



YUMI (York Unifying and Multicultural Initiative)

Environmental Policy

Context

YUMI (York Unifying and Multicultural Initiative), is a local, voluntary arts-based network with a strong ethical foundation and a vision for social change through active engagement at a grass-roots level. Through our work, we enable people from a wide range of backgrounds to collectively support, celebrate and develop each other's' talents and achievements, and take part in public projects and events. All our projects are intercultural; all our work is underpinned by the belief in the collective strength of diversity, and the informal learning that can take place as a result of this interaction.

Our long-term aim is to establish a permanent venue in the centre of York that reflects the rich diversity of York's residents through workshop spaces and installation/exhibition areas, a multicultural cafe, and trading areas. It is envisaged that our projects will continue once the venue is established.

Policy

Recognising our responsibilities as an ethically guided organisation YUMI has laid out the following voluntary policy regarding its activities and operations and their impact on the environment.

YUMI will:

- Strive to integrate environmental management principles into each aspect of our day-to-day business to ensure that any environmental issues are addressed.
- Ensure compliance with relevant legislation, and voluntary policy (such as this document).
- Strive to minimise the environmental impact of our activities.
- Seek to reduce our use of natural resources such as energy and water and maximise the efficient use of such resources
- Reuse rather than dispose whenever possible.
- Promote recycling and the use of recycled materials.
- Aim to design environmental efficiencies into new projects where appropriate.
- Ensure that all staff are trained and briefed in their direct responsibilities as well as those of the organisation.
- Encourage all users of the building to implement sound environmental principles.
- Encourage all suppliers and contractors associated with the organisation to implement sound environmental principles.
- Communicate this policy.
- Monitor and review our position and approach to ensure that we are taking every reasonable action to minimise our environmental impact.

Key areas

The following is by no means a definitive list of the areas where efforts will be taken to reduce our environmental impact:

Events and projects

- Food used for events will be locally sourced where possible
- Shared, bulk purchasing will be undertaken for major events where practical
- Disposable cutlery and crockery used at events will be as environmentally friendly as possible
- Where practical 'low environmental impact' cleaning products and techniques will be encouraged for events, activities and on our year-round projects
- YUMI representatives at training workshops and activities will encourage the use of locally grown, organic foods where practical
- YUMI representatives at training workshops and activities will encourage practices that have a low impact on the environment: e.g. turning off all appliances after use

Office management:

- All recyclable waste material will be recycled wherever possible, including office paper, surplus print, cardboard, glass bottles from the bar and plastic containers.
- Office equipment – printers, monitors, computers, photocopier etc will not be left in the standby mode and will be switched off when not in use.
- Low energy light bulbs will be used where practicable.
- Future renovations and installations will seek to source suitable low energy alternatives for lighting and technical equipment.
- Wherever practical recycled material will be used for publicity print.