

GREEN TEAM



Welcome

Hello and welcome to the second newsletter from the Green Team!

It's been a while since our last newsletter, which was published shortly before the first UK lockdown. It's been a challenging few years for us all, and although the pandemic has slowed our progress, the Green Team has been busy thinking of new ways to make GPS more environmentally friendly. We have also welcomed two new members, Richard and Claire, to the team. In this newsletter, we'll let you know about some of the recent progress we have made, as well as our aims for the future.

As always, if you have any ideas or you'd like to get in touch, you can contact us on greenteam@glasgowprintstudio.co.uk or come and see us in person.

Thanks for reading!

The Green Team

Hanne Lillee, Katie Cooper,
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What we've been up to...



In May, GPS took part in the Big Plastic Count; the UK's biggest nationwide investigation into household plastic waste. The week-long event, organised by Greenpeace and Everyday Plastic, aims to uncover the truth about how much plastic is passing through our homes and workplaces, and where it ultimately ends up. This investigation will gather new, game-changing evidence that will be used to push

the government to take bold action on plastic.

After some sorting and counting, we found that GPS had disposed of **168** individual pieces of plastic over the course of a week, which would equate to **8,736** pieces of plastic over a year. Despite our best efforts to recycle where possible, we were disheartened to discover that the majority of our plastic waste is either landfilled or incinerated.



16%

recycled in the UK



22%

exported



22%

landfilled



40%

incinerated

So, what can we do?

Plastic is everywhere and impossible to avoid altogether, but there are some small changes we can make to reduce the amount of single-use plastic we throw away. Here are some of our favourite ideas:

- Before you go shopping for new art materials, why not check the Circular Arts Network where you can swap and share items with other local creatives (www.canarts.org.uk)
- Bring a reusable water bottle and coffee cup to GPS, and say goodbye to single-use plastic drink packaging forever!
- Save plastic takeaway tubs and other containers and reuse them to organise loose art tools like pencils, brushes, etching needles etc., or use them to carry a packed lunch.

Keep an eye out for the overall national Big Plastic Count results which will be published in mid-July on www.thebigplasticcount.com

Recycling at GPS

Most of us are guilty of wishcycling from time to time. Also known as aspirational recycling, the term refers to the well-intended but futile act of placing non-recyclable items in the recycling bin. Here's a reminder of what we can and can't recycle at GPS:

⊗ Plastic tubs, cups, and wrappers. Unfortunately, we can only recycle plastic bottles. Please place any other plastic in the general waste bin.

⊗ Coffee cups and lids. As they are made from mixed materials, these are also not recyclable and should be placed in the general waste.

⊙ Food scraps and tea bags. In 2020, we introduced food waste recycling at GPS. These items can now be placed in the food waste bin for conversion into fertilisers and natural forms of energy.

Get involved - open call

We would love for a workshop member to join the Green Team to represent the membership. If this is something you would be interested in, please get in touch! You can reach us on greenteam@glasgowprintstudio.co.uk or see any of the Green Team members in person.

Plastic-Free July

Join us in taking part in Plastic-Free July - find out more at www.plasticfreejuly.org

Other news...

On your bike!

Whether for health, environmental, or economical reasons, more and more of us are choosing to travel by bike, and with new and improved cycle lanes appearing around the city, it's becoming an increasingly workable option for commuters. The soon-to-be-completed South City Way will allow cyclists to travel from Queen's Park almost right to our door, whilst the West City Way stretches from Kelvingrove Park to the city centre.

Though it may not be for everyone, the Green Team would love to support and facilitate commuting to GPS by bike. With this in mind, we've been busy sourcing a rack for convenient bike storage, and we hope to install this at GPS in the coming months. Watch this space!

Going green in the workshop

Over the next few weeks, etchers will notice that we have removed white spirit and other nasty solvents from the workshop floor to make way for our big green push! Stuart and Kerry have been working together to implement the use of Lincoln Wash and Citri Wash in the workshop. But don't panic! We'll be sharing some more information in the coming weeks on these new green alternatives and what can and cannot be recycled in the workshop bins.

Pathway to Zero

GPS is committed to reaching net zero emissions by 2045 and has produced a carbon management plan to help us achieve this. Utilities are the main source of our emissions and therefore the key area that we will be focussing on, with the replacement of strip lights with more energy efficient LEDs high on our agenda. We began this process in 2020 when the lighting was replaced in the gallery spaces, and we hope to make the same changes across the office and workshop spaces this year. The graph below shows how we hope this, alongside other endeavours, will help us to reduce our emissions and achieve our goal. It will be a challenge - but every little helps, so don't forget to switch off that light!

