



Tinderbox Theatre Company

Environmental Framework and Action 2023 - 2026

Tinderbox is committed to minimising the adverse environmental effects caused by its activities. We continually assess working practices with the aim of reducing the environmental impact of our programmes and operations.

The primary purpose of this action plan is to reduce environmental harm and to bring about positive environmental change.

Tinderbox is committed to continued efforts to re-use, repair, rethink, reduce, refuse, and recycle. We comply fully with environmental legislation, where possible exceeding regulatory requirements concerning the protection of the environment.

The IPCC Special Report in October 2018 stated that “rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society” are required to address the Climate Crisis.

We are committed to putting environment and sustainability on the agenda. We discuss this at our regular Board Meetings, to explore what more we can achieve as an organisation.

We are a part of the Green Arts Collective, established in 2019 in Belfast, to empower the arts community to respond effectively to the Climate Crisis within our practice.

Our 2021/22 programme entitled *Off the Grid* was a season of work inspired by the pandemic and climate change, with a specific focus on minimalist design and visual story-telling. However, beyond this season, we continue to focus on efforts to reduce our carbon footprint, as well as using local green spaces to connect with local communities.

Our projects and practice prioritises shared resources, recycling and efficient energy saving (light and sound) with production costs and manufacturing.

Since 2021, we have committed to utilising the Theatre Green Book within our productions and to achieving baseline standard within our work.

For baseline productions, 50% of materials should have had a previous life and 65% of materials should be reused or recycled afterwards.

Our Autumn 2021 production, *Sylvan*, was part of the UK wide beta trial of these newly developed sustainable production guidelines and we fed back on the trial at Theatre Trust’s Conference 2021. Since then, environmental practices have been at the heart of our work.

Current Working Practice:

Operations & Administration

- o Employees are encouraged to walk or cycle to work, with bicycle rack and showers available
- o Travelling by train/bus or car sharing is encouraged for necessary business trips in NI & Ireland
- o Air travel is rare and when used, carbon offsetting is included
- o Office radiators are thermostatically controlled and switched off during warmer months
- o All stationery is ordered online and paper and envelopes are 100% recycled



- o Stationery items, i.e. box files, folders and lever-arch files are re-used where possible
- o Avoid solvent-based marker pens – use water-based colours instead
- o Ask suppliers to reduce packaging, complain about over-packaging where it exists
- o Refuse brochures, print mailouts and other promotional material from suppliers
- o Most correspondence is carried out online rather than post
- o Print off fewer documents for meetings and promote sharing
- o When other IT equipment is to be upgraded in future, it will be replaced with energy efficient models
- o All old IT equipment is re-cycled through an environmentally responsible IT recycling company
- o Computer equipment is switched off overnight rather than left on standby
- o Recycling procedure is in place for paper, card, plastic and glass
- o Green cleaning products are in use
- o We no longer print documents regularly and have terminated the lease on our industry-sized printer/photocopier. This has been replaced with an Epson Ecotank ET-2710, which uses refillable ink tanks as opposed to cartridges
- o A4 paper is printed on both sides where possible, with the office printer default setting as 2-sided
- o Larger scale printing, i.e. scripts and marketing materials, are only required a few times a year and on these occasions, we will use a local printing company located a 5-minute walk from the office

Production

- o Production budgets include a 'closed loop' budget line to help address and reduce waste
- o Where possible sets and costumes are reused and are altered / repaired rather than renewed
- o Hiring or purchasing second-hand costume where possible is always considered before buying new
- o Hiring or purchasing reconditioned equipment where possible is always considered before buying new
- o The use of stage lights and equipment is managed – they are never on when not in use
- o Resources are shared where possible with other arts organisations, such as technical equipment, props, costume and storage
- o Public transport is encouraged amongst audience members, for example social media post with bus route information for venue
- o Touring is reduced in recent years and any future increase will be subject to a review of value vs environmental impact. Car sharing and public transport is encouraged for production team and cast
- o We share a storage unit with another theatre company and are able to store and reuse production equipment
- o We are currently working within Sustainable Production guidelines developed by Theatre Green Book and aim towards achieving Baseline standard for our productions [50% of materials should have had a previous life and 65% of materials should be reused or recycled afterwards]
- o We introduce our designers to the Theatre Green Book at the point of the contracting and build more concept development time into our production schedule, to allow designers time to design with sustainability in mind

Marketing

- o The majority of marketing activity takes place online, through social media and email



- o Print material such as posters, flyers and programmes have been reduced
- o We provide audiences with digital programmes instead of printed versions

Catering

- o Catering is only provided where appropriate
- o Coffee is Fairtrade and supplied by Rain Forest Trust
- o Where possible, we source local produce to reduce transport and packaging

The Future:

Tinderbox will continue to examine internal working practices and work creatively within the sector to reduce environmental impact and improve sustainability.

For each production, we will appoint a Sustainability Officer, who will be responsible for providing an ongoing evaluation of the company's sustainability practices.

Tinderbox continues to be an active member of the Green Arts Collective.

Tinderbox aims to achieve the Baseline Standard set by the Theatre Green Book and once this has been achieved for four productions, we will begin to aim for Intermediate standard.

The Theatre Green Book is currently designing guidelines for Sustainable Buildings and Sustainable Operations. Once these guidelines are released, we will review them and if possible, trial the guidelines in our building and operations.

Updated: October 2023