

Environmental Policy

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Version

Purpose

We are committed to developing a pathway that will see the National Theatre Net Zero by 2030. We believe we can achieve this and continue to make the very best theatre to inspire generations to come. Sustainability is one of the four core objectives of the NT's Entertain and Inspire Strategy and working with staff, freelancers & partners, alongside peer-to-peer networks locally and nationally, we aim to share and increase knowledge & the impacts of sustainable theatre making. We will align our working practices to the Theatre Green Book standards in our buildings, operations, and productions to help us achieve our Net Zero ambition.

Definitions

Net Zero - completely negating the amount of greenhouse gases produced by our activity, to be achieved by reducing as many emissions as possible and offsetting the those that cannot be reduced.

Offsetting – neutralising carbon emissions by paying others to reduce emissions or absorb CO₂ to compensate for your own emissions

Theatre Green Book – initiative by the UK theatre industry to work more sustainably. It sets standards for making productions sustainably, for making theatre buildings sustainable, and for improving operations like catering and front of house.

Carbon Reduction Target – percentage annual target to reduce carbon impacts, measured in Co₂ kg from a baseline year

Carbon Footprint – amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as a result of the activities of a particular area, department, or service provided.

Departmental Action Plans - a plan that outlines carbon reduction goals, with objectives, measurements, actions and responsibilities

Scope

This policy applies to all those who work and visit the NT – staff, freelancers, audiences and visitors.

Responsibility

The Board are responsible for monitoring the NT's progress towards Net Zero and reviewing this policy on an annual basis.

The Board Environmental champion is responsible for advocating for Net Zero with the wider Board and ensuring that Net Zero is covered in Board discussions and is a consideration in Board decision making.

The Executive are responsible for ensuring that Theatre Green Book standards are set and followed, and targets are met.

The **Net Zero Transition Working Group** are responsible for defining the policy, setting targets along the path to net zero and leading the organisation on environmental activity.

Managers, staff and freelancers are responsible for following the Theatre Green Book standards as set by the Net Zero Transition Working Group and identifying and implementing changes at a department, production and activity level.

Statement or Commitment

Our commitments:

- To embed environmental sustainability at the heart of National Theatre's practice.
- To work to the standards of the Theatre Green Book.
- To measure year-on-year carbon reduction targets, aligned with the Theatre Green Book standards.
- To use the best tools and practice to help minimise our carbon impacts.
- To report on our progress annually.
- To share our experience and learn from others within the wider sector and by working with peer networks.

Monitoring and reporting

Our Environmental Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by our Net Zero Transition Working Group for approval by our Board and updated as necessary.

The policy, Seven Year Environmental (path to Net Zero) Action Plans and Theatre Green Book implementation and performance will be continuously evaluated through departmental action plans and environmental monitoring and measurement.

Our areas of focus:

Operation – All areas of the NT should operate with minimal environmental impact where possible. We will ensure our staff have the tools and knowledge to examine their own practice and decision making, with ideas for change filtering throughout the National Theatre. We will enable audiences and visitors to understand and minimize their pollution and carbon footprint when visiting us.

Building – Having already significantly improved the efficiency of our Grade II* listed 1970s building; reducing energy and water carbon impacts by 25% since 2016, we will now put plans in place to implement the changes necessary to achieve net zero in our heating and hot water supplies and develop an energy emissions reduction target in line with the Science Based Target initiatives (SBTi's) criteria.

Production – We will work with creative and production teams to examine every step of the process of bringing shows to the stage and understand how to reduce their environmental impact. We will share what we learn with the theatre sector and encourage the exchange of ideas.

Legal Framework and External Guidance

Legal Framework

External Guidance

[Science Based Targets](#)

[Theatre Green Book](#)