LITERATURE IRELAND — Promoting and Translating Irish Writing

Literature Ireland Environmental and Sustainability Policy
2025 - 2028

Literature Ireland understands that literature and literary translation exist within a broader ecological context. The climate crisis is unfolding rapidly and action at scale and speed is required on both an individual and organisational level. Literature Ireland is committed to reducing the impact of the organisation's work on the environment while continuing to deliver its international literature promotion programmes. These programmes further the international careers of Irish writers by providing development opportunities and support for their work in translation.

Being based on an island off the west coast of Europe, where much of Literature Ireland's work takes place, presents a specific set of environmental challenges. Literature Ireland actively considers and will continue to consider climate impact in all aspects of its work – operations, travel, publications and programmes. It will select the best working practices available in order to achieve this.

Literature Ireland is a small organisation (4.5 staff), but it works with a vast number of partners both in Ireland and internationally (e.g. writers, publishers, book fairs and festivals). For this reason, the organisation has the potential to influence and be a part of projects and partnerships that are sustainable and of value to the wider literary and cultural ecosystem.

DOMESTIC

Everyday Habits and Workplace Practices
Literature Ireland staff considers the environmental impact when making everyday decisions (waste implications, carbon footprint and ethically sourced materials). Literature Ireland will seek to continuously monitor and reduce energy consumption where possible.

The Literature Ireland office is located in a historic city centre building, well-served by public transport options. All staff travel to work by foot, bicycle or public transport.

Literature Ireland are partners in the Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation. Shared office space is managed by Trinity College Dublin. Although direct management of internal space is not possible, it should be noted that Trinity College is aiming to be Net Zero by 2040. Literature Ireland is part of this collaborative effort and is committed to supporting Trinity's efforts to achieve this goal. A number of energy efficient systems are already in place, e.g. sensor-operated lighting, fluorescent lighting, and air hand dryers in the toilet facilities. Sharing space allows Literature Ireland's energy consumption to be reduced.

The Literature Ireland staff is motivated and invested in working in a sustainable manner. The staff has committed to not using single-use plastics. Literature Ireland provides staff with a water cooler and a domestic coffee machine, both of which remove the necessity for disposable plastics.

Literature Ireland staff is committed to only printing documents when needed, with a preference to use computer software to share documents; e-tickets for travel / event attendance.

Literature Ireland aims to recycle all paper and recyclable items. The staff uses recycling bins and recycling points attached to TCD; this includes general electronics recycling. When computers, scanners, and printers are no longer working, Literature Ireland recycles them via IT consultants. This ensures all electronics are expertly and correctly recycled and that proper data destruction guidance is adhered to.

Books in translation received by Literature Ireland are reused and donated to extend their life over many different uses. For example, Literature Ireland donates books to the National Library and the Irish prison service. English language books are donated to neighbourhood book boxes, e.g. at the Pearse St train station.

Digital practices
Literature Ireland is aware that each unit of data – sending an email, streaming a video or saving a file – has energy use associated with it. Individual emails have a tiny footprint, but as Literature Ireland is in regular communication with writers, publishers, festivals, book fairs, government departments etc, the number of emails sent and received is significant.

Literature Ireland commits to the following:
- Regularly deleting old emails from inboxes, particularly those with large attachments.
- As emails with large attachments have the biggest footprint, staff will use links to online resources, where possible, as opposed to attaching documents to emails.
- Emptying the Junk Email folder regularly.
- Unsubscribing from unnecessary newsletters.

Publications

Literature Ireland publishes an annual catalogue, *New Writing from Ireland*. This is a core publication and is distributed to embassies, translators, festivals and industry contacts both locally and internationally. Literature Ireland has one print run a year, with the number of copies re-evaluated every year to ensure no surplus of copies. The catalogue is printed on FSG paper and no longer contains foil elements to ensure ease of recycling. Additionally, all plastic shrink wrapping of the catalogues for packing and delivery was eliminated in 2022, and this will be the policy going forward. Literature Ireland no longer posts large volumes of catalogues and instead normally distributes copies in person at fairs and events. When copies are to be shipped, the shipment is sent in one large shipment.

Literature Ireland reaches its extensive international contact list with a link to the digital catalogue, hosted on literatureireland.com.

Normally, other publications directly produced by Literature Ireland are printed in Ireland, and adhere to the same standards of sustainability as the *New Writing from Ireland* catalogue. Where it makes sense in terms of distribution, Literature Ireland also commissions print runs of materials in the country of destination; this eliminates the need for long-distance transport. One example of this was printing Spanish-language translations of *New Writing from Ireland* in Guadalajara, Mexico, for distribution at the Guadalajara Book Fair in 2023. Choosing partners with proven track records in sustainability is a high priority.

Translators in Residence
Literature Ireland coordinates between four and seven Translators in Residence programmes each year in Ireland. This suite is a key initiative to connect translators directly with Irish culture and the authors of the books they translate. Person to person contact and full immersion in the locale is critical to Literature Ireland's translator development programme. Considering the environmental impact of flights and travel on the environment, Literature Ireland aims for longer stays with a full programme in order to maximise the trip. The ideal length of a residency is four to eight weeks, allowing the translator to fully immerse themselves in their translation projects. These residencies are often combined with local literary festivals.

INTERNATIONAL

The nature of Literature Ireland's work is almost exclusively internationally focused. For this reason, a certain amount of international travel is integral to our work. That said, Literature Ireland is conscious that it must make strategic decisions to both limit its travel and simultaneously maximise the impact (both professional and geographic) when it does travel.

Literature Ireland Staff

Travel outside of Ireland

Literature Ireland will consider the environmental impact when organising international travel.

- Director's travel: The Director makes a number of trips a year to attend key events. The Director will continue to:
    - Combine smaller trips together to enable fewer flights overall
    - Utilise train connections where possible
    - To reduce carbon impact, non-stop flights will be selected over multiple short-haul stops
- Staff travel: Staff travel is limited to a few times a year, typically for key international publishing events including the London Book Fair and the Frankfurt Book Fair. Staff are encouraged and tend to incorporate personal holidays in the area directly after work abroad, ensuring fewer flights taken overall.
- Director and staff attendance at Book Fairs provides the opportunity to meet with key partners (agents, publishers, festival organisers). Following one to two face-to-face

annual meetings, all other meetings throughout the year can be conducted by zoom, telephone or email.

Writer Travel

Literature Ireland has seen the great and long-term impact that supporting the travel of Irish writers to residencies, events, book tours and festivals outside of Ireland has had. Unlike most of our European counterparts, Ireland is an island. Our authors have to travel longer distances to reach an international audience. Literature Ireland intends to continue to support these opportunities for writers and to do this in the most sustainable manner.

- Policies attached to writer travel: Residencies are attached to Fairs where possible for longer, more meaningful trips (e.g. participate in a book fair/ event and meet with translators and publishers).

- Not all international promotion necessitates travel: where it is of value and meaningful, Literature Ireland will support writer / translator attendance at talks, workshops etc via zoom or online conference.

Monitoring & Evaluation

Literature Ireland's Environmental and Sustainability Policy will be integrated into its daily operations, and delivered on an ongoing basis by the team. Monitoring will be overseen by the Director, with regular updates provided to the Board of Literature Ireland. At the conclusion point of the policy (2028), it will be reviewed, evaluated and updated.

Literature Ireland is a very small organisation with limited staff resources and a worldwide remit. The monitoring and evaluation of its environmental impact presents challenges in terms of staff resources. Working closely with its Board, the organisation will monitor its environmental behaviour and make strategic decisions regarding its own travel and that of the authors it helps to promote. Literature Ireland is committed to making every reasonable effort to behave responsibly while delivering its remit.