

Environmental Responsibility Statement

Our global climate crisis requires urgent attention, and the importance of reducing global CO2 emissions cannot be underestimated. In October 2023, the UN reiterated that the world's governments are still not on track to keep global heating below 1.5 degrees Celsius. The consequences of this are already visible, and the art world has an important role to play, as it relies on activities that have significant CO2 emissions.

We are dedicated to reducing energy consumption and are continuing our CO2 audit across all our activities. Air travel comprising the major area of emissions in the art sector, this is an urgent area for action. With our focus on the Nordic region, we distinguish ourselves from other art fairs by limiting the geographical area from which invited galleries must travel to attend. This reduces overall air traffic when transporting artworks and gallery staff to the fair. The fair being located within a pre-existing art institution, we eliminate the need for excessive construction usually related to temporary art fair venue builds. That said, we acknowledge that we have work to do to increase sustainability within our own organisation and see it as an obligation to use our platform to educate and share knowledge on creating a more environmentally responsible art world. We are therefore continuously sharing best practices and content that incentivises and inspires responsible actions both through editorial content, webinars, talks and guides.

By joining the Art Fair Alliance in 2024, we recognise our indirect responsibility for emissions and the crucial role we can play in educating exhibitors on the impact of shipping, while encouraging them to use low-carbon freight options. We also acknowledge our responsibility to support visitors in making climate-conscious travel decisions when attending the fair. We are proud to have contributed to the development of the Art Fair Toolkit, alongside the Gallery Climate Coalition and other fairs in the alliance, to explore effective and responsible actions that can be implemented by art fairs. Through this alliance, we are committed to alignment and collaboration on positive climate action across our industry.

Beyond reducing waste and emissions, we aspire to use our platform to educate and share knowledge on creating a more environmentally responsible art world. Each year, we dedicate at least one talk in our talks program to the theme of sustainability, engaging in discussions about best practices and the future of the art world.

We are constantly addressing how we can take effective climate action while ensuring the industry continues to thrive and supports the creation of and access to art. We know our main direct environmental impacts include our printing output, staff travel, and overall energy use in our buildings. We will continue to iterate our environmental commitments and update this statement as we gain a greater understanding of our impact and the actions required to reach our targets.

Sustainability Guidelines and Commitments

General Commitments

- Annually calculating the carbon footprint of our operations to track progress and ensure transparency and accountability. This audit helps identify key areas for improvement.
- Committed to reduce our carbon emissions by at least half by 2030.
- Organising annual online curator meetings in spring to foster networking opportunities across the international art sector in settings that do not require physical meetings.

Office Practices

- Implement and expand recycling initiatives, including paper, packaging, plastic, metal, glass, and cans, in accordance with Danish laws and guidelines.
- Ensure that all office supplies and consumables (e.g., printer paper, cleaning products, napkins, dish soap) are eco-certified.
- Source organic and locally produced food items whenever possible.
- Prioritise environmentally friendly procurement methods, such as purchasing second-hand furniture and equipment, and opting for repairs before buying new electronic items.
- Promote a paperless office by reducing printing and encouraging digital alternatives.
- Striving to ensure that all our printed materials are reusable or curbside recyclable wherever possible, as a step towards achieving zero-waste operations by 2030.

Transport and Travel

- Promote a cycle-to-work scheme or the use of public transport for travel within Copenhagen.
- Encourage participating galleries to use climate-friendly transport methods (land or sea rather than air) and to plan in advance to allow for sustainable alternatives, prioritising train travel and sea freight over air travel.
- Organise VIP dinners within a 2km walking or cycling distance from public transport and offer shuttle services.
- Provide attendees with clear information on public transport links when attending CHART.
- Use electric vehicles for local logistics.
- Support visitors, including VIPs, in making climate-conscious travel choices when attending CHART.

Fair and Public Programme Construction

- Reduce single-use plastics, including cups, cutlery, pens, and bags.
- Minimise waste through enhanced sorting facilities at the location.
- Source materials and suppliers locally to reduce transport emissions.
- Use rechargeable batteries for microphones, screens, and other devices.
- Construct stands and temporary structures using reusable scaffolding and modular elements.
- Engage in ongoing discussions with Charlottenborg on sustainability efforts in the buildings.

CHART

- Ensure that each temporary architectural structure, constructed as part of our annual CHART Architecture competition (CHART Public from 2025), has an afterlife, and is built from reusable materials to minimise material waste.

Food and Drink

- Ensure food partners provide information on organic sourcing (minimum of 60%), local ingredients, and a minimum of one vegetarian option.
- Serve organic beverages, including both alcoholic and non-alcoholic options.
- Use reusable cups and tableware wherever possible.
- Use sustainable wine transportation methods, such as keg storage, to reduce emissions from packaging and shipping.

Exhibitor Communication

- Encourage early planning to allow for shipping via sea or land instead of air freight.
- Raise awareness among exhibitors about emissions linked to shipping and packaging waste.
- Clearly communicate deadlines and allow extra time for sustainable logistics planning with transportation partner HIZKIA. This also offers a financial incentive for galleries receiving a discount when choosing consolidated transport with HIZKIA.
- Offering a webinar once a year for exhibitors to become better educated on taking effective actions.

Education, Research, and Knowledge-Sharing

- Researching best practices in the art sector to stay informed on effective actions to implement.
- Sharing information about sustainability initiatives with CHART's audience.
- Producing case studies, such as highlighting the consolidated transportation process in collaboration with exhibitor and HIZKIA.
- Collaborating and engaging with other cultural industries to discuss new standards for environmentally responsible operations.
- Programming talks centring on environmental themes in annual talks programme also published as podcasts on our platform CHART Talks
- Engaging with the global community of art fairs through the Art Fair Alliance to advance and sharing best practices.
- Expanding the exhibitor and visitor data collected during CHART to include data on sustainability behaviours from exhibitors and visitors.