



Environmental and Ethical Policy & Action Plan

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Introduction

According to a 2018 report conducted by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), climate change could be irreversible by 2030 if global warming is not kept to a maximum of 1.5C, and urgent action is needed to avoid its catastrophic effects.

There is already evidence in Scotland of changing climate. UK Climate Projections show that these changes are likely to increase in the future. For Aberdeen these indicate:

- A reduction in summer rainfall which could affect water quality and availability.
- An increase in autumn/winter rainfall. This won't mean more rainy days, but when it does rain it will be much heavier.
- Increase in temperatures across all seasons.
- In winter there will be less snow, ice and frost days, although there could still be an extreme snowfall event.
- In summer there will be an increase in temperatures and what we consider a heatwave could occur more frequently.
- Rise in sea level.

These climate changes will bring more extreme and variable conditions for example increased risk of flooding, change to our coast, availability and quality of water, performance of city buildings, health and wellbeing of our people.

We have already experienced the impact of changing climate with **soundfestival** which takes place over the October holidays. This has included venues with water leakage and artists and staff experiencing travel disruptions due to train cancellations or delays because of extreme weather. (See Appendix 2 – Climate Adaptation Risk Assessment)

Commitments

Sound Festival is committed to reducing its environmental impact and greenhouse gas emissions as fast as possible and adapt to climate impacts and manage the risks of a changing environment. Based on the University of Oxford publication (revised in February 2024) we believe that in order to limit the destruction caused by climate change, we need to look beyond carbon offsetting and at more urgent actions and lifestyle choices.

At the same time, unfair global economic practices keep part of the world's population in poverty, and **Sound Festival** is thus committed to using Fairtrade products wherever possible.

We understand the importance of collaborative working on adaptation between organisations, businesses, communities, local authorities, research and education institutes and other stakeholders.

We believe it is possible to establish and demonstrate a new, genuinely sustainable way of delivering the arts, and we will implement the actions below to contribute to this.

We have already implemented a number of changes (See Appendix 1 – Existing Commitments), have signed Green Arts Initiative's Green Arts Charter (See Appendix 2) and have already achieved over 50% of the actions. The plan also links to Aberdeen Adapts framework (Priority 4.4 Society and economy – Healthy, resilient communities and strong, robust nosiness sectors, with the capacity and knowledge to adapt & Priority 4.5 Building understanding - Increasing understanding of climate impacts with local communities, businesses and organisations empowered to adapt).

Action Plan

- i) Continue to reduce our carbon footprint in line with Creative Scotland 2030 Net Zero goal through existing & new measures, making time & committing resources to make sure that our action plan is fully implemented.

Action	Deadline
Nominate a member of staff with particular responsibility for climate change	By end of April 2024
Recruit a 'climate change' volunteer during the festival to help implement all commitments	In October each year
Train and upskill staff with the help of external consultant and Creative Carbon Scotland resources and guides on climate change including mitigation, adaptation and climate justice.	By June 2024 and ongoing from then on.
Use a carbon budgeting tool to guide our planning and programming and reduce our carbon in line with Creative Scotland's 2030 Net Zero Goal.	By March 2025
Establish a green team including the Green champion and a Board Member	September 2024

- ii) Capture detailed & comparative data so that we can identify our impact & where we can make further adjustments to lower it.

Action	Deadline
Gather organizational data	By June 2024
Establish a carbon management plan to continue reducing our carbon	By September 2024

- iii) Use our festival platform to continue to commission & show new work highlighting the issues of climate change & advocating for climate justice & experiment with new ways of making, presenting & performing music in a climate-challenged world.

Action	Deadline
Continue programming at least 2 climate change themed performances and/or commissions in each festival	Ongoing (from 2024 festival onwards) with platforming local climate justice issues from 2025-2026
Continue to use our platform to influence for change and regularly share our commitments and resources to reducing our environmental impact and adapting to climate change in a climate just way.	Ongoing (we have already shared our plans and will share the updated commitments by June 2024)

Research and consider applying to specific climate funding	Action this in 2025-2026
Establish how our organization can highlight climate justice issues local to us. This could be done in association with Culture Aberdeen and NESCAN.	By March 2025

- iv) Collaborate with other local & national arts (eg Culture Aberdeen, SCSG) & non-arts organisations (eg North East Scotland Climate Action Network) to explore & implement ways of adapting to climate change.

Action	Deadline
Continue attending and contributing to Scottish Classical Sustainability Group (SCSG)	Ongoing
Propose a working group to Culture Aberdeen	By June 2024
Identify and join key local stakeholders working towards net-zero, climate adaptation initiatives and support climate justice issues – join The North East Scotland Climate Action Network (NESCAN).	Join NESCAN by end of April 2024.
Join Creative Carbon Scotland Learning Set and the Mighty Network	By March 2025
Continue sharing our climate actions with our network and partners, encouraging peer to peer learning	Ongoing (have shared our climate action via SCSG)

Appendices

Appendix 1: Existing Commitments

Key principles: REDUCE – REUSE – RECYCLE

What we produce

- Brochure
 - Use recycled paper for all productions.
 - Reduced brochure size and reduced print run for the festival brochure.
- Go Compose / Get Composing leaflets
 - Mainly digital marketing and limited print for school music departments.
- Banners
 - Timeless design that means we don't need to re-skin banners every year (and only change them when they break).
- Tee-shirts
 - Produce less tee-shirts and only use organic cotton. Ask volunteers who don't want to keep tee-shirts after festival to give them back so that they can be reused the following year.
- Concert programmes
 - Put these online so audiences can download onto mobile devices.
 - Have poster at event with main information and QR code to link to programmes.
 - Do a very small print run with basic information.
 - Ask artists to present their concerts aurally (put this in their contracts).

Operations

- Use electronic devices until they break: use local repairers to maximise their life span.
- Prioritise ethical sponsorship and supplier relationships that align with our green values.
- Look at *sust-it* website for most energy efficient models.
- Use eco-friendly devices where they exist (eg fairphone).
- Recycle.
- Reduce print generally.
- Do double-sided printing, print on recycled paper or where possible on scrap paper.
- Turn heating-levels down in the office.
- Sound staff team will travel by public transport and train where possible.
- Use zoom where possible for meetings, if not get the train. Hierarchy: Electronic ➤ Public transport ➤ Car

Transport & travel

- Encourage the use of trains in the UK and internationally (train 1/5th carbon emissions of planes) – write to artists attending the festival to explain.
- Avoid inviting groups or accepting invitations from places where the only means of transport to/from Aberdeen is by long-haul flight.

- Encourage UK residents and Europeans to travel by train.
- Members of Aberdeen car club so that we can use electric cars for airport pick-ups etc. And/or get visiting artists pre-paid bus tickets.
- Encourage musicians to get buses within Aberdeen: reimburse only ½ of taxi costs as an incentive.
- Employ driver for festival.
- Encourage audience to use public transport and/or cycle by providing information on our website
- Staff will only travel by train to national/international networking events & conferences

Catering

- For catering purposes prioritise vegetarian or vegan food.
- Only use reusable crockery and plates: purchase mugs/glasses/plates from charity shops and jumble sales.
- Use only fairtrade products or local produce where possible (if not possible, prioritise UK then European producers).
- Use only European wine.

Projects and programming

- Climate justice alongside EDI and climate adaptation are considered at every step of programming and producing work. Climate justice is considered alongside our EDI policy by offering affordable and accessible opportunities for people with protected characteristics. Climate adaptation is considered via event risk assessments (See Appendix 3).
- Increase the number of artistic projects performed linked to climate change and the environment.
- Explore the possibility of distributed performances / live-streamed from artists living e.g. in the Americas.
- Work with Scottish/UK ensembles on international commissions to allow audiences to experience new music without necessarily having to bring over international performers if we'd need to fly them over. ('Moving music not people')

Appendix 2: Green Arts Charter

We have signed the Green Arts Charter, a collaborative charter designed for and by cultural organisations within the Green Arts Initiative (GAI).

We pledge to:

1. **Reduce our emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.** We question the ways we work, the impact we have on our planet, and how our organisation sits within wider society's climate change mitigation and adaptation. As part of this, we endeavour to reduce our impact as well as recognise that as trusted messengers in our communities we have a responsibility to shape and promote a net-zero future.
2. **Inspire our communities and collaborate with others to deliver climate action.** We collaborate with other GAI members to achieve collective climate action by sharing resources, learning and tools amongst the network. We understand the importance of strengthening communities and collaborating to deliver effective climate action, and that as cultural organisations we have a unique power to support this. We endeavour to work with our local communities, cultural community and those outside the cultural sector to deliver climate action and resilience.
3. **Advocate for climate action and influence for change.** We recognise the power of the arts and culture to influence and advocate for action on climate change. We embed this in our workplans and recognise our ability to influence and support climate action within the cultural community and outside the sector.
4. **Embed climate justice in our organisation and any climate action we do.** The term *climate justice* expresses how climate change is a social and political issue as much as a technical or environmental one and therefore speaks to the importance of the cultural sector's role in a climate-ready future. We pledge to view all our climate action through a justice lens, asking how what we do, who we work with and the way we work impacts people locally and globally.

Framework of actions

Green Arts Initiative have developed a framework of actions to guide organisations around the charter pledges. Organisations in the GAI will be asked to commit to at least one action per goal across a year or let GAI know what action/actions they are doing towards the four pledges. For each goal, action 1 is a good place to start being the easiest to achieve while action 4 requires the most capacity and is hardest to achieve.

We have achieved 53% of the actions already and are working towards completing 100% of the actions by March 2026.

Link to the detailed plan:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1UiZ6vIYHzRznM3rZegM9yT3cajWw79YB/edit?usp=sharing&oid=106397900950697167685&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Appendix 3: Climate Adaptation Risk Assessment

What is the risk	Who's affected	Consequence	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Ranking	What control measures have been applied to reduce the risk	Likelihood	Impact	Residual Risk Ranking
Office and venues being affected by extreme weather and rainfall	Staff, volunteers, artists, audience	Reduced access Loss of productivity Event cancellation Health and wellbeing	High	High	High	Hybrid working with the team in the Citymoves office two days a week. Check the weather forecast Clear communication with the venues, staff, artists and audience The team has experience in having to successfully move performances to an alternative venue at a very short notice Avoid venues that are at a flood risk and/or have back-up options Mitigated in the event risk assessment	High	Low	Low
Travel and transport being affected by extreme weather/rainfall /increased summer temperatures	Staff, volunteers, artists, audience	Loss of productivity Event cancellation Health and wellbeing Financial impact on the budget	Medium	High	High	The team has experience in having to re-book alternative travel due to cancellations and delays and replacing a performance due to artist being unable to travel Mitigated in the event risk assessment Hybrid working has ensured the team can work from their homes without loss of productivity Check the weather forecast Clear communication with the venues, staff, artists and audience Budgets have contingency	Medium	Medium	Medium
Materials and equipment being affected by extreme weather	Staff, volunteers, artists, audience	Loss of productivity Event cancellation Health and wellbeing Financial impact on the budget	Medium	High	High	Venues have their own risk assessment plans in place We use PAT tested equipment We hire equipment locally if possible to avoid any transport delays. If equipment has to be brought from further afield, we include additional transport time to avoid being affected by any delays. Our Technical Manager is very experienced and has great contacts. Mitigated in the event risk assessment	Medium	Low	Medium

What is the risk	Who's affected	Consequence	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Ranking	What control measures have been applied to reduce the risk	Likelihood	Impact	Residual Risk Ranking
Financial - extreme weather impacting the budget with unplanned additional costs	our organisation	Financial impact on the budget Event cancellation	High	High	High	Budgets have contingency Experienced team able to quickly adapt to changes	High	Low	Medium
Local community being affected by the climate change impacts	Local community, audience, our organisation	Being vulnerable to climate change Failing to adapt to climate change Lack of understanding the issues	High	High	High	Learn about the local place-based climate change issues via NESCAN and Aberdeen Adapt framework Continue programming climate change themed performances and/or commissions Programme events in local communities more vulnerable to climate change Climate change volunteer to help implement and communicate our commitments (with the help of the team)	High	Low	Medium
Our partners and venues being affected by the impacts of climate change	Partners, venues, our organisation	Venue closures Event cancellation Loss of partnerships/venues	High	High	High	Our partners and venues have sustainability plans in place Work together with local venues and partners to help adapt to climate change Influence and help other organisations via Culture Aberdeen Environmental sub-group and NESCAN Clear communication	High	Low	Medium