

**BATTERSEA ARTS CENTRE  
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

**MAY 2013**

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## 1. MISSION STATEMENT

Battersea Arts Centre (BAC) is a performance space near Clapham Junction in Battersea. Our centre is located within a Grade II listed building which was originally Battersea Town Hall, completed in the 1893. The birthplace of Jerry Springer the Opera and the first London venue to present Punchdrunk, BAC nurtures talented emerging artists such as Paper Cinema, Kate Tempest and Little Bulb Theatre, and is renowned for making some of the most cutting-edge new work in the UK. We work with artists who question traditional forms of theatre and make work that often doesn't start life with a script; theatre that blurs genres, challenges our view of the world and thrives on experiment. We present performances across 70+ spaces in our old town hall: in theatre spaces, offices, corridors, staircases, down in the basement and up in the attic. We also have events that spill out of the building and onto the street: in schools, supermarkets, laundrettes, on boating lakes or online.

We have two halls – a Grand Hall most commonly used for large events such as weddings or conferences, but several times a year it will host a longer run of large productions, and a Lower Hall which caters to smaller events or regular use from local community groups and classes.

There are also 6 bedrooms in the building which are used to house up to 12 artists, with the option of a pop-up dormitory to sleep a further 12. These artists can live, work, eat and sleep in the building, with access to a number of kitchens, bathrooms and showers.

BAC recognises that business can negatively impact the environment. We are committed to, and enjoy finding ways in which we can reduce the impact of our work both in the office and away. Our policy aims to maintain a working environment that, where reasonably possible, strives to promote energy efficiency, recycling of waste materials and the use of recycled products in the pursuit of creating an economic and environmentally friendly workplace. We want to reduce energy use across the building and adopt low carbon solutions where possible, especially in the design and delivery of our capital programme to refurbish and redevelop our building. We will also comply with all relevant environmental legislation, regulations and requirements, pushing the boundaries or challenging with the relevant authorities where we believe those regulations are detrimental to an aim for environmental sustainability.

BAC has been working with the Transition Network to explore ways in which the organisation might switch to a more resilient model. Thinking beyond just energy reduction, BAC is looking at business and organisational models that support long term sustainability on a less globalised, more localised level. We are taking an organisation-wide approach to resource usage across all aspects of our activity. The action plan contained within this policy explains all the actions we are already taking and will continue and new actions we will take over 2012 and 2013.

BAC's Environmental Policy is a statement of our commitment to help reduce the impact of our activities on the environment. The policy is supported by an Environmental Action Plan, which specifies how the policy will be implemented, complete with targets, dates and a named person responsible for delivering it.

We will work with our staff, artists and audience to ensure we consider and communicate the environmental impacts of our activities. For each financial year we will assess and report our environmental performance to stakeholders. This information will be used to update our action plan for the coming year.

We aim to regularly review our Environmental Policy and seek to reduce our impact by setting carbon reduction targets.

This Environmental Policy is endorsed by:



David Jubb (Artistic Director)

## 2. SCOPE OF POLICY

Our activities have environmental impacts in the areas of:

**Energy      Water      Waste      Travel      Materials**

Our ability to improve our environmental impacts depends on our knowledge of, and commitment to addressing them and our capacity to change and influence decisions. We are fully responsible for utility contracts and therefore we will exert our efforts as much as possible to understand; measure; improve; and communicate our environmental performance.

## 3. KEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

BAC is based in our 19<sup>th</sup> century town-hall building which hosts a café/bar, a soft-play area for the under-5's, includes 70+ performance spaces, as well as accommodation and space for resident artists.

Between April 2010 and March 2011 (baseline year) our energy use at BAC resulted in carbon emissions of 300t CO<sub>2</sub>e. Our most significant impacts result from our electricity use at the building.

### 3.1 ARTS CENTRE

The main impacts from our building are from electricity and gas consumption. Our consumption of electricity and gas is similar, but electricity is more than twice as carbon intensive. We are currently making efforts to reduce overall energy demand. For example we've fitted secondary glazing to parts of our building, draught foyers, installed low energy lighting, timers and PIRs, and replaced some electrical heating systems with smokeless fuel fires. We're also investigating how best to move towards a more sustainable fuel future that meets our ethical aims to reduce carbon production, but is affordable within our business. We are working very closely with Skelly & Couch energy consultants, Julie's Bicycle, Haworth Tompkins architects and Good Energy to develop our plans for the future of the building, and this will continue through 2013.

Primary environmental impacts are:

- Fossil-fuel energy consumption
- Water consumption
- Waste generation
- Office supplies and services (see 3.5.1 and 3.5.2)

### 3.2 BUSINESS TRAVEL AND STAFF COMMUTING

We encourage all our staff to travel by train or bus, bicycle (we operate the Bike To Work Scheme) or foot wherever possible, and only 2 regularly travel by car as a necessity, due to early starts/late finishes and lack of local transport from their area. We resort to planes only for long-haul overseas, and use the Channel Tunnel for any close European journeys. We try and keep business travel to a minimum, using Skype and telephone communication for all practical purposes.

Primary environmental impacts are:

- Fossil fuel energy consumption

### 3.3 STAKEHOLDER TRAVEL (I.E. ARTISTS AND AUDIENCE)

We don't proscribe travel rules, but do encourage public transport/sharing as much as possible. Our location close to a major transport hub means that public transport/cycling is a common mode of transport for staff and artists, and there is limited parking in the area, let alone the inconvenience of driving to a central London location. We have created a residential set of bedrooms for artists which has reduced their need to travel significantly during residencies.

Primary environmental impacts are:

- Fossil fuel energy consumption

### 3.4 PRODUCTIONS

Our productions and events may involve the use of materials for staging and/or props. They may also involve the use of lighting and sound. However, many artists work with the furniture, staging, materials and other items available in the building, and there is a large amount of re-use and recycling. We only purchase wood from sustainable sources, and either store or recycle materials after productions. We have replaced all our Tech batteries with rechargeables, and purchased LED lighting systems which are now being used alongside or instead of more traditional lighting regularly.

Primary environmental impacts are caused by:

- Fossil fuel energy consumption
- Waste generation
- Use of materials e.g. wood, steel
- Toxicity of batteries

## 3.5 GOODS AND SERVICES PROCUREMENT

### 3.5.1 Office Supplies

A few goods and services are procured to run our office operations and each has an environmental impact, especially during our capital programme to re-develop and refurbish our building. Wherever practical and not financially unreasonable, we source locally and from sustainable or recycled sources. We have found local sources for almost all supplies, reducing the impact of delivery services, as well as solely recycled paper. We use a free local service to remove all unwanted electrical and IT equipment, which is then recycled or re-used (<http://www.123recycleforfree.com/>). All copier toner is recycled. We have some inroads into reducing the toxicity of cleaning/other chemicals and continue to work with service providers to meet our aims.

Primary environmental impacts are caused by:

- Resource use for office electronic equipment, furniture and stationery
- Toxicity of cleaning products, furniture and equipment

### 3.5.2 Other

In addition to the goods and services outlined above, two less visible areas for consideration are:

- Banking
- Server hosting of the website and email accounts

We have chosen to use the Co-operative Bank for their ethical stance, and for IT support we work with a smaller locally-based firm who ensure old equipment is re-used in developing countries, and have demonstrated their commitment to sustainability.

## 3.6 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

We are committed to measuring and monitoring all those environmental impacts that we can reasonably gather data for, and control the use of.

*Lead Responsibility: Tref Davies and Artistic Director*

Art Centre	
Energy consumption per performance	0.51 kWh/seat
Water use per performance	1 litre/seat
Waste production per performance	0.1 kg/seat
Greenhouse gas emissions per performance	0.18 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e
For staff commuter travel	
Mode of travel for all staff	Public transport/cycle/foot (exception – late-night travel or travel to areas not served by public transport)
For business travel	
Greenhouse gas emissions per staff member	
For productions	
Greenhouse gas emissions per £1000 of production budget; per crew member; and per m <sup>2</sup> of stage.	BAC is still building a record of productions in order to create a benchmark, and targets. The majority of productions last less than a week, so we are focussing on large Tuck In productions initially.
Number of contractors able to provide us with green products and services for the production, including information about their	Target is for us to know this about <u>all</u> suppliers.

efforts to reduce their environmental impacts i.e. energy efficient technologies, FSC and/or recycled wood etc.

## For goods and services procurement

Number of suppliers/contractors able to provide us information about their efforts to reduce their environmental impacts i.e. contracts with provisions, recycling and composting availability, low carbon alternatives.

BAC amending contracts to build these terms in, and gathering information from all suppliers.

## 4. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN

Date: September 2012 – August 2013

Staff member responsible for co-ordinating the action plan: Tref Davies.

### 4.1 PERFORMANCE SPACES/ ARTS CENTRE

We are committed to monitoring and minimising the environmental impacts of our performance spaces and business processes as much as possible. Our 2010/11 carbon footprint for our arts centre operations was 300 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e. We further reduced our energy consumption by 10% during the 2011/12 calendar year, and hope to see this continue into 2012-13, although this coincides with a period of Capital building works, so may not be possible. We have dedicated recycling boxes around the building and recycling monitors. Our recycling monitors are also responsible for ensuring that there is not unnecessary energy being used across the building. For example ensuring that lights and heating are switched off in unused rooms, where not part of a centralised system. We have used the period of Capital building works to update large parts of our electrical infrastructure across the performance spaces, and fitted motion sensors in many public areas on lighting, and timers to heating.

Action	How
Revise our arts centre environmental impact audit annually by implementing an internal system for recording and submitting the required data.	Use the IG Venues/Cultural Buildings tool

<p>Audit will include quantifying GHG emissions from electricity and gas use, water use and the amount of waste generated and recycled.</p>	<p>Electrical survey of whole building to determine what each meter supplies, to focus activity</p> <p>Continue work with Skelly &amp; Couch to identify areas for action</p>
<p>Purchase goods and services from suppliers with strong environmental credentials (e.g. using post-consumer and/or FSC paper and wood products and energy efficient power supplies and lighting).</p>	<p>Request details from suppliers Preference suppliers with strong environmental credentials. Use Julie's Bicycle green suppliers database</p>
<p>Recycling (e.g. CDs, batteries, tetrapak) and composting of food waste particularly for catering.</p>	<p>Provide composting and recycling bins.</p>
<p>Inform visiting artists and productions about your efforts towards sustainability.</p>	<p>Welcome document provided to visiting artists and productions which explains the steps we're making towards sustainability.</p>

## 4.2 BUSINESS TRAVEL AND STAFF COMMUTING

We are committed to monitoring and minimising the environmental impacts of our business travel and encouraging staff to consider low GHG emission commuting options. We are not committing to a reduction in business travel as we already ensure the bare minimum is undertaken. We have a designated bike storage area in our courtyard, and are adding further bike racks along Town Hall Road and at the rear of the building within the Capital scheme.

Action	How
<p>Conduct an annual audit of business travel to assess travel and quantify the greenhouse gas emissions associated with that travel.</p>	<p>Finance team record business travel within records</p>
<p>Evaluate organisational benefits of business travel where applicable.</p>	<p>Discuss merits of attending the event for organisational reach and maximise</p>

	value from business trip.
Use train and coach services whenever possible.	Research options and book tickets in advance to get best rates. If being invited to an event request to use public transport services.
Ban taking flights within the UK.	Only take internal flights when no other option is feasible and the attendance is deemed essential for company's outreach with stakeholders.
Encourage the use of international train services in Europe rather than flights.	Always research the option of train travel to close European destinations against flights.
Support car-pooling and lift sharing.	Staff share information about travel planning.
Encourage staff cycling and walking.	We provide facilities and financial support for walkers and cyclists, such as showers, storage facilities, expenses and access to the tax- reducing scheme from CycleScheme ( <a href="http://www.cyclescheme.co.uk">www.cyclescheme.co.uk</a> ). Improve security of current bike storage area.

## 4.3 STAKEHOLDER TRAVEL (AUDIENCE AND ARTISTS)

We are committed to minimising the environmental impacts associated with stakeholder travel and encourage our stakeholders to consider low GHG emission travel options.

Action	How
Support car-pooling and lift sharing.	Share information about travel planning on your website.
Promote the use of public transport	Promote the use of public transport to reach our centrally located venue.
Encourage cycling and walking.	Provide facilities and financial support for walkers and cyclists, such as showers and storage facilities.

## 4.4 PRODUCTIONS

We are committed to minimising the environmental impacts associated with our productions and events through the use of material, lighting and sound.

Action	How
Measure the carbon footprint of your production.	Use the free web-based Production IG Tool available on the Julie's Bicycle website.
Use energy-efficient technologies such as LED lighting and low energy sound consoles when resources permit.	Ask your suppliers for the environmental credentials of their products. Switch off lights and equipment not in use.
Opt for sustainable and recycled materials for props and staging. Reuse and recycle sets and props as much as possible. Store sets and props post-production where possible.	Educate your production crew and stage management employees. Avoid the use of tropical hardwood. Use FSC and/or recycled wood where possible. Consider the weight/cubic capacity/packaging of materials and equipment to minimise transport impacts. Use companies like Set Exchange and Scenery Salvage in the UK to recycle sets.

### Greenhouse gas emissions offsetting

BAC will only offset our carbon emissions after all reasonable practical actions to reduce our emissions have been taken. Offsetting is a last but significant final action. We will support offsetting companies with at least Gold Standard accreditation for GHG emissions offsetting projects.

### Further areas of consideration

We will undertake research to access the feasibility of purchasing a renewable energy

tariff for office energy use; having a green lease agreement as part of our office rental tenancy should we move locations; and consider the environmental credentials of our banking. We will continue to investigate the long-term energy solution for our building, seeking to tie ourselves to solely renewable, sustainable energy production.

## 5. REPORTING AND COMMUNICATION

Our 2010/11 theatre carbon audit will be our baseline year for understanding our organisation's environmental impacts and what decisions we can take to reduce those impacts. Data collected from those years were used to inform the setting of our environmental goals and targets for improvement in future years.

Each year we will assess the scope for assessing our environmental impacts and extend the scope for understanding, measurement and action as appropriate.

- The consideration of our environmental impacts will be a standing item on all internal meetings concerning office operations, staff behaviour, travel, and office supplies;
- A mid-year meeting will be held to discuss environmental impacts and progress towards meeting improvements targets for that year;
- Environmental issues will be on the agenda at staff meetings quarterly, at a minimum.
- Environmental impacts will remain one of our organisation's 5 Strategic Focus Areas for the 2012-15 period
- An environmental report will be prepared annually and electronically circulated to staff, our clients and with key stakeholders;
- Our environmental efforts will be communicated with our local community;
- We will publish the environmental report on the BAC website along the environmental policy, and our office's annual audits.

### 5.1 REPORTING TIME-FRAME

June 2013	Mid-year meeting to discuss environmental impacts and progress with staff at BAC on meeting 2012/13 reduction targets on energy and business travel.
September 2013	Update environmental policy with an analysis of 2012/13 reduction targets and revise targets for 2013/14. Update and publish the revised environmental policy so that it is available to the public.

# BATTERSEA ARTS CENTRE

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