

Na Píobairí Uilleann

Climate Action Policy



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Document Control – Change Record

Date	Author	Version	Change Reference
23-Aug-2024	Daniela Ferretti	1.0	Initial document – adopted by Board
24-Jul-2026	Daniela Ferretti	2.0	Annual review – targets, Sound of Ireland Experience, international travel and supply chain sections added

Reviewers

Name	Position
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Gay McKeon	CEO
Emmett Gill	DCEO

Introduction

Na Píobairí Uilleann (NPU) recognises its responsibility to contribute to global efforts in combating climate change. Our commitment to preserving and promoting the playing and making of uilleann pipes and traditional music goes hand in hand with our dedication to protecting the environment for future generations.

This Climate Action Policy sets out our principles, commitments and measurable targets for sustainability across all areas of our operations. It has been updated in July 2026 to reflect a year of implementation experience, the forthcoming opening of the Sound of Ireland Experience, and alignment with current Arts Council guidelines.

Organisational Commitment

NPU is committed to minimising its environmental impact and embedding sustainable practices throughout the organisation. As a national arts organisation with a busy annual programme of events, performances, courses, publications and instrument-making activities, we recognise that our operations have an environmental footprint and that we have a responsibility to reduce it.

Our Climate Action Roadmap, published on our website and reviewed annually, sets out the practical actions through which we deliver on the commitments in this policy.

Guiding Principles

Environmental Responsibility: We acknowledge our duty to operate in an environmentally responsible manner. This includes reducing our carbon footprint, minimising waste, and promoting sustainable resource use across all activities.

Measurable Progress: NPU is committed to setting and tracking measurable targets. We will report on our progress against these targets annually.

Continuous Improvement: We are committed to continuously improving our environmental performance and updating this policy and our Roadmap in response to new evidence, opportunities and requirements.

Education and Engagement: We believe in leading by example. Through our actions, we aim to inspire employees, contractors, members and the wider community to adopt sustainable practices.

Compliance and Best Practices: NPU adheres to the environmental guidelines set forth by the Arts Council and other relevant bodies. We strive to meet or exceed all regulatory requirements and industry best practices.

Climate Action Targets 2026–2027

The following targets guide our work for the current period:

Target	Deadline	Lead
Eliminate single-use plastics at all NPU events and premises	Dec 2026	Administrator
Achieve a minimum B2 BER energy rating for the Sound of Ireland Experience on opening	On opening 2027	CEO
Reduce paper consumption by 20% through digital workflows	Dec 2026	All staff
Establish a baseline carbon footprint estimate for NPU operations	Dec 2026	CEO / Admin
Source sustainably certified timber for pipemaking material purchases where available	Ongoing from 2026	DCEO
Implement carbon offset contribution for all NPU-funded international air travel	Jan 2027	CEO
Achieve 100% recycling compliance across all office waste streams	Dec 2026	All staff
Review and update this policy and the Climate Action Roadmap annually	Jul 2027	Administrator

Operational Commitments

Sustainable Events

NPU regularly hosts events at our premises and at external venues. We are committed to minimising the environmental impact of these events by:

Eliminating single-use plastics and disposable tableware

Sourcing local and sustainable food and beverage products where possible

Encouraging the use of reusable materials and minimising packaging waste

Providing clear recycling and composting facilities at all events

Prioritising venues accessible by public transport

Sound of Ireland Experience — New Venue

The opening of the Sound of Ireland Experience at 15 Henrietta Street in 2027 presents a significant opportunity to embed sustainability in a new, purpose-built cultural facility.

NPU is committed to:

- Achieving a minimum B2 BER energy rating for the building
- Installing energy-efficient lighting and heating systems throughout
- Specifying sustainable and low-carbon materials in all fit-out works
- Providing bicycle parking and facilities for staff and visitors
- Designing the visitor experience with sustainability messaging embedded

Energy Efficiency

We actively seek to reduce energy consumption in our premises through efficient practices, LED lighting (now fully installed), reduced equipment use, and continued exploration of renewable energy options for the new venue.

Sustainable Transportation

NPU promotes sustainable transportation options for employees, contractors and audiences:

- Encouraging staff to travel together to events when practical
- Offering a Bike to Work scheme to all employees
- Prioritising public transport routes in event communications
- Reducing unnecessary travel through the use of online meetings where appropriate

International Travel

As an organisation with an active international programme — including the International Uilleann Piping Day, international guest artists and overseas study visits — NPU acknowledges that air travel represents the most significant single contributor to our carbon footprint. We commit to:

- Avoiding unnecessary international travel by using video conferencing where appropriate
- Grouping international trips to reduce the number of individual journeys
- Contributing a carbon offset payment for all NPU-funded international air travel from January 2027
- Reporting on international travel emissions annually as part of our Climate Action Roadmap review

Supply Chain — Pipemaking and Materials

The making of uilleann pipes requires natural materials including timber, leather, brass and cane. NPU acknowledges a responsibility to encourage sustainable sourcing within the pipemaking community:

- Specifying sustainably certified timber for all new material purchases where available
- Sharing information with pipemakers and students on sustainable sourcing options
- Considering sustainability criteria when procuring materials for PipeCraft and courses

Waste Management

We have implemented comprehensive waste reduction strategies, including:

Recycling programmes across all office and event waste streams (established 2024)

Elimination of single-use plastics from premises and events (completed 2024)

Reducing paper consumption through digital workflows and communications

Responsible disposal of electronic equipment through certified WEEE recyclers

Publications and Digital Communications

An Píobaire and other NPU publications are increasingly available in digital format. We continue to review print runs to avoid overproduction and encourage members to opt for digital delivery where possible.

Employee and Contractor Engagement

NPU is committed to fostering a culture of sustainability within the organisation. All employees and contractors are encouraged to participate in our sustainability initiatives and are provided with the necessary resources and training to do so. We recognise that achieving our climate action goals requires the collective effort of our entire team.

Sustainability is included as a standing item in staff induction and is referenced in contractor agreements. Staff are empowered to raise ideas and concerns about environmental practices directly with the CEO.

Review and Accountability

This policy is a living document, subject to annual review and updates to reflect new challenges, opportunities and best practices. The policy is reviewed by the CEO and Administrator and presented to the Board for approval each year.

NPU is committed to transparency in our environmental actions. Progress against our Climate Action Roadmap targets is reported annually and published on our website. Our Climate Action Policy and Roadmap are available at:

<https://pipers.ie/app/uploads/2025/08/NPU-Climate-action-Policy.pdf>

<https://pipers.ie/app/uploads/2025/08/NPU-Climate-action-road-map.pdf>

Conclusion

Na Píobairí Uilleann is dedicated to integrating sustainability into all aspects of its work. By adhering to this Climate Action Policy, setting measurable targets and reporting on progress, we aim to fulfil our environmental responsibilities while continuing to promote, develop and preserve the rich cultural heritage of Ireland.

We recognise that climate action is an ongoing journey, not a destination. We are committed to learning, improving and working collaboratively with our members, artists, funders and partners to play our part in addressing the climate challenge.

Board Approval

Approved by	Signature	Date
CEO — Gay McKeon		
Chairperson — Caoimhín Mac Aoidh		05/08/2026