

# Community in print

Impact report  
2023-2024



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# 1. About

Community in print provides creative workshops to encourage people to engage in the climate crisis without fear.

Focusing on joy, creative practices allow people to learn new skills, build new narratives, and imagine new futures, with their own actions and agency at the centre.

Alongside workshops there are a range of environmentally themed artworks. Each artwork sold contributes to the subsidising of more workshops so that everyone can access a positive climate space.

## Key aims

- Encouragement
- Conversation
- Joy
- Environment
- Action

## The mission

- To showcase how creative methods can create community, social change and improve mental health.
- To provide a safe, positive space to talk about and take action on the climate crisis.
- To use the arts to foster joy, transformation and agency in individuals and communities.

# 2. Introduction

Community in print began in January 2023 and was set up to provide a safe place for people to engage in the climate crisis through creative workshops. Focusing on joy, transformation and agency, these workshops allow the local community to come together, learn new skills, build new narratives and imagine a better future, for improved mental health and a positive way to think about the changing climate.

As individuals and local groups it can be easy to feel defeated when it comes to taking climate action. Community in print provides a creative supportive space to assess what realistic and sustainable action means for each participant.

Alongside workshops there are a range of environmentally themed artworks. Each artwork sold contributes to the subsidising of more workshops so that everyone can access a positive climate space.

These artworks work alongside the workshops acting as a piece of positive art in the home, a starting point for conversation and a way to engage people in positive climate discussions.

This document summaries how the first year has gone, and where we intend to go from here. Thank you so much.

# 3. Key achievements

In the first year we have achieved a lot! Including:

## 10

### community workshops

with 82 people attending across all of these events. The workshops ranged from creative walking tours, to collage, ceramics and lino-printing.

## 4

### exhibitions

showcasing both the creative workshops and artworks themed on climate action.

Sales across these exhibits went on to fund three additional creative workshops.

## 7

### art fairs

We exhibited at seven makers markets and art fairs across Devon and Cornwall.

## 3

### successful funding bids

from three different funding bodies.

## 12

### organisations

Partnered with 12 local organisations including Ocean Studios, the University of Plymouth and The Printery.

# 4. Our approach

## Focusing on the present to reimagine the future

Our projects always begin with a deep understanding of the challenges of the local community, and the environment's social, economic and political landscape, to design workshops that respond and work with the present. By understanding how the participants feel, this serves as jumping off point to imagine a new future, that is accessible, achievable and grounded in the reality of today. This means that ideas for the future are possible and within reach. The workshops showcase how, with imaginative thinking, that distant future that is dreamed of, is perhaps not so distant after all.



It has made me think about how I am part of the process for change”

## Hyperlocal

This feeds into the venues that we partner with to choose locations that interact with nature, the local landscape or place where the community wants to come together. Each workshop reflects the location that it is situated within to address fear and concerns from a local lens.

## Utilising creativity over inaccessible data

We often offer short-term projects that work with individuals on a one-off basis which focus on providing a positive stepping stone for climate engagement by encouraging participants to feel more confident, joyful and motivated that their actions can benefit themselves, society and beyond. This helps people identify where their sticking points are and how they can move through them, in an approach that places that person at the centre. Illustration methods are used as a reflective tool to provide fun, humour and creativity to a complex problem that can often be portrayed through inaccessible scientific data, graphs or numbers.



## Empowering narratives

We are passionate about positive empowering narratives of climate action. Too much of mainstream media focuses on the negative but this is demotivating and, with the rise of eco-anxiety, is negatively impacting people's mental health. Our artwork and workshops are designed to give people the opportunity to look at what is possible and highlight the many positive approaches to the climate, both local, nationally and internationally. From this perspective we can make a huge impact in how individuals, businesses and beyond make decisions on the climate, where we can frame such actions as positive, beneficial and possible.



The value of space to make together and then talk afterwards if desired was great. The way of facilitating felt very natural, you were great at letting people explore, play and seek help if needed."



What I most took away from the event is the importance of laughter"

## Joy over gloom

The arts is a key foundation of Community in print, because it invites themes of laughter, play, safety and creativity that creates a positive collaborative environment.

In a world that can be overwhelming it feels important to maintain spaces of joy.



# 5. Measuring success

We measure success in three key areas:

## **Community reach:**

How many people do we work with? How inclusive are our spaces? How can we use spaces differently?

## **Participant feedback:**

How do people respond to our events? Are they creating the supportive environment that we aim for them to be? Are people having fun?

## **Events and artwork engagement:**

Do people want to attend our events and engage with the artwork? If not, why so?



# 6. Climate impact

## Climate impact: net zero aims

As a small local business our climate impact is small. We make sure that where possible all materials are purchased locally and are sustainable. We partner with other local business such as The Scrapstore and The Artside to help with this.

All of the products and workshops are plastic free and use ethical certified sustainable materials.

There are some emissions associated with any product and we are looking into carbon offset schemes to help make this business carbon negative, while acknowledging that carbon offsetting is not the solution to lowering emissions.



“

I just had such a lovely time,  
I'd want to do this every  
weekend”

# 7. Looking ahead

## **Focusing on the present to reimagine the future**

We have started to work with local organisations to deliver bespoke workshops to allow management and employees to reflect on specific sustainability topics, alongside running creative workshops for employees as part of team building days. This is something we would love to build upon and work with more businesses in this capacity.

We want to look at running more connected workshops so that we are working with groups and individuals on a sustained basis rather than only as one-offs.

We want to focus on the online shop and better utilise this to promote the artwork and events that Community in print run.

Create a climate action plan to better monitor and reduce our emissions and the emissions of those we partner with.

# 8. Thank you

A massive thank you to everyone that has worked with and supported us over the past year. What has been achieved in one year (and four months) is a massive achievement and it couldn't have been done without that support.

## Want to find out more?

Visit [communityinprint.co.uk](https://communityinprint.co.uk)

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