

Recognising that we have been slow to respond, and now inspired by dozens of UK councils declaring Climate Emergencies – including Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council – members of the arts, culture and creative industries have decided to ask how we might respond collectively, do our part in telling the truth about the climate and ecological crisis, and take necessary action.

Here's our statement in support of the initiative:

The Staff & Board of Arts at the Old Fire Station declare a Climate and Ecological Emergency

**CULTURE
DECLARES**



We are in a state of global climate crisis and we are on the brink of causing irreversible damage to our planet, its atmosphere, its inhabitants and our future.

We pledge to work in partnership with our community and local government in tackling this Emergency, and we call on others to do the same.

These are our intentions:

1. Arts at the Old Fire Station will tell the truth that there is a Climate Emergency

We will communicate with the *people we work with to discover the reality of the Emergency and to better understand the impacts, so that we can all be a voice in the changes that are needed. We will use our spheres of influence locally and nationally to ensure that this emergency is communicated where we can.

2. Arts at the Old Fire Station will take action in response to the Climate Emergency

We pledge to work towards reducing our emissions where we have control and influence to net zero* by 2030 in line with Oxford City Council ambitions and in line with our shared building responsibilities.

We will work to inform and educate ourselves and those we work with about the impacts of policies and actions that do not help to reduce emissions and consumption levels.

We will actively work to imagine and model ways that our organisation can reduce our use of the planet's resources and support regeneration of the planet's resources.

We will use our creativity and drive for inclusivity and belief in engaging people in positive activity to reach out to others across Oxford to power the changes required.

3. **Arts at the Old Fire Station is committed to justice in addressing the Climate Emergency**

The emergency has arisen from deeply systemic injustices. Arts and Culture can work with others to imagine and forge shifts in the ways we relate to one another and the world, in our values and behaviours. We believe the answer is not to blame and shame individuals, but to harness our collective power to bring about change. Using the vision of hope and adaptability as well as a sense of urgency we will work to enable dialogue and expression with those we work with, about how the Emergency will affect us all and the changes that are needed.

We are committed to supporting arts practices that re-imagine existing systems and forge shifts in the ways we relate to one another and the world, in our values and behaviours, such that reaching ****net zero** is both ecologically resilient and globally fair.

We will support demands for more democracy within our civic institutions and government, in line with our own journey towards increased inclusivity and devolution of power in all our work.

We further believe, if we fail to take action now, the emergency endangers our ability to deliver our charitable aims and objectives due to its impacts on our sustainability and resilience, and on the lives and work of all with whom we engage.

As an organisation, our priorities will be to:

measure and reduce our carbon footprint in all our activities - working closely with those with whom we share our building;

work with partners across Oxford to find creative ways to support each other in responding to and communicating the climate emergency;

learn as much as we can, and be prepared to adapt and change as a result of that learning.

Declaration Ends

*People we work with include staff, volunteers, trustees, partners, artists, audiences, funders and people facing tough times.

**Net zero means that on balance one's activities result in zero emissions, taking into account all possible Greenhouse Gas emissions and actions taken to mitigate or offset those emissions