

EUROPEAN GREEN FESTIVAL ROADMAP — 2030



INTRO — DUCTION

Festivals embody the human spirit of creativity, ingenuity and diversity, and have a positive impact on the cultural wealth of communities globally. Festival organisers are becoming increasingly aware of the need to become more sustainable and are taking great strides to find a harmonious balance between human expression and environmental and cultural protection.

Europe is experiencing several large crises including the climate crisis, the loss of biodiversity and steadily decreasing natural resources as well as continuous development in vulnerable areas. Several international and European tools, as well as national and local regulations and requirements have been developed to help push society in the direction needed to change, including the **Paris Agreement, Agenda 2030, the UN Sustainability Goals and the European Green Deal**. In the European Green Deal the EU is striving to become the first climate-neutral continent. The goal is to cut net European greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels.

The European Commission has adopted a set of proposals to make the EU's climate, energy, transport and taxation policies fit for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, the European Green Deal does not give direct regulations to the festival sector, and leaves it up to each country and member state to regulate or incentivise it. Although there are no direct regulations for festivals, YOUROPE believes that all sectors of society must contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including the festival sector.

To create a brighter future for generations that come after us, the consumption of fossil fuels must decrease, and we have to change how we consume and produce goods and food. We know this. The European Green Festival Roadmap has been developed as a tool to help the festival sector to find appropriate measures to produce less emissions. To bring about this necessary change, it is important to set clear goals, think large and in a long perspective. Some call this „cathedral thinking” – a comprehensive vision, a well-thought-out plan and a shared commitment to long-term implementation. It is easy to feel overwhelmed, but with support functions, good tools, awareness of responsibility and clear, smart goals this will work out.

The festival's core business is based on communication in different forms and in different channels and platforms, and we reach the ears and hearts of millions of people across Europe. With our festivals, we create experiences for life. If our sector takes responsibility with efficient climate and environmental measures - it will benefit everyone in our society.

CON TENT

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As part of its three-year project „Future-Fit Festivals“ (3F) YOUROPE – The European Festival Association has developed and released the „The European Green Festival Roadmap 2030“ in close collaboration with AGF and Greener Events Norway

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VISION IN ALLIGNMENT WITH THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL ↘

**EUROPEAN
FESTIVALS WILL
REACH 55%
REDUCTION OF
OVERALL CO₂
EMISSIONS
BY 2030.**

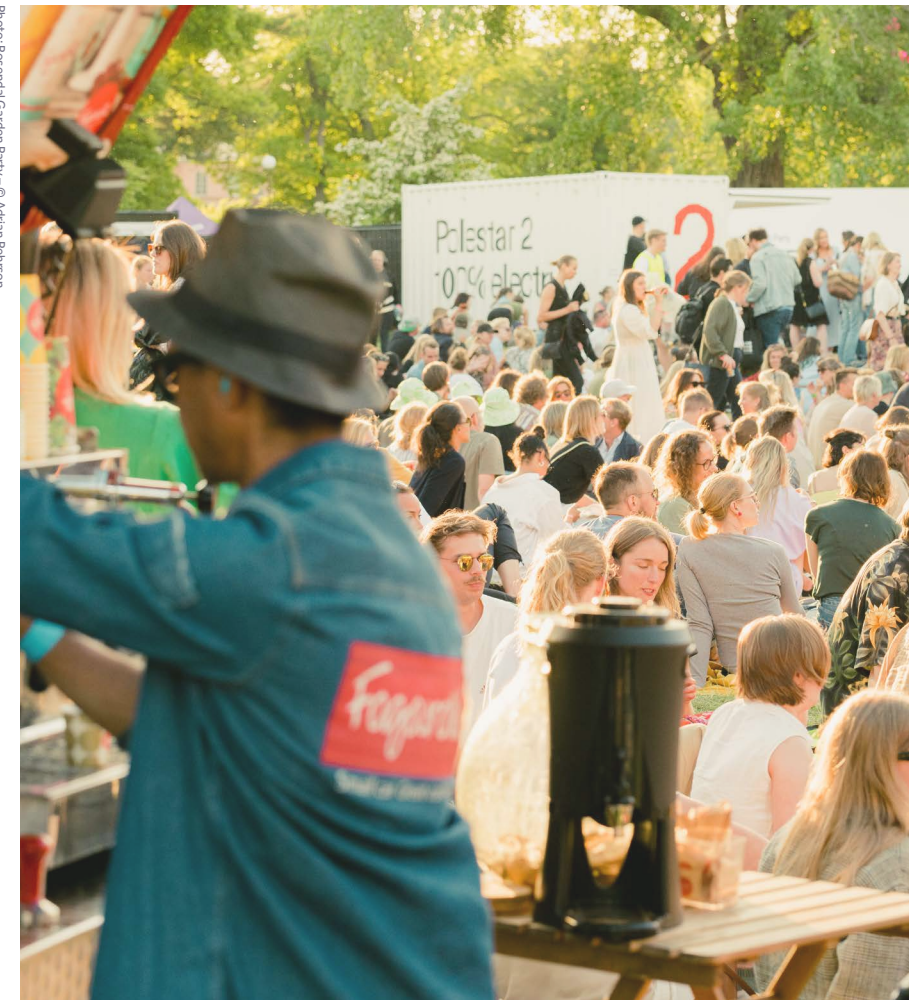
As part of its three-year project “Future-Fit Festivals” (3F) YOUROPE – The European Festival Association has developed and released the “European Green Festival Roadmap 2030” based on the requirements of the European Green Deal, as well as taking in account the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the needs of the industry.

The Roadmap has been developed in partnership with (AGF) A Greener Future and Greener Events Norway. Also, a self-assessment tool - [Future Festivals Tools](#)  - and a compendium of best practice - [Green Festival Stories](#)  - are available online, separate from this Roadmap.

The European Green Festival Roadmap 2030 aims to give European festivals a reliable guide to action and accompanying measures they need for the inevitable process of transformation up to the end of the decade. The Roadmap 2030 is the first pan-European publication of its kind to be jointly developed and published by and for the festival sector and is also relevant as an aid for organisers of festivals and other large and open-air events far beyond the borders of the EU. The Roadmap provides a comprehensive framework for the ambitious sustainable improvement of cultural events, from management structures to concrete technical measures in the various action fields of the creation and production process. The Roadmap can be used by

any European festival or cultural event, make sure to adapt the actions to your own circumstances; each festival is unique! Festivals have a wide impact and influence and provide a temporary platform for experimentation and innovation. Many larger festivals now have robust environmental policies in place, and are educating and inspiring their stakeholders and attendees in the process of becoming “green”. More and more, performers, audiences and suppliers are wanting to be associated with an event that is environmentally friendly, and festivals are gaining support and admiration for fulfilling those ambitions.

Photo: Rosendal Garden Party – @Adrian Pehsson



PROBLEM STATEMENT

Along with emitting tonnes of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere from fossil fuel powered vehicles and generators, a gathering of thousands of people at a festival or other large event can negatively impact on the environment in other ways, from damage to ecosystems and wildlife, to pollution of rivers, over abstraction of water or excessive production of solid waste.

PROBLEM AREAS ↘

- 🚫 Absence of uniform sustainability strategies across all big festivals
- 🚫 High CO₂eq emissions from fossil fuel power generation
- 🚫 Excessive use of raw materials for production
- 🚫 Single use plastics
- 🚫 Excessive amounts of untreated solid waste being sent to landfill
- 🚫 High CO₂eq emissions, pesticides and nutrient enrichment from food and beverage production
- 🚫 High CO₂eq emissions from travel & transport
- 🚫 Excessive use of potable water
- 🚫 Water pollution from chemicals and waste
- 🚫 Damage to wildlife due to habitat fragmentation and human encroachment



Photo: Sorting Installation, Booth Werchter


CALCULATING CO₂ EMISSIONS

In order to reach the goal of 55% reduction of climate emissions by 2030 and to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, ambitious action to reduce our own emissions is crucial. Festivals must reduce as much of their emissions as possible, but must also understand where these emissions come from and how to calculate them. A Carbon Footprint is an effective method to measure and monitor a festival's contribution to climate change.

BASIC FACTS ABOUT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION CALCULATIONS AND CARBON FOOTPRINTS




Greenhouse Gases (GHG) include carbon dioxide (CO₂), as well as methane (CH₄), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrous oxide (NO_x), and fluorinated gases (F-Gases), all of which strengthen the greenhouse effect and contribute to climate change. GHGs have increased significantly as a result of human activities, and are emitted through the burning of fossil fuels for energy or transport, the use of chemicals in material production, or through animal emissions in agriculture.

Because GHGs are generated as a result of human activity and the production and consumption of materials, they can be used as measures of the climate impact of these activities or products. This is called a Carbon Footprint, with GHGs measured in outputs of "carbon dioxide equivalent" (CO₂eq). CO₂ is used to represent all Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) as it is the dominant GHG, so other gases are expressed as its equivalent.

To enable consistent reporting and calculations of these emissions, the [GHG Protocol](#)  has become the most commonly used international accounting tool for authorities and businesses when seeking to quantify, understand and deal with greenhouse gas emissions. The "Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard" of the GHG Protocol serves as a climate accounting platform for practically all GHG reporting programmes in the world.

The GHG Protocol system divides sources of GHGs into three main emissions categories according to where the emissions occur, identified as Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 – as shown in the image.

SCOPES ↗

-  **SCOPE 1** includes all direct greenhouse gas emissions by an entity, e.g. emissions from owned or rented vehicles, emissions from generators and gas used for cooking.
-  **SCOPE 2** covers indirect greenhouse gas emissions from the use of purchased energy such as mains power, district heating or cooling.
-  **SCOPE 3** includes other indirect sources such as all production and consumption of goods and services, e.g. stage rigging and fuel from transport-related activities not owned by the reporting entity such as goods transport and performer and audience travel. Scope 3 also addresses waste disposal etc.

When applying the GHG Protocol to calculate emissions from a festival, we first need to determine the activities within each of the three scopes, calculate the CO₂ equivalents for each activity, then add up the three scopes separately and finally add those together to arrive at the total CO₂eq emissions for the entire project.

	TRANSPORT	ENERGY	CONSUMPTION OF GOODS AND SERVICES	WASTE
SCOPE 1	Emissions from vehicles owned by the organisation and used for the event, and rented or leased vehicles for the production: including cars, mini-buses, machinery etc.	Emissions from fuel generators (diesel, alternative fuels, etc). Gas for cooking		
SCOPE 2	Electric Vehicles	Mains power		
SCOPE 3	Emissions from audience transportation, performer air travel/ transport, the transportation of goods and services of the suppliers, other relevant transport		Emissions from purchased and hired materials, technology, installations, food, accommodation etc.	Emissions from waste disposal; waste sorting fractions, quantities and transport. Also includes Deposit Return System and sewage

To quantify the impact of an activity, conversion factors are available to convert activity data (such as fuel use, vehicle use, etc) into the equivalent GHG emissions: these are called carbon emission conversion factors:

Emissions (CO₂eq) = activity data * emission factor

For example:
Gas used for cooking emits 0.244 kg This is the **Emission Factor** for the of CO₂eq per kilo Watt hour (kWh) gas.

A festival food stall uses 20,000 kWh This is the **Activity Data** for this of gas during the course of the festival food stall.

So the food stall's **CO₂eq = 20,000 * 0.244**
Therefore the food stall emits approximately **4,880 kg of CO₂eq.**

When applying the GHG Protocol to calculate emissions from a festival, one first needs to identify the relevant activities within each of the three scopes and collect activity data, calculate the CO₂ equivalents for each activity, then add up the total of each scopes to arrive at the total CO₂eq emissions generated by the event.

CARBON REDUCTIONS AND REMOVALS

By measuring the carbon footprint year on year, you can identify and prioritise activities which have the most impact, and plan carbon reduction initiatives accordingly: such as providing options for access via sustainable transport, using renewable energy to power the event and considering local, low carbon food and beverage suppliers.

But reducing emissions will take time, and for many festivals and events, the full elimination of all emissions may not be possible. In previous years, festivals and events have often purchased carbon offsets or carbon credits, which have enabled festivals to support more, faster and/or earlier carbon mitigation programmes than what they could achieve on their own. In order to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, it is now recognised that we need to actively remove and store as much CO₂ from the air as we put into the atmosphere. Carbon emissions which cannot be reduced should be removed through certified carbon removal schemes. These schemes allow festivals to pay third parties to invest in actions or initiatives that will remove a certain amount of carbon from the atmosphere – through nature-based or technological means.

Carbon removals are a means to achieve Net Zero emissions and mitigate the impact of your event, but we recommend reducing your emissions as much as possible before resorting to removing emissions. Festivals who then want to go beyond only mitigating their own impact, and who aim to be 'net positive'^[1], can also further invest in schemes enhancing biodiversity or nature conservation.

^[1] To have an impact that is more positive than negative or neutral overall, by creating more positive actions beyond your own activities.

Photo: Eco Teams, Roch Wercher — @FloRuikGias










HOW — TO USE

Whether you are only beginning your sustainability journey, either as a new festival, or you have been successfully operating a sustainable festival for some time now, the European Festival Roadmap 2030 Action Plan contains options and actions for all levels, budgets, and team sizes.

- If you are starting out as a new festival, start as you mean to go on and begin introducing sustainability actions immediately.
- If you are already operating, but not currently taking action, start now. You may need to review your previous editions and evaluate your current carbon footprint, and look into carbon offsetting or removals to balance prior emissions. Set a baseline and begin taking action to reduce your current impact.
- If you are already operating and are taking sustainability actions - well done, keep going, and tell everyone! Review your strategies and identify areas that could benefit from more research and innovation and ensure that the impact of your sustainability actions are continuously monitored.
- Teach what you know - speak at conferences, host workshops and training days, give interviews, share on social media. Spread your knowledge regarding the pros and cons of sustainability actions you have tried and tested.

The European Festival Roadmap 2030 Action Plan provides feasible sustainability actions for all levels under seven thematic areas:

- ACTIONS** ↘
-  **STRATEGY** – managing sustainability actions at your festival, including finances and communications.
 -  **ENERGY** – measuring and minimising your energy usage, as well as shifting reliance to sustainable energy sources.
 -  **MATERIALS & WASTE** – reviewing purchasing decisions and waste management, and your efforts to introduce more circular approaches.
 -  **FOOD & BEVERAGE** – reducing emissions associated with the food and drink served at your festival, including the supply chain and waste prevention.
 -  **TRAVEL & TRANSPORT** – promoting the use of more sustainable forms of travel to, from and around your festival, by all participants.
 -  **WATER** – measuring and minimising your water usage, wastewater treatment options and reducing the risk of negative impacts on water sources.
 -  **COMMUNITY & BIODIVERSITY** - enhancing your relationship with the people and wildlife around your site.

The actions for each thematic area are accompanied by an introduction to set the context for the themes in relation to festivals. The net global Greenhouse Gas emissions for each area as reported in the [Sixth Assessment Report of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) are also provided.

The actions in each area are colour coded according to the ease of implementation, which will vary depending on where you are in your sustainability journey and the resources available to you. We have divided the actions into **four different levels:**

    **BASIC** **MODERATE** **AMBITIOUS** **CHALLENGING**

These four levels correlate with phases illustrated in the roadmap timeline.

LEVELS ↘

LEVELS ↘

The actions in each area have been categorised into four different levels, and each level is colour-coded and represented by a dot system as below:

- ● ● ● BASIC
- ● ● ● MODERATE
- ● ● ● AMBITIOUS
- ● ● ● CHALLENGING

These four levels correlate with phases illustrated in the Roadmap timeline. The four levels have been determined based on the following three parameters:

[1] Impact Minimisation – the potential for the reduction of negative effects of festival's actions on the environment;

[2] Awareness Potential – the potential for raising environmental awareness among the festival's stakeholders and visitors; and

[3] Ease of Implementation – consideration has been given to the resources required to implement the actions, including finances, time and effort.

Please note, the level of each of the actions has been determined on a generalised system, so they may vary depending on where your festival is at in its own unique sustainability journey, and the resources available to you and your team.

The actions in the Strategy Theme have not been allocated levels. Having a robust strategy is fundamental to achieving the other actions laid out in the Action Plan within the timeline of the Roadmap. Hence, all festivals should begin by implementing a strategy, which should then be reviewed in line with the Roadmap.

An editable spreadsheet version of the Action Plan is linked in the [Resources section](#) at the end of this Roadmap for convenience.

Photo: Rock Werchter

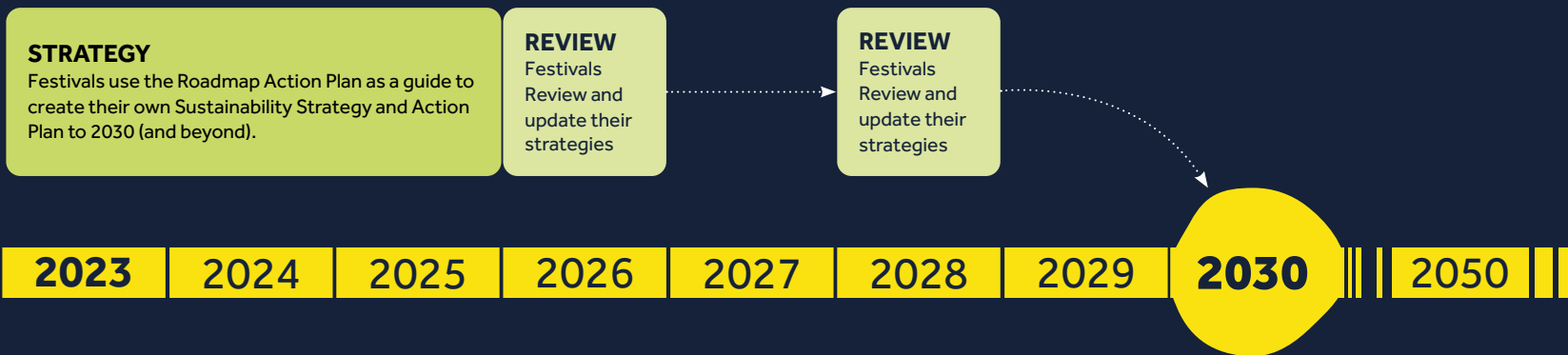


ROADMAP



European Green Festival Roadmap 2030 launched.

MILESTONES



LEVEL ACTIONS



ROADMAP

Through using the Action Plan, the Problem Areas will be addressed and by 2030 European Festivals:



Will have **implemented, reviewed and improved their sustainability strategies**



Will be using **distributed renewable energy generation systems or green-energy grid tariffs**, while also **cutting energy consumption** and **maximising energy efficiency**



Will be **maximising resources** and **reducing waste** through **prevention and reuse**.



Will have **eliminated single-use plastic** where appropriate, with any unavoidable plastic that reaches disposal stage being recycled to a high standard.



Will be sending **zero waste to landfill**.



Will be sourcing all **food and beverage from the local areas** when available, opting for **wholesome and organic** produce.



Will be **efficiently promoting, providing and encouraging low carbon travel and transport** for production, suppliers, crew, performers and audiences.



Will have **reduced the use of potable water to drinking and sanitation purposes only**, and to be using only **eco-friendly cleaning products**.



Will be **separating all liquid waste from sewage**, with wastewater being treated to the highest available standard and **reused efficiently, nutrients extracted** and returned to agriculture, and **energy recovered** from solid matter.



Will be **collaborating and planning together with their local communities** and will be **protecting and enhancing local habitats and ecosystems**.

ACTION PLAN



STRATEGY



ENERGY



MATERIALS & WASTE



FOOD & BEVERAGE



TRAVEL & TRANSPORT



WATER



COMMUNITY & BIODIVERSITY





ACTION PLAN ▾

STRATEGY

For festivals and events to achieve sustainability goals over a long period of time, it is essential to develop a robust sustainability strategy. For the sustainability strategies to be as successful as possible, the management team must allocate appropriate resources, responsibility and training; and plans must be adequately communicated, monitored and reported on. Sustainability must remain on the agenda throughout all management meetings, otherwise the work will not get done.

Transformation takes teamwork, and the people given the responsibility to carry out sustainability actions must be given enough time and resources to do the work. They must receive a clear mandate, as they may also have other areas of responsibility. For real change to take place, the work must be guided by the organisers, and embedded into daily operations. The entire festival team should be involved, and everyone should get their own target areas where they themselves can influence relevant sustainability measures.



Photo: Øyafestivalen 2022 – © Thor Møller



STRATEGY ↘

ACTIONS

Create A Sustainability Strategy With an Action Plan

- Define the scope of your festival or event's sustainability strategy, i.e. set the boundaries of the strategy - what is included and what is not.
- A good sustainability strategy should include a scope description, an overall vision, a purpose and goal for the areas where you want to make a change, taking account of resource and time constraints.
- Find a reasonable level of ambition, and prioritise specific areas to tackle and actions required.
- Create your own personalised action plan using the European Green Festival Roadmap 2030 as a guide.
- Identify Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to monitor and evaluate the strategy, e.g. by measuring energy consumption; waste to landfill reduction rates; recycling rates; reduction in car use and increase in public transport; water usage etc.
- Measure the current environmental impact of the festival to set a baseline.
- It is important to learn from the monitoring and evaluation process over time and to continually improve and update the sustainability strategy by adjusting actions, setting new goals, or exploring innovative solutions to further reduce CO₂ emissions and raise awareness.

Legal Requirements

- Be aware of all relevant, mandatory obligations that apply to your festival/event at local, national and European levels.
- Specific permits and/or licences may also be required in order to operate.
- Keep an active register of legislation and stay on top of current environmental and sustainability requirements

Stakeholder Involvement

- To bring about change, all relevant stakeholders in the organisation should be involved in the strategy, including employees, external partners, suppliers, performers and visitors.
- Consider appropriate channels for information sharing and ways to involve each group based on the kind of role and relationship they have with the festival/event.

Evaluate Environmental Certification

- A good way to steer your festival or event in the desired sustainable direction, is to consider a type of independent certification - e.g. AGF Certification; ISO 20121; ISO14001; Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)
- An independent, third-party assessment of the sustainability strategy and measures shows that the festival is taking sustainability seriously.
- All environmental certifications contain requirements to design a strategy or action plan.
- The certifications are given for a limited period of time before re-certification is required.

STRATEGY ↘

ACTIONS

Finance

- It is important that your sustainability strategy is adequately financed from the beginning of event planning.
- Consider providing a separate budget for sustainability management.
- Investigate if there are grants or other sources of funding available for promoting or operating eco-friendly festivals.
- 'Green Fees' can be introduced into various areas which can be reinvested into sustainability management, e.g. an additional fee can be incorporated into the entry price; charges can be set for car parking; extra charges on reusable cups etc.
- Invest a portion of the festival's profits into external environmental and social projects, e.g., in the local community or through a charity partnership.
- Investigate if you are banking with an ethical financial institution and consider changing if their policies are not ethical.
- Consider investment in financial sectors such as ethical staff pensions.

Internal and External Communication

- Consider ways to engage with crew, audience, performers, suppliers, contractors, local communities and authorities pre-event, during and post-event about the sustainability policy and action plan and for them to provide opportunities for feedback.
- Consider ways to communicate sustainable practices that do not force sustainability but encourage positive cooperation.
- Create progress reports, dashboards, or other visual tools to effectively communicate progress on the prioritised sustainability actions and overall sustainability goals.
- Network and share good ideas with others - share on your own website, in social media, attend and speak at industry conferences, and talk about your festivals sustainability actions in interviews.
- Approach local governments/ministers to find solutions to infrastructure gaps that could make festivals and communities more sustainable, e.g. more sustainable public transport, provision of power grid network connections for festival sites, increased investment into distributed renewable energy generation systems, mains and sewage system connections, waste treatment facility provisions, etc.
- Join together with other festival organisers and approach political leaders etc., and push for the system change needed in order to produce better and more sustainable festivals. Together, we have amazing platforms and power!

Linkage ↘
with SDGs



ACTION PLAN ▾

ENERGY

Energy generation is responsible for producing 34% of global Greenhouse Gas emissions

Source: IPCC 6th Assessment Report

Traditionally, energy has been generated through non-renewable fossil fuel based sources such as coal, oil, natural gas and peat. Burning these fuels releases a mix of greenhouse gases (GHGs) into the atmosphere, where they get trapped and affect the climate. In addition, the extraction of these resources results in changes to land use, which contributes to biodiversity decline and results in unintended pollution incidents. Hence, energy generation from non-renewable, fossil fuel sources is not sustainable and must be phased out. Moving away from fossil fuels and reducing energy consumption is therefore a key objective for festivals and events which are seeking to be more sustainable.

Sustainable energy is obtained from renewable sources including sunlight, wind, waves, geothermal heat and biomass. Renewable energy sources do not jeopardise the energy needs or climate of future generations, as they reduce dependence on finite fossil fuels and have few or no greenhouse gas emissions. Sustainable energy for festivals and events can be obtained by connecting to the national power grid and purchasing power via a green electricity tariff. Alternatively, off-grid sustainable energy systems can be used onsite at festivals, by installing independent systems such as solar panels or wind turbines; or by using biofuel in generators.

Another option is to combine a green electricity grid tariff for centralised areas on site, such as production offices, with small, independent sustainable power sources in remote areas of the site. In combined, permanent systems, it may also be possible to sell surplus power generated from onsite renewable energy systems back into the national grid. Monitoring our energy usage and using energy efficiently by matching capacity to actual power demand, and investing in energy efficiency appliances, also reduces the impact of overall power consumption.





ENERGY ↘

ACTIONS

Energy Management Plan:

- Create an Energy Management Plan using the actions set out in the following sections.
- Set Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely (SMART) targets for energy reduction across the festival site.
- Identify energy strategies and best practices and measure progress in making energy reductions.

Energy Use Monitoring:

- Identify what needs to be powered in each area and estimate what the energy usage is likely to be when everything is online.
- Check energy consumption regularly and develop a current energy use baseline for each area.
- Involve all suppliers/performers/contractors/staff in the festival in the collection of the usage data.
- Have regular reviews to find unnecessary use of energy.

Energy Efficiency:

- Turn off all lights when rooms are empty (e.g. production offices) and reduce or turn off outdoor lights when areas are not in use.
- Turn off heating and cooling systems when rooms are not in use (e.g. staff offices, performer dressing rooms etc).
- Emphasise energy efficiency when purchasing new technical equipment.
- Check that cold rooms or freezer rooms that are used to store food and beverages are properly sealed.
- Use energy saving bulbs and LEDs where appropriate, both on stage and otherwise and recycle all bulbs when they reach end-of-life.
- Consider the possibility of automatic lighting, for example time management, dimmers, lighting or motion sensors. There are systems that can be used both indoors and outdoors.

Engage with Energy Users:

- Work with lighting companies to bring more low-energy lighting to the festival.
- Install energy metering on all food stalls, so caterers pay for the exact number of kilowatt hours they consume, which should motivate them to use less energy.

Move towards Green Energy:

- Remove diesel-fuelled generators and replace them with sustainable fuels or renewable energy generators.
- Look at how much energy can be generated on site using renewable energy generators, and deduce what kind of installation can be supported.
- Connect to the national grid & use a green tariff.
- For sites with permanent car parks consider investing in a solar carport (providing shading at the same time as generating green electricity).

LEVEL

••• BASIC

••• MODERATE

••• AMBITIOUS

••• CHALLENGING



ENERGY ▾ ACTIONS

Reduce E-Waste and Correct Disposal of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE):

- Extend the life of electronics such as mobile phones and laptops by using a phone case/laptop bag, keeping your devices clean, shutting them down fully.
- Donate electrical equipment that is still in good working order but not being used to a reuse scheme.
- Electrical and Electronic Equipment that has reached the end of its life, including batteries and light bulbs are all classified as hazardous waste, and they must not be disposed of in general waste.
- The EU WEEE Directive designates safe and responsible collection, recycling, and recovery procedures for all types of electronic and electrical waste, including batteries and light bulbs.
- Purchase products labelled with the Energy Star or certified by the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT).
- Have faulty electronic items serviced before disposing of them to see if there is a possibility to fix them and extend their life.

LEVEL

- BASIC
- MODERATE
- AMBITIOUS
- CHALLENGING



Photo: Energy batteries DGTL Festival – © Rob Lipsius

Linkage ▾
with SDGs

1 NO POVERTY 	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 
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ACTION PLAN ▾

MATERIALS & WASTE

Industrial processes are responsible for producing 24% of global Greenhouse Gas emissions. *(Source: IPCC 6th Assessment Report).*

Festivals and events generally require a lot of material input in order to create scenography, to reflect the individual theme of the festival. Stages, activation areas, bars, vendor outlets, production areas, backstage areas all must be built, decorated, maintained and then removed. Building and decorating a festival or event from raw materials can have multiple negative implications for the environment from the extraction of raw materials and energy used in the production and transportation. Through careful planning, hiring, sharing, reusing and recycling, direct and indirect impacts associated with the production of the festival can be dramatically reduced.

Festivals and events can be a significant source of waste materials, from campsite waste to packaging and consumables front and back of house. Waste management is a very visual part of any sustainability strategy, and a badly managed waste strategy can leave a festival site looking like a rubbish dump. Improperly managed solid waste can kill wildlife, over one million animals die each year after becoming entrapped in or ingesting litter. Solid waste can also cause contamination of land and water through the release of microplastics and toxic substances, such as heavy metals, into the ecosystem.

Solid waste management also indirectly impacts on the environment due to the energy used in waste disposal, as well as emissions generated from waste transport, landfill disposal, incineration and recycling processes.



MATERIALS & WASTE ↘



ACTIONS

Good purchasing procedures:

- Consider reuse where possible, for example by buying used or recycled props. Think circularly.
- For all purchases, assess whether it is necessary to buy anything at all and do not buy more than is necessary.
- Purchase the right products, and ensure that they have a long service life.
- Choose products that carry an environmental label that is based on the product's environmental impact throughout their life cycle, such as the EU Ecolabel.

Minimise the production of waste:

- Print only necessary material, and use both sides of the paper where possible, and avoid overproduction of wristbands, badges, lanyards, merchandise etc.
- Communicate electronically with performers (registration, timetable, etc.) and audiences (tickets, event programme, etc.) and send all relevant documentation by email beforehand.
- Accreditation, ticketing, accounting and invoicing should be done electronically.
- Have a storage area for off-cuts and encourage the use of these for smaller items, such as signage.
- Prepare a Procurement Policy that bans single-use, and difficult to recycle plastic products across all departments (particularly for traders, e.g. serveware, sachets, straws, coffee cups).
- Use insights and data gathered from previous or other events to estimate specific needs and ensure little excess materials are purchased.
- Have clear designs and accurate measurements for all stages and props before purchasing materials or constructing sets.
- Minimise or ban the use of single-use decorative elements and choose sustainable and reusable décor.

Extend the use of material and products:

- Reuse, share, rent or donate material to maximise its use (stage equipment, fencing, banners, signage, tents, electronic material, etc.)
- Avoid date marking (banners, signage, etc.) to allow re-use.
- Create a system for material management and storage of equipment between events.
- Plan long term relationships with partners (sponsors, vendors, etc.) to develop banners for multi-year use.
- Eliminate disposable serveware and invest in reusable versions.
- Consider introducing pre-pitched camping options to reduce tent waste.

LEVEL

 BASIC

 MODERATE

 AMBITIOUS

 CHALLENGING


MATERIALS & WASTE ↘



ACTIONS

Litter and pollution prevention:

- Have volunteers and crew regularly check sensitive areas and to distribute rubbish collection bags and to encourage the audience to keep the site clean.
- Provide bins at the toilets for feminine hygiene product waste, toilet roll tubes, tissue packets, baby wipe packets
- Put signs up to ask people not to spit toothpaste or mouthwash on the ground after brushing teeth.
- Ban the sale of disposable, non-recyclable plastics, and throw away items.
- Supply campers with biodegradable tent pegs, which will biodegrade if left in the ground.
- Ensure that the number of bins and sanitation facilities are adequate to the number of ticket holders.
- Clean out toilets, sinks and unblock drains regularly during the festival.
- Collect uncontaminated food waste and compost toilet waste and turn into compost – use for soil conditioning

Encourage solid waste sorting and recycling:

- Have efficient signage for waste management systems that can easily be understood and followed.
- Communicate recycling initiatives to audience, crew, contractors and performers (pre-event, during, electronically, via volunteers, have waste areas on maps, etc.)
- Create a Resource and Waste Management Policy and communicate with all production teams in the planning stages to assess what waste streams are likely to arise on site during build, event and break.
- Communicate with waste collectors and removal contractors and prepare a dedicated Resource and Waste Management Plan for the specific event/site.
- Have dedicated areas for waste storage and segregation and ensure that they are easily accessed by the waste management teams.
- Ensure that waste is collected during the event, and properly sorted for reuse, recycling, composting and recovery.
- Have adequate cleaning teams and onsite waste sorting teams.
- Have volunteers manning bin stations to instruct/assist visitors with the waste separation system
- Manage a wide range of bins (paper, glass, cardboard, wood, metal, food & organic, residuals) and deploy those across the site (offices, production compounds, arenas, camping, food courts, parking), ensuring that there are dedicated areas for the safe storage of hazardous wastes, e.g. WEEE, lightbulbs, batteries, and medical waste.
- Introduce a garbage deposit, a fee that visitors pay with their ticket and that they can reclaim after they have cleaned up their campsites and returned their filled trash bags once the festival has finished.

LEVEL

- BASIC
- MODERATE
- AMBITIOUS
- CHALLENGING



MATERIALS & WASTE ▾

ACTIONS

Monitoring, measurement and reduction:

- Monitor the types and amounts of different waste streams produced.
- Identify locations that produce a lot of waste and the areas that are worst for contamination.
- Ultimately get to a point where there is no waste going to landfill and only very small amounts going to thermal treatment and energy recovery (e.g. sanitary and medical waste for autoclaving and destruction)



LEVEL

- BASIC
- MODERATE
- AMBITIOUS
- CHALLENGING



Photo: Waste Composting, DGTL Festival – © Rob Lipsius

Linkage ▾

with SDGs

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	13 CLIMATE ACTION	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 LIFE ON LAND
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS			





ACTION PLAN ▾

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use is responsible for 22% of global Greenhouse Gas emissions (Source: IPCC 6th Assessment Report)

Food and Beverage is an integral part of any festivals – from bars and food stalls providing a variety of meal choices to audiences, to the food served to staff and crew working at the event. However, the type of food we choose to buy, the way it is grown and processed, the location it comes from, and how much food ends up being wasted, are key factors that influence the overall sustainability of any festival or event.

Food preparation requires water, can lead to food and packaging waste, and can lead to health risks and water pollution if chemicals are used to clean down surfaces and washing utensils. It is therefore important for festivals looking to become more sustainable to understand the impacts that the choice of food and beverages served can have, and how to minimise these. Aspects in relation to packaging, serveware and transportation used for food and drinks should also be considered. For instance, an event can further reduce their environmental impact by prioritising compostable packaging and serve-ware, and by encouraging bulk deliveries using low-carbon modes of transport.

In order to reduce the impact of food and beverage choices, festivals and events can prioritise:

- products that have a smaller carbon footprint, i.e. plants and plant-source proteins
- products that are local, seasonal and organic;
- products that are certified, i.e. fair trade, MSC for fisheries or grazing certifications;
- achieving zero food waste; and
- protecting water from pollution due to food and beverage production



FOOD & BEVERAGE ↘



ACTIONS

Create and implement a Food & Beverage Policy and associated documents

- Write a sustainable Food & Beverage Policy for the festival, which focuses the festival's goals and its pledges in relation to Food & Beverage - for example, to source sustainable products, to reduce the carbon footprint of menus, to protect the health of crew, performers and visitors, to reduce food waste etc.
- Provide training to in-house catering and bar staff members on the requirements of the sustainable Food & Beverage Policy.
- Ensure that all Food Safety and Health & Safety Regulations are covered in all documents and training.
- Write a Food & Beverage Charter for agreement with all external/third party caterers, bars and traders, which aligns with the Food & Beverage Policy
- Write and send out a trader/catering Handbook to provide guidelines to ensure proper implementation of the Food & Beverage Charter.
- Hold meetings/workshops/webinars for traders/caterers/bars to clearly discuss the Food & Beverage Policy, Charter and the Handbook; what is expected of them for your event, and to give opportunity for questions and feedback prior to the event.

Increase the environmental, economic and social standards of food

- Review all in-house catering menus and move towards 100% vegetarian/vegan menus using local, seasonal, and organic ingredients.
- Use 100% reusable/compostable and sustainably sourced serveware, and consider food options that do not require serveware.
- Encourage, or require, visiting caterers/traders to review their menus and their serveware options.
- Produce from lower income countries in the developing world must be ethically sourced and Fair Trade certified, if applicable.
- Produce from forests must be FSC or PEFC certified, and produce from the Oceans must be MSC certified.
- Provide proper waste management systems for food waste and compostable serveware and ensure this is managed and treated correctly.
- Support chefs and traders by creating an organic supply chain and connecting food traders with local, organic producers/wholesalers.

Calculate the Carbon Footprint of Food & Beverage at your event

- Calculate the Carbon Footprint of any food and beverages produced/sold directly by the festival
- Request that all external traders/caterers/bars conduct CO₂ assessments of their ingredients/dishes/menus/drinks
- Gather the CO₂ assessment data from all sources and evaluate the amount of CO₂e that will be produced by the current menus.

LEVEL

- BASIC
- MODERATE
- AMBITIOUS
- CHALLENGING

FOOD & BEVERAGE ▾



ACTIONS

Reduce water waste & hazards to water from food preparation

- Only use eco-friendly chemicals for cleaning and sanitising, including the substances used to clean floors, surfaces, utensils, and hands.
- Fats, oil and grease should never be poured down the drain, they should be collected separately and sent to an appropriate facility to be treated or converted to biofuels.
- Request that caterers/traders use simple food preparation techniques that save water such as steaming food instead of boiling, use a lid, etc.

Prevent food waste

- Ensure proper production, handling and storage techniques to prevent and reduce spoilage and waste.
- Modify menus to increase customer satisfaction and prevent and reduce uneaten food.
- Be creative with your kitchen excess. Surplus or excess food can be used in new dishes. For example, stale bread can become croutons; fruit can become a dessert topping; and vegetable trimmings can be used in soups, sauces, and stocks.
- Reduce serving sizes as appropriate and avoid use of garnishes that don't get eaten.
- For buffet-style service, encourage people to take only what they will actually eat.
- Measure the amount, type and reason for the generation of wasted food and create effective food waste prevention strategies.
- Compare purchasing inventory with customer ordering.

Distribute uneaten food

- Many non-perishable and unspoiled perishable foods can be donated to local food banks, soup kitchens, and shelters.
- Check with your local food bank or food rescue operation to find out what items they will accept, they may also collect their food donations free of charge.

LEVEL

 BASIC

 MODERATE

 AMBITIOUS

 CHALLENGING

FOOD & BEVERAGE ACTIONS

Dispose of unsafe food or unusable leftovers from food prep properly

- Segregate food, organic and compostable waste from other waste streams.
- Engage the services of a waste contractor who can provide a separate collection for organic waste streams.
- If possible and safe to do so, compost organic waste onsite at the festival
- Return food/organic waste to compost for reuse in agriculture if safe to do so.
- Ensure that food/organic waste that goes off site for treatment is treated in an Anaerobic Digester, Biodigester or a Composter.



Linkage ↘
with SDGs

LEVEL

- BASIC
- MODERATE
- AMBITIOUS
- CHALLENGING

<p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>
<p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	<p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>



Photo: Food, DGTL Festival 2019 – © BYKIRSTENVANSANTEN



Foto: Paradise City – © Annika Wallis

ACTION PLAN ▾



TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

Transport is responsible for producing 15% of global Greenhouse Gas emissions

(Source: IPCC 6th Assessment Report).

Festivals and events nearly always involve a lot of travelling and transport, as staff, crew, performers, the audience and goods and services must travel to and from the festival. Emissions from fossil fuel powered transport are one of the largest contributors to a festival's Greenhouse Gas emissions. Transport emissions also negatively affect local air quality. Reducing reliance on fossil fuel powered transport is essential to reduce associated emissions, and has the added benefit of protecting our health - through better air quality and getting exercise from cycling and walking.

Choosing a venue or festival site close to public transport links is a great way to moderate transport emissions from festivals. Communicating the benefits of walking, cycling, public transport, as well as giving incentives and cutting down on parking space - while also promoting carpooling - will help get the audience on

board with the necessary reduction of fossil fueled means of transportation. Giving performers incentives for choosing public transport like rail or even nightliners instead of flying in artists and crew, will also cut the emissions of the festival significantly. External contractors and suppliers must deliver goods and services. Through effective planning, organisers can suggest options to facilitate zero-emission transport such as bicycle delivery and electric transport. Coordinating deliveries from suppliers located close to each other, as well as choosing local suppliers, will also help lowering the emissions from transport.

Overall, a focused communication with all relevant stakeholders, on being aware of emissions from transport, featuring efficient, low carbon means of transport will help reduce the total emissions of the event relating to travel and transport.



Photo: Bicycle Parking, Rock Werchter



TRAVEL & TRANSPORT ACTIONS

Transport policies and monitoring:

- Create a sustainable transport policy which prioritises low carbon travel and avoids unnecessary journeys.
- Conduct travel surveys to gather data on mode of transport and distance travelled, and use the data to inform future actions.
- Survey staff, crew, performers, suppliers and visitors and develop targets for each group, e.g. reduce car use by visitors by providing public transport option; reduce air travel by performers by hiring more local acts; reduce distance travelled by suppliers by finding local suppliers or ordering in bulk.

Staff, crew, performers and supplier transport planning:

- Avoid travel wherever possible by using phone or videocalls for meetings, web conferencing, webinars etc. and combine face-to-face meetings with each other and other business requirements, such as site walkovers to reduce overall travel.
- If travel is necessary, encourage staff and crew to walk, cycle or use public transport and choose meeting venues based on location to reduce travel distances for as many attendees as possible.
- If cars are unavoidable, encourage carpooling with 3+ people per car, and efficient route planning.
- If providing vehicles for staff or crew, choose vehicles with electric or hybrid engines where possible.
- Encourage suppliers to use sustainable, low carbon methods for deliveries - such as bicycle couriers, electric vans or combined deliveries.
- Air travel by people and air freight for deliveries should be an absolute last resort, and should only be considered after all other options have been ruled out

Production transport planning:

- Ensure build materials and hired site vehicles are stored close to the site to reduce transport emissions.
- Purchase and rent materials from local suppliers to reduce transport emissions.
- Order in bulk and arrange for the collection or delivery of multiple items in the same journey to avoid unnecessary transportation.
- For festivals that last several days or weeks, consider creating an onsite market for items such as fresh fruit and vegetables, hardware and office supplies, or eco-friendly essentials such as toothpaste, toothbrushes and sanitary items, to avoid people having to travel offsite to purchase such items.

LEVEL

- BASIC
- MODERATE
- AMBITIOUS
- CHALLENGING

TRAVEL & TRANSPORT ↘



ACTIONS

Visitor travel arrangements:

- Ensure that all communications regarding transport options, routes and incentives are given out well in advance of the event, and regularly repeated, to allow for proper planning.
- Use the festival website, public advertisements and social media to encourage visitors to choose eco-friendly transport options and to 'leave the car at home'.
- Offer incentives for travelling by low carbon transport such as reduced price tickets, refreshments on route, free shower on arrival, earlier access to the site etc.
- Provide clear site location information by using map apps, to avoid unnecessary travel and/or people getting lost.
- Encourage travelling by foot or by bicycle by coordinating groups, mapping out and manning a safe route in conjunction with local authorities.
- Provide safe and secure bike parking facilities and have an onsite bicycle repair shop.
- Include an option for a free or reduced price ticket for local public transport in the admission ticket price - communicate with public transport providers.
- Arrange shuttle services from the nearest bus and train stations and major transport hubs, or establish park and ride facilities.
- Add a car parking charge and invest the fee into sustainability initiatives; or reduce or eliminate parking altogether.
- e.g. by organising a cycling group from certain locations, adding extra shuttles to busy routes, setting up a car pooling initiative through social media etc.
- Organise hybrid events, so that people can experience elements of the festival without travelling.

Linkage ↘ with SDGs



Photo: Energy Solar Carport, Lowlands 2022



LEVEL

- BASIC
- MODERATE
- AMBITIOUS
- CHALLENGING



ACTION PLAN

WATER

Water serves a variety of crucial functions during events. It is a requirement for health and wellbeing to have clean drinking water and adequate sanitation, but water also can be used as dust control, for ballasts or as part of event attractions, such as water features. Due to climate change, water scarcity is becoming a more urgent issue even in countries which have previously been unaffected by drought. At the same time, average summer temperatures are increasing annually, which coincides with the peak of the festival season, increasing the demand for clean drinking water to ensure staff, volunteers, performers and the public remain safe and hydrated.

Organisers must ensure there is a clear vision for the procurement, management and disposal of water associated with their events. Poor water management can contribute to water insecurity and result in a waste of resources, high costs, and pollution of the water environment and soil surrounding the site. Additionally, the overuse or unnecessary wastage of water, can have significant social repercussions if it means that water provisions elsewhere are negatively impacted.



Photo: Water, @yafestivalen 2022 – ©Anki Grøthe

Control of wastewater is equally important in all areas. Mismanaged wastewater can cause flooding and health issues, and can also include pollutants such as oils, sewage and chemicals, which can have a detrimental impact on the receiving environment. Polluted wastewater can create gaseous emissions, and treatment can be energy intensive, expensive and often requires the use of toxic chemicals. The choice of wastewater & sewage treatment method can also have an impact through transportation emissions.

Prevention is key - by prohibiting the use of toxic chemicals onsite and by using waterless or dry toilet systems, the production of harmful wastewater can be dramatically reduced. Additionally, wastewater that is created can often be reused before it is disposed of. Best practice for wastewater and sewage management involves systems that use natural treatment methods (such as plants) to clean the wastewater and kill pathogens, alongside collecting and retaining important nutrients.



WATER ↘ ACTIONS

Save water while ensuring good access for all uses

- Establish many drinking water points outdoors so that everyone has good access.
- Communicate to all people onsite the need to conserve water and turn off taps.
- Verify at regular intervals that there are no leaks in water distribution systems.
- Use white appliances efficiently - if there is an onsite laundry, e.g. for washing performers towels, catering tea-towels etc; or an onsite washing systems for reusable serveware, only wash full loads and do not use extra rinses.
- Install water saving devices such as push button taps, tap and shower flow regulators, dual flush toilets, etc.
- If purchasing or hiring appliances that use water, such as washing machines, look for product labels that indicate how much water a machine will use per cycle.
- Use marquees with sidewall rain gutters (or install sidewall rain gutters on existing marquees) and collect rainwater for reuse.
- Design the water distribution system onsite strategically, to ensure that all areas that require water have good access, but also to limit the distance that water needs to be pumped.
- Prioritise using waterless urinals, water free toilets or low flushing toilets.
- If flushing toilets are necessary, water collected from handwashing sinks can be collected and used for flushing toilets.

- Soils in festival sites often suffer from compaction, which affects natural soakage and drainage of rainwater. On permanent sites, consider implementing Sustainable Drainage Systems to facilitate natural site drainage and soakage.

Protect water

- Prohibit the use of toxic chemicals as much as practicable onsite.
- Any chemical that may end up in water should be eco-friendly e.g. household cleaning products, personal hygiene products - shampoo, toothpaste etc.
- The use of eco-friendly products should be clearly communicated to all users, including cleaning teams, traders, caterers and visitors.
- Separately collect oils and greases, never pour them down the drain.
- Never pour water used to wash paint brushes down the drain - water contaminated with paint residues should be evaporated and the paint dried out.
- Cans with latex/water-based dried paints can be disposed of with residual waste, but oil-based paints, spray paints, and paint thinners all need to be disposed of as hazardous waste.

LEVEL

- BASIC
- MODERATE
- AMBITIOUS
- CHALLENGING

WATER ACTIONS

Prevent, manage and treat wastewater

- Prepare a site drainage plan and identify all water sources and runoff areas.
- Ensure that disposal of wastewater removed from site only takes place at appropriate facilities.
- Investigate alternative temporary toilets that save water and reduce the need for chemicals, such as vacuum loos, compost toilets.
- Identify grey water streams that could be reused, e.g. water generated from hand wash basins & showers and methods of reusing grey water onsite (e.g. irrigation/flushing toilets).
- If event organisers own their venue, install eco-friendly permanent toilets.
- Separate urine from sewage waste at source and harvest nutrients from the urine for reuse in agriculture.
- Design an adequate, permanent (and legal) onsite system to treat wastewater naturally onsite by installing retention ponds and reed beds.

LEVEL

- BASIC
- MODERATE
- AMBITIOUS
- CHALLENGING

Photo: Water sanitation, Paradise City – © Annika Wallis



Linkage with SDGs





ACTION PLAN ▾

COMMUNITY & BIODIVERSITY



Biodiversity is the term used to describe the variety of living organisms within an area and it is intrinsically linked to the health of both people and the planet. Sensitive neighbours can become frustrated and ecologically sensitive areas in both rural and urban sites can be damaged by event operations. Noise pollution, light pollution, litter and traffic congestion can have serious impacts on the health and wellbeing of humans and wildlife, and the careful management of these four aspects must be a serious consideration for build, break and during the event.

It is essential, and often legally required, to manage and mitigate any negative impacts that the festival or event may have on the local community and biodiversity around the site. It is therefore important that the protection and enhancement of the community and biodiversity is a guiding principle for festival design.

For a festival or event to be truly sustainable in the long term, it is essential to communicate and cooperate with the local community and to integrate into the surrounding ecosystems,

and to enhance them rather than detract from them. It is very valuable to include and work with the local community wherever possible to maximise positive impacts - reach out and look for feedback; offer free tickets to sensitive neighbours; hire temporary staff, rent equipment and purchase food and beverages locally to support the community. Protect sensitive areas, such as water courses and woodlands, and work together to clean up and restore degraded habitats.

There are lots of ways to ensure your festival avoids environmental disturbance, mitigates any potential harm, and works to enhance biodiversity both on site and in the surrounding environment. This can be achieved by undertaking surveys before the event to establish a baseline and reassessing the site afterwards to evaluate the impact of the festival. The information provided by the surveys can also be used to identify opportunities for environmental enhancement.

Where there is little biodiversity value identified on site, there may be opportunities to undertake improvements in nearby habitats e.g. woodlands, peatland or wetlands off site. This demonstrates an ethos of environmental stewardship to local communities and environmental groups, creating opportunities to build relationships and collaborate on biodiversity initiatives. Together, we can work to make festivals a positive influence in tackling the biodiversity emergency.





COMMUNITY & BIODIVERSITY ▾

ACTIONS

Local Community Protection and Involvement

- Invite local stakeholders to planning meetings, as they may be able to provide suggestions on how to best manage the external areas.
- Ask the local communities for feedback on how to improve their experience of the festival.
- Ensure clear channels of communication for complaints from surrounding neighbours/local communities and ensure there is a responsible person assigned to respond quickly and effectively to complaints.
- Advertise temporary jobs locally first, and recruit as many staff members from the neighbouring communities.
- Use sustainable, locally produced products and local suppliers as much as possible for your products and services, e.g. machine and tent hire, food and drinks, merchandising, printing and signage etc.
- Offer opportunities for local people to raise money for local charities/community groups at the festival or event.
- Offer free tickets to the event for those living close by, or in built up areas, offer a number of tickets to a local residents group for raffle.
- Hold free events for the local community to enjoy the festival space.
- Limit night time noise and light pollution.

Safety and Security

- Ensure that there are enough lights, signage and stewards on surrounding road networks to avoid road traffic incidents.
- Manage the crowd safely and have adequate security and medical teams.
- Have a robust Traffic Management Plan and an Emergency Preparedness Plan that accounts for all possible emergencies, including traffic incidents, high winds, flooding and fires.
- Prepare Risk Assessments for potentially dangerous tasks or areas, and provide adequate training and proper Personal Protective Equipment to ensure that tasks are carried out safely and won't cause any risks to the people performing such tasks or to the surrounding environment.

Establish an Environmental Baseline

- Consult local environmental plans and policies. This may give you an indication of any concerns in the local area, and signpost opportunities to engage with local groups.
- Engage with local environmental action groups to gather available data and/or previous biodiversity surveys of the site and to identify any sensitivities that are already known in the wider community.
- Engage the services of a professional ecology consultancy to carry out a biodiversity assessment (Phase 1 Habitat Survey) of your site before the event takes place to identify the habitat types, animals and plants that live there and to assess the impact that the event is having/will have on them.
- Ecological baseline data can be used to design the site in a way that minimises impacts on habitats present and species using them and data collection also enables festivals to conduct follow up ecological surveys.

LEVEL

- BASIC
- MODERATE
- AMBITIOUS
- CHALLENGING



COMMUNITY & BIODIVERSITY ▾

ACTIONS



Enhance biodiversity and contribute to community stewardship

- Host a local habitat clean up – e.g. adjacent woodland, hedgerows or beaches.
- Organise tree and wildflower planting on the site or in a local community.
- Engage a local ecologist and host a mini-biodiversity survey during the festival for audience participation.
- Engage with local environmental action groups to give talks/workshops at your event about local wildlife and programmes that they are running.
- Dedicate nature walk routes or quiet zones areas around the site for people who want to experience nature without disturbance to wildlife.
- If the event is of sufficient size and will occur at the same location over successive years, it may demonstrate an investment in the local environment to set up a local environmental community fund for local groups to invest in projects.

Site Protection

- Review the site plan and note the locations of sensitive areas, and avoid these areas when placing or building infrastructure e.g. laying track way, building stages or production areas, allocating campsites, toilet blocks etc.
- Prohibit access to ecologically sensitive areas, e.g. areas with nesting birds, waterways, bat roosts etc.
- Increase fencing, exclusion tape and signage along pathways and at festival boundaries to discourage people from entering sensitive areas. In particular, have clear directions to toilets to discourage people from going into unprotected areas to urinate/defecate.
- Considering a buffer to water courses to prevent infiltration of litter and other pollutants such as urine run-off from people not using appropriate toilets.
- Have dedicated areas for using and cleaning up hazardous substances such as paints and fuels. Spill kits should be located at these areas, and other sensitive areas which may be at risk from pollution by accidental spillages (e.g. food vendors stalls/toilets).
- For sensitive trees, demarcate tree root protection zones with appropriate fencing and signage to explain what they are and why they are necessary.
- Increase supplies of ground coverage and cover more areas to protect the soil.

- Create Emergency Management Plans for unfavourable weather and accidents that help to protect the local environment as well as people.
- Ensure that Emergency Management Plans and Risk Assessments take account of any local/state/provincial disaster response plans in the event of forest fires, flash floods, extreme lightning storms that are going to become more common and extreme as climate risk increases.

Linkage with SDGs ▾



LEVEL

- BASIC
- MODERATE
- AMBITIOUS
- CHALLENGING



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- **GREEN DEAL ON CIRCULAR FESTIVALS**
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- **Green Roadmap Cultural Sector Norway**
<https://xn--grntveikart-hgb.no/>
- **Roadmap towards 2030 guiding plastic reduction in Malaysia**
https://enviliance.com/regions/southeast-asia/my/report_2445
- **Future festival tools:**
<https://www.futurefestivaltools.eu/self-assessment-en/>
- **THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development (un.org)**
<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

EDITABLE ACTION PLAN

You can download an editable version of the Action Plan here:
[EU Green Roadmap - Action Plan](#)

ICON CREDITS

- Sustainability Icons Vectors by Vecteezy
- Lines Vectors by Vecteezy
- Soccer Vectors by Vecteezy

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EUROPEAN GREEN FESTIVAL ROADMAP 2030

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