



CLIMATE ACTION POLICY

2024

INTRODUCTION

This policy could not have been made possible without the support of: Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), the Department of Culture, Heritage & The Gaeltacht, SE Systems, Kerry Sustainable Energy Co-operative Ltd (KSEC), Transition Kerry, Tralee Tidy Towns and Kerry County Council. Siamsa Tíre is working to integrate sustainability into its organisational strategy and structure with an ambition to establish itself as a leader on environmental sustainability within the Irish arts landscape. Attaining certification as Ireland's first green theatre is a point of pride and we continue to place climate action as a priority in how we do what we do on a day-to-day basis. The policy recognises the opportunity that arts practice has as being increasingly recognised as a resource for transformative change.

Our policy is underpinned by Kerry County Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 and The Arts Council's Climate Action Roadmap 2024.

Please see our implementation measures for further information on how we strive to make this policy a living action in our practice.

1. SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is at the core of everything that Siamsa Tíre does, from sustaining our cultural artistic traditions, architectural heritage, contemporary arts and sense of community through to the impact that we make environmentally on our environment and the planet.

Whether through our carbon footprint, our impact on the world's rich biodiversity, or the pollution of air, soil and water, we leave our mark. Reflecting a growing desire to protect what is precious for future generations, Siamsa Tíre continues its efforts to Green, aiming to reduce our impact on the environment and create a more sustainable future. Find out about [our certification](#) as Ireland's first Green certified theatre and the award we were thrilled to receive from [Julie's Bicycle](#).

Siamsa Tíre

2. BIODIVERSITY

Our Biodiversity Area, adjacent to the Siamsa Tíre carpark and courtesy of permission from Kerry County Council, contains three **specialty built bird boxes** made by local artist, **Nik Taylor**. You can read more about how he made these and [the thinking behind the boxes](#). This project is the completion of our Percent For Art scheme as part of recent funding for energy upgrades from the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht (along with funding from the SEAI).

At a biodiversity workshop (delivered by Niamh Ní Dhúill) in the grounds around Siamsa in May of 2018, local plant recorder, **Jessica Hamilton** (The Kerry Branch of the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland) generously completed a plant list for us. She returned to deliver a further workshop during Biodiversity Week in May 2019 and provided us with an updated Plant List which recorded an additional three species – [Plant List 2019](#).

3. ENERGY

Energy usage is one of the principal contributors to Climate Change. At Siamsa Tíre, with funding from the SEAI (under the Better Energy Communities initiative) and from the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, we recently undertook a number of energy upgrades to reduce our carbon footprint. Our policy supports deeper understanding through adaptation of behaviours to support the goal of minimising usage, with each staff member being particularly aware of this (turning off lights and machinery when not in use). SE Airtricity, our electricity provider, provides us with electricity that comes exclusively from renewable sources. Continual assessment and training initiatives are part of our measures to continuously improve in this area.

4. TRANSPORT & TRAVEL

Our first action in addressing the impact of transport and travel on Siamsa Tíre's carbon footprint is to gather information. Throughout 2018 and early 2019, we gathered information from our customers, both local and international, about the ways in which they travel to visit us, how far they travel, and with whom they travel.

We also gathered in-depth information from our staff team which will help us to identify ways in which the impacts of work-related travel can be mitigated.

Using this information, we aim to support how our customers and staff can minimise their carbon footprint. The policy supports the implementation of the following strategies:

- Remote working for staff members – hybrid model now that business has returned to normal
- Car pooling initiatives for patrons

Siamsa Tíre

- Secure bike parking facilities at the staff entrance and for visitors longer term
- Electric car charging points in the staff carpark
- Virtual online meetings facilitated through Teams, Zoom and Google

5. WATER & WASTE MANAGEMENT

As part of our Waste Policy, we aimed to recycle a minimum of 30% of our waste in 2018. With a lot of work by the staff team, the reduction of waste to landfill was almost 50% in 2018 when compared with 2017. We continue to work towards a long-term aim of zero waste to landfill. Recycling bins are now available throughout much of the building. Our principle approach to waste will focus on REDUCING the amount of waste we produce, followed by REUSING and then RECYCLING. Siamsa Tíre is also delighted to be a member of the [GLAN initiative](#).