermal mass which helps to stabilise the temperature variation of the spaces.

No permanent heating is provided in accordance with Acme's, the landlords, experience that, due to the irregular hours of occupation (of artists' studios in general), this is the best way to reduce energy use. It is estimated by Acme, that energy use may be only around 40% of the level of a more conventionally heated solution.

Electric oil-radiators can be plugged in when needed, but because of the good levels of insulation of the building, these do not need to be left on for long periods of time. Whilst this has been a suitable arrangement for some time, more frequent use of our studio spaces has determined the need for us to review this, but funding would be required to do so.

Digital Carbon Footprint

Kinetika recognises that digital activities, including cloud storage, email communication, website hosting, and online marketing, have an environmental impact due to the energy required for data transmission and storage. To minimise our digital carbon footprint, we will adopt sustainable digital practices such as optimising our website for energy efficiency, reducing unnecessary email traffic and large attachments, and selecting cloud service providers that use renewable energy. We will also monitor our digital resource usage annually and explore ways to offset associated emissions.

Waste Management

We are firm believers in reduce, reuse, and recycle, not only to reduce business expenses, but to support the delivery of our work at the highest possible standard. Materials buying is strictly controlled, and any unused materials are recycled for future projects. Old costumes and props are often revisited and remodelled to give them a new life. Furniture which is no longer required is offered to our neighbouring artists and local community groups.

We are diligent with our ordering procedures to avoid over-ordering, and we recycle and reuse where we can. This allows project budgets to stretch further thereby supporting the creative team to deliver to a high standard.

The waste sent either to landfill or recycling is logged and reported to ACE as part of our annual submission.

We endeavour to make sustainable purchasing decisions as and when we can. A core material used in our artistic practice are Procion MX dyes, which are the most environmentally sustainable synthetic textile dyes as they contain no heavy metals or toxic substances. When used in the small amounts they have a low impact on the environment. A core activity in this NPO round is our Natural

Dye Experiment, where we are developing our creative practice and trialling natural dyes. As part of this, we have developed an on-site natural dye garden.

Where recycled options are available, we ensure they are used, for example our office printer paper and cartridge paper used in workshops is 100% recycled. There are some items that do not have a recycled option which are key to our delivery such as dot and cross paper, but we continue to review this and seek alternatives. We now use recycled plastic in all our workshops, and look to re-use this across numerous projects, and when it's no longer useable by us, offered to local craft organisations.

Our Marketing efforts are online driven, with printed material kept to a minimum. Where feasible, we order eco-friendly products, but the cost of these and additional lead time can sometimes be prohibitive.

Utilities

Electricity is billed quarterly, enabling us to measure usage and therefore inform policy as time progresses.

Unfortunately, other utilities are not billed separately so cannot be quantified and compared.

Our business travel

The Kinetika team largely work in a hybrid-way. When onsite attendance is needed, team members primarily drive to get to HHPP as other transportation methods are difficult. Regular commutes vary from 20 mins to 1 hour.

It is a priority that our recruitment efforts are focussed on the local area, so we continue to support and encourage local people to engage with our activity, which naturally supports the goal for a lower carbon footprint.

When hiring vans, we will prioritise rental providers located close to the Studio or team members' locations to minimise unnecessary travel, and, where possible, select Euro 6 or equivalent low-emission vehicles to reduce our environmental impact.

Summary of policy points

- All procurement is controlled, and environmental factors considered when specifying.
- Local people are prioritised for employment and training opportunities.
- If a more environmentally sustainable product or methodology becomes available, it should be considered as a successor.
- Amount of waste sent to either landfill or recycling is regularly recorded.
- No item should be thrown away unless we are sure it cannot be reused.
- Only energy efficient light bulbs to be used.
- All lights to be turned off when no-one is in the room.
- Avoid leaving heaters on for long periods of time.
- All electrical items (except the computer server) should be turned off if not in use.
- Laser cartridges should be sent for recycling in batches.
- Annual data is sent to Arts Council England for review.

This policy is supported by an Environmental Action Plan which follows, and specifies how the policy will be implemented, complete with the person responsible for delivering it. It is reviewed and updated annually by the Operations Director.

Environmental Pledge

At Kinetika, we are committed to fostering creativity and artistic expression while recognising our responsibility to the environment. We believe that by adopting sustainable practices, we can contribute to a healthier planet for current and future generations. To demonstrate our dedication to environmental sustainability, we pledge to:

1. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:
 - Implement a recycling program throughout our facilities.
 - Encourage artists and participants to use recycled materials and repurpose items for their creations.
2. Energy Efficiency:
 - Invest in practices to minimize our carbon footprint.
 - Offset carbon emissions for our energy usage.
 - Explore renewable energy sources for powering our events and facilities where feasible.
3. Sustainable Events:
 - Strive for zero-waste events by minimizing single-use items and providing recycling and composting options.
 - Collaborate with vendors who share our commitment to sustainability.
4. Green Transportation:
 - Encourage the use of public transportation, carpooling, biking, or walking to our events.
 - Offset carbon emissions from our teams travel.
5. Environmental Education:
 - Integrate environmental awareness into our artistic programs to raise awareness about sustainability among artists and participants.
 - Host workshops and events that promote eco-friendly practices and lifestyles.
6. Biodiversity and Conservation:
 - Incorporate environmentally friendly practices around our facilities to support local biodiversity.
 - Partner with conservation organisations to contribute to local environmental initiatives.
7. Carbon Neutrality:
 - Regularly assess and monitor our carbon emissions.
 - Develop and implement strategies to achieve carbon neutrality over time.
8. Community Engagement:
 - Collaborate with local communities to promote environmental awareness and sustainable practices.
 - Participate in and support local environmental projects.
9. Continuous Improvement:
 - Regularly review and update our environmental policies and practices.
 - Embrace innovative solutions to further reduce our environmental impact.

Kinetika aims to not only inspire creativity but also serve as a positive force for the planet. We invite our community, artists, and partners to join us in this commitment to a sustainable and vibrant future. Together, we can make a lasting impact on both the artistic landscape and the health of our environment.

Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 2025-26

This Action Plan is to be used in conjunction with Kinetika’s Environmental Policy and is updated annually.

Kinetika recognises the importance of measuring our current environmental impact and making realistic, achievable goals in managing these impacts. Kinetika’s motivation lies in the desire to gain an understanding of where our impacts are greatest, the potential to reduce or manage energy costs, and to adhere to the requirements of our core funders, Arts Council England.

The action points in the two tables below have been carefully considered as feasible for the Company to achieve. Kinetika will focus on small, achievable steps that will lay the foundations for the Company to make more ambitious steps in the future.

Office & Studios Management

Objective	What is done already?	Action/s to be taken	Timeline	Responsibility	Performance Indicator
1. Minimise energy use in the office and studio.	All lights, heaters, computers & monitors are turned off when not in use. Lights in work areas are energy efficient fluorescent tubes. A recently purchased washing machine is energy efficiency class A Cloud storage negates the need for a powered server.	Any new appliances purchased should be as energy efficient as possible.	Ongoing	Operations Director	Energy records will allow us to compare usage.
2. Review specific methods of measuring water use in the office and all studio premises.	Water is charged centrally at Acme Artists Studios, so cannot be measured.	Signage by the sink and washing machine could help to remind staff to be water-wise.	December 2025	Operations Director	Meter readings if available.

<p>3. Minimise paper waste and encourage recycling of office materials.</p>	<p>Mixed recycling bins are in place in the office and studio for paper, card, plastic and glass and are clearly labelled.</p> <p>All electrical items and batteries are taken to the local recycling centre to be disposed of correctly.</p> <p>Unwanted paper and packaging boxes are re-used.</p> <p>Colour printing is limited, and printer settings have been defaulted to print in grey-scale.</p> <p>Documents are stored in electronic format where possible. In 2021, the company moved to all agreements and contracts becoming electronic.</p> <p>Used ink toners are recycled.</p> <p>Hand dryers are used in the wash room and toilet areas.</p>	<p>Record volumes of waste.</p>	<p>Empty recycling bins every two weeks and record.</p> <p>Electrical and toner waste to be disposed of every six months and record.</p>	<p>Operations Director</p>	<p>Waste records will allow us to compare usage.</p>
<p>4. Minimise the need for travel to the Kinetika Studios by recruiting local people.</p>	<p>Recruit local freelancers where possible.</p>	<p>Actively seek artists from existing projects to lead and work on future commissions.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Artistic Director</p>	<p>Numbers of local artists and project managers increased.</p>

Core Artistic Work & Supplier Products and Services

Objective	What is done already?	Action/s to be taken	Timeline	Responsibility	Performance Indicator
<p>1. Develop our planned artistic programme in response to the Climate Emergency</p>	<p>Our core activity responds to the Climate Emergency across 2023-27 our Beach of Dreams programme. Our naturally dyed silk pennants form the national artwork, which will weave a connected thread with the regional artworks across the UK.</p> <p>Our work on the Natural Dye Experiment is integral to our creative programme.</p> <p>We collaborate with communities to promote environmental awareness and sustainable practices including hosting workshops and events.</p>	<p>Our commissioned regional artists will be delivering commissions that respond creatively to the environment. A programme of monthly online seminars and national residency weekends will bring artists, partners and participants together with scientists, environmental specialists and writers, to learn about climate issues facing our coastal communities, providing a springboard for a creative response. Our partners and member organisations will take part in artist-led creative walking activity along the UK coastline to learn, share stories, and make pledges for their futures.</p>	<p>June 2024 – September 2025</p>	<p>Artistic Director</p>	

2. Continue to offsetting Kinetika's carbon emissions annually	N/A		September 2025	Operations Director	
3. Remain committed to reviewing our environmental policy to better reflect our values and environmental commitment	Yearly review process in place				
4. Give consideration to our digital carbon footprint	Measuring of carbon footprint of website takes place following major updates to the site.	Adopt sustainable digital practices such as optimising our website for energy efficiency,	March 2026	Marketing Manager	
5. Minimise the need for printed promotional material for core artistic programme.	Promotion of events and activity is predominantly online focussed. We aim to keep use of printed material to a minimum to service basic project need. We will try and match supply and distribution/ demand so that there is no excess stock wasted therefore maximising resource.	Increase usage of targeted online advertising to capture local audiences.	Ongoing	Marketing Manager	Increased proportion of marketing budget spent digitally
6. Recycle and reuse creative materials	We endeavour to reduce wastage of materials by purchasing based on need e.g. we purchase silk at correct width to avoid needing to cut to size. We limit the use of products as and when we can such as only mixing quantities of dyes as needed. Kinetika endeavours to reuse materials from old costumes and props where possible.	More could be done to catalogue and promote existing stock, but staff capacity is limited.		N/A	Website updated

7. Environmental friendly purchasing	We purchase products that are environmentally friendly such as a recycled advertising materials where possible.	Look at the environmental policies of new suppliers and include the robust of their environmental policy as part of the procurement decision.	Ongoing	Operations Director/ Marketing Manager	N/A
8. Reduce plastic use	<p>We have phased out the use of single use plastic aprons in our workshop delivery.</p> <p>We now use recycled plastic in our workshop delivery.</p> <p>Canned water is available for team members to avoid the use of single-use plastic</p>			Operations Director	N/A