

Sustainability policy

In an effort to minimise the carbon footprint of the project, the following principles and actions were agreed by the steering group at the outset:

Community Wealth Building: Where possible, the project funds will be distributed across local suppliers to strengthen local businesses and services, with an emphasis on sustainable options (e.g., accommodation, catering and venue hire). If it is not possible to obtain something within the local community, we will try the wider peninsula of Dingle Peninsula/Corca Dhuibhne and Tralee town, failing this then further afield within Kerry.

Celebration of Local Food: Local food systems will be supported and promoted by the project, celebrating and strengthening the rich traditions and current offerings within Maharees. Catering will emphasize vegetarian cuisine based on local Maharee vegetables as the default, with meat considered an optional add-on.

Zero-waste: Re-usable crockery, cutlery, tap water, etc, will be used for all events, thus minimizing single-use items.

Sustainable Materials: Artist's materials will be sourced sustainably, prioritising recycled and sustainably produced paper, notepads, drawing materials, inks, etc., and buying only what is necessary. We will keep material and digital waste to a minimum, reusing and recycling what we do consume.

Low Impact Digital Footprint: All project materials will be saved to two external hard drives at the end of the project, kept by Maharees Conservation Association and Dingle Hub. All digital media such as emails and shared files will be deleted at the end of the project. Photos and project materials will be shared with the community partners and steering group members on USB sticks.

Sustainable Transport:

During the second learning day, 'Preparing for a Changing Climate Day' on 27 July 2024, the focus was on mitigation, so the artists facilitated a mapping exercise to explore how the team was using transportation to arrive at events. This began a conversation about reducing our transport impact. In November 2024, Catríona Fallon presented a two-hour workshop on this topic for the full project team and the Dingle Hub. The following hierarchy of transport methods was agreed.

1. Have online meetings where possible (to reduce transportation impact for team members not living in Maharees)
2. Walk and cycle when possible and feasible (e.g. during the summer, close distances)
3. Use public transport when possible (with timing of local events and activities based around these)
4. Hire buses for field trips and events outside of Maharees
5. Lift-share between group members to events, particularly in EVs
6. Use diesel or petrol cars as a last resort

