

Environmental Action Touring Rider for Theatre Venues

Some ideas for environmental action you might like to try

Introduction

HighTide holds the climate crisis in its name; a daily reminder of our responsibility to act now - with imagination and creativity. We are committed to reducing our environmental impact and decarbonising our company by 2030, and we encourage you to use any area in this document for your own environmental actions too. As a touring company, we are passionate about advocating for positive change and hope to inspire our audiences, artists, venues and partners across the East of England and beyond.

We don't claim to be experts in this field and we're hungry for tips and improvements from you. We dearly hope that through collaboration and the sharing of ideas we can - together - have a greater and lasting positive impact.

Wherever you are on your journey of lessening environmental impacts - we hope this document can help you. We will send this out to each venue we visit on tour at least 8 weeks before visiting. **If you could circulate this document to your team and the people who are able to act on it, we would be grateful.**

Using the Green Rider

The Green Rider is split into three sections: before, during and future goals.

- Within each section for clarity we have split into departments/area of work
- Each section outlines what we commit to doing and what we encourage you as a venue to commit to, if you are able.
- You may find that you are already actioning a lot of the commitments - as the rider primarily details a lot of the Theatre Green Book baseline commitments
- The Rider also includes aspirational commitments, some of which you may not be capable of committing to at this stage but might want to work towards for the future.
- Everything set out below is to be seen as suggestions or requests rather than orders and necessities.
- Below the Rider commitments you will find a list of resources that you may find useful
- Feedback: - we can only continue to build on this work by seeing what works or doesn't work and sharing information. The feedback form asks you to tell us about your current actions on environmental responsibility and also general feedback on the Green Rider so we can keep improving. Please complete and submit this form after our visit via the link provided: <https://forms.gle/tDrumtfgK14KbfnP8>

Prior to our production's arrival

| | HighTide commit to: | | We encourage venue to commit to: | |
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| Artistic/ Production | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of a Production Decision Making Tracker. This tracks every production decision from commissioning, parameter meetings through to production evaluation. It has a traffic light system to enable potential environmental, time and financial impact to be monitored and timely action taken to mitigate negative impacts. • All of our productions incorporate Climate Dramaturgy and are being made to a minimum of Baseline standard of Theatre Green Book volume 1: sustainable productions. | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| General Operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Environmental Action Plan - we are working towards an action plan that outlines the steps we will take to decarbonise our company by 2030. This covers all aspects of HighTide's operations. • Consider switching to low-carbon, renewable electricity. Please let us know if you have already done so, as this affects our carbon reporting. • Green Glossary - we will share a Green Glossary to demystify some of the environmental jargon to enable confidence and clarity in conversation about environmental action. To view ours please | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do everything possible to comply with Theatre Green Book volume 3 : Sustainable Operations, Baseline Standard. • Consider switching to low-carbon, renewable electricity. Please let us know if you have already done so, as this affects our carbon reporting. • Have an Environmental Policy and Action Plan, and educate your staff on environmental best practice in your venue. Please share your Environmental Policy or action plan with us. | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| | <p>visit our website by clicking the link here: https://hightide.org.uk/green-glossary/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicating venues’ environmental policies, guidelines and recycling procedures to relevant staff.• Encouraging our staff and artists to avoid single-use items e.g. bring their own reusable water bottles and keep-cups.• Travelling to venues using public or active transport, where possible.• Providing venues with all necessary information about the show, including lighting, sound, set, prop and wardrobe needs – to limit unnecessary purchasing, over ordering and wastage.• Educating our staff on environmental best practice / ensuring all staff have undertaken Carbon Literacy training.• Use ethical procurement guidelines when sourcing all materials relating to all areas of production. Including but not exclusive to: costume, set and marketing materials• Keep a comprehensive carbon footprint report of all tours including tour and personnel travel, energy usage, a materials inventory of all procurement. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tell us if you have an electric vehicle charge point – or consider implementing one. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Marketing | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liaising with venues on the show programme (numbers of hard copies and/or digital link) to prevent over-ordering whilst ensuring accessibility. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comply with Theatre Green Book volume 3: Sustainable Operations, Baseline standard B.4: ‘Implement ‘Marketing and Ticketing’ Toolkit Guidance: https://theatregreenbook.com/sustainable-operations-toolkit/marketing-and-ticketing/ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with us on the show programme (i.e. numbers of hard copies and/or supporting dissemination of a digital link). • Use e-tickets and digital marketing where possible. | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Audience Comms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively promoting your venues' green transport options to our audiences. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer audiences information on car-sharing, public transport and active transport (e.g. walking, cycling, wheeling) routes to the venue and promote these wherever possible. Please share this information with us as early as possible so we can pass it on to our audiences. • Provide audiences with information on electric vehicle charge points at the venue/in the local area. (A map of UK charge points is available here.) Please share this information with us. | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |

During our production's time at your venue

| | HighTide commit to: | | We encourage the venue to commit to: | |
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| Backstage / Rehearsal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only use on-stage and back-stage lighting when needed (whilst still following health and safety guidelines) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only use on-stage and back-stage lighting when needed (whilst still following health and safety guidelines) • Only turn on dressing room heating/air cooling and lights when we arrive. • Use environmentally responsible cleaning products. | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| General Operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing locally and ethically-sourced food and drink to our staff/members, when we are in charge of catering. • Monitoring and reducing the carbon footprint of our tours, including, e.g. show power, accommodation and transport of staff and freight • Assist in the facilitation of any surveys The Venue chooses to conduct during HighTide’s visit | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We encourage all our partners to do everything possible to comply with Theatre Green Book volume 3 : Sustainable Operations, Baseline Standard. • Monitor power usage of HighTide production whilst at your venue and relay this information back to HighTide for environmental reporting | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Catering | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide drinking water taps/water dispensers, and no single use plastic cups • If you are providing food, please: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Always offer vegetarian and vegan options. - Only provide food and drinks in the quantities requested. - Give preference to products with environmental credentials, e.g. organic, seasonal, Fairtrade, locally sourced, plastic-free packaging, etc. - Donate or give away any unused food and drinks. If this is not possible, please compost them. | <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| Marketing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Use HighTide’s social media platforms to champion current environmental efforts of your venue. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Use your socials to champion HighTide’s environmental action | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| Future Goals | |
|---|---|
| HighTide commit to: | We encourage the venue to commit to: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review, alter and add to our goals quarterly in full staff meetings and report findings back to HighTide’s Board of Trustees. • Explore options for offsetting all unavoidable carbon emissions through an accredited provider that supports ethical carbon reduction projects and best solution initiatives being mindful of greenwashing. • Look at the possibility of granting further time and funding during the creative process to consider environmentally responsible alternatives • Share findings with partners, venues, artists, audiences • Ensure all future procurement has the lowest environmental impact possible. • Re-draft ethical policy, and strengthen our stance on ethical fundraising and ethical investments (assess and change financial service providers) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey your audience transport choices, post-show, to help inform future actions. Please share this information with us. • Use energy efficient appliances and electronics (only consider change at the end of products life) • Use LED lighting in as many places as possible • Explore environmentally responsible waste management providers. • Look at green energy tariff provider options • Promote environmentally friendly behaviour incorporating ‘green’ messaging into communications and social media strategies. • Re-draft ethical policy, and strengthen our stance on ethical fundraising and ethical investments (assess and change financial service providers) |

Feedback

Please help us improve in this area of our work by completing our Feedback Form: <https://forms.gle/tDrumtfgK14KbfnP8> or alternatively email or chat to our General Manager, Hannah Dunne - hannah@hightide.org.uk

We invite all creatives, partners and venues to collaborate with HighTide to achieve our environmental ambitions and we will do what we can to help you achieve yours. Please let us know if you would like to discuss anything further or if we can share any of our resources with you.

Resources

We will continue to update the list below with new findings and guidance. Here are our favourite resources and top tips to support environmental action. Please share them with your team and partners.

- <https://theatregreenbook.com/>
- <https://juliesbicycle.com/resources/>

Climate Dramaturgy

- [Climate Conversations – Making Theatre in the Context of Climate Crisis Report](#)
- [Infographic – Everyone Has A Role to Play](#)
- [Infographic – The Show Must Go On](#)

Policies, Action Plans and Reporting

- <https://info.eco-act.com/en-gb/the-big-ebook-of-sustainability-reporting-frameworks>

Procurement

- <https://www.iso.org/standard/63026.html>

Carbon Calculating and Offsetting

- http://www.offsetguide.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Carbon-Offset-Guide_3122020.pdf
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2021>
- <https://juliesbicycle.com/resource/on-the-move-green-mobility-guide/>

Building Management

- <https://bregroup.com/products/breeam/>

Freight and Transport

- <https://www.creativecarbonscotland.com/resource/measuring-audience-travel-guide/>

Carbon Literacy

- <https://carbonliteracy.com/>

Paths to Net Zero and decarbonisation

- <https://unlimited.earth/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/UT-Net-Zero-Roadmap.pdf>

- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1033990/net-zero-strategy-beis.pdf
- <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/2022-progress-report-to-parliament/>

Green Touring

- <https://on-the-move.org/resources/library/moving-arts-managing-carbon-impacts-our-touring>
- https://www.greentouring.net/downloads/GreenTouringGuide_EN.pdf

Green Suffolk

- <https://www.greensuffolk.org/about/suffolk-climate-change-partnership/suffolk-climate-emergency-plan-2/>

Digital Carbon Footprint

- <https://thenetworkedcondition.com/>

For an extensive Resources list please see our website:

<https://hightide.org.uk/environmental-action-resources/>

We'd love to hear from you about any new resources that we can add to this list.