

Sustainability Policy



Statement of purpose



Photograph: Daniel Boud

Statement of Acknowledgement

The Museum of Contemporary Art Australia (MCA) is located on the traditional lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora nations. The site, which is now called The Rocks, is known as Tallawoladah. The MCA recognises the Gadigal people of the Eora nation as the traditional owners and ongoing custodians of the lands and waters upon which the MCA is situated.

Vision

The MCA has a vision to take a leadership role in promoting contemporary art and facilitating artists to transform lives and shape a creative Australia.

We make contemporary art and ideas widely accessible to a range of audiences through the presentation of a diverse program of exhibitions and special events, both onsite and offsite. From major thematic exhibitions and solo surveys of established artists, to new work by emerging artists, touring exhibitions and community-led projects through C3West, we strive to cover the range and diversity of contemporary art.

Purpose

The purpose of this Sustainability Policy is to further our commitment to environmental sustainability and ambitions to improve our environmental performance. This Policy is supported by our Sustainability Plan.

We celebrate the work of living artists, bringing exceptional exhibitions of international and Australian art to as many people as possible – welcoming over a million visitors each year – in the belief that art is for everyone.

For us, sustainable development calls for collaborative efforts towards building a sustainable, inclusive and resilient future for people and planet; contributing towards relevant United Nations Sustainability Development Goals to ensure the MCA is having an impact on the most pressing local and global environmental concerns.

This Sustainability Policy outlines how we aim to embed and advance practical and impactful sustainability principles throughout our exhibitions, C3West, public programs, touring, special events, hospitality offering and the National Centre for Creative Learning. Along with this, how we embrace the enthusiasm of our employees to minimise our effects on the environment and continue to improve the efficiency of our building by implementing sustainability solutions.

The Sustainability Policy further demonstrates our commitment to First Peoples whose livelihoods and cultural continuity is dependent on access to healthy waterways, land and other natural resources. First Peoples language, material culture and oral histories are intrinsically linked to land, waterways and the natural environment and are dependent on the health of these environments for their survival.

Statement of purpose

Scope

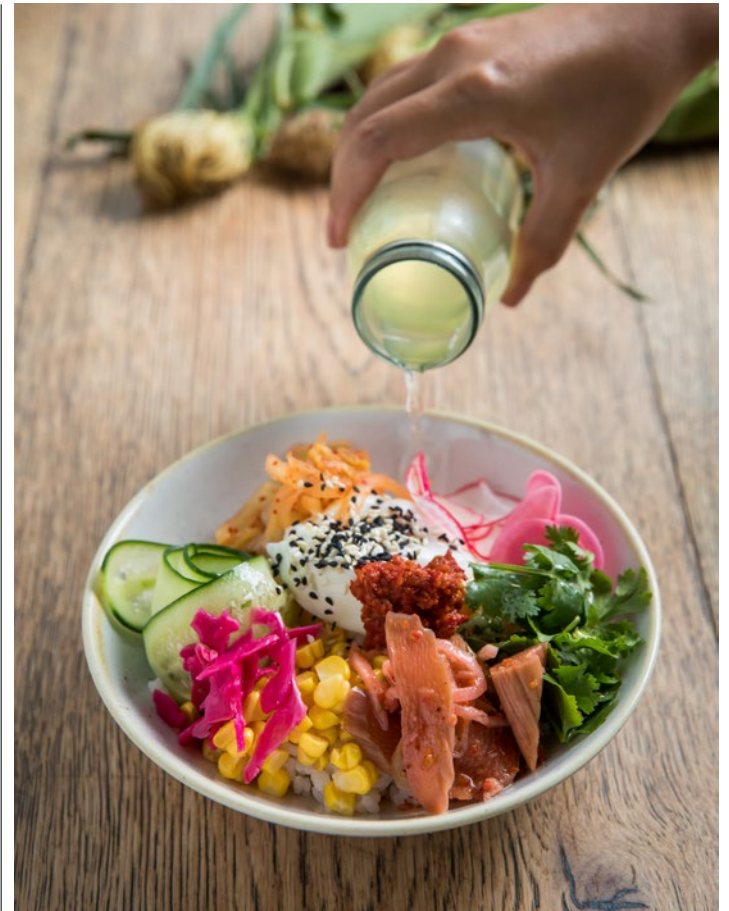
This Sustainability Policy is applicable to all employees, service providers, contractors, suppliers, visitors and clients when they are engaged in the MCA activities.

Informed Policy Development

The MCA will consider this policy in the preparation and review of all MCA initiatives, programs and strategies.

Context

Reducing our environmental impact is fundamental to our core values. Connecting a broad and diverse public with the work of living artists, the MCA pursues curatorial excellence and innovation in audience engagement.



The MCA embodies the following key values:

- Artists are central to all our activities
- Making challenging and complex work accessible
- Fostering creativity and critical thinking
- An entrepreneurial outlook
- Collaboration is key
- Sustainable and resilient

Above: Dishes created by ethical food producers Cornersmith featured as part of the MCA Cafe menu during *Janet Laurence: After Nature*, photograph: Anna Kučera | Left: Climate Guardians at the Opening of *Janet Laurence: After Nature*, February 2019, photograph: Jacquie Manning

Sustainability goals



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address global challenges, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. The 17 Goals are all interconnected and aim to be achieved by 2030.

The MCA aligns with seven of the Sustainable Development Goals, which are listed below and addressed in the MCA Sustainability Plan.

Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Sustainable Development Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Sustainable Development Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Sustainable Development Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Sustainable Development Goal 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

Strengthen the means of implementation and realise the global partnership for sustainable development



Sustainable Destination Partnership

The MCA is a founding member of the Sustainable Destination Partnership, which is one of many City of Sydney initiatives to deliver Sustainable Sydney 2030, a vision for a green, global and connected city.

The City of Sydney aims to reduce carbon emissions by 70%, divert 90% of waste from landfill and have a zero increase in potable water by 2030 (from 2006 levels). Dedicated to building a culture of sustainability to achieve Sustainable Sydney 2030 objectives, the City of Sydney aims to engage the sector to build awareness and the capacity to act on environmental sustainability opportunities.

The Sustainable Destination Partnership will work collaboratively to:

- Improve the environmental performance of Sydney's accommodation and entertainment venues.
- Invest in renewable energy, recycled water, waste avoidance and management and other sustainable solutions that support Sustainable Sydney 2030 goals.
- Engage with regulators and governments on key environmental policy and regulatory issues.
- Champion and promote our objectives and outcomes to the broader sector and wider community.

Above Left: MCA Early Learning Program, photograph: Anna KuCera | Above Right: Lauren Brincat, *The Plant Library*, 2019, installation view, Rouse Hill, NSW, co-commissioned as part of Sydney Metro Northwest Places by Landcom and C3West on behalf of the Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, image courtesy and © the artist, photograph: Cassandra Hannigan

Commitments

Our Commitments

All MCA

- Strive to advance environmental sustainability in the Exhibitions industry by serving as an industry innovator, collaborator and contributor, while continuously learning about best practice in sustainability.
- Consider environmental impact from our business activities and, where practical and impactful, always consider the environment in business decisions.
- At a national and international level, aim to contribute towards best-practice environmental practices, aligned to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.
- The MCA's Leadership Team will drive, encourage and oversee commitments towards sustainability, supported by the Sustainability Committee.

Curatorial and Digital

- Strive to be an influencer in the Exhibitions industry on the most effective, engaging and impactful approach to exhibit artwork that considers sustainability.
- Explore and implement sustainable options for collection management and exhibition delivery, including reducing environmental impacts as a result of freight, storage and build.
- Where possible, ensure all steel and recyclable exhibition material is reused, recycled or restored for other purposes.
- Aim to utilise best-practice sustainable design and innovative technologies to deliver efficient, resilient and adaptable exhibitions, while considering exhibition design to deliver the most sustainable approach to subsequent builds and construction.
- Enrich the experience of the public in the work of the artists through an interactive website and while visiting the MCA through digital enablement and simplification.
- Seek opportunities to collaborate with other arts institutions to improve sustainability.

Audience Engagement

- Consider how environmental issues can be unpacked within creative learning and communications to engage visitors in sustainability awareness, advocacy and action.
- Operational elements of the public engagement program include sustainability initiatives, such as offsetting travel for external speakers and recycling materials.
- Continue to transition to online communications, such as publications, that are produced for Ambassadors, visitors and others.
- Review, explore and establish printing solutions with suppliers to market exhibitions at the MCA by using sustainable options that reduce waste to landfill, where possible.
- Participate in large external events that we deem to generate low carbon emissions or will offset carbon emissions generated.
- Provide infrastructure to encourage the use of sustainable transport for visitors to the MCA.
- Use digital technology to reduce the amount of printed materials, such as online brochures and maps, and use knowledge of hosts and guides to verbally provide relevant and meaningful information to visitors.
- Continue to offer e-ticketing capability, ensuring an easier and better experience for visitors.



This Sustainability Policy focuses on five areas: All MCA; Curatorial and Digital; Audience Engagement; Development and Enterprises; and Finance and Corporate Services.

Above: Weave for the Reef Workshop, Conversation Starters 2019: Temperature Rising, photograph: Jodie Barker

Commitments



Development and Enterprises

- Where relevant, create relationships that build on sustainability awareness and advocacy.
- Consider the environment when entering into Development and Enterprise partnerships, reviewing alignment on environmental principles.
- Implement further solutions that improve the environmental performance of client events taking place at MCA, such as through recycling and sustainability planning.
- Recycle all possible event-related items, including paper, glass, plastic, cardboard, while limiting or eliminating the use of plastic.
- Partner with catering suppliers that care about sustainability.
- Continue to avoid food wastage.
- Explore new packaging solutions for all in-store and online store purchases, including packaging for deliveries, and more efficient processes and packaging for postage.
- Continue to recycle, reuse or donate selected excess items from the MCA Store to other non-profit organisations or associations.

Above: Gorman x Mangkaja collection in the MCA Store, photograph: Tim Levy

Finance and Corporate Services

- Aligned with the MCA procurement framework, review, explore and establish alliances with existing and new suppliers that improve our environmental performance by procuring products, materials and other items that can be reused, recycled or restored for other purposes.
- Review existing suppliers every three years to ensure we're partnering with the most environmental, ethical, diverse, local and responsible suppliers that meet our needs.
- Track and monitor CO2 emissions generated from employee business-related air travel and, where possible, offset air travel; consider how business-related air travel can be limited through collaboration technology and other efficiencies.
- Continue upgrading the MCA building infrastructure to ensure greater energy efficiencies and increase knowledge of renewable energy and offsetting opportunities.
- Aim to reduce MCA building energy consumption each year from 2013 baseline; benchmark environmental standards annually; and, implement improvements in underperforming areas.
- Manage and monitor recycling program, aiming to divert at least 90% of waste from landfill via in-house waste disposal program and external service providers.
- Review additional water saving initiatives to support City of Sydney in achieving its target to have a zero increase in potable water by 2030 since 2013 baseline.
- Continue installation of LED or other energy efficient lighting solutions throughout the MCA corporate office area, galleries and other spaces.
- Ensure the purchase of environmentally preferable options for all IT equipment and consumables, with any new equipment or significant upgrades to existing equipment subject to a review of environmental impact.
- Continue to explore effective use of server storage to store, access, secure and manage digital data, files and services, and explore possible Cloud-based solutions.
- Reduce printing through meeting room technology and, where possible, employees using technology that will increase collaboration and efficiencies.
- Safely dispose of electronic waste and other hazardous materials.
- Increase employee communication of environmental initiatives to raise awareness and increase use of new or existing practices.
- As part of the annual employee survey, explore and capture employee awareness, behaviours and action towards sustainability.
- Where possible, engage external professional development training organisations that use digital training resources and materials.
- Encourage environmental education amongst the MCA employees and consider relevant environmental learning opportunities.
- Develop programs to harness employee enthusiasm and offer opportunities to improve environmental performance, such as through volunteering or fundraising.
- Incorporate sustainability KPIs into relevant Position Descriptions and annual reviews.

Looking forward: 2021–2023 and beyond

Australia's changing climate represents a significant challenge to individuals, communities, governments, businesses and industry, as well as opportunities to implement new solutions that are lasting and impactful. The MCA will continue to monitor its impact on the environment and is committed to the following future endeavours:

- Be at the forefront of environmental sustainability in the Exhibitions industry.
- Innovate and collaborate alongside partners, government and industry as a member of the Sustainable Destination Partnership with City of Sydney to advance sustainability.
- Contribute towards reducing local and global impacts by aligning to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Targets; capturing impact to show improvements being made.
- Embrace the younger generation's enthusiasm for combating climate change and explore bringing art and the environment together to engage the younger audience.
- Evolve our commitment to digital and technology to further reduce impacts and inefficiencies.
- Continue focus on recycling and consider further best practice food and water wastage solutions.
- Work with the Green Building Council of Australia to explore certification.
- Make progress toward attaining carbon neutral certification against the National Carbon Offset Standard and explore further renewable energy and carbon offsetting solutions and options.
- Further explore renewable energy, recycled water, waste avoidance and management and other sustainable solutions that support Sustainable Sydney 2030 vision.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Director of the MCA

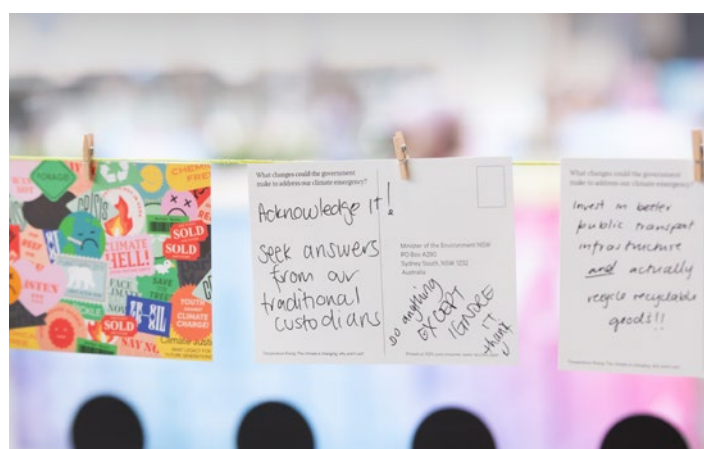
The Director is personally responsible for the implementation of this Sustainability Policy and is accountable to the Board of the MCA in relation to the progression of the commitments contained within this policy. The performance of this Sustainability Policy is tracked in the supporting Sustainability Plan, elements of which are communicated in the Annual Report and other relevant publications.

Divisional Directors

Divisional Directors are responsible for the implementation of this Sustainability Policy and supporting Sustainability Plan within their Divisions, have performance expectations included in their work plans and are accountable against these expectations to the Director.

Sustainability Committee

The MCA Sustainability Committee was established in 2018 and is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this Sustainability Policy and monitoring the progress of the supporting Sustainability Plan towards achieving our current commitments and future environmental endeavours. The MCA Sustainability Committee is committed to meeting twice a year.





Review and Improvement

This Sustainability Policy will be reviewed in September 2021, then once every three years thereafter.
Next review date: September 2021


Top: Where do you stand? An Interactive debate, Conversation Starters 2019: Temperature Rising, photographer: Jodie Barker | Bottom: Postcards for change; Conversation wall, Conversation Starters 2019: Temperature Rising, photographer: Jodie Barker


Museum of Contemporary Art Australia


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Australian Government
Visual Arts and Craft Strategy
New South Wales

Front cover: photograph Anna Kučera | Back cover: photograph Brett Boardman