

Galerie Nordenhake Berlin

Environmental Responsibility Statement (March 2024)

The world is facing a series of linked environmental crises. In October 2022, the UN warned that the world's governments are not yet on track to keep global heating below 1.5 degrees, and the window for action is rapidly closing. We are already seeing the impacts of existing warming with devastating droughts, storms and floods across the world. Related crises include collapsing biodiversity, dangerous levels of air pollution, and plastic contamination in our rivers and oceans. Without urgent action from across society, these problems will rapidly escalate.

The art world has an important role to play. Arts organisations – particularly in the Global North – have a disproportionately large impact on the environment, mainly due to a great deal of international travel, arts shipping, and high use of energy and materials. We need to act urgently to reduce these impacts in line with what the science is telling us. As arts organisations, we also have an opportunity to use our public platform and cultural influence to set a positive example, encouraging and supporting others to take action and helping shift the public debate.

At Galerie Nordenhake our values and mission are to showcase and promote contemporary art and artists. We recognize that our activities, such as international shipping & travel as well as energy use, have a significant impact on the environment. We are committed to reducing our impact and promoting sustainable practices in the arts. We have committed to tackling these impacts by:

- Joining the Gallery Climate Coalition and pledging to at least halve our carbon emissions by 2030, from a 2019 baseline.
- Regularly calculating the carbon footprint of our operations, to track progress towards this target.
- Setting specific targets for the major parts of our footprint, including:
 - Reducing staff flights and encouraging team members to use train travel or other low emission modes of transports.
 - Ensuring that a larger part of our international shipping is carried out by sea, rail or road rather than air by 2028.
 - Reducing our building energy use.

- Ensuring all of our packing materials are reusable or curbside recyclable by 2026, as a step towards zero-waste operations by 2030.
- Using only low or zero emissions vehicles for local deliveries by 2026.
- The actions we are taking to meet these targets include:
 - Speaking to our shippers about alternatives to air freight. Planning our exhibitions and events with care to minimise the need for air freight.
 - Reviewing our staff travel policies and practices, and planning our attendance at international events to reduce the need for air travel. Team members travel by train whenever they can.
 - Working with other GCC members on projects to help develop more sustainable packaging, transport and energy saving solutions for the whole sector.
 - Speaking to our suppliers and service providers about their carbon footprint and looking for opportunities to encourage them to take action, or to switch to alternative suppliers who will.
 - Maintaining a Green Ambassador who tracks the progress on all of these targets and actions at least once a month.
 - Encouraging staff to use public transportation, bike or walk to work or appointments through incentives like free public transport subscriptions.
 - Use of sustainable packaging materials guided by the principle “as little as possible as much as necessary”.
 - Gallery and storages are powered completely by green electricity from the provider Naturstrom. The gallery is connected to the district heating system.
 - Avoiding unnecessary productions for exhibitions, fairs and gallery infrastructure, i.e. editions will be produced when needed for presentations or sold. Rent and recycle technical equipment, crates, exhibition material and office supplies.

We are also setting aside a certain amount aligned with our yearly CO2 footprint, into a Strategic Climate Fund, rather than purchasing carbon offsets. Following guidance from the Gallery Climate Coalition, this money will be spent on measures to accelerate our emissions reductions, and support frontline climate solutions around the world that are making a difference right now. We will report on how we spent this money at the end of each financial year.

We have set these targets and are taking actions in the knowledge that we aren't yet doing everything right. We still have a great deal to do and much to learn.