

INTRODUCTION

Sutton Community Dance is all about helping our community enjoy #DANCINGFORGOOD. This means we teach and explore dance together without barriers to help all of us improve our wellbeing, bring more life and soul to our town centres and contribute positively to the environment we live, study, work and dance in.

SCD passionately believes in the incredible value and beauty of the natural world and stands completely against any actions that exploit and damage it.

This all means we are committed to making environmental sustainability intrinsic in our work with our team, our students, our partners, our suppliers and our wider community.

Our internal commitments to environmental sustainability should at least mirror and, unless impossible, exceed what we are asking of others. This includes those with whom we engage and whom we work with.

Our Work

SCD works hard to smash barriers to dance so everyone can enjoy taking part, getting healthier, meeting other great people and growing as dancers. We develop and deliver our own dance programme as well as partnering with dance bodies and other partners.

We strongly believe in taking seriously the role we all must play in looking after and repairing our planet. Similarly, we want to ensure that as far as possible everything we do at SCD is good for the planet – that we tread lightly.

Beyond minimising the damage we cause our planet, we choose to be proactive in doing good with the planet and helping to inspire others to choose to act this way as well. We do this through our weekly classes, our events, how we use our resources and in the partnerships we choose to prioritise.

OUR IMPACTS

We are committed to reducing the negative environmental impacts of our own activities, in specific ways including:

- Our physical spaces: energy use, water use and waste;
- Our travel choices for the team, members and partners

- Our suppliers; whatever products we need we will always prioritise choosing local, ethical and carbon neutral products and services. Where we can we will borrow, reuse, upcycle and recycle.
- Our communications materials: use of resources (mainly paper and inks) and transport for these products will be carefully reviewed.
- Printed materials and use of energy for storage, downloading, streaming and/or online reading for digital communications;
- Our events: energy use, water use, food, waste, transport and travel;
- The goods and services we choose for our offices: notably stationery, ICT and electronic equipment, furniture and cleaning and;
- The business services we use: notably website, data and email server hosting and banking.
- The actions caused by our members and visitors due to their engagement with us; how they travel to us and what they consume / use as part of their activity with SCD.

OUR COMMITMENTS

We are committed to understanding, measuring, improving and communicating our environmental performance and engaging staff, volunteers, members and partners in this process.

Our key areas of focus for reducing our impacts are:

- Working with the management of the St Nicholas Centre and our Landlords where SCD is based, to identify and implement actions to reduce energy and water use, reduce waste and increase recycling;
- Reducing the impacts of required business-related travel and staff commuting: avoiding travel where possible by using webinars and teleconferences, and encouraging the use of zero or low---carbon travel modes, e.g. walking, cycling, journey sharing, travelling by public transport and train where possible for longer journeys and European travel and avoiding flying for journeys in England, Scotland and Wales;
- Integrating environmental and ethical considerations when choosing supplies, suppliers and services
- For our business operations, especially stationery, equipment, furniture, cleaning, banking,
- Website and email hosting;
- Working with suppliers and contractors to reduce the impacts of our publications and events and;
- Reducing our digital and ICT impacts.

Sutton Community Dance is committed to ensuring team wellbeing, notably by providing a safe, open and co-operative working environment, development and training opportunities, fair terms and conditions and a unique creative environment to contribute to. We believe choosing to be on the front foot with our approach to the environment plays a big part in also helping to improve the wellbeing of our teams, members and partners.

In the event that Sutton Community Dance opts for carbon offsetting its unavoidable emissions, in particular from travel, we are committed to using best practice and transparent carbon offsetting schemes or other best practice alternatives such as carbon retirement.

We are committed to working with our full team, members and our external stakeholders to ensure we understand and communicate the environmental impacts of our activities. We will include environmental performance and progress within our annual report and make this available both internally and externally.

This policy is reviewed on an annual basis by SCD leadership and updated as and when necessary.

SCD actively seeks feedback, suggestions and ideas to continue in its journey of being an environmentally positive organisation.

Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to SCD management through info@scd.org.uk

Last reviewed: 5th March, 2024