

Green Rider for venues

Highlights is committed to action on the environmental crisis. We are keen to take responsibility for our impact on people and planet and ensure that we help to arrange productions as sustainably as possible. We are not perfect but are always looking for ways to improve the social and environmental impacts of our work.

We ask that our venue partners do all they can to support us in achieving our target. This document outlines how you can help us. Please let us know about your own targets on sustainability and environmental issues, and we'll do all we can to support you in achieving these, too.

Below are some suggestions on ways to reduce a venue's environmental impact. You may already be doing some of these and we know that not all of them are possible at every venue.

Travel

- Offer audiences information on car-sharing, public transport and active transport (e.g. walking, cycling) routes to the venue.
- We know that rural roads can be dark and narrow. Could you arrange a walking party to the village hall with torches and high-vis vests?
- Provide secure bike parking.
- When you publicise an event locally, emphasize the benefits of your venue being "just down the road" minimizing the need to travel.

Dressing rooms

- Turn on dressing room heating/air cooling and lights just before or when artists arrive.
- Use environmentally responsible cleaning products.
- Use recycled paper products (e.g. toilet paper, hand towels).
- Provide clearly labelled recycling facilities backstage, in easily accessible locations including in dressing rooms. If your venue collects food waste, please also provide food waste bins in dressing rooms.

Catering

- Provide drinking water taps/water dispensers, and no single use plastic cups.
- Provide reusable/washable crockery (plates, cutlery, etc).
- If you are providing food, please:
 - Always offer vegetarian and vegan options.
 - Provide condiment bottles/dispensers, instead of single-use sachets.
 - Give preference to products with environmental credentials, e.g. organic, seasonal,

Fairtrade, locally sourced, plastic-free packaging, etc.

Spares Box

- Consider keeping a spares box with some items which artists might need. This could avoid them going out to buy new, or ordering online if they forget anything. Such as:
 - Extension leads
 - Eco-friendly gaffer tape
 - Jack lead (connects audio devices e.g. musical instruments and speakers)
 - XLR lead (connects microphones to audio equipment)

On the night

- Use minimum necessary space heating before and during the show – audiences soon warm up the venue!
- When providing refreshments, avoid use of single-use drinks containers.
- Recycle any post-show waste such as paper flyers and glass bottles.

Energy

- If possible, consider switching to low-carbon, renewable electricity. Please let us know if you have already done so and we will give you a shout out on the sustainability page on our website. For more information and support with funding applications, you can visit the following websites:

<https://www.ca-north.org.uk/empowering-organisations/village-halls-community-buildings/solar-powered-community-buildings>

<https://www.durhamcommunityaction.org.uk/>

<https://cafs.org.uk/>

Further Information

If you need further advice on how to make your venue more sustainable, we suggest you use the Theatre Green Book's Sustainable Buildings Toolkit:

<https://theatregreenbook.com/sustainablebuildings-toolkit/>

[You can read and download our Environmental Policy here.](#)

Thank you for taking the time to read our Green Rider. If there are any other ways in which we can support your efforts to become more sustainable or collaborate on these matters, please contact Dawn – info@highlightsnorth.co.uk