

Green Commitments



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The following is a list of actions and considerations to be taken by the festivals collaborating under the Songs of Travel umbrella in 2024–2025.

Travel/Transport:

1. No flights for artists, staff and students included in the SOT programme.
2. Choose public transport over individual car travel.
3. We commit to renting at least one electric vehicle for the full festival period with the view to getting first-hand experience regarding the feasibility of such alternatives.
4. Use electric vans and trucks for material transportation when possible.
5. Encourage active travel (walking, cycling) when feasible.
6. Avoid using fossil fueled cars when possible.
7. Always ask suppliers and partners to use electric transportation. If they can't comply, always offer your own electric transportation if available.
8. Drive slowly to conserve emissions/energy.
9. When organizing venues, consider the emissions from attendees and prioritize locations that are easily accessible by public transport or active travel.

Energy:

1. Minimize electricity usage.
2. Choose venues with solar panels or other renewable energy sources when possible.
3. Opt for more energy-efficient buildings when possible.
4. Choose a renewable energy subscription when possible. Discuss with the venues to change their energy plan!

Food:

1. Only serve (or pay for) vegan or vegetarian dishes to artists, staff and students.
2. Try to reduce cheese, fish, poultry, meat and especially red meat served at the festival locations.
3. Ensure suitable portion sizes to minimize food waste.

Waste:

1. Limit opportunities for waste generation.
2. No provision of one-off plastics or biodegradable materials.
3. Ensure that food and drink materials are recyclable e.g. paper rather than plastics etc.
4. Separate waste properly, considering both venue and food-related waste.
5. Recycle as much as local waste collection services allow.
6. Select/encourage food suppliers to minimize packaging.

Accommodation:

1. Demand reduced cleaning services, twice per week is a maximum.
2. Choose accommodation within walking distance from the main venues.
3. Be cautious with high-end hotels, as they usually have higher emissions; however, assess individual hotels for efficiency.
4. Avoid hotels with energy-intensive features like swimming pools and 24/7 saunas.

Festival Materials and communications:

1. Minimize the printing of materials like posters, banners, and program books.
2. We will not send out physical promotion letters/leaflets to audiences.
3. Seek alternative methods for program communication to replace program leaflets, for example wall projections in the hall.
4. Make sure banners and other reusables are printed without specific dates or names. Alternatively buy materials where you can reuse frames, stands etc and switch the fabric/poster.
5. Reduce the use of high data emails.
6. Only record performances when necessary and minimize online and offline long-term storage of videos.
7. Be mindful of the emissions associated with digital communications. Turn off your camera in digital meetings when possible.
8. Consider the environmental impact of materials used for festival items such as pens, mugs, t-shirts etc. We don't need to hand out merch automatically to all artists/students/audiences.

Data Collection:

1. Travel: Send out survey obtained from University of Galway to assess artist and audiences' travel patterns.
2. Ask audiences to put a pea in a jar to represent their mode of transportation. This raises audience awareness in a fun and visual way.
3. Energy: Electricity, gas, oil, water meter readings for the period of the festival and for each venue.
4. Food: Number of meals served, % vegetarian, vegan and meat (% red meat meals separated if possible).
5. Accommodation: Star rating of hotels used and bed-nights during festival plus (if available) sustainability reports from hotel groups.
6. Print and merchandise: What (e.g. t-shirts, pens etc) and how many produced and material where possible (e.g. clothing cotton, bamboo etc).

List of stakeholders:

1. Festival Staff
2. Artists
3. Students
4. Volunteers
5. Audiences
6. Partners
7. Suppliers
8. Donors and financial supporters

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