

ART ▶ TO ▶ ZERO

GETTING STARTED ON DESIGNING A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Foundational Steps for Success

Get familiar with climate action language. As a brighter light is shining on the climate crisis, more and more buzzwords appear. As the climate change conversation becomes increasingly ubiquitous and complex, it's helpful to have a grasp on some of its most significant terms, and to understand some of the more solutions-oriented thinking. If you are an NYC-based professional, familiarize your organization with New York City's Climate Goals.

Assess your organization's emissions footprint. Put simply, without measuring emissions your organization does not know where its climate impact is greatest. The average carbon footprint for a person in the United States is 16 tons, one of the highest rates in the world. Globally, the average is closer to 4 tons. Visual art industry data shows the largest areas typically fall in air freight, building energy, and individual travel. However, knowing your own numbers is critical. Involve as many team members in the process as possible, request emissions reporting from vendors to assess Scope 3 emissions. Making data collection of this kind widely-adopted and understood as part of daily reporting and protocol for all will embed it for the future. (*Measuring Tips + Tricks Guide coming soon*)

Set emissions reduction goals, balance what's left, and commit with your global, local or professional communities. Any team setting out on the path to emissions reductions needs to understand their context - and biggest impacts - to set achievable reduction targets. Consider making specific goals for each of our main practice areas - Building + Energy, Shipping Logistics, Materials + Waste, and Travel. Overarching global, national and city goals align your team with the broader climate movement. Consider joining the thousands of governments and businesses who are making a public commitment to meet targets by 2030 and beyond. Foster community-building by aligning with other visual arts actors commitments. Finally, set a thoughtful course to balance

what emissions you can't reduce with supporting land conservation or verifiable (additive, permanent, managed) offset programs.

Source Renewable Energy and adopt easy to implement energy-usage reduction. Energy use in buildings causes climate change and accounts for almost 70% of emissions in NYC. Procure renewable energy for your built environment as well as cloud-based/web services. Easy to implement consumption reductions anyone can do at any time, can be found [here](#):

Finally, advocate for easing conventional HVAC standards, referring to the Bizot Group Protocol.

NOW WHAT????....

Create a climate action network in your organization. An internal climate action network that meets monthly and sets both short and long term goals offers opportunity for fresh connections on adopting climate neutral practices. A diagonal engagement of individuals from all across the organization, inter/intra departmentally, activates all as agents of change. Removing communication barriers via open dialogue will normalize and sustain these goals as a collective endeavor. (*Climate Network team guide coming soon*)

For everything your organization consumes and the companies you contract, you can start conversations right now with your service providers beginning to identify those who are implementing sustainable practices and materials. Identifying those in your supply chain who share a climate-responsible mission, you can make a list of leaders in the field as well as begin to eliminate environmentally intensive products where an alternative already exists. Easy practices to start today include

- a. Ensure all procured wood and paper is FSC-certified
- b. Event menus are locally-sourced, plant-based
- c. Consolidated, non air freight shipping is used as much as possible
- d. Fostering sustainable daily ground travel policies (walk and bike to work incentives, use rideshares services that have publicly committed to 100% EV adoption). Transportation is one of the biggest producers of CO2, only behind electricity generation.

RESOURCES FOR GETTING STARTED

Emissions Calculators

Berkeley Cool Climate

Art to Zero finds this is great calculator for broad strokes

Gallery Climate Coalition Calculator

Developed by one of our partner along with Art Logic, this is a new tool specifically designed for our sector and art galleries in mind

Art World Offset NY-based artist Peter Halley's 2019 initiative for artist studios, aggregating a great list of useful calculators, find them here. Created with artist studios

Building Energy Exchange LL97 Calculator - A new tool that estimates a NYC's building's carbon budget as prescribed in NYC Local Law 97.

Art to Zero's Sourcing Renewable Energy in NYC: What To Know

Understanding Climate: Art to Zero's Language Glossary

Short Form

Long Form

The Climate Goals for NYC: Know the Legislation

Make a Climate Commitment

Gallery Climate Coalition

SME Climate Hub