



**Brent
Together**
Towards Zero



Brent



October 2023

From Waste To Wonder

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Art for the Earth

Transforming plastic waste into a work of art might seem impossible, but when Brent residents work together the magic can happen.

We asked the children from the **Curzon Crescent Family Wellbeing Centre**, the young people from the **Brent Hub Community Centre** and women from **AWRC Asian Women's Resource Centre** to take on our mission and join From Waste to Wonder, a project funded by **Brent Council** through the **Brent Together Toward Zero** grant.

Participants collected bottle and single-use plastic items and, through a workshop led by artist **Elisa Cantarelli**, gave them a new life into a collective artwork. They also went the extra mile and became our environmental ambassadors for photographer **Carolina Rapezzi**.

Both the artwork and the photographs are part of the exhibition at the **Brent Civic Centre** (17 October 2023 – 28 January 2024) to remind all Brent residents that through a collective effort we can preserve the future of our planet, by turning waste into wonder.

A special thanks to **StartEasy** and **Phoenix Rising** for supporting the project and to **Brent Museum and Archives** for supporting the exhibition.

WE RESTART is a Brent-based charity that empowers communities through art projects and workshops and has previously engaged Brent community in Art & Sustainability with We Are Plastic workshops and installation (funded by Love Where You Live and Veolia) and Fast Fashion Project (Brent Together Toward Zero). As part of its mission, WE RESTART also supports refugee and asylum seeker artists in the UK.



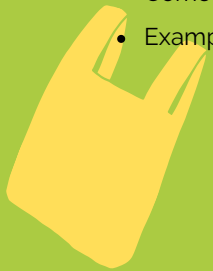
About the Artists

Sustainability with reuse, relocation and transformation are at the core of **Elisa Cantarelli** most recent production. Giving new artistic identity to objects of common use is the starting point of Elisa's artistic research. In London she is actively leading workshops around the topics of sustainability, recycling, up-cycling, Art as therapy but most of all bringing communities together to share messages of awareness. She was born in 1981 in Fidenza and grew up in Salsomaggiore Terme between sports, colouring books and puzzles. The primary school teacher is the first to light the fire of creativity in her. She enrolled at the Academy of Fine Arts in Bologna where, in the spring of 2004, she began to drip her first dots. Since 2006 her works have been exhibited at prestigious art fairs: Art First Bologna, Paris Photo, Art Fair Tokyo, Art Verona, Art Padova, Affordable Art Fair (Milan - Hamburg - Hong Kong). She has participated in solo and group exhibitions in Italy, Great Britain, France, Germany, Japan, Hong Kong and South Korea.

Carolina Rapezzi is an Italian freelance photographer and journalist who works on social, humanitarian and environmental issues. She is part of the National Union of Journalists UK and member of Women Photograph. She starts working on migration in 2015, documenting the welcoming system for unaccompanied minors arriving from Libya on the Sicilian coasts and, in 2016, she covered the last months before the final eviction of the refugee camp of Calais, France. Since 2017, she has been working on a long-term project on identity and gender and on environmental issues, on poverty, knife crime and social issues in the UK. She is a Journalism Fund Europe grantee and works on a cross-border investigation on the right to education for teenage asylum seekers and refugees in secondary schools, in Italy and the UK. Her works have been featured on The Guardian, Internazionale, openDemocracy, DeStandaard, abcNEWS, The Post Internazionale, Equal Times, VoxEurop, Altraeconomia, Water Science Policy and others.

What is single-use plastic?

- Products that can only be used 1 time or a short period of time
- Come from fossil-fuel chemicals
- Examples: bottles, wrappers, straws, grocery bags, etc.



Plastic in Numbers

500,000,000,000 plastic bags per **year**

1,000,000 plastic bottles are bought every **minute** worldwide.


Why is single-use plastic bad?

Plastic is hard to recycle and therefore 91% of single use plastics end up in **landfills** and **oceans**.

When plastic degrades in the environment, it breaks down into tiny toxic particles that contaminate **animals** and **humans** when ingesting them.



Learn to recognise the symbols for recycling

 Recycle	 Don't Recycle	 Recycle	 Recycle	 Don't recycle at home	 Recycle	 Don't Recycle
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- Only 9% of all plastic produced is recycled
- A whopping 2 million plastic bags are used every minute worldwide
- Every minute of every day the equivalent of a truckload of plastic is dumped into the ocean
- 73% of beach litter worldwide is plastic
- One million plastic bottles are bought every minute
- There could be more plastic than fish in the ocean by 2050
- The average time that a plastic bag is used is just 12 minutes
- Around the world, nearly a million plastic beverage bottles are sold every minute
- Estimates for how long plastic endures range from 450 years to forever
- The largest market for plastics today is packaging materials. That rubbish now accounts for nearly half of all plastic waste generated globally—most of it never gets recycled or incinerated
- More than 40% of plastic is used just once, then tossed
- 100% of baby sea turtles have plastic in their stomachs
- More than 1 million plastic bags end up in the trash every minute
- 1 in 3 fish caught for human consumption contains plastic
- On UK beaches there are 5000 pieces of plastic & 150 plastic bottles for each mile
- Over 2 million tonnes of plastic packaging are used in the UK each year

Fun Facts



Recycle Bin Sort

Directions: connect the objects with the correct bin

PAPER	PLASTIC	METAL

Recycle Now
<https://www.recyclenow.com>

Keep Britain Tidy
<https://www.keepbritaintidy.org>

UK Gov.
<https://www.gov.uk/browse/housing-local-services/recycling-rubbish>

Wrap
<https://wrap.org.uk/>

Recycle More
<https://www.recycle-more.co.uk/>

Visit Brent Council website to learn more about how to recycle <https://www.brent.gov.uk/>

Bins, rubbish and recycling



We asked From Waste to Wonder participants to commit to one action to help make Brent and the environment cleaner, greener and healthier.

The most chosen pledges for each organisation were:

Kids: "I commit to refill my water bottle instead of buying a new one"

Young people: "I commit to take a cloth bag when I go shopping"

Asian Women: "I commit to put my plastic waste in the correct recycling container"

What is your pledge?

Scan the QR and let us know!



From Waste to Wonder: The exhibition



Celebrate with us the opening on the exhibition on

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE DAY

24 October 2023

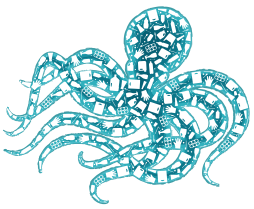
from 11:30am to 2:30pm

at

Brent Civic Centre

Engineers Way, Wembley HA9 0FJ

The exhibition is free and open to the public from the 17th of October 2023 until 28 January 2024



A carbon-neutral Brent is possible

In July 2019, Brent Council declared a climate and ecological emergency and committed to do all in its gift to become a carbon-neutral borough by 2030. A Climate and Ecological Strategy was developed which established a framework for action to tackle climate change in the borough. Brent is one of only 12 councils in London that have adopted this 2030 target.

Brent Together Toward Zero is the small grant fund that enables Brent residents and organisations to be active players of this strategy, initiating projects and initiatives that support our community to reduce its carbon footprint.

But what is a Carbon Footprint?

In simple terms, your carbon footprint is the amount of carbon dioxide released into the Earth's atmosphere as a result of human activities, rather than any natural emissions. We produce carbon dioxide through a lot of different actions, such as using electricity, transport, clothes, food, and even throwing out rubbish! All of this carbon is having a negative effect on the atmosphere, contributing to Global Warming.

Plastic pollution

Plastic disposal has a massive effect on the environment. Several million tons of plastic waste enter the oceans and nature each year. This waste harms wildlife and kills fish and birds who mistake it for food. Plastic also releases toxic chemicals when incinerated or buried in landfills, seeping into water supplies and causing health problems for humans who ingest them. Moreover, plastic has a big carbon footprint. Plastic is in fact a form of fossil fuel. Our plastic water bottles, our grocery bags and trays of strawberries, just to name a few, are all made from oil or natural gas and it takes a lot of energy to make that happen.



The five Rs that can save the planet

The most powerful way to reduce our carbon footprint is to Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repair.

Refuse Refuse unnecessary packaging, items, bags, containers, and utensils whenever and wherever possible. Ask yourself "Do I really need it?", "Can I buy an alternative with less or without packaging?". Refusing will help to eliminate a lot of your waste.

Reduce Waste reduction simply means reducing the things that we use and only consume what is necessary. This way the amount of waste that is created is reduced and avoids going to the dump.

Reuse Reuse is a method or a practice of using something again. This can be done to use the product for its original purpose or to fulfil a different function.

Recycle Recycling is one of the key components in the waste management system. It is the process of converting waste materials into new materials and objects.

Repair These days, we often find it easier to buy a new product than to repair and use an existing product. We should repair our clothes and items, especially electronic goods, whenever possible.



THE GLOBAL GOALS

FROM WASTE TO WONDER

A project by WE RESTART Charity, funded by Brent Council through Brent Together Toward Zero Grant.



www.werest.art

WE RESTART is a Registered Charity in England and Wales with a charity number 1200350 and company number 13374289