



CREATIVITY IN THE UK

**Environmental
Sustainability Policy**

Festival 2022 Ltd

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DOCUMENT CONTROL

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Distribution List

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OC Group / UNBOXED

Festival 2022 Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Birmingham Organising Committee for the 2022 Commonwealth Games Ltd (the “OC”) and is responsible for the delivery of UNBOXED (the “programme”). References to the OC Group refer to the company group of both Festival 2022 Ltd and the OC.

Environmental Sustainability Policy

1. Introduction

UNBOXED is a major nationwide celebration of creativity and innovation taking place across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales throughout 2022. It is the world's first programme of its kind, bringing together stakeholders from across Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Maths (STEAM) sectors to deliver something modern, forward thinking. It will deliver a programme of ten, large ground-breaking new commissions with the ambition of reaching 66 million people, achieving the project's two objectives of bringing people together and promoting the UK's creativity to the world.

2022 is a major year in the cultural life of the UK as we host the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, mark the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the BBC, and celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. UNBOXED will demonstrate the vital and inspirational role that creativity can play in our changing world; and how unforgettable experiences can make life better. This investment comes at a time of need for sectors impacted by the global pandemic and will support the creation of work and jobs.

Festival 2022 Ltd are curating, managing, and promoting UNBOXED in partnership with strategic delivery bodies within each nation (EventScotland, Creative Wales and Belfast City Council) to devise and deliver the programme.

UNBOXED works to the three values of openness, optimism and originality. To deliver against these values through this strategy, we will strive; to demonstrate good environmental practice and solutions; to engage on environmental issues through the commissions; to support our commissions to create new green skills, jobs and demand for green products and services, and to leave a positive environmental legacy which will last well beyond 2022.

We will use our position to advocate and influence for sustainability across all activities. We will support our team and the ten commissions to develop their environmental understanding and skills. To achieve this, we have appointed Sustainability West Midlands (SWM) to provide expert support to Festival 2022 Ltd and our ten commissions across the delivery of the programme. SWM will support all partners to ensure that UNBOXED is as sustainable as possible during the development, delivery and in its legacy. SWM will facilitate exchange on environmental good practice, solutions and action amongst the ten project teams. They will deliver support, mentoring and expertise to each project team on the key environmental issues relevant to their projects. They will support each project team to evaluate and report on environmental impacts and outcomes, including focussing on any outcomes and impacts that will last beyond UNBOXED.

As well as our Environmental Sustainability Policy, Festival 2022 Ltd also operates to many other complimentary policies focussed on areas such as accessibility, equal opportunity, diversity and inclusion. This Environmental Sustainability Policy has been developed in collaboration with our key stakeholders and the ten successful commissions. We will work with the Birmingham Commonwealth Games team to ensure alignment on environmental initiatives and practice.

2. Key aims

UNBOXED will consider our own operations and work with all ten commissions to prioritise positive environmental outcomes in the following five key areas:

1. Energy
2. Travel and transport
3. Resources, materials and waste
4. Food and drink
5. Nature

The commitments made by Festival 2022 Ltd will be underpinned by our approach to procurement, in line with the Organising Committee's Sustainable Sourcing Code and its core Sustainability Principles which set out the required and expected minimum standard from all our contracted suppliers. Our procurement process will be accessible and inclusive throughout. We will encourage local suppliers, and support training and upskilling opportunities. Delivering social value is a requirement of all bids, along with compliance with human rights legislation.

We encourage the implementation of established solutions and the adoption of new and innovative approaches to sustainability. An action plan and reporting framework will be developed to allow Festival 2022 Ltd and all ten commissions that make up UNBOXED to monitor and report on performance in the five key areas.

Employees at Festival 2022 Ltd will be able to utilise the Giki Zero¹ Platform supported by the OC in order to understand their carbon footprint and take steps to reduce it.

3. Priority areas

Implementation of the actions under the priority areas identified in this policy will have a direct effect on mitigating climate change. Climate change poses an existential threat to humanity and we all (individuals and businesses) have a duty to act to mitigate our impact. Poor air quality is known to have a detrimental impact on health, and we believe that by working with local partners we can make a difference. Our ambitions are aligned to the commitments of the UK, regional and local government ambitions on moving to net zero and delivering cleaner air.

This document sets out a clear pathway with objectives and accountabilities for each priority area. Ongoing development of our plans and refinement of goals and objectives will continue as we look to create a lasting and positive legacy for UNBOXED.

a. Energy

Why is this important?

One of the largest contributors to global development is the use of fossil fuels. However, our reliance on fossil fuels has damaged the environment around us, causing significant changes to our climate and localised issues such as air pollution. Diesel electricity generators, traditionally used to support outdoor events, are a high carbon source of power.

¹ [Giki Zero](#)

It is for this reason that we must continue to address energy use and minimise this where possible. We must also develop and utilise sustainable sources of energy and adopt them as the primary sources to meet energy demands.

Festival 2022 Ltd pledge to:

- Support staff to change behaviour and minimise wasted energy use in the office and at home through training and signage
- Use a green energy tariff which utilises local renewable energy sources as a preference
- Educate staff on the energy related implications of digital solutions

UNBOXED will encourage our commissions to:

- Consider their implications on local resources such as energy supply and distribution
- Use renewable energy supplies where possible. Preference should be given to the use of mains supplies or biofuel/hybrid generators as opposed to diesel generators
- Address the scheduling and management of generator use to avoid over sizing and running at leak load when not required
- Consider the impact of the digital elements of their activities and minimise the associated energy consumption where possible
 - If appropriate, green servers may be used to support online digital platforms such as web hosting and cloud services.
 - Cloud data services will be used where possible

b. Travel and transport

Why is this important?

The use of single occupancy, high emission vehicles has huge impacts on the health of the population as a result of high air pollution levels and more deaths and disease attributed to pollutants such as particulate matter. Localised congestion is also an issue. By encouraging the use of low emission vehicles, and of clean and active methods of transport, we can bring benefits to the environment and to health and wellbeing in our communities.

Festival 2022 Ltd pledge to:

- Consider the sustainability impacts associated with business travel, and commuting required as part of our operation
- Promote low emission travel options and active travel options such as cycling or walking for attendance at festival events. Information will be provided to allow informed decisions to be made
- Promote low emission travel options (such as car sharing, trains, buses, and electric vehicles or scooters) and active travel options (such as cycling or walking) as a means of getting to meetings. Information will be provided to allow informed decisions to be made
- Encourage staff to use the facilities designed to encourage walking and cycling such as secure bicycle storage and shower rooms
- Support remote working to avoid the need for unnecessary travel whilst balancing the needs of UNBOXED staff to be in the office

UNBOXED will encourage our commissions to:

- Consider the sustainability impacts associated with freight, business travel, commuting and audience travel required
- Consider their implications on local transport services working with local authorities and other transport partners to minimise impact
- Promote low emission travel options and active travel options such as cycling or walking for attendance at festival events. Information will be provided to allow informed decisions to be made
- Encourage remote working to avoid the need for unnecessary travel
- Encourage no internal flights to be taken within the UK
- Consider transport logistics and dual movement of goods where appropriate

c. Resources, materials and waste

Why is this important?

Traditional approaches to product creation and disposal deplete natural resources and create unsustainable amounts of waste. The circular economy is about designing waste out of the system by keeping products and materials in use. By reusing and recycling products, our ambition is to minimise waste to landfill and conserve resources for future generations.

Festival 2022 Ltd pledge to:

- Implement waste reduction processes across all operations and aim to use materials that are reclaimed, recycled or from sustainable sources where possible
- Provide information to staff on ways that they can save water in the office
- Work with suppliers to minimise waste
- Encourage less use of single use items
- Installing free drinking water refill points wherever possible
- Plan for the end of UNBOXED to ensure assets can be repurposed and reused in the future. Consider options for industrial symbiosis (whereby the by-products from one event/activity are utilised by others)

UNBOXED will encourage our commissions to:

- Consider their implications on local waste services giving thought to local residents and communities and prioritising treatment according to the waste hierarchy
- Implement waste reduction processes across all operations and aim to use materials that are reclaimed, recycled or from sustainable sources where possible
- Aim for organic waste, including horticultural waste, generated from activities to be diverted from landfill and composted or digested if local systems and facilities are available
- Consider sustainability in construction, in both the use and type of materials used across the life cycle of events
- Reduce the use of single use items by:
 - Working with subcontractors and suppliers such as packaging and transport to minimise single use items across the full Festival footprint
 - Installing free drinking water refill points wherever possible
 - Hiring local equipment rather than buying equipment where possible
- Plan for the end of the commission to ensure assets can be repurposed and reused in the future. Consider options for industrial symbiosis (whereby the by-products from one event/activity are utilised by others)

d. Food and drink

Why is this important?

The negative impacts of our complex food systems on people, animals and the environment are well understood. What we eat and where we buy our food from can have a huge impact on everything from animal welfare to climate change. Food miles are a huge contributor to global greenhouse gases and emissions. One third of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted.

Festival 2022 Ltd pledge to:

- Work with our catering suppliers (particularly Evolve café who are the OC's catering supplier, but also other suppliers when required) to consider the sustainability impacts of any catering needs and where possible prioritise local, seasonal, and vegetable-based options
- Encourage the use of reusable cups and dishware to avoid single use items
- Educate staff on best practice in relation to sustainable food and drink options when in the office and working away
- Through our onsite catering provider Evolve, we will consider procurement to prioritise food for onsite staff that is certified as sustainable (e.g. by the Soil Association, Rainforest Alliance or Fairtrade) and avoids the use of pesticides and chemical fertilisers, avoids the destruction of valuable global habitats, and provides better prices, safe working conditions, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers

UNBOXED will encourage our commissions to:

- Consider the sustainability impacts of catering at all events and where possible prioritise local, seasonal, and vegetable-based options
- Consider procurement to prioritise food for audiences and onsite staff that is certified as sustainable (e.g. by the Soil Association, Rainforest Alliance or Fairtrade) and avoids the use of pesticides and chemical fertilisers, avoids the destruction of valuable global habitats, and provides better prices, safe working conditions, and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers
- Encourage the use of reusable cups and dishware to avoid single use items.
- Consider compostable options where suitable treatment facilities are available.
- Aim for food waste generated from activities to be diverted from landfill and composted or digested if local systems and facilities are available
- Provide information to audiences on how they can support sustainable food and drink priorities at events (e.g. by bringing their own reusable bottles)

e. Nature

Why is this important?

We are committed to doing what we can to conserve and enhance the natural environment for future generations. This means ensuring the conservation of our canals, rivers, and green spaces as part of our vital ecosystems. Beyond ecology, we are also looking to UNBOXED to conserve and reinforce our cultural heritage.

Festival 2022 Ltd pledge to:

- Work with local expert organisations to identify any opportunity to have a positive impact on local biodiversity and ecology
- Consider supporting local conservation initiatives through staff volunteer days

UNBOXED will encourage our commissions to:

- Consider the implications of increased visitor numbers at commission locations, some of which may have special status or be protected sites, and mitigate against any negative impacts
- Work with local organisations such as the Wildlife Trusts and Local Nature Partnerships to address their impacts on local ecology and minimise any detrimental effects
- Design events to minimise light and noise pollution
- Consider natural habitat and longevity, and biodiversity potential within the given location where planting of vegetation or trees is part of the commission

4. Offsetting

Festival 2022 Ltd will be a carbon neutral operation in alignment with the OC company group. Where Festival 2022 Ltd activities generate unavoidable carbon, despite actions to address the five key aims detailed above, we will offset to compensate for these emissions. This will only be considered when all other options have been addressed, and local options for offsetting will be given priority (e.g. local tree planting initiatives).

If commissions specify a carbon-neutral or carbon-negative commitment amongst their Sustainability Commitments, then they shall offset emissions in line with the terms of the Full Commissioning Agreement.

5. Responsibilities

We are committed to demonstrating leadership, constantly improving our ways of working and meeting all applicable legal and other requirements. We will ensure that this policy is communicated to all of our partners, stakeholders and supply chain.

John Darnbrook (Head of Business Integration) is responsible for Festival 2022 Ltd compliance with this policy. The sustainability leads at each commission are responsible for their alignment with this policy.