



Green Events Code

Sustainable targets and standards for the outdoor events industry

WORKING CODE FOR CONSULTATION

Version: 12.10.22

This code of conduct is intended to provide clear and robust voluntary **minimum standards** for sustainability practices for all stakeholders across the outdoor festivals and events industry - event organisers, local authorities and supply chain.

It represents a science-based approach aligned with all relevant existing frameworks and initiatives where possible - global, national, and sector specific*.

These minimum expectations are provided to support clear action for all events. It is understood that events vary in type, size, frequency and location.

Principles

1. We need to act urgently on the climate crisis
2. We will act based on evidence – scientific targets and industry research
3. We are in this together - we commit to knowledge sharing within the industry
4. We will be transparent, reporting impacts annually
5. We will be ambitious and realistic, accepting not all climate-positive decisions will be provide cost benefit in the short term, and striving to improve year on year

Overall Aim

Commit to a minimum of 50% reduction of GHG emissions by 2030* (scope 1 & 2, with additional targets for scope 3)

**baseline year 2023 or first previous normal year of data available*

Minimum Standards, Practices and Targets

Governance

- Net zero emissions strategy and/or action plan in place to reduce impacts in line with overall targets, by the end of 2023
- Every organisation reports impacts (including CO₂e) annually by the end of 2023
- Include sustainability as a key criteria in procurement policy and processes
- Identify a person responsible to lead on sustainability delivery

Energy

- Use the Power Hierarchy to plan temporary energy supply
- 100% renewable electricity by the end of 2023 (venues, offices i.e. Green Tariff)
- 50% Reduction in fossil fuel consumption at live events (onsite) by 2025

Travel and Transportation

- Put in place a plan by 2023 to reduce direct and stakeholder travel & transport emissions
- Work with stakeholders including audiences, contractors, artists, traders and partners to balance unavoidable travel/transport emissions and generate positive investment

Food & Drink

- Aim for at least a 30% reduction in meat and dairy consumption onsite by 2030*
- Establish a food and drinks policy with stated recognised standards
- Eliminate food waste and repurpose left-over edible food

**Source: National Food Strategy 2021*

Materials and waste

- Manage waste according to the Waste Hierarchy - avoiding waste, prioritising reuse, increasing recycling.
- Eliminate single-use plastic by 2025

Water

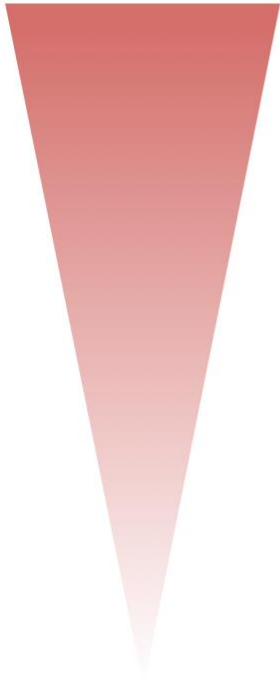
- Put in place a water conservation/saving plan by the end of 2023

Positive Influence

- Inspire positive change in behaviour with audiences, artists, supply chain, partners and sponsors, staff and local community
- Develop partnerships and/or creative programming on environment and climate themes
- Invest in positive climate, nature and social impact

Explanatory Notes

1. Waste Hierarchy



MINIMISATION AND PREVENTION

- Use less materials in design and manufacture.
- Keep products for longer and re-use.
- Re-use or re-purpose materials instead of sourcing new.
- Use less hazardous materials / materials with lower environmental impacts.

(PREPARING FOR) REUSE

- Check, clean, repair, refurbish – whole items or spare parts.
- Design for disassembly and re-use.

RECYCLING

- Includes composting.
- Not everything that is labelled as 'recyclable' can automatically be recycled at the majority of facilities or if it is in waste streams that are too contaminated - for example if something consists of two or more materials glued together.

OTHER RECOVERY

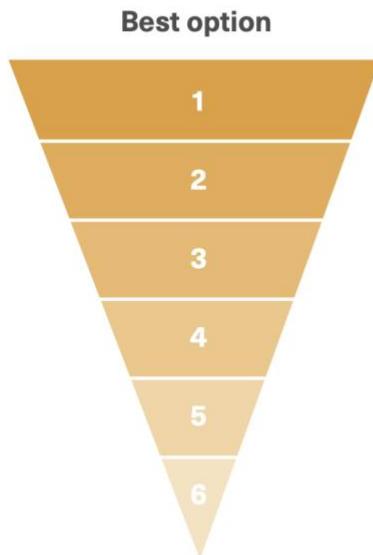
- Including anaerobic digestion for organic materials, and incineration with energy recovery / 'Energy from Waste' i.e. where materials are burned and the energy generated is captured.

'DISPOSAL'

- Landfill and incineration without energy recovery.

2. Power Hierarchy

THE POWER MANAGEMENT HEIRARCHY



Best option

1

2

3

4

5

6

Last resort

Prevention - Do you actually need power in this location or for this application?

Efficiency - Use less power & use it in a more fuel efficient way

Sourcing - Can you use mains instead of generators? Can you use renewables?

Hybrids - Can the system be backed up or bolstered by battery technology?

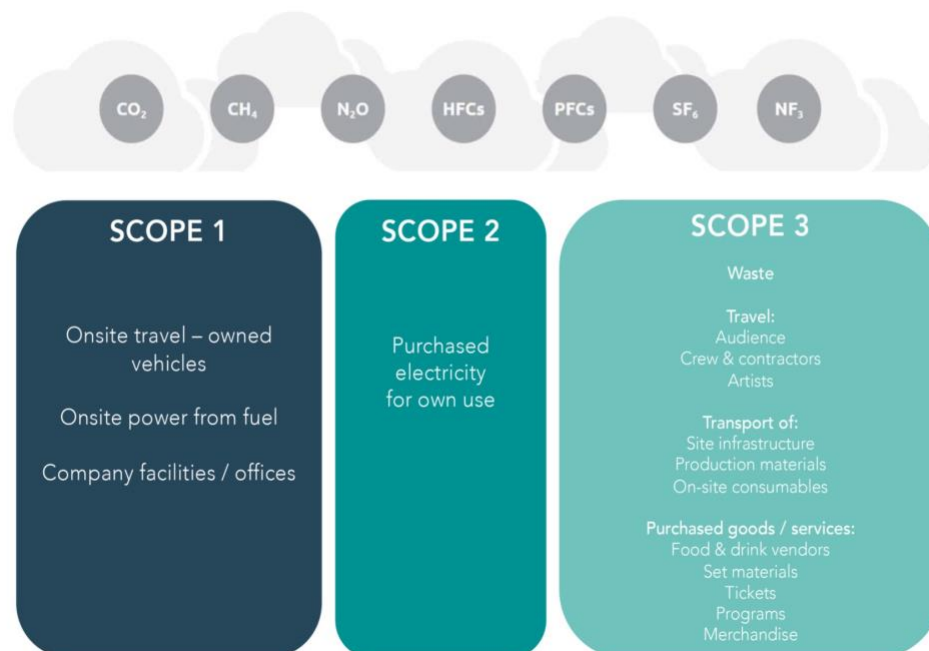
Alternative fuels - Can you use HVO or other sustainable fuels?

Diesel-fueled generators - only where nothing else can be used

3. *Greenhouse Gas Reporting Scopes (GHG Protocol) and how they apply to the Live Music sector.

GHG Reporting Scopes are based on placing responsibility for emissions as close to the 'source' (mainly: combustion of fossil fuels or other processes that directly release GHG emissions) as possible.

- **SCOPE 1 (Operational):** emissions from 'owned or operated assets' e.g. gas combustion on site in gas boilers, catering gas equipment, diesel-powered generators, lighting, heaters etc., company-owned vehicles.
- **SCOPE 2 (Operational):** emissions from the generation of electricity, heat, steam or cooling that you buy and consume but are generated elsewhere.
- **SCOPE 3 (Supply):** emissions from everything else. This is a huge category for live events, that encompasses 'upstream' emissions (such as products and services you buy for events, office supplies, IT equipment, merchandise, marketing materials, and significantly; supplier, artist and crew transportation and travel) and 'downstream' (examples include audience travel, waste processing, wastewater treatment) emissions.



4. Net Zero Definition

To achieve net zero, businesses must significantly reduce emissions year on year, with a target to achieve as close to 90% reduction as possible, and balance unavoidable emissions with climate investments that remove carbon. This is based on the Science Based Targets initiative best practice: <https://sciencebasedtargets.org/resources/files/Net-Zero-Standard.pdf>

5. Best practice for reporting

The 'standard' for reporting under the Green Events Code

- Before the end of 2023, all organisations publish a pathway to achieve net zero by 2050 at the latest, with an interim target in line with the Paris Agreement's requirement to reduce global GHG emissions by 50% by 2030.
- Measure and track Scope 1, 2 and 3 GHG emissions according to industry best practice. It is recognized that addressing all emissions in Scope 3 from the outset may not be feasible and so companies may stage their approach accordingly.
- Collaborate with partners, suppliers and customers to drive change across the supply chain.
- Those who can, should endeavour to report on an annual basis.

*The Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees; The UK climate Change Act (2008) and current national net zero targets; UN Race to Zero; Net Zero Carbon Events Pledge; UNFCCC Sports For Climate Action Framework; LIVE Green Declaration and Vision; and the recommendations outlined in the Show Must Go On: Impact Report for the UK Festival and Outdoor Event Industry (2020, Vision:2025) and the Super Low Carbon Music Report (Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, 2021).