

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY & ACTION PLAN

2025-2027

Background

Established in 1995, DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL is a year-round organisation that is a home to artists and a platform for brand new work across every discipline. It is a thriving community that celebrates bold ideas, brave performing arts and adventurous audiences every September, marking its 31st edition in 2025. Via FRINGE LAB, DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL provides year-round practical and artistic support, responding to the needs of both developing and established artists, technicians, producers and practitioners. FRINGE LAB is both a space and a platform of activities for training and learning. FRINGE LAB rehearsal studios, private office space and drop in facilities, are used by over 200+ companies for 10,000+ hours annually.

As a strategically funded organisation and a learning festival, DFF supports ambition and innovation nurturing excellence on artistic results and industry practises. DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL provides a context for work and demands audience engagement and dialogue. The scale and environment of the festival broadens arts participation, playing a vital role in the fabric of Dublin's cultural life.

Commitment

According to our strategy 2022-2026, it is our ambition to deliver on and ensure continued, sustainable standards of rigor and excellence. DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL is committed to understanding and minimising its impact on the environment, building on work it is already doing, and will continue to work to achieve this and influence its stakeholders to do the same.

A sustainability in the office policy has been in place since 2011, and is now integrated in this policy and action plan.

The Board of DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL endorses this policy to demonstrate DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL's commitment.

Strategy

Our efforts will be planned around three central strategic points:

- Measure and understand our impact.
- Reduce impact through direct operations efficiency.
- Actively advocate in favor of and promote care for the environment through all activities to all our stakeholders.

To achieve our goals DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL will develop yearly implementation plans tailored to its own unique circumstances.

Implementation

This policy applies to DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL 's building operations as well as to all its events in other venues.

Renewal and evaluation

The Policy and Action Plan will be reviewed and its results evaluated:

- annually;
- whenever there are significant changes to the organisation or its output;
- when we carry out new activities with significantly different projected environmental impact;
- whenever external factors (environmental, social, legislative) necessitate a change in best business practices.

Limitations

DUBLIN FRINGE FESTIVAL recognises that

- with **limited in-house capacity**, it is difficult to gather the depth of information necessary to record and evaluate our environmental impact in detail, as such a project would include >25 venues, >70 productions, >500 festival artists, >10,000 supported artists, etc. annually.
- our administrative and artist support operations are currently taking place in a **rental building** and our operations model doesn't allow for the significant refurbishment investment that would be required to be efficient energy wise.

Mitigation: These two limitations will be mentioned on every report and action plan in the future. Notwithstanding, we will allocate every possible resource in ensuring that our impact will be evaluated as fairly as possible within our limited capacity and our actions will address the factors that we can affect.

ACTION PLAN 2025

There will be an interim evaluation point for the below first implementation plan in August 2025.

Actions	Tasked	Due	Notes
Measure and Understand our impact			
Read relevant literature	Executive Director	May 26	
Create and test a bespoke CO2 footprint calculation tool	Executive Director / Programme Manager	Jun 26	We expect to see raise in our footprint for the first few years as we become better in measuring our impact.
Take inventory of and review the energy consumption of our equipment	Production Manager	Aug 26	Already in progress.
Research free energy audit options or supports available to fund it	Executive Director	Dec 26	
Check with venues on their respective policies	Executive Director	Aug 26	It would be near impossible for us to gather all the necessary information to evaluate the impact of each venue ourselves. In 2025, we will make sure each has their own policies. In 2026, we can connect with them again, to see if we could get CO2 allocations for our time there.
Reduce impact			
Create a code of practice for energy use in administration, building and facilities Management and share with staff.	Executive Director	Nov 26	
Update the flexible working hours policy, as currently in the Staff Handbook, to encourage WFH / flexible hours / sustainable forms of transport	Executive Director	Nov 26	This has been edited already. It will be presented to the board with the new Handbook in Nov 25.
Review printing (brochure and posters) suppliers and materials	Head of Marketing	Jun 26	Annual review before ordering the Festival brochure.
Formalise the equipment sharing/procuring process, including free rental to other festivals and shared ownership of equipment	Production Manager	Nov 26	
Explore the creation of production materials index with the sole purpose or repurposing	Executive Director / Production Manager	Nov 26	Production companies and other festivals to be involved.
Actively advocate and promote care			
Create, approve and publish Policy and Action Plan to the website	Executive Director / Board	Mar 25	
Studio Hires: Once the code of practice for energy use is ready, add it in the studio hires terms & conditions	Executive Director / Studio Hires Coordinator	May 26	
All stakeholders: Add a request not to print in all communications. For audiences, create a webpage on how to share tickets if booked for more than one person.	Executive Director / Box Office Manager / Head of Marketing	Jul 26	
Programme and present shows made to address climate change and environmental impact.	Festival Director / Programme Manager	ongoing	
Keep environment on the forefront of all partnerships, artistic or corporate, as part of our core values	Executive Director / Festival Director	ongoing	