



Environmental Policy

ORGANISATION

The Ripon City Festival Trust is a charity, number 514981, operating as Ripon Theatre Festival. The Trust has no paid employees. Everyone involved in the Festival is a volunteer. In this Environmental Policy, “we”, “us” and “our” refers to The Ripon City Festival Trust.

As the world faces a climate challenge, Ripon Theatre Festival is committed to playing its part and reducing its environmental impact.

As a Theatre Festival without our own theatre building, we work in partnership with a growing number of local venues and traders to deliver the festival. To develop our sustainability policy, we have subscribed to A Greener Future for ideas and guidance for festivals.

TRANSPORT

The nature of our festival and its rural location with limited public transport brings many challenges as our audience and performers and audiences to many of our events largely need to arrive by car.

To reduce the impact of this, we will provide information about the locations of electric charging points and cycle racks along with directions and links to the public bus services and access from rail stations in Thirsk and Harrogate.

We will also invite our audience to offset their car journey with a small donation to a tree planting or other charity active in the field.

We will explore the provision of a shuttle bus services to the few venues that are not within walking distance of Ripon City centre.

TOURING PERFORMERS

Ripon Theatre Festival will considering a company’s geographic base or touring schedule when making bookings.

We will be favouring accommodation close to our venues and advocate and signpost audiences to walk or take public transport to performances.

PRINTING AND ADVERTISING

Any printed advertising material will use sustainably sourced paper which will be recyclable and will be commissioned from a local supplier.

Unless specially requested our ticketing will be paperless. As the majority of our events are in the open air and free to the public, we have no need of wristbands.

All paints and cleaning products will be water based or environmentally friendly.

We will use chalk boards for temporary signage and reuse laminated signs.

We will reduce the use of laminated street and road signages and move towards using biodegradable material.

Any Community Arts projects we commission will be encouraged to use upcycled materials.

VENUES

We will ensure that the selection of venues and suppliers includes consideration of their own sustainability practices and use local suppliers to reduce delivery costs.

FOOD VENDORS

We will work in partnership with local food vendors and favour those offering seasonal food (to reduce food miles) grown by local suppliers using environmentally suitable practices.

We will make sure vegetarian and vegan foods are offered in addition to meat-based ones.

We will ensure that any packaging used is minimal or compostable.

We will work with local food banks and charities so that any left-over food can be put to good use.

We will advertise local shops which offer water refilling points and encourage the audience to bring their own refillable water containers to reduce plastic waste.

We will work with local relevant environmental groups and the Local Authority to ensure that separate bins are available to encourage recycling in accordance with their local waste disposal processes.

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TRAINING

We have set up a working group and created this sustainability policy to cover the key areas at the festival and will build on our experiences over the first 4 years of the festival.

We are currently researching suitable quality training within our budget as a charity.

We will share our policy with suppliers (including performers) and ask them to review their policies in line with our aims and aspiration. In future we will consider adding a sustainability clause in contracts as appropriate.

We will add it to our publicly available policy bank on our website and review the policy annually. Ripon Theatre Festival will consider what measurements we may be able to make in the future so that we can recognise and continually reduce our impact on the environment with a suitable action plan.

Policy Name	Environmental Policy
Date of issue	October 2024
Date of last review	5 June 2025
Next Review	October 2026
Team Member responsible	Kate Sharpe
Trustee responsible	Simon Hewitt
Date adopted	10.10.24