

Artist Action Plan - SF Bay Area

Art and Climate Action, San Francisco

Art and Climate Action has compiled a simple checklist of actions to help you make educated, sustainable choices that lower the environmental impact of your work. You can reduce your carbon footprint in many ways, not only helping the planet, but saving money as well. By taking these steps, we work together toward a healthy future for current and future generations.

STUDIO:

- Shift your studio to green energy. (cleanpowersf.org for SF county ; mcecleanenergy.org for Marin and Contra Costa counties ; ebce.org for Alameda county)
- Switch to more efficient light bulbs like LED lights.
- Start off by turning off the lights in any room where you are not using them.
- You can plug leaks in your home insulation to save power.
- Install a smart thermostat.
- If your schedule allows, it's helpful to follow the sun, creating work during the brightest part of the day so you don't have to use as many lights. Any emailing/correspondence business that involves working on your computer can be done at night, in lower light.
- If you can afford to, invest in quality studio furniture that will last you a lifetime. You can buy reused at Craigslist or Barder.art, link below.

MATERIALS:

First, to help minimize the amount of landfill waste we produce, use the Ki Culture's 5 R's: Refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose, and recycle.

Try to adopt Life Cycle Thinking (LCT) and Circular Economy to understand the environmental impact and benefits of your work and how it will extend, hopefully beyond your lifetime.

Use salvaged or second-hand materials. SF Bay Area has good walk-in stores for recycled wood, metal, glass etc:

SCRAP. wonderful industrial surplus stuff, offcuts, oddments: SCRAP (Scrounger's Center for Reusable Art Parts), 801 Toland St. (entrance on Newcomb), SF, CA, 94124 Ph: 415.647.1746.
<http://www.scrap-sf.org/>

Builders resource Center: <https://buildingresources.wordpress.com> 701 Amador Street, San Francisco, CA. Phone: 415-285-7814

Urban Ore, <http://urbanore.com/> 900 Murray Street, Berkeley, CA 94710. Phone 510.841.7283

Alan Steel for all things metal, offcuts galore- 505 E Bayshore Rd Redwood City, CA 94063

- make vehicle trips for collecting supplies and materials as part of a multi-stop errand.
- Use recycled printing paper.
- Avoid petroleum inks.
- Try to find professional-quality “responsibly sourced” art supplies
- Minimize using synthetic materials. Look for products that are less toxic and wasteful than mainstream products. Make sure they are safe to humans, animals, and the environment. For example, avoid plastics, polyurethane foams, polyester resins, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), vinyl, or plastic-coated photographic paper, plastic coating on covers and plastic wrap on books etc.
- If possible, separate your studio into two distinct rooms to save electrical energy. One space for creation so you're only using energy in a small light filled space, and a separate additional space using minimal energy for storage/supplies.
- Create a diligent clean-up routine using environmentally friendly products.
For painters:
 - Old paint brushes can be trimmed and reused for special textures for many years. - Use paints sparingly when possible. See directions below on how to create a safe paint removal system*. Also, check out Sammy’s link below to find sustainable art supplies.

FABRICATION PROCESS

-Consider the energy consumption in transforming materials. Kiln firing ceramic and casting and welding metal are very energy intensive. Can it be done using renewable energy? Can your vision be realized with other materials?

PACKING, STORAGE, SHIPPING, PRODUCTION

- Invest in a circular economy by using recycled material wherever you can from salvage/reuse centers.
- Save packaging that is shipped to you and reuse this. Have an organized ‘packing’ station in

your studio that allows for packaging to be stored and reused.

- Avoid poly sheeting, polyethylene, bubble wrap, foam core, Styrofoam, plastic wraps and single-use shipping crates.
- Ask shipping companies, galleries and museums to use recycled materials. - Ship artwork in reusable (or recycled or recyclable) cardboard or art shipping boxes like Turtle or Rokbox.
- End the wasteful life cycle of objects, like temporary walls, display material, vinyl lettering, signage, banners, plexiglass, new electronics (incl projectors, computers, data storage, etc.).
- Protect what you create. Store artwork on elevated wooden blocks to avoid water damage. - Store artwork safely by using reusable cloth packing blankets, secured with large rubber bands**.
- Request that packages be shipped by ground whenever possible. Follow up with your galleries to support this. After the shipment is complete, use the GCC shipping calculator to see the carbon emissions from the transport and donate to one of the GCC Strategic Climate Fund sources for the carbon drawdown.

TRAVEL

Perhaps the single most impactful thing that individuals can do is to take fewer airplane trips. Just one or two fewer plane rides per year can save as much in emissions as many other actions combined.

- Drive fewer miles by consolidating trips or taking public transit like a train. If you must travel by plane, sit in coach, take direct flights and avoid overnight flights whenever possible.
- Ask your gallery or institution if they can offer the equivalent cash to cover flight & lodging costs if you do not attend.
- When you do travel: stay longer. Try to combine more meetings and experiences in a single trip, rather than taking repeat and frequent trips.

ART OPENINGS & EXHIBITIONS

Opening nights are a great opportunity to show your support of sustainability by creating minimal impact.

- Avoid single-use dishes or cups, plastic water bottles, plastic utensils, unless made from bamboo or plant material that can be non-industrially composted. Use washable and reusable dishes made of metal, glass, or china.
- Request local beverages, over international, and feature local artisan makers. - Serve plant-based food at openings. Eat or donate the leftovers. One of the best things we can do to reduce our footprint is to never waste food.

OFFSETTING

If you want to offset your emissions, you can donate a portion of your annual profit to an

environmental non-profit such as legal protection, rewilding or land conservation. This is termed 'Strategic Climate Funds (SCF's)'. The term was developed by the Gallery Climate Coalition (GCC) to support approaches to offsetting that are not retail products.

- You can also buy offset certificates, with the money going to projects that protect forests, capture greenhouse gases and so forth.
- Some airlines sell these to offset emissions from their flights. You can also buy offset certificates in a private marketplace, from companies such as TerraPass in San Francisco that follow strict rules set up by the state of California.
- Or choose your own electricity supplier, buy green electricity; with the money going into a fund that helps finance projects like wind farms.

LIFE

- Use public transit or bicycle for commuting and errands when possible.
- If you want to take this a step farther, you can look at buying an electric or hybrid car, putting solar panels on your roof, or both.
- Waste less food, eat less red meat and large fish, and eat organic local foods whenever possible.
- Be a conscious role model to your community, especially children.

Exercising your rights as a citizen matters as much as anything else you can do, so vote and speak up! Without strong state and national policies, experts do not believe the needed transformation in the energy system can happen.

This is an evolving list on behalf of Art + Climate Action SF, organized by team member Tiffany Bozic. If you have any ideas, or suggestions on ways that we can improve the list, please email t_bozic@hotmail.com.

RESOURCE LINKS

Art and Climate Action for additional resources and information:

<https://www.artandclimateaction.org/resources>

Ki Books:

<https://www.kiculture.org/ki-books/>

Barder.art is a resource sharing tool developed for the art world where you can buy, trade, lend or give away unused materials:

<https://www.barder.art/>

Tips on best paint disposal practices:

<https://www.goldenpaints.com/waste-disposal>

Sammy's Sustainable Supplies Site:

<https://sammysfo.github.io/sustainable-supplies/resources.html>

Solvent-free paints:

<https://mgraham.com/environmental-commitment/>

<https://naturalearthpaint.com/>

DIRECTIONS

Disposing of paint: SF REcycles lists local places to responsibly recycle art, spray and house paint. <https://sfrecycles.org/>

For Alameda and Contra Costa counties use: <https://resource.stopwaste.org/>

Artist Paint Removal Directions:

*The true danger in artist paints from an environmental standpoint comes from how hard they are to clean up. Both the plastics in acrylic and the paint thinners used in oil paint are highly toxic, and often give off dangerous, flammable fumes. These harsh chemicals when disposed of incorrectly leak into watersheds and can pollute soil and waterways. Dumping paint down the sink is the last thing you want to do! Even with water-based products, it is best to discard a solid instead of washing it down the drain. If disposing larger quantities of paint try to take to a recycling center or a hazmat waste collection facility in your area.

You can use compostable cling wrap to cover and preserve mixed paints on your palette for up to 1 week and refrigerating paints help them last longer. Allow residual paints and mediums to dry in the ceramic palette. Remove the remaining paint from the tray by letting the paints soak in boiling water for 5 mins allowing the paint skin to be collected, leaving a fairly clean container. Dispose of the hardened solids by trash. See tips on best disposal practices in the above links.

Storing your artwork:

**First layer, wrap a reusable barrier like a clean organic cotton sheet or bamboo linen, then a sheet of clean reusable cardboard to protect the face of the artwork, followed by a moving blanket for the exterior layer. Secure blankets with large reusable rubber bands. You can purchase these materials from most moving supply companies.