

Ref No: OP 2023 - 02	Title: Environmental & Sustainability	
Date Issued: 01/11/2023	Review Date: 2026	Source Ref: Best Practice

Policy:

This environmental policy promotes a clean, safe and healthy environment for members of Galway Community Circus and wider community. It aims to reduce its carbon and environmental footprints and formally commits itself to being an environmentally responsible charity.

Objective:

GCC is committed to sustainability development as a guiding principle within our work and to assess the environmental impact of our operations and set objectives and targets in order to improve our environmental performance within the organisation’s financial constraints. We will reduce our environmental impact in the office by the use of the four “R”: Rethink – Reduce – Reuse - Recycle

Scope:

This policy has been produced in order that management, staff and visitors to the centre can reduce our carbon and environmental footprints. Carbon footprints includes our digital footprint that refers to the greenhouse gas emissions that digital technology resources, devices, tools and platforms produce. The overriding principles of this policy should be at the heart of all other GCC policies.

Procedures:

We are committed to:

- Complying fully with all relevant legal requirements, codes of practice and regulations
- Assessing the environmental impacts of our operations, including our digital devices, continuously seeking to reduce these impacts and improving our resource efficiency through reduction of energy, water use and waste
- Promoting environmental and energy awareness in our employees through participation and training
- Monitoring our progress to ensure ongoing improvements in our environmental performance
- Communicate this policy to stakeholders and the public and work with our neighbours to reduce the impact of our operations
- Finding ways to annually report KPI’s on progress made, including statistical information.

Energy

- Reducing both our carbon & digital footprints as part of a carbon management strategy
- Optimise energy efficiency and conservation in all operations
- Reducing the impact of transportation in our business activities by promoting alternative methods, e.g. public transport, bike, carpooling, etc.

Waste

- Actively promote reduce, reuse and recycling both internally and amongst our suppliers and customers
- Minimising waste generation by applying reuse and recycle options where possible

Operational Policy & Procedures

Continuous Improvement

- Setting specific improvement targets, monitoring progress and communicating results internally
- Develop specific objectives to continually improve our environmental performance. Measure and review our performance regularly and communicate the results
- Continual performance improvement in minimising environmental impacts of our business
- Proper segregation of waste using the waste hierarchy (reduce, reuse, recycle). Particular attention should be paid to correct disposal/recycling of hazardous materials, such as: batteries, print cartridges and IT hardware (WEEE waste)

Procurement

- Choosing suppliers and contractors that adopt best environmental practices and make this the procurement policy of our organisation
- Purchasing products and services that have the least environmental impact, where this is feasible

Awareness/Training

- Encouraging environmental awareness among our employees through appropriate communication and training programmes
- Promoting environmental awareness throughout our business
- Ensure that all employees understand our environmental policy and conform to its standards
- Informing and motivating all our staff and encouraging them to play an active role in committing to our environmental policy

The aim of the organisation is to be in a position to have an annual environment & sustainability report within our Annual Report that can be presented at the AGM along with the Audited Financial Statements.

GCC is aware that, the EU Commission adopted (on 23 February 2022) a proposal for a Directive on corporate sustainability due diligence. The aim of this Directive is to foster sustainable and responsible corporate behaviour and to anchor human rights and environmental considerations in companies' operations and corporate governance. The new rules will ensure that businesses address adverse impacts of their actions, including in their value chains inside and outside Europe.

Also, in June 2023 the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) issued IFRS S1 General Requirements for Disclosure of Sustainability-related Financial Information, proposing general requirements for an entity to disclose sustainability-related financial information about its sustainability-related risks and opportunities. Also it proposed that an entity provide a complete set of sustainability-related financial disclosures.

Such proposals will in the near future be part of a charity's governance code & financial reporting and GCC will endeavour to lead the charity arts sector in this regard.

Board Approval Date:

03/10/2023

Signature Chair of Board:

