



CLIMATE ACTION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Updated: Aug 2024

SUSTAINABILITY

Our Climate Action policy has been implemented since 2017 and we continue to develop our sustainability processes and policies as we achieve benchmarks so we can continue to minimise our carbon footprint.

In 2024 we started to work with Failte Ireland's Climate Action programme in order to further develop our sustainability, which in turn will influence our future policies and procedures.

1. BIODIVERSITY ACTIONS

- No herbicides are used on the grounds around the building
- Grass is not cut before the middle of April at earliest to assist pollinators
- We keep grounds as free of litter as possible
- We manage an area (adjacent to the Carpark) so as to maximise biodiversity (cut only a path through the grass).
- We minimise any use of chemicals throughout the building
- We host workshops and talks on the theme of biodiversity/sustainability
- Installed bird boxes in our adjacent area
- Compost all organic waste
- Touring and overnight stays away from home
- We will plant pollinator friendly fruit trees

2. ENERGY ACTIONS

We undertook the following:

- Replaced our oil-fired heating system with an Air to Heat Pump system
- Replaced all of the building lighting with LED lights
- Replaced external lighting with LED fittings

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- Installed insulation in sections of the building where it was possible
- Installed 40 photovoltaic panels on the roof of the building

Additionally, we have increased the draft proofing around doors, replaced door glass with double glazing, and replaced some of the stage lighting with LED stage lights. All members of the staff team are very conscious of minimising usage and behaviours have changed to support this (turning off lights and machinery when not in use). Our electricity supplier is SE Airtricity, and they supply us with electricity which is sourced from 100% renewable sources.

We need to undertake an annual energy audit as part of our ongoing review process.

Over the coming years we aim to do the following:

- Improve the insulation and draft proofing of the building
- Invest in additional LED stage lighting when the technology is available
- Replace all equipment with A rated appliances
- Identify other energy saving measures which would reduce our carbon footprint further

3. GREEN PROCUREMENT ACTIONS

We are working with our suppliers to purchase products and services that cause minimal adverse environmental impacts.

4. WATER & WASTE MANAGEMENT

As part of our Waste Management policies, we have reduced the amount of overall waste we create (by 50%) by using the following measures:

- Sharing documents electronically, ie issue contracts, distribute meeting minutes and wage slips via email
- Avoid completely one-use plastics (eg. replaced plastic straws with paper straws, recyclable/washable plastic glasses)
- Encourage the use of Keep Cups and Bottles within the staff team and by visitors
- Reuse paper, print both sides, avoid printing where possible
- Minimise printed publicity material and use recyclable paper where possible
- Compost all organic waste and use this to grow vegetables and herbs in our courtyard
- Use only glass bottles in the Bar (30% are re-used, 70% recycled)
- Recycle all plastic and aluminium cans used within the theatre by visitors

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- Encourage staff and visitors to use water fountains
- Work with incoming companies inviting them to get involved in our waste reduction strategies

We also aim to reduce the amount of water which is wasted and we are currently gathering information on our usage patterns. Plumbing in our customer toilets is causing water wastage due to taps leaking, therefore investment in plumbing fixtures is required in order to make significant progress in this area. In the interim, we have made the following small changes:

- We have replaced our hanging baskets with large tubs which require much less watering
- We have installed a water butt in our courtyard. During warm weather, this has been sufficient to water our flower tubs and our raised vegetable bed
- We save water from the sink (without detergent) for use on plants and shrubs during hot weather

5. TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

We have implemented the following:

- Remote working/hybrid option for staff members
- Bike parking facilities at the staff entrance
- Virtual online meetings facilitated through Teams, Zoom and Google

We will aim to:

- Promote car-pooling initiatives for patrons
- Secure bike parking facilities near our entrance for visitors
- Electric car charging points in the staff carpark (there are electric charging facilities in Brandon Car Park beside the theatre)