

PTC Environmental Policy

Approved at the meeting of the Board of Trustees on 18 July 2023.

INTRODUCTION

The Poetry Translation Centre (registered charity 1123056) is the only UK organisation dedicated to translating and promoting contemporary poetry from Africa, Asia and Latin America. We publish books, organise events and deliver hands-on translation workshops that are open and inclusive to all. We also offer online resources including a weekly dual-language poetry podcast and an extensive web archive of poems in translation.

Central to our mission is exploring poetries from the home-cultures of the UK's diverse diaspora communities, working in partnership with those communities. We believe that the act of translating and sharing poetry breaks down barriers and offers a way to explore diverse heritages and identities with respect.

CONTEXT AND PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

At the PTC we recognise the importance of protecting natural resources and reducing our carbon footprint, and we are committed to reducing our environmental impact and promoting sustainable practices in all aspects of our operations. We recognise the disproportionate impact of the climate crisis on countries in the Global South, not least as a driver of displacement and migration. As an organisation working with poets from these countries, and diasporic communities with links to them, we have a responsibility to engage with issues around the climate crisis and account for our own actions.

The purpose of this policy is to be accountable to our stakeholders—to detail this commitment across our different workstreams, and to be transparent about limitations to reducing environmental impact within our mission and business model.

POLICY POINTS

Overview

Across the PTC's workstreams we will:

1. Minimise waste, reduce, reuse and recycle wherever possible
2. Reduce our energy consumption and use renewable energy sources wherever possible
3. Purchase environmentally-friendly products and services wherever possible
4. Promote the use of public transportation for staff, volunteers and artists
5. Be transparent about our environmental practices, including publishing our policy on the PTC website
6. Regularly review and assess our environmental performance, and update the accompanying action plan on an annual basis
7. Educate staff, volunteers, peers and stakeholders about the importance of environmental sustainability and encourage them to support our efforts
8. Engage with the Albany, where our office is based, as well as other resident organisations based in the building, to contribute to wider/shared efforts on environmental responsibility

PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY STANDARDS AND SAFEGUARDING

Workstreams

This policy sits alongside our environmental action plan for 2023–26, and our decision-making framework for touring. As we progress through the action plan, points will be added to the workstream lists below (to be updated on an annual basis).

Publishing:

- We use FSC-certified sustainably sourced paper in all PTC books

- We minimise waste in our book production process by using digital proofs, monitoring and adjusting print runs to limit overprinting, and using environmentally friendly inks and toners

Workshops:

- We offer the majority of our poetry translation workshops online to reduce the need for travel and minimise carbon emissions
- We encourage participants to reduce paper waste by using digital tools and resources, such as online notebooks and shared documents

Events:

- We use the decision-making framework for touring to design poet tours that strike an appropriate balance between the PTC's charitable goals and its commitment to reducing environmental impact
- We default to public transport for all artists, staff and volunteers
- We use a Green Rider where we invite venues and partner organisations to implement environmentally friendly practices, such as reducing energy consumption, providing recycling facilities and offering vegan catering
- We minimise waste at our own events by providing reusable or compostable plates, cups, and cutlery, and encouraging attendees to recycle or compost their waste
- We encourage attendees to use public transportation to our events

Operational:

- We promote energy efficiency in our offices and facilities by using energy-saving devices, such as LED lights and low-power electronics, and turning off lights and equipment when not in use
- We promote the use of digital communications, such as email and online meetings, to reduce the need for paper-based communications and travel

FURTHER POINTS

The PTC acknowledges and accepts certain limitations to reducing environmental impact within its core business model.

Poet tours are part of our commitment to bringing poetry from Africa, Asia and Latin America to UK audiences and as such, while air travel can be reduced and emissions offset, it will not be avoided entirely. As per our decision-making framework for touring, in some cases we will opt for in-person events where these offer positive impacts for a particular artist, community or target audience which cannot be achieved through alternative formats.

As a publisher, while we may limit impact through selection of materials and seeking additional alternative formats, printed books are part of our offer now and in the foreseeable future.

Our in-person translation workshops currently necessitate the use of paper handouts, while our community marketing campaigns make use of print materials e.g. flyers. While paper consumption is being reduced, it is unlikely to be completely eliminated.

We are committed to working with our Board, staff, suppliers, funders and our external stakeholders to ensure we consider the environmental impacts of our activities. By implementing these objectives, the PTC aims to support a sustainable future for generations to come.