

The background image shows the interior of a grand, domed building, likely a government or institutional structure. A large, dark marble column stands on the left. The ceiling is a complex, multi-tiered dome with a central skylight. The architecture is highly ornate, featuring gold leaf accents, classical arches, and decorative panels. The lighting is bright, coming from the skylight, creating a high-contrast scene.

THE  
NATIONAL  
GALLERY

POLICIES &  
PROCEDURES

# ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

March 2023

## Introduction

A publicly funded body and a charitable institution, a national museum of world renown, the National Gallery's purpose is to care for and provide access to one of the greatest collections of painting in the world; to undertake research which contributes to public understanding of the collection, and; to promote the enjoyment and understanding of art.

In 2024, we will mark our Bicentenary, with a programme of exhibitions and outreach and having completed an initial phase of works to our Trafalgar Square buildings.

As we look to the future, we recognise that stewardship for our collection and buildings and promoting the enjoyment and understanding of art go hand-in-hand with a responsibility to act on the climate and nature crisis and the challenges and opportunities it presents us, through both our own actions and our ability to engage with our communities on positive environmental change.

## Our environmental commitment

The National Gallery is committed to developing environmental responsibility in our work, in our services and through our trading activities under National Gallery Global (NGG) and, to connecting collections, exhibitions and learning to environmental themes to build understanding around local and global environmental issues.

We will build a strong foundation over the next three years, setting net zero and environmental targets as understanding of our impacts improves and establish a longer-term process of making environmental responsibility central to Gallery decision-making and governance and our next long-term strategy from 2026.

## Our environmental approach

The Gallery's approach is based on four pillars: people, care, collection and community.

### People

- Building internal capacity, collaboration and accountability for environmental change across the different levels and areas of our organisation and activity. This includes integrating environmental responsibility in Gallery Values.
- Engaging the people who work for the Gallery, NGG and partner employers on-site in the process of environmental change, support them in building environmental understanding and action and create environmental training and skills development opportunities.

### Care

- Reducing the climate change impacts of our buildings and increasing our buildings' climate resilience - through a combination of environmental measures, notably through our Carbon Management Plan 2020-2025 and NG200 Welcome capital projects and building works pilot projects
- Improving understanding of our environmental impacts and developing environmental responsibility in our ways of working, focusing on travel, digital practice and departmental resource efficiency and waste
- Working to ensure that how we spend our money and generate income contributes to environmental good - focusing on sustainable procurement and trading and developing an environmental strand in sponsorship and fund-raising activities

## Collection

- Putting environmental responsibility into the practice of how we care for, conserve and interpret our collection, focusing on developing our approach to sustainable exhibitions and digital or virtual experiences and reducing shipping impacts for exhibitions and loans
- Developing an environmental strand in programming, connecting collections, exhibitions and learning to environmental themes to build understanding around local and global environmental issues

## Community

- Building connection and collaboration with our communities to develop environmental understanding and solutions and inform environmental action, working:
  - with our visitors and audiences
  - sector wide
  - with city, borough, and local community initiatives
  - with science and research

The Gallery has developed an environmental action plan to ensure delivery on commitments and aims across these four pillars.

We will strive to ensure that our environmental actions are centred in justice, fairness and inclusivity, and create social value where possible.

## Responsibilities and accountabilities

The Executive leadership of the National Gallery retains overall responsibility and accountability for this policy, including its communication and promotion.

It is the Gallery's responsibility to ensure that all concerned are aware of our environmental policy and the part they can play in putting it into practice.