

Half a String's Environmental Policy

Mission statement

Half a String recognises that it has a responsibility to the environment beyond legal and regulatory requirements. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact and continually improving our environmental performance as an integral part of our business strategy and operating methods, with regular review points. We will encourage customers, suppliers and other stakeholders to do the same.

Responsibility

Half a String are responsible for ensuring that the environmental policy is implemented. All employees have a responsibility in their area to ensure that the aims and objectives of the policy are met.

General Policy aims:

We endeavor to:

- Comply with and exceed all relevant regulatory requirements.
- Continually improve and monitor environmental performance.
- Continually improve and reduce environmental impacts.
- Incorporate environmental factors into business decisions.
- Increase employee awareness and training.

Paper:

- We will minimize the use of paper in the office.
- We will reduce packaging as much as possible.
- We will seek to buy recycled and recyclable paper products.
- We will reuse and recycle all paper where possible.

Energy and water:

- We will seek to reduce the amount of energy used as much as possible.
- Lights and electrical equipment will be switched off when not in use.
- Heating will be adjusted with energy consumption in mind.
- The energy consumption and efficiency of new products will be taken into account when purchasing.

Office Supplies and Equipment:

- We will evaluate if the need can be met in another way.
- We will evaluate if renting/sharing is an option before purchasing equipment.

- We will evaluate the environmental impact of any new products we intend to purchase.
- We will favour more environmentally friendly and efficient products wherever possible.
- We will reuse and recycle everything we are able to.

Transportation:

- We will reduce the need to travel, restricting to necessity trips only.
- We will promote the use of travel alternatives such as e-mail or video/phone conferencing.
- We will make additional efforts to accommodate the needs of those using public transport or bicycles.
- We will favour 'green' vehicles and maintain them rigorously to ensure ongoing efficiency.

Maintenance and cleaning:

- Cleaning materials used will be as environmentally friendly as possible.
- Materials used will be as environmentally friendly as possible.
- We will only use licensed and appropriate organizations to dispose of waste.

Monitoring and improvement:

- We will comply with and exceed all relevant regulatory requirements.
- We will continually improve and monitor environmental performance.
- We will continually improve and reduce environmental impacts.
- We will incorporate environmental factors into business decisions.
- We will increase employee awareness through training.

Culture:

- We will involve staff in the implementation of this policy, for greater commitment and improved performance.
- We will update this policy at least once annually in consultation with staff and other stakeholders where necessary.
- We will provide staff with relevant environmental training.
- We will work with suppliers, contractors and sub-contractors to improve their environmental performance.
- We will use local labor and materials where available to reduce CO2 and help the community.

Standards and Measuring Data

We are using the Theatre Green Book (<https://theatregreenbook.com/>) to ensure we are challenging and reaching high environmental standards. Alongside this we are using the carbon calculator tool Julia's Bicycle (<https://juliesbicycle.com/>) to measure each project's impact and these findings are posted on our website.

Our Current Aims

We are using the Theatre Green Book's Baseline Standards:

- Creating Productions:
 - Make sure 50% of all materials come from reused or recycled sources.
 - Make sure 65% materials and equipment go on to future lives, through storage or re-use.
 - Avoid harmful and unsustainable materials.
 - Run technical systems sustainably.
 - Reduce journeys and deliveries.
- Touring Productions
 - Planning Travel and Haulage to reduce emissions for each tour.
 - Tour booking to collaborate with touring networks around the same area and at the same time to reduce need for travel large distances between venues.
 - 30% of all material and equipment, including technical, should be procured locally at receiving venues.
 - Each year, reduce average annual travel carbon per show by 10% from the previous year.
 - Encourage sustainable transport options to each venue and monitor audience transport choices.

To make the above happen our teams:

- Agree a standard before starting.
- Work collaboratively.
- Measure outcomes.
- Pass on what they learn.

Our Future Aims

Starting from 2023 our team is aiming to reach the Advanced Theatre Green Book Standards by 2028.

These are the advanced standards:

Creating Productions:

- Make sure 100% of all materials come from reused or recycled sources OR all new materials are accredited carbon zero.
- Make sure, 100% of materials are re-used or recycled. Technical systems are maintained, reused or sustainably returned.
- The production uses no toxic or environmentally harmful production materials.
- Run technical systems sustainably.
- The production only uses electric vehicles, rail, cycles, or public transport.
- Touring Productions
 - Make the tour route as short as possible. Overall travel distance from venue to venue should be no more than 1.5x the shortest possible travel distance.
 - Tour booking to collaborate with touring networks around the same area and at the same time to reduce need for travel large distances between venues.
 - Include a green touring rider in your contracts with receiving venues to define their role in sustainable touring.
 - 60% of all material and equipment, including technical, should be procured locally at receiving venues.
 - All transportation and travel should be by low carbon methods.
 - Encourage sustainable transport options to each venue and monitor audience transport choices.