



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).