



## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2022—2024

This document provides short and medium term objectives to implement sustainability in all PADA's programmes and buildings.

PADA recognises the role it has to play in preserving the environment and is committed to reducing the carbon footprint of its activities. We have therefore worked with Alice Bonnot, external sustainability consultant, to develop this eco-vision, assess our existing efforts and actions, and identify our next steps towards a sustainable operation of the gallery and art residency.

'IMMEDIATE ACTIONS' are low-carbon solutions that we have started to implement immediately, while 'NEXT STEPS' are actions that require further research and planning.

We are committed to reviewing these measures annually and adapting them to evolving environmental industry standards, as well as monitoring and reinvesting savings in our own sustainability efforts.

### BACKGROUND

PADA is an art residency and gallery based in a post-industrial site near Lisbon since 2019. The studios are housed within a 1000 sqm warehouse divided into two floors with a partial mezzanine overlooking the residency studios. The facility encompasses nine open-plan studios for artists-in-residence (40sqm per artist) and a 100sqm gallery space, as well as a reading room and library, kitchen and living area, wood and metal workshops. Residency participants are accommodated within a five-minute walk from the studios in three separate cottages.

PADA hosts nine international artists per month for a period of one to three months, for a total of ten months per year. At the end of each residency period, PADA organises an end-of-residency exhibition in the gallery space.

Outside of the residency programme PADA organises a yearly programme of exhibitions and events.

### A) BUILDING AND OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

Buildings account for 30% to 40% of the world's energy consumption and carbon emissions<sup>1</sup>. We therefore started by looking at our building maintenance and energy

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<sup>1</sup> David Benjamin, (2020). 'How Much Energy Does It Take to Run a Museum?', MoMA

procurement to ensure that our facilities are operating efficiently. As we do not own the buildings, we differentiated between what is PADA's responsibility and what is the owner's responsibility.

## 01) ENERGY

The following actions apply to the energy (electricity) used for heating, lighting and all other actions that require electricity consumption throughout PADA facilities, including studios, workshops, the gallery, offices and communal areas such as the kitchen and bathroom, as well as in residents' accommodation.

### HEATING

#### CURRENT MEASURES

- We use Infrared heaters in the kitchen and living room. These heaters are the most efficient in large warehouse spaces.
- We discourage the use of electric heaters in the studios.
- We encourage participants to wear warm clothing during the winter period.

#### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Reduce the hot water temperature set on the boiler.

#### NEXT STEPS (2022—2023)

- Turn off the heating in rooms that are not being used.
- Lower the temperature of rooms.
- Better communicate these guidelines with participants by adding an appendix to residency contracts and by using energy saving stickers.

### WATER

#### CURRENT MEASURES

- Use dual sinks to reduce water consumption when cleaning dishes.

#### NEXT STEPS (2022—2023)

- Use a water-saving programme.
- Install low-flow taps and low flush toilets.
- Report and fix all water leaks.

### CLEANING

#### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Use recyclable rubbish bags.

#### NEXT STEPS (2022—2023)

- Have cleaning procedures that only use eco-friendly products.
- Use 100% recycled toilet paper with paper packaging.
- Ensure that cleaning staff are well trained in eco-cleaning.
- Have bulk / refillable cleaning products and personal products (soap, etc.)

### LIGHTING

## CURRENT MEASURES

- We turn off the lights in rooms that are not in use and encourage residency participants to do the same.
- We use separate switches for each light instead of having multiple lights activated by a single switch.
- We recycle light bulbs.
- We have switched to LED lighting in the studios.

## NEXT STEPS (2022—2023)

- Switch to LED lighting in residents' accommodation when current lights need replacing.
- Use more daylight where possible.
- Use automatic timers / motion sensor lights.
- Use low energy bulbs.

## FUTURE APPLICATION (2024)

- Use solar-powered light devices.

## ELECTRICITY

### NEXT STEPS (2022—2023)

- Turn off and unplug electrical appliances when not in use (including computers, WIFI hotspots, chargers and other electrical devices in the office and kitchen) .
- Apply the 'last out' rule.
- Use fans only when necessary, prefer natural ventilation and open windows where possible.
- Only use washing machines when they are full.
- Use a short (15 minutes), low or medium temperature (30°/50°) washing programme for daily laundry.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

### CURRENT MEASURES

- Our energy supplier (Gold Energy) has a high percentage of green energy.

### NEXT STEPS (2022—2023)

- Consider switching to 100% clean electricity suppliers.

### FUTURE APPLICATION (2024)

- Consider investing in on-site renewable energy production, such as solar or wind power.
- Consider offsetting remaining emissions.

## 02— WASTE

### EQUIPMENTS

### CURRENT MEASURES

- When we need to replace old equipment or acquire new equipment, we share or borrow where possible.
- If this is not possible we look for second hand options.
- We use local suppliers and resources.
- We do not order from Amazon.

#### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Follow the '5R' technique: refuse, reduce, reuse, repurpose and recycle.
- Set up a default double-sided / b&w / draft mode photocopier.
- Introduce waste recycling bins in public areas for visitors.
- Recycle batteries and photocopier cartridges.
- Install water fountains to reduce the use of plastic bottles and encourage reusable bottles.

#### NEXT STEPS (2022—2023)

- Acquire energy-efficient equipment.
- Donate unused items.
- Recycle broken items appropriately.
- Do not use disposable equipment and use only reusable materials.
- Reduce paper waste.

### 03— DIGITAL / INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

#### CURRENT MEASURES

- We regularly unsubscribe from mailing lists from which we no longer wish to receive information.
- We use a minimal email signature (no banners, no gifs, etc.)
- We use Ecosia green search engines.

#### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Turn off computers when not in use.
- Unplug chargers when devices is fully charged.
- Reduce screen brightness.
- Regularly delete emails no longer needed (especially those with attachments).
- Only use large attachments (PDFs) when necessary.
- Create an offline section on PADA website with all residency documents.
- instead of emailing the same PDF documents to a large number of people.
- Regularly delete old online content (such as old social media posts).
- Regularly delete browsing history.

#### NEXT STEPS (2022—2023)

- Calculate and reduce website carbon footprint.

### 03— EVENTS

#### CURRENT MEASURES

- We offer a variety of vegetarian and vegan options and encourage plant-based alternatives.
- We avoid the use of individual products coming in plastic packaging.
- We have replaced them with bulked products.

- We have replaced single-use plastic cups and cutlery with reusable ones.
- We have banned individual plastic bottles and now use glass jugs instead.
- We have three types of recycling bins.

## 04— GARDEN

### NEXT STEPS (2022—2023)

- Consider composting.
- Consider having honey beehives.
- Consider recycling coffee grounds.

## 05— TRANSPORT

### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Encourage international participants to choose the most ecological route.
- Add a 'Plan your visit' section on the website, listing the different options for getting to PADA using public transport (to reduce the use of taxis)
- Decide how to ship artworks produced during the residency in the most eco-friendly way.

### NEXT STEPS (2022—2023)

- Install a bicycle parking / rack.

## 06— OTHER

### CURRENT MEASURES

- We do not seek sponsorship or fundraising from dubious companies or funding bodies whose ethics are not in line with environmental standards.
- We encourage artistic practices that share this sustainability ethos. The new application form asks artists to consider this aspect of their practice and describe how it may affect their project at PADA.
- We organise events with the residency participants to promote environmental conservation, such as a visit of the local Projeto Brama to explore the edges of the abandoned industrial site with their conservationists and biologists and to better understand the wildlife and nature that was beginning to reclaim the site and the steps we could take to encourage it.

### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Encourage participants to use eco-friendly materials.
- Advocate for artists to consider the environmental impact of their work.
- Raise public awareness of environmental issues and how PADA contributed to the fight against climate change.

### NEXT STEPS (2022—2023)

- Expand residency duration.
- Research having an account with an ethical bank.
- Be part of an international network of similar institutions.

## FUTURE APPLICATION (2024)

- Apply for grants that support environmental operational changes.

## B) RESIDENCY AND EXHIBITION PROGRAMMES

### 01— ARTISTIC DECISIONS

#### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Reduce the number of exhibitions.
- Include fewer artists and artworks (in many instances, the more artists and artworks, the higher the carbon footprint)
- Consider the distance between the artists and the gallery, and therefore try to include more local artists or artists for whom green shipping options are available (often, the further away the artists and their works are from the exhibition venue, the greater the pollution from transportation and travels)
- Prefer low-maintenance exhibitions which are less reliant on energy consumption.
- Seek to recycle / revive previous exhibitions where possible.

### 02— PRODUCTION

#### ARTWORKS

#### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Create a fair balance between the exhibition of already produced / existing artworks and newly produced / commissioned artworks.
- Ask artists how they produce their work, as there are differences in toxicity and CO2 emissions between the practices, materials and processes used.
- Add a commitment to green working standards in contracts.

#### PRINTED MATERIALS

#### CURRENT MEASURES

- We work with local printers.

#### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Reduce the amount of printed promotional materials such as exhibition texts.
- Ask visitors to leave the exhibition text for reuse, if they do not wish to bring it home.

#### NEXT STEPS (2022—2023)

- Use 100% PCW (Post-Consumer Waste), 100% PCF (Processed Chlorine Free), Green-e certified, FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified recycled paper.
- Use vegetable-based inks (e.g. soy ink) instead of petroleum-based inks that release volatile organic compounds (VOCs)
- Use water-based coatings.
- Use UV coatings.

### 03— TRAVEL, TRANSPORTATION AND TOURING

## NEXT STEPS (2022—2023)

- Avoid air freight, favour rail, road and sea freight.
- Work with shipping companies that work sustainably.

## PACKING

### CURRENT MEASURES

- We reuse as much as possible.

### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Pack efficiently to reduce the load and do not use unnecessary equipment.
- Avoid plastic whenever possible, e.g. use paper tape instead of plastic tape.

## NEXT STEPS (2022—2023)

- Use 'eco-friendly' alternatives, such as paper cloth instead of bubble wrap.

## INSTALLATION

- Have a dismantling plan before starting installing.
- Provide recycling points during installation and dismantling.
- Use low VOC and eco-friendly paints.
- Use water-based or natural glues and adhesives.
- Avoid plastic laminates.
- Use reusable products and equipment for temporary walls.
- Consider modular reusable temporary exhibition walls.
- Plan to have a storage space big enough to store materials from walling.
- Buy materials locally.
- Support fair trade producers.
- Avoid ordering on Amazon.
- Say no to single-use plastic, use pencils instead of plastic pens and matches instead of plastic lighters.
- Use green cleaning products (e.g. the 'Ecover' brand)
- Use recyclable rubbish bags.
- Offer organic, sustainable tea and coffee to staff and encourage them to bring their own reusable bottles of water rather than plastic ones.
- Up-cycle or recycle tools when used or damaged.

## CONCLUSION

This document aims to publicly share our current efforts and future steps towards sustainability. It is part of a broader conversation and on-going discussion to mark a transition away from unsustainable behaviours that we have initiated at PADA since 20th March 2022 and which is accompanied by internal tools to implement this long-term perspective.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This environmental sustainability strategy and action plan was produced by external consultant Alice Bonnot, between January and March 2022, in collaboration with PADA.

[Alice Bonnot](#) is an independent art curator, sustainability consultant, writer and speaker specialised in the development of environmentally sustainable curatorial and artistic practices with a drive towards eco solutions.

She is the founding director of [villa villa](#), a sustainable and climate-conscious arts programme dedicated to supporting contemporary artists, curators, writers, thinkers, and other cultural and environmental practitioners committed to more ecologically sensitive practices.

As a sustainability consultant, Alice Bonnot helps cultural institutions, museums and non-profit art organisations embrace the challenges and opportunities associated with the adoption of sustainable working methods.

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**Villa  
Villa**

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