# Environment Action Plan

Please also see our Climate & Environment Policy here: <https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/policies-procedures>

## Changes we are making

CHWA has no office space and even prior to lockdown created a minimum of physical materials barring an annual artists’ commission to create our Awards (the commission requires these to be created with sustainability in mind).

Because we convene stakeholder groups on a regular basis and run an annual conference, our main immediate environmental challenge is travel to meetings and events, followed by our Digital impact.

### Meetings and events

CHWA is responsible for convening meetings of stakeholders on a regular basis. These include our 18 Regional Champions, 45+ Strategic Alliance Members, 6 Strategic Alliance Partners. We currently also provide administrative support to the LENs Steering Group and Directors.

Our [Climate policy](https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/policies-procedures) strictly limits our air travel, commits us to supplying only vegetarian or vegan food at events, and provides guidance on procurement. Since the pandemic it has become clear that many stakeholder meetings can be conducted online. Our travel and subsistence has dropped to a micro % of what it was. We will pursue a blended approach to events and meetings that will allow us to support some face-to-face work, whilst improving international access and reducing travel. We will reduce face-to-face meetings to a maximum of one per year from quarterly for all stakeholder groups, from 2021-22 onwards.

### Digital

CHWA currently monitors its webpages using a carbon calculator widget (https://www.websitecarbon.com/).

In late 2021 we will be working with Fast Familiar to host an event on their new tool – which measures the environmental impact of digital work.

### Finance

We have committed in our Fundraising policy to ensuring funding we receive is not from sources associated with environmentally hazardous work. Read more here: <https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/policies-procedures>

### Advocacy

Our broader concern is to join the dots between creative and cultural work we support and the ways in which health is impacted by social determinants such as environmental degradation and migration.

#### Partnership

We are also aware that partnership with organisations engaged with nature and the environment will be critical for our sector as social prescribing takes shape, and we are building relationships with Natural England, the NLHF, the Nature Health Network, and others.

We lead a consortium in [Julie’s Bicycle’s Accelerator programme](https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/news/general-news/accelerator-programme) with London Arts in Health, Arts & Health South West and the National Network for Arts, Design & Heritage in Healthcare, with a view to catalysing innovation in the wider sector. This work will be completed in 2021-22, and we hope to build on our findings with more funded work in this area.

#### Best practice

We promote examples of best practice – connecting climate, creativity and health via an annual Climate Award: <https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/resources/climate-change>

We also run a [series of ‘Nature’ blogs](https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/news/nature).

#### Events and communications

This year’s CHWA conference also featured Climate as one of four themes, with a panel focused on the intersections of health equity, culture, creativity and climate justice. The relevant conference padlet can be found here: [https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/sites/default/files/Climate%20padlet%20(CHWA%20conference%202021).pdf](https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/sites/default/files/Climate%20padlet%20%28CHWA%20conference%202021%29.pdf)

We have committed to featuring one or more articles relating to climate work in each of our monthly bulletins to ensure the climate agenda remains central to our sector’s aims. An example can be found here: <https://mailchi.mp/culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/culture-health-wellbeing-alliance-bulletin-august-2021>