

Environmental Policy

Climate change is the defining challenge of our time, driving the loss of habitats and biodiversity, both globally and locally. In Ireland, we are already experiencing the results of climate change through flooding, extreme weather, and rising sea levels,

At Backstage Theatre, we recognise the role we play in this environmental emergency through the work we create, the materials we use, and the travel implications for artists and performers touring to our venue.

However, we believe that our theatre can be part of the drive to address this challenge, by examining every part of our business to make change. We believe these changes will happen through changing the way we work and by engaging with the public creatively to provoke a change in thinking and attitudes.

We are committed to making the changes necessary to reduce the carbon impact of the theatre and in line with the Irish Governments 2021 Climate Act and Action Plan, which commits Ireland to 51% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The scale of the changes required means we will scrutinize every part of the way we operate with the full commitment of the theatre's staff and board.

Our commitments are:

- To embed environmental sustainability at the heart of the theatre's practice.
- To set year-on-year carbon reduction targets within our environmental action plan.
- To report on our progress annually.
- To seek expert advice and guidance and to share our experience and learn from others within the wider sector.

Our areas of focus are:

Energy - We will improve the efficiency of our 1995 building to reduce energy usage. We will achieve this by making significant improvements within the fabric of the building, upgrading our lighting and equipment as well as monitoring and quantifying our energy usage.

Waste – We are committed to improving our waste management and significantly reducing the waste that is produced by the theatre by examining the material we use, our work practices and the products we sell.

Water – We will monitor and reduce water usage throughout the theatre building through upgrades to existing facilities.

People - We will empower our staff and artists to examine their own practices and decision making, with ideas for change that will be embraced by the organisation. Our mission is to embody environmental action that will provoke positive change, engage with our community creatively, enabling audiences on the urgent transition to a climate resilient and carbon neutral society.

Monitoring and reporting - We are committed to quantifying and monitoring our progress through the actions we set out and the data we collect. Our Environmental Policy will be supported by an Environmental Action Plan and both will be reviewed on an annual basis by our Board and updated as necessary.