

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



Environmental Policy

Looking after the planet is a shared responsibility, and we at Taking Flight understand and take seriously our role as cultural influencers, and our responsibility to address the climate crisis.

We outlined our environmental policy in a panel discussion with a group of our associates from the freelance community, and identified the areas below as places in our work where we could address our environmental impact. Some of these points are things we already do, some are simple behavioural changes we can adopt to make a big difference, some are longer term thinking and aims that we wish to implement over time.

Our approach with this policy is to:

- Minimise our own impact on the environment in our day-to-day running
- Work with our trustees and funders to explore how environmental sustainability can be integrated with arts practice
- Inspire our audiences and collaborators to embrace ecological thinking.

Our environmental policy has been created in consideration of the Wales Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015)

Transport

“A mile of congested urban diesel driving takes about 12 minutes of life away from the rest of the population” – Mike Berners-Lee, There Is No Planet B

- Our core team members with their own cars offer lift shares to our freelancers, enabling them to have a greener commute to work.
- As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have increased our number of virtual meetings, therefore decreasing travel emissions.

We commit to:

- Interrogating our journeys more – is each journey we make really necessary?
- Signpost local travel options to our audience when they buy a digital ticket so they do not feel they have to rely on a car.

Our aims include:

- Explore how our core staff commute to places of work: in what way can we provide more sustainable methods such as car sharing, using public transport? How can we encourage freelancers and volunteers to think about this?
- Research and switch to local suppliers for our general and production-specific materials, thereby ensuring that the items we use have travelled the least distance they need, and supporting the economy of our local area.
- Plan our orders so we get several things at once from the same company, with only one delivery instead of several.
- Research zero emission delivery companies and aim to use them more frequently.

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Production

"We are in this huge moment of opportunity, and yet we might squander it. We might not all stand up when it matters most to make the change that we can and need to make. Step up at this time. Be part of this moment. Don't sit this one out." – Aaron Thierry, Climate Conversations

- We provide projections of the script in rehearsal rooms, thereby reducing the number of printed copies on each script.
- We send tickets to audiences via email and scannable QR codes, reducing the number of printed tickets in circulation.

We commit to:

- Not print out scripts until the final edits to reduce the number of draft scripts we need to discard.*
- Bring refillable water bottles and reusable hot drink cups to rehearsals, setting a positive example to our freelance associates.

Our aims include:

- Establishing a green rider in our contracts to freelancers, detailing our basic ecological aims and expectations from the outset.
- Exploring how we can adopt the Theatre Green Book and use it to establish a sustainable framework in our productions and operations.
- Ensure water refill stations are available at our places of work.

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Set and Costume

“in 1900, the world produced about half a million tonnes of solid waste per day. By 2000, that quantity was 6 times higher [over 3 million tonnes].” – Tony Juniper, *What’s Really Happening to Our Planet?*

- We have a prop and costume store which we encourage our designers to explore when sourcing items for a show, rather than buying new.
- We hire out our technical equipment to other companies.
- We liaise with other companies to hire out our props and costumes.

We commit to:

- Add environmental sustainability as an agenda point to pre-production and production meeting, so that ecological decisions become a shared responsibility that are given the appropriate time to discuss and plan.
- Build in time in project evaluations to reflect on how successful we were in implementing sustainable practices, where we struggled and why.
- Support designers to interrogate their supply chain in relation to what materials they use and where a more ecological option might be available e.g. picking a sustainable material, sourcing and buying second hand.
- Increase our contact with other local theatre companies to inform them when we are due to finish on a production and what materials will be available (setting up a swap shop of sorts).

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Our aims include:

- Liaise with designers and production managers from a project outset to ensure a production is being designed with the understanding that a certain percentage needs to be sourced second hand/ from upcycled materials, and that a certain percentage of the set needs to be recycled. We aim to increase the % of recycled materials being used in our designs incrementally from now, until this policy is reviewed.
- Implement circular economy where possible – borrow/hire/source second-hand items, or source from pre-used resources, then plan for where they will go / be re-used after an event e.g. by donating the materials to a local school.
- Provide fees for designers and production/technical managers that acknowledge how striving for a more environmentally friendly design can increase their workload e.g. searching for second-hand items, searching for the most environmentally-friendly option, researching where set elements can be used after a production ends.
- Explore the role of an environmental consultant on a production.
- Explore how ethical decisions tie-in with environmental decisions, e.g. exploring what clothing brands we are supporting with our costume buying, and whether it is right to do so.
- Phase out the use of environmentally harmful products in the making of our sets and costumes, where alternatives are available

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Digital

“Our use of digital technologies now actually causes more CO2 emissions and has a bigger impact on global warming than the entire aviation industry.” - Sheena Stolz and Sarah-Indra Jungblut, reset.org

<https://en.reset.org/knowledge/our-digital-carbon-footprint-whats-the-environmental-impact-online-world-12302019>

We commit to:

- Cut down on unnecessary emailing, as we are aware that every email sent has its own environmental cost.
- Carry out digital housekeeping, only keeping documents that are still necessary and valid, thereby reducing the carbon impact of our cloud storage.

Our aims include:

- Interrogate the impact of our digital carbon footprint through programmes such as cloud storage

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Marketing

“Day-to-day conversations are a part of social change. As people, we are deeply influenced by those around us – what we see them doing, and the conversations we have with them.” Robin Webster, How To Have a Conversation About Climate Change.

We commit to:

- Phase out paper flyers and programmes, and explore exciting digital alternatives.
- Switch to virtual business cards – accessed by a QR code – to reduce our printing levels.
- Inspire positive change by celebrating our ecological successes via social media.

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Office and general

“We’re the first generation to feel the impact of climate change, and the last generation that can do something about it.” Barack Obama

- We use recycled paper in our printers
- We recycle our printer cartridges locally
- We reduce energy consumption in our shared workspaces and when working at home by turning lights off when we leave a room and by not using excessive heating and power.

We commit to:

- Exploring with our office landlords whether we can separate our food waste for disposal.
- Implementing all of the 7 R’s across all aspects of our work and productions (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Reimagine, Regenerate, Recycle) and acknowledging that recycling is a last resort in sustainable practice.
- Scope out and use suppliers with their own environmental policy / those who show a commitment to the environment.

Approved by the board on: 6th Jan 2023

Date for environmental policy review: 6th Jan 2024