

Environmental Policy

Purpose

To outline the objectives Festival of Making CIC has put in place to reduce and mitigate our environmental impact and to provide context for our Action Plan.

Policy Statement

Festival of Making CIC recognises that our organisational operations have an impact on the environment and are committed to reducing this impact. The scope of our cultural work is broad, including a free family festival taking place in Blackburn Town Centre; a year round programme involving communities and in education settings, and a number of new artist commissions each year.

We strive to improve our environmental impact within our organisation and across all of our activities and we recognise that this policy will need ongoing reflection and adaptation.

Festival of Making CIC is operated by a small team however, as a cultural organisation, we understand that we can, and should, play a leading role in driving change. “Sustainability needs culture, but culture also needs sustainability, to survive and thrive.” (Julie’s Bicycle, *Communicating Sustainability*, 2015).

As a National Portfolio Organisation (NPO), we are committed to continuing to embed Arts Council England’s (ACE) Investment Principles throughout our work and in our organisation. Environmental Responsibility is one of the four Investment Principles and our Policy and Action Plan aim to convey our commitment to learning and change alongside our reporting to ACE.

This Policy has been developed through sharing best practices, our own experiences, company training, and learning through previous collaborations with students of MA Arts Management at Lancaster University.

Scope

As well as being guided by ACE Investment Principles, which includes our 3 Year Ambition and our 12-month priorities, our Policy and Action Plan will continue to be informed by guidance and information from ACE’s sustainability partner Julie’s Bicycle.

The primary environmental impacts generated by our organisational operations are: fossil fuel energy consumption, water consumption, waste general, short term use of materials, print materials and resources, and staff travel.

Responsibility

This policy will be shared with all employees, relevant partners and artists who will hold responsibility within their own areas of work to ensure the objectives of this policy are upheld. By sharing our policy we hope to open conversations around sustainable practice and encourage others to become more environmentally aware. We will also request that partners share their environmental policies with us.

Within our Team and Board of Directors, 3 members will guide our work in this area, collaborating with the wider team to implement the Action Plan across all areas of our work.

Objectives

Our Environmental Policy, broken down into practical steps and targets within our Action Plan, is guided by the following grouped objectives:

Communication

- We endeavour to share positive and easy-to-read messaging related to the environment strands within our own work. By doing this, we aim to increase awareness of the work we are undertaking in this field, as well as to support audiences in making more sustainable choices both during their experience with us, and in creative practices they are inspired to explore as a result.
- We will learn from and alongside partners and stakeholders by sharing best practices and experiences. We will prioritise this with local cultural organisations and stakeholders to ensure our effort is a collective one in Blackburn and Lancashire, and uphold our position on the Executive Committee of the LANDS network (Lancashire Arts Network for Developing Sustainability).

Programming and Commissioning

- We are committed to embedding sustainability throughout our programmes, including commissioning at least one artist each year who will respond to environmental themes.
- During the stages of planning, programming and implementing work, we will consider the environmental impacts of the project and how these can be reduced, including reusing materials for workshops, signage across the festival site, and hiring/reusing festival/exhibition infrastructure

Monitoring and Reporting

- In addition to updating our progress within the Environmental Investment Principle, we will use the Creative Climate Tools set up by Julie's Bicycle to monitor our Carbon Footprint.
- We have adapted our Audience Evaluations and artist communications to capture data on travel and will continue to build on this across our portfolio of work.

Team Development and Progress

- We will continue providing opportunities for our team of employed and contracted staff, as well as our Board of Directors, to complete training and gain awareness in sustainability and environmental costs in the cultural sector.
- A team of 3 members from our staff and Board will continue to meet regularly (at least quarterly) to monitor our progress and update the Action Plan, with meetings held twice annually with the wider team.

The National Festival of Making's Directors will oversee the implementation of the action plan and 'Environment & Sustainability' will become an agenda item on bi-weekly team meetings to embed sustainability into decisions and updates across all workstreams (Programming, Marketing, Operations and Organisation Development)

The action plan and objectives will be reviewed:

- At least annually
- When there are changes to legislation
- When there are changes to the organisation or our work which have different environmental impacts
- If we receive feedback from our community, partners or stakeholders.

Last Review: 09.04.2026

Next Review: 09.04.2027