Cruit Éireann
Harp Ireland

Climate Action Policy (2026-2028)

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1. Introduction

CÉHI was established in 2016 by harpers in collaboration with An Chomhairle Ealaíon, The Arts Council, to support and promote the continuing development of Irish harping. It is the national resource organisation for the harp, its organisations, harp players and harp makers in Ireland. It's mission is twofold: firstly to continue its current momentum - attracting more performers, more learners, more harp makers and new audiences, nationally and internationally, and secondly that a World Centre for Irish Harping will be established in Dublin to act as a national asset and showcase for this iconic instrument and its practice.

Our artistic policy acknowledges that the harp occupies a unique niche in the traditional arts eco-system in Ireland and is an integral part of our national identity. The designation of harping on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage list reflects its critical place at the centre of our living culture. Sustaining and safeguarding harping is integral to our mission.

Cruit Éireann|Harp Ireland is dedicated to reducing the impact of our work on the environment, championing sustainability and biodiversity while pursuing our central goal of promoting harping practices and traditions in Ireland. As a growing organisation with meaningful ties to the harping and other musical communities in Ireland, CÉHI recognises its role and responsibility in championing sustainable actions in all aspects of its operations.

We will adopt a leadership role in our sector to take action to minimise climate change in line with the Paris Agreement of 2016. This policy aims to encourage CÉHI staff, artists, and audiences to collectively make CÉHI activities more environmentally conscious, and to place sustainability at the forefront of the organisation's concerns as it continues to grow.

This policy is intended as a first step in committing to reducing the environmental impact of CÉHI and our events and will be expanded upon and updated as new data is collected and new strategies implemented. In line with Section 15(1) point (d) of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act 2021, CÉHI endeavours, in so far as is practicable, to perform its functions in a manner consistent with the furtherance of the national climate objective.

The policy is accompanied by an initial plan which we will revise over time. The

success of this plan hinges on the collaboration and dedication of all CÉHI personnel and stakeholders. With clearly defined roles, timelines, and outcomes, we are well equipped to monitor progress and address challenges as we move forward.

2. Policy Scope

This policy applies to all Cruit Éireann|Harp Ireland activities which involve artists, support staff, volunteers, employees (full-time, part-time, and temporary), contractors, applicants and board members.

3. Policy Responsibility

The CÉHI board has responsibility for this policy, for the review thereof and for ensuring the effectiveness of actions taken in response to concerns raised under or in relation to this policy.

4. Policy Organisational Context

CÉHI delivers a broad range of services on an all-island basis, across the harping community ranging from workshops/tuition, information-giving, concerts, and lectures across communities. We liaise with numerous stakeholders and connect with artists across multiple genres.

5. Our Dual focus

Our functions can be broadly divided into internal activities—the day-to-day activities of the organisation—and external activities—CÉHI's engagement with the wider public and artistic community through events, workshops, and festivals. Although, as a growing organisation with a small core personnel, CÉHI does not have the same impact on the local environment as that of larger organisations, awareness and improvement of our impacts is at the forefront of our sustainability strategy.

CÉHI is dedicated to implementing further strategies to reduce the waste impact of the organisation, and to serve as a champion for climate action within the harping community. Green policy is a central concern as CÉHI continues to grow as an organisation and will be at the forefront of further CÉHI policies and planning.

6. Activities & Impact

In internal-and-external operations, CÉHI will endeavour to minimise waste, with the goal of adopting a zero-waste approach.

A. Internal Activities

At present, the quotidian activities of CÉHI are carried out in a co-working space. The current arrangement allows for resource optimisation through the sharing of essential amenities and reduction of waste. We use modern, high quality and secure IT hardware and software to maximise the efficient use of energy. A portable water filtration system is used in-office to reduce the use of single-use plastics during day-to-day operations. However, the use of a shared premises in some way limits the control of CÉHI on its immediate environment and outputs (i.e., energy suppliers, use of LEDs, establishment of biodiversity areas).

6.1 Environmental & Sustainability Representative

The CEO will undertake the function of environmental and sustainability representative to ensure the upholding of and compliance with the organisation's climate action policy.

6.2 Merchandise

We will ensure that sustainable materials are used to produce any future CÉHI merchandise and prioritise the production of merchandise that encourages sustainable behaviours and reduces waste (i.e., reusable totes and water bottles).

6.3 Internal activities

We will maximise energy efficiency in the workplace and at events aiming to minimise our carbon footprint at all times.

B. External Activities

The absence of a dedicated performance venue affords CÉHI less control over its production impact than other arts organisations occupying purpose-built spaces. Where possible, CÉHI chooses environmentally friendly venues with sustainable certifications or practices such as energy-efficient lighting, waste reduction

programmes, and recycling facilities.

CÉHI acknowledges that it is usually not practical to transport harps on public transport and considering this we will encourage car-pooling where practical. We will encourage audiences and personnel to use public transportation when possible by providing information on sustainable travel options to venues, thus reducing emissions.

6.4 Marketing

We will increase our use of digital platforms for communication and outreach to further reduce paper usage, prioritising email newsletters, social media, and online surveys instead of physical materials. Where printed/paper materials are to be provided for accessibility reasons, we will ensure that these materials are responsibly sourced and are themselves recyclable.

6.5 Outreach

We will effectively promote and communicate our sustainability message to all stakeholders. Internally, we will engage employees through regular updates, training, and incentive programmes, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility. Externally, we will share our sustainability achievements and initiatives through public reports, digital campaigns, and community involvement, using various platforms such as social media, our website, and public events.

By actively engaging with customers, partners, and the broader community, we aim to build awareness, encourage participation and engagement around climate action through creative programming, and position ourselves as a benchmark of sustainability in our sector. Regular monitoring and feedback will ensure continuous improvement in these communication efforts.

Our Strategic Priorities and Goals

Strategic Priority 1: Energy efficiency and Carbon footprint reduction

Goal: Aim for maximum energy efficiency.

Strategic Priority 2: Sustainable event management

Goal: Aim for efficient and sustainably run events

Strategic Priority 3: Travel and Transport

Goal: Aim to conserve and improve travel options for maximum energy efficiency.

Strategic Priority 4: Sustainable instrument production and maintenance

Goal: Develop a more sustainable harping eco-system involving recycling and sustainable materials.

Strategic Priority 5: Education and Advocacy

Goal: Incorporate sustainability into our teaching practices

Strategic Priority 6: Sustainable Partnerships

Goal: Foster sustainable relationships with both sponsors and communities.

Strategic Priority 7: Communications and awareness raising

Goal: Promote continued awareness and communication of sustainability goals.

Strategic Priority 8: Monitoring and Evaluation

Goal: Continuously monitor and evaluate our sustainability and energy efficiency.

These strategic priorities and goals will be delivered through our implementation plan.

7. Implementation Plan

7.1 Strategic Priority 1: Energy efficiency and carbon footprint reduction

Goal: Aim for maximum energy efficiency

Actions	Responsibility	Timing	Measure of Success
Continue to be mindful of our energy consumption and put energy efficiency improvements in place	CEO	Ongoing	Regular team updates and reports and ongoing monitoring of energy use
We will ensure that sustainable materials are used to produce any future CÉHI merchandise and prioritise the production of merchandise that encourages sustainable behaviours and reduces waste.	CEO	Ongoing	50% merchandise is already produced sustainably in Year 1 (2026). Aim to have 75% produced sustainably by Year 2 (2027) and 100% by Year 3 (2028)

7.2 Strategic Priority 2: Sustainable event management

Goal: Aim for energy efficient and sustainably run events

Actions	Responsibility	Timing	Measure of Success
Develop and promote digital alternatives to printed materials, programmes, tickets and promotional materials	CEO	2026-2027	50% reduction in printed materials already in 2026. A further 25% reduction in 2027
Minimise waste in office and at events by ensuring separate bins are available	CEO	2026	50% waste reduction by 2026 A further 25% reduction by 2027
Where practical, organise performances in natural settings such as parks, gardens, or natural reserves. Reduce need for artificial lighting and sound in performances. Strengthen connection between music and the environment.	Chair, CEO	Ongoing	Aim to deliver one flagship commission and performance each year which connects harping with the natural heritage of our landscapes and environment. 2026: Performances in Lafcadio Hearn Gardens Tramore, County Waterford and gardens in Belfast. 2027 continue outdoor programme
Organise concerts at sustainable venues to ensure reduced or offset carbon emissions	Chair, CEO	Ongoing	Continue to choose venues with excellent sustainability policies

7.3 Strategic Priority 3: Travel and Transport

Goal: Aim for energy conserving and improved travel options

Actions	Responsibility	Timing	Measure of Success
Create incentives for public transport, cycling, and carpooling for staff, musicians, and event attendees.	Chair, CEO	Ongoing	Full-time staff cycle to work most of the time. Carpooling in place, where feasible, for all events
Encourage staff to use public transport or cycle to work.	Board and CEO	Year 2	Bike to Work Scheme explored by Q3 2027

7.4 Strategic Priority 4: Sustainable Instrument Production and Maintenance

Goal: Develop a more sustainable harping eco-system involving recycling and sustainable materials

Actions	Responsibility	Timing	Measure of Success
Collaborate with harp makers to encourage the use of sustainable materials in harp paraphernalia (e.g., cases, covers etc.)	Chair, CEO	2026-2027	Discussion about sustainable materials at harp makers gathering in 2026 Minimum one action agreed for harp makers for 2027
Explore recycling harps and harp paraphernalia.	Chair, CEO	2027	One artistic project undertaken with recycled materials.
Launch a campaign to promote the repair and recycling of harps to extend their life cycle and reduce waste.	Chair, CEO	2028	Increased number of secondhand harps available to beginners

7.5 Strategic Priority 5: Education and Advocacy

Goal: Incorporate sustainability into our teaching practices

Actions	Responsibility	Timing	Measure of Success
Incorporate sustainability into harp teaching practices, emphasising the importance of caring for the environment alongside musical skills	Board, CEO	2026-2028	Conversations developed with harpers around our role in caring for the environment at advisory group meetings and symposium on pedagogy in 2026. One action agreed for 2027
Create a network of young harpers committed to sustainability, sharing best practices, and collaborating on green projects via our young harpers' forum.	Chair, CEO	2026-2028	Numbers of young harper led projects focusing on sustainability undertaken.
Work to sustain and maintain the 16th and 17th century harpers' repertoire	Chair	2026-2028	Numbers of engagements with the early harp community. 2 commissions of early harp repertoire arrangements per annum.

Encourage commissions, performances, and projects that reflect environmental themes and inspire audiences to consider their role in climate action	Chair, CEO	2026-2028	Connections made between harp repertoire and local ecology via commission performances, workshops, library and school appearances. Three new commissions responding to climate change in 2026 and further climate themed commissions in 2027 & 2028

7.6 Strategic Priority 6: Sustainable Partnerships

Goal: Foster Sustainable Relationships with both Sponsors and Communities

Actions	**Responsibility**	**Timing**	**Measure of Success**
Engage with eco-friendly companies for sponsorship.	CEO	2027	Green sponsors secured which support the artistic programme and promote green action and thinking.

Strengthen relationships with local communities and organisations to support sustainability through environmentally themed concerts	Chair, CEO	2026-2028	Increased engagement and awareness of sustainability with local communities through Macalla na Mara, Caomhnú Lú and Caomhnú Cill Mhantáin in 2026. Further climate themed commissions and performances 2027-2028
Explore how we might engage with harpers and their local communities in collaborative projects that combine music and environmental action, such as tree planting events accompanied by live music or community-based art installations involving harping that raise awareness about climate change.	Chair, CEO	2026-2028	Increased engagement and awareness of sustainability with local communities through events. Increased thinking amongst the harping community around sustainability and the connection between the natural environment and our harping heritage.

7.7 Strategic Priority 7: Communications and Awareness Raising

Goal: Promote continued awareness and communication of sustainability goals.

Actions	Responsibility	Timing	Measure of Success
Continue to highlight our sustainability methods and goals via updates and communications through our website and newsletters.	CEO	2026-2028	Focused content on sustainability events in 2026, and continued in 2027 & 2028.
Foster an active and regular social media presence dedicated to showcasing the importance of sustainability within Harping via frequent posts, updates and polls	CEO	2026-2028	10% increase in engagement on sustainability themed content in 2027 and a further 10% increase in 2028

Strategic Priority 8: Monitoring and Evaluation

Goal: Continuously monitor and evaluate our Sustainability and Energy efficiency

Actions	Responsibility	Timing	Measure of Success
Create key performance indicators (KPIs) for tracking progress	CEO	2028	A set of KPIs established and report against KPIs in place
Publish an annual sustainability report	CEO	2028	First report published by 2028

8. Policy Monitoring

We understand how important the next generation of harpers are in ensuring a sustainable future for the harping tradition in Ireland and acknowledge the valuable contribution that they make through increased engagement with environmental issues. CÉHI encourages the engagement and feedback of young harpers in its activities through the Young Harpers' Forum. The Forum, which meets virtually and in-person, is a platform for our young harpers to raise their voices for Irish harping and discuss their concerns about climate change and its impacts on arts, culture, and heritage.

CÉHIs policies are reviewed annually by the Governance Subcommittee who make recommendations to the Board. This policy will be reviewed annually and amended to reflect changes in legislation, industry standards or organisational requirements as necessary. Artists and our core funders will be informed of any significant changes to the policy.

9. Conclusion

This policy represents a critical step towards our commitment to environmental stewardship and long-term sustainability. Through the targeted initiatives outlined in this plan, we aim to significantly improve our energy efficiency and reduce our carbon footprint both internally within our operations, through new environmentally conscious organisational and methodological approaches, and externally through an increased inter-disciplinary approach between harping and sustainability in education, transport, event management, instrument production and partnerships; each element thereby contributing to a more sustainable future for our organisation and the communities we serve.

Our approach, in line with the Paris Agreement of 2016 and Section 15(1) point (d) of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Act 2021, is designed to achieve measurable outcomes through strategic actions. By following through with the actions and commitments outlined in this document, we anticipate reduced carbon emissions for the organisation, but also an increased awareness of the importance of sustainability among both us and our employees, as well as the different communities we work with and serve.

We will work collectively with harpers to achieve these ambitious goals and towards setting a benchmark for sustainability in our sector.

10. Contact Information

For any queries on this policy, please contact info@harpireland.ie