



## SUSTAINABILITY POLICY 2008

**Festival Republic** endeavours to deliver festivals and events with the least amount of environmental impact as possible. Working through every aspect of the festival, we are developing systems and innovative solutions across key areas such as energy, transport, purchasing, and waste.

We are working with our contractors and suppliers to reduce their impact, and implement systems onsite which the audience can participate in.

Our aim is for each of our festivals to be BS8901 compliant. Sustainability issues will be at the core of our festival planning throughout the cycle of the event. Equal loading is given to sustainability throughout the planning, load in, event itself, load out and debriefing of each festival.

In drawing up this policy I have given consideration to all of our activities throughout the event cycle and have assessed each one in the context of the significance of their impact. I am fully committed to sustainability issues and am aiming to exceed the legislative requirement and in the long term, to exceed best practice.

A Sustainability Co-ordinator is employed to work with the production team, contractors & suppliers to focus on sustainability issues and develop innovative solutions.

Apart from the immediate benefit in 'going green' we hope Festival Republic's focus on sustainable practices will impact the industry through our suppliers and contractors. Engaging the audience in projects onsite also provides the opportunity for encouraging changing behaviour.

Melvin Benn  
Managing Director, Festival Republic



## 1. CONSULTATION PROCESS

- The Sustainability Co-ordinator consults with all staff, contractors, sub contractors, suppliers, services, agencies, media companies, sponsors, traders and ticket holders.
- We encourage feedback from these parties about sustainability issues and investigate their pertinent ideas.
- We will incorporate a sustainability forum into our websites so we can collect feedback at any time. This is regularly reviewed.
- This consultation process will continue in the debriefing after each festival.
- We will encourage a partnership approach in this consultation process.

## 2. EDUCATION AND TRAINING ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY

- A Sustainability Resources internal website is available to all staff and selected contractors and suppliers. It gives information on policies, requirements, hints and tips and other information relating to sustainable event management.
- A monthly newsletter is sent to staff, crew, stewards, contractors, suppliers, sponsors, and other festival participants. It updates them on festival specific information regarding sustainability, along with bigger picture topics which have relevance to the events industry or the wider community.
- A comprehensive set of information pages are available on the company's and festival websites for the audience. This includes audience participation programs, information on reducing individual impact with attending the festivals, and links to other relevant information.
- Where appropriate, various groups promoting environmental issues and initiatives will have access to our audiences onsite at the festivals via information stalls and interactive displays.
- The Sustainability Co-ordinator works with internal staff to encourage further feedback and training and to ensure that there is someone at each festival to oversee these issues.
- Media releases and website articles highlight sustainable measures that we are taking.
- A communications strategy is put together to get the messages across to the audience while onsite at the festival.
- Artists and performers are briefed on sustainability initiatives at each event and encouraged to participate.
- All of the education and training campaigns will steer clear of a lecturing tone and will rather aim to appeal to the relevant audience profile.

### 3. TARGETS & KPI's

The key performance indicators are as follows:

**Waste Volume** – to landfill, recycled and composted. Per audience member figure.

**Energy Usage** – including fuel consumption in generators, natural gas and resulting CO2 emissions.

**Fuel Usage** – Onsite vehicles and plant, plus resulting CO2 emissions.

**Audience Transport** – Public transport and Car Occupancy, plus mileage and CO2 emissions.

**Crew, Steward, Staff and Artist Transport** – where measurable.

**Goods Deliveries** – Transport impact where measurable.

Various techniques are being trialled to reduce the impacts stated above. These will be measured over three years to test effectiveness and to set ongoing goals. Focus includes:

#### Waste

- Reduction of waste to landfill.
- Match or exceed the relevant local authorities recycling targets at each festival.
- Resource recovery prior to waste disposal, particularly looking at campsites and salvage of useful items.

#### Energy

- Reduce total volume of fuel, and move to alternative energy production where possible.

#### Transport

- Increase vehicle occupancy rates and public transport usage.
- Reduce product miles by sourcing locally.

### 4. LIGHT & NOISE POLLUTION

#### Noise Pollution

- The festivals will have adequate controls to minimize the impact from noise pollution.
- Noise complaint hotlines are in place in order for residents that perceive they are experiencing noise nuisance to register their concerns. This is monitored and readings taken to ensure levels set by the premises license are not exceeded.

#### Light Pollution

- The rural location of the festivals mean the potential of light pollution impacting on the local community is limited however, the following measures are undertaken:
  - If used, light shows and laser shows are planned and executed with great care to ensure they are not directed into areas which could impinge on the sleeping and living spaces of local residents. The timing of such light shows are planned to minimize any potential disruption.
  - Public lighting is kept to the minimum necessary for health and safety and security reasons.
  - Any tower lights installed at vehicle gates are positioned carefully to minimize the potential of light pollution impacting on local residents.

## 5. WATER

Water courses are protected from pollution and adhere to Environment Agency and local government regulations.

- Placement of soak-aways, toilets, showers and other amenities is at a distance from natural water courses, as prescribed by the Event License.
- The provision of toilets exceeds the recommendations in the Event Safety Guide to dissuade people from urinating on the ground. The negative environmental impact of this activity is highlighted on the festival websites.
- In consultation with the relevant contractors sustainable alternatives to chemicals used as cleaning fluids, anti smell chemicals, toilet chemicals etc are used where possible.

### Water Use Reduction

- All water points have self closing taps to ensure water is not wasted by taps being left on after use.
- If water bowsers are used to deal with dust around the site an organic dust settling agent will be used to reduce the spray requirement to once only.
- Signage in public and staff showers encourages shorter showers to save water and energy consumption in heating the water.
- The following message is included in all specs, contracts, letters of agreement with contractors, traders, sponsors etc:

*"Please help us make the festival sustainable by using the free water points when you are onsite working rather than bringing bottled water."*

## 6. AIR

Air pollution in association with the festivals includes;

- Power generator exhaust
- Vehicle emissions
- Toxic fumes from fires.

Strategies to manage these areas include:

- Power management planning, including alternative fuels and alternative energy.
- Audience, crew, contractor, supplier and artist campaigns to decrease transport impact.
- The burning of toxic materials such as tents, along with dangerous items such as gas canisters is discouraged and programs in place to reduce this activity.
- Campfires larger than knee height are not permitted.
- Campsite stewards and security patrol the campsites and intervene if any campers are burning any toxic material.
- All wood provided for campfires is untreated offcuts from sawmills which is the most environmentally friendly option.
- The continuous planned collection of waste during the event limits the potential of waste being set alight.

Traffic marshalls encourage car drivers in queues (particularly when exiting the car parks on the Monday) to switch off their engines rather than sitting in their cars with their engines idling.



## 7. LAND & WASTE

Minimising volume of waste to landfill is a priority. This is achieved through various initiatives including:

### Audience Campaigns

- Recycling and composting on-the-go.
- Recycling incentives including deposits/refunds on beer cups and plastic bottles.
- Aluminium can campaigns.
- Gas canister campaigns.
- Provision of Camper's Waste Kits.
- Bag of rubbish return incentives to Litter Exchanges.
- Recycling and Green Messenger Stewards
- Resource Recovery & programs to encourage pack it up and hand it in of unwanted camping gear.

### Contactors Strategy

- Regulate what contractors, particularly vendors can bring onsite.
- Only compostable/biodegradable food packaging used.
- Resource recovery back of house.
- Education and resourcing for micro waste management systems onsite.

### Waste Management

- A thorough litter pick is carried out post festival with the aim of "leaving no trace"
- Where appropriate and in consultation with the local authority, a litter pick is carried out along offsite strategic routes to the festival sites.
- There is continuous waste management carried out throughout the duration of the events.
- A winter clean is conducted to ensure any litter that becomes apparent once the vegetation has died back is found and removed.
- There is continuous monitoring of sanitary facilities including checking self closing taps are working, that the litter pick is ongoing throughout the event, that showers are not leaking, and there are no maintenance issues with the toilets etc by a team of EHO monitors.
- All contractor, trader, supplier etc specifications and contracts, is a requirement that there be no emissions to the land.
- If there is any accidental oil or chemical leakages onto the land, these will be dealt with immediately to EA specifications.
- Wherever possible and feasible, temporary roadways and hardcore roads will be installed to ensure the impact of heavy vehicles on the soil is minimized.

## 8. ECOLOGICAL SENSITIVITY AND HERITAGE CONSERVATION

The site designs are done to take into account any ecologically sensitive areas or artifacts of heritage or cultural significance:

- We design our sites with consideration to the surroundings ie by mitigating the effects for example on water courses.
- We protect existing biodiversity resources ie by not using sensitive parts of the site such as Black Fen at Bramham Park.
- We protect sites of archeological or cultural interest ie by protecting the monuments at Bramham Park
- We continue to install permanent infrastructure such as roads, water mains, long drop pits, and power distribution where applicable in order to cut down on the energy costs in installing temporary infrastructure each year.

## 9. PROCUREMENT

The objectives of our purchasing include:

- Reducing the environmental impact of our purchasing.
- To play our part in developing new markets for alternative sustainable products
- To ensure support for ethical production,

The following are the guidelines we follow in procurement:

- **Buy from local suppliers where possible to reduce transport miles**
- **Buy manufactured in the UK**
- **Buy product made from raw materials from the UK**
- **Buy products made from recycled and/or non toxic materials**
- **Buy products which have regard for the welfare of their workers**

## 10. COMPLIANCE WITH TARGETS

Sustainability targets will be written into specs, contracts and letters of agreement and employment. The Sustainability Co-ordinator will monitor compliance with the aims of this policy and quantify the success of the implementation of this policy.

## 11. GENERAL POINTS AND WIDER ISSUES

It should be noted that in some areas of the festival organization we are limited by choice of suppliers available but wherever possible sustainability will be at the core of the decision making process before appointing a supplier or contractor.

Wider issues of sustainability such as health and safety, employment terms, working environment etc as identified by the BS8901 are covered in our Health and Safety Policy.

Details on specific projects and strategies used to achieve the goals outlined in this policy can be found on the Green Republic website.

## 12. MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Sustainability Co-ordinator will carry out a quantitative assessment post festival of the reduction in vehicle use, increase in shuttle bus use, % of waste recycled, amount of waste recycled, increase in tents recycled, water use, fuel bill etc.

Each year we will review this policy and aim to strengthen and improve it.

Sustainability issues will be included in the external and internal debrief after each festival and in our own internal audit.