



The Paper Birds Theatre Company

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Date created: August 2024

Staff responsible: Kylie Perry

Trustee responsible: Rose Abderabbani

Date of next review: August 2026

Introduction

Our company vision is to provoke change, one encounter at a time. We are committed to taking this same approach with environmental responsibility. As an organisation, we work with thousands of young people every year, and we want to use our platform to engage our participants and audiences to develop environmental responsibility.

We recognise that the day-to-day operations of The Paper Birds have an impact on the environment around us, and that carbon emissions pose a threat to the futures of the thousands of young people we serve and engage with every year. This policy sets out our approach to minimise that affect and reduce our impact on the world.

We ensure compliance with Arts Council England's commitment to developing [Environmental Responsibility](#) through the continual monitoring of our impact as a minimum, and this policy encourages continual improvement in environmental performance. As of 2024 we have declared a climate and ecological emergency by signing up to [culture declares emergency](#).

Impact

We identify three main areas of activity where our actions impact the environment the most. These include;

- Administration: Printing, overheads, cloud storage, website hosting, digital graphics/images used in communications.
- Producing shows and events: Materials used to create set, costume, props, lighting, sound, AV, marketing.
- Travel: fuel use and carbon emissions, including workforce, audience, procurement, accommodation



Reducing our Impact

In all our operations we are committed to;

- Reducing resource consumption.
- Minimising energy usage.
- Prioritising the elimination and reduction of waste, reusing where possible, and treating recycling as a minimum and a last resort to avoid landfill and incineration.
- Using sustainable and ethical goods.
- Reducing CO₂e emissions in line with the UK target of reducing emissions by 80% from the 1990 baseline by 2050. This is as a minimum. We will continue working towards more ambitious carbon reduction targets that will be set once we have better understood our impacts and what a Net Zero version of our organisation looks like. This target will aim to be in line with local targets as well as national.

As we plan and operate the activity of the organisation we aim to;

- Discuss environmental issues at Executive and Board level and have sustainability at the heart of the company policy.
- Encourage and enable sustainable practices throughout the creation phases of our productions and events by signing up to be a part of the [Theatre Green Book](#) initiative, prioritising time for planning sustainability in.
- Track and report on our company CO₂e emissions, with a view to better understanding our [Scope 1,2, and 3 emissions](#).
- Increase company member's awareness of environmental policies and encourage a culture of shared responsibility.
- Avoid pollution of air, land and water wherever possible.
- Encourage and enable sustainable travel for artists, staff and audiences with a priority placed on public transport, *and a maximum of 50% domestic company travel coming from internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles*. We recognise that approaches to sustainable travel must also intersect with inclusion and access, meaning that use of public transport is not always viable.
- Promote awareness of climate issues in our artistic and participation programmes wherever relevant.
- Actively promote an awareness of the steps we are taking to be more environmentally responsible in our operations, inviting others to join us.
- Seek out opportunities to collaborate on environmental responsibility with other organisations.
- At all levels, amplify the voices of those unrepresented, such as those disproportionately climate vulnerable, biodiversity, young people, and unborn generations.



We will achieve these aims by;

- Annually updating our Environmental Action Plan, holding ourselves accountable and evaluating if we are reaching targets.
- Sharing the protocol set out in this policy with all staff members (employed and freelance), and publishing it on our public website.

Monitoring and evaluation

We will update this policy annually, but should any data or legislation provoke a sooner update we will evaluate and amend accordingly.