



**Dance Network Association (DNA)** is a dance charity that enables people to live more connected, joyful and aspirational lives through dance. Having built inclusive dance communities across Greater Essex and outer London Boroughs over the past 9 years, DNA has provided access to excellent quality dance for people of all ages and abilities in a wide range of settings. We bring together 30,000 people each year and aim to increase our participants' physical and mental health and wellbeing by supporting joy and connection through dancing.

This environmental policy covers a three-year period from 2023-2026 and will be reviewed and revised annually by the Board. The policy will be communicated to our team verbally and in our regular team update emails. When working with new partners, we will also share our environmental policy with them. To embed the policy throughout the organisation, team members will be asked to consider the action plan in the decisions they make. Their feedback will be sought in team meetings at least monthly and will be critical in ascertaining the implementation of our action plan and in identifying any commitments which are difficult to meet. The CEO will report these at each board meeting for trustees.

### Our Key Environmental Impacts

#### 1. *Working from home:*

We are a 'working from home' organisation and in so doing, believe that DNA has a positive impact on the environment. We do not run and sustain a building, staff do not need to commute to a workplace beyond where our classes and activities take place, and most of our internal communication methods rely on telephone and video conferencing software. DNA's business services such as website, email and banking are all conducted via online services.

As far as possible we are a paper-free organisation, however due to the nature of our work with participants, it is sometimes necessary to create print resources for marketing and evaluation.

*Primary environmental impacts:*

- Carbon emissions associated with internet use
- Paper resource consumption
- Toxicity of inks and finishes

#### 2. *Working in the field*

Most of DNA's work is delivered in the community where our participants live and work. This means that we can minimise the environmental impact that our participants have because classes take place in their locality. Many of our participants are in rural areas because of the nature of the county of Essex. There are limited transport links and whilst we use public transport as far as possible, some car travel is necessary by our team.

We also recognise that our partners have buildings to run and whilst not directly our responsibility, this also represents some of our own environmental impact.

*Primary environmental impacts:*

- Fossil fuel energy consumption
- Energy for lighting, heating, ventilation and operating plant and machinery
- Water consumption
- Waste generation

### **Our Commitment To Reducing Our Environmental Impacts: Action Plan 2023-2026**

In increasing people's joy of dance and supporting their general health and wellbeing, DNA is committed to promoting environmental sustainability in all our work with participants, external stakeholders, audience members, freelance artists, volunteers, funders, suppliers and trustees. We recognise that climate change is a serious global problem and as a business, we are committed to minimising our contribution to it.

In our business, we commit to:

1. Extending the life of our hardware and ensuring its ethical recycling when it is beyond use.
2. Using environmentally friendly search engines which use renewable energy for their operations and that commit to reducing their carbon footprint by offsetting carbon usage in their operations (e.g. Google).
3. Prioritising use of public transport and/ or walking to venues wherever possible and safe to do so. Actively seeking opportunities for car sharing when colleagues are going to the same venues. Actively encouraging green transport for our participants travelling to the venues in which our programmes take place.
4. Using recycled paper and low/non-toxic inks for print resources.
5. Recycling waste and minimising use of non-recyclable materials throughout our organisation.
6. Washing props and resources using cool wash cycles and biodegradable cleaning products.
7. Prioritising our use of eco-friendly suppliers.

With our partners, we commit to:

8. Working with venue partners that are committed to minimising their environmental footprint. This may include considering how they manage heat and ventilation in their spaces and energy efficient choices for lighting. Where practical and safe to do so, we will rely on natural sources of ventilation, heat and light for our work in these venues. Wherever viable, we will work with partners who are committed to powering their venues with renewable energy sources.
9. Using slow heating water sources such as an urn or hot water tap to provide hot water for our participants' drinks to reduce energy usage.
10. Using reusable cups, cutlery and crockery.
11. Using fast-wash dishwashers, biodegradable washing products and reusable cloths for washing up to make the most efficient use of water and power.
12. Using biodegradable cleaning products and reusable cloths and materials as necessary.

Signed off by the board: 30 September 2024

To be reviewed: September 2025