

NIGHT AND DAY FESTIVAL

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Overview

As the producers of the the Night and Day Festival, Cruachan productions Ltd are committed to implementing a sustainable festival model and developing a road map that will enable us to minimise the festivals environmental impact.

This document outlines a raft of measures across 5 key areas that demonstrates our efforts to promote environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

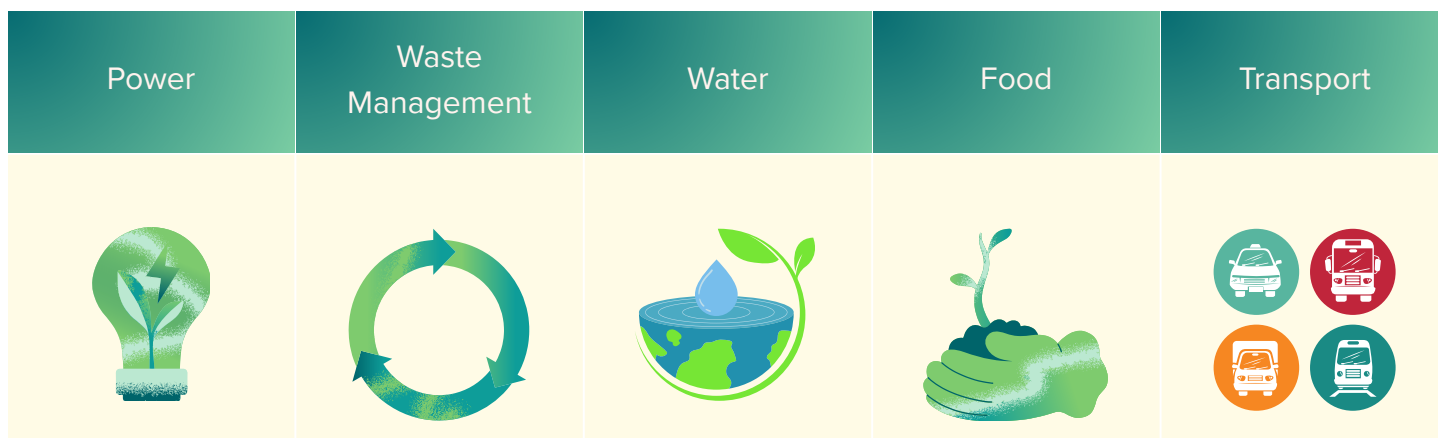
Targets, targets, targets

Sustainability targets are a must-have. Our targets inform the decisions we make when it comes to sustainability. At Night and Day 2025 we will be measuring the amount of carbon dioxide, waste and water we use. However, rather than rest on our laurels we have already set sustainability targets based on average usage.

Vision 2025's 'The Show Must Go On' report uses benchmark figures from Julie's Bicycle, a non-profit organisation that mobilises the creative sector to take action on the climate crisis. Those figures show that as of 2019, festivals use **0.5 litres of diesel per person per day, 2kg of waste per person per day, 1.9kg of CO2e per person per day and 14.3 litres of water per person per day.**

Using these figures, we aim to reduce these figures by 10% from 2026. We will revise these targets based on our own analytics captured at this year's festival.

5 key Action Areas



1. Power

According to the Green Festival Alliance, power can account for up to 70% of an event's 'core' carbon footprint (core excludes audience travel and transport).

A medium sized music festival can use over 20,000 megawatts of energy in a single weekend of activities, which is enough electricity to power a small city. As it is often not possible for greenfield festival sites to connect to the mains power supply, this energy has traditionally been supplied by diesel generators, which produce significant carbon pollution. For example, a single 200 kW generator, a somewhat standard, medium sized generator for music festival purposes, uses around 11 gallons of diesel per hour running at 75% of its capacity- this equates to about 244lbs of carbon dioxide pollution every hour per generator. Most musical festivals need many of these generators to run.

To add to this problem generators are often run below their optimum load capacity. A recent study conducted across 8 of the biggest festivals in the UK revealed that the generators at all the festivals had periods of working below 25% load, and some of them operated entirely below 25%. The study also revealed that a large proportion of the generators monitored were significantly oversized for their purpose.

Grid Connection (mains electricity)

We currently use diesel generators to meet all our festival power requirements, but following consultation with our hosts at Lough Key Forest Park we believe we will be in position to connect directly to the national grid from 2027 onwards. As part of the redevelopment master plan for Lough Key, 3-phase power will be distributed to strategic locations around the park eliminating the need to use generators.

Our long term goal is to have a temporary onsite power generation system based on renewable energy but in the short term having a grid connection has the following benefits:

- Zero local atmospheric pollution (NO_x, CH, CO₂).
- No generator noise.
- Greater reliability – less likelihood of mechanical failure or human error.
- Fewer deliveries / less traffic movement.
- No risk of pollution through fuel spillage.
- No space required onsite for generators or access.
- No requirement for refuelling during show meaning a reduction of show-time vehicle movement.
- No efficiency loss due to different power demands.

2. Waste Management Strategies

Designated Waste Sorting Stations

Placing clearly labeled waste sorting stations throughout the festival site will help attendees properly dispose of their waste. These stations will have separate bins for recyclables, compostables, and general waste. Dedicated teams will continuously monitor and empty bins to prevent overflowing and littering. The collected waste will then be sorted and disposed of properly, with an emphasis on recycling and minimising the festival's environmental impact.

We will educate festival-goers about the importance of proper waste disposal through informative signage and announcements.

Implementing Reusable Initiatives

We are aiming to eliminate single-use plastic waste by offering reusable cups, bottles, and utensils. We will provide water refill stations and encourage attendees to bring reusable containers. This will not only reduce waste but also encourage sustainable consumer behaviour among festival-goers.

Incorporating Sustainable Food Practices

We will give priority to food vendors who prioritise sustainable practices, such as sourcing local and organic ingredients, offering vegetarian/vegan options and utilising compostable packaging. We will encourage them to minimise food waste and implement responsible disposal methods.

Engage and Educate Attendees

We will empower festival-goers to participate actively in sustainable waste management efforts by educating them about the festival's sustainability initiatives through social media, dedicated web pages, and on-site workshops. We will encourage attendees to pack light and to reuse their tents after the festival.

Sanitation and Toilet Waste Management:

Temporary toilet facilities will be set up throughout the festival grounds to accommodate the large number of attendees. A dedicated team will be responsible for regularly emptying and maintaining these facilities to ensure cleanliness and hygiene. Portable toilets will be serviced and waste will be collected and transported to appropriate disposal sites.

Site Restoration and Environmental Considerations:

Once the festival concludes, an extensive restoration process will take place to return the grounds to their pre-event condition. This process will include dismantling temporary structures, removing signage and infrastructure, and rehabilitating the landscape to minimise the impact on the environment.

3. Water

As part of our water conservation plan we are committed to the following:

- Using shut off valves on taps
- Restricting shower times – our showers can only be used during a 3 hour period each day. Showers are restricted to 5 minute duration.
- Conducting site-wide plumbing checks, to catch leaks
- Ensuring waste water capture and holding tanks are situated well away from ditches, wells and waterways
- Emptying waste water holding tanks regularly
- Developing a pollution response plan
- Using waterless toilets and urinals

4. Food

Festivals in Ireland have become synonymous with ‘street food’ type vendors over the course of the past decade. An estimated 5.09t of food is consumed by attendees at a 5,000-capacity event over the course of a three-day weekend, the preparation of which involves the procurement of ingredients, transport of goods, and the potential to create food waste. We are committed to working closely with food vendors and caterers to ensure they are producing enough food at the festival to feed everyone, but not too much. We will provide accurate and transparent communication on expected staff and audience numbers, and their dietary requirements.

- We will create a specific food and beverage sustainability policy that will reference international and national standards around food sourcing, e.g. free range, certified organic, rainforest certified, and/or fair trade products wherever possible.

- All our caterers and food vendors, including artist and crew catering, will offer at least one vegetarian/vegan menu option.
- We will circulate the food and beverage sustainability policy to all our food vendors and caterers. This will include a code of conduct for them to sign up to, to include local and seasonal sourcing wherever possible.
- We will aim for a reduction in the amount of red and processed meat served at the festival and we will create opportunities to engage with our audience on this initiative.
- Research suggests that audiences are happy to pay more for better animal welfare food products, if they are made aware of it. With this in mind, we will work with food vendors to have their menus feature and promote higher-animal welfare products across the festival.
- All our food vendors must commit to actively reduce food waste and provide food waste bins for composting both behind concessions, and in audience areas.

5. Transport

Up to 80% of a typical outdoor events' carbon footprint is from audience travel and transport. Implementing the strategies outlined below will help us to reduce emissions, manage traffic with less impact on local roads and communities, and improve the audience experience.

- The best results for encouraging more sustainable travel are achieved when options are provided at the ticketing stage. We will provide options for dedicated coach travel and links to public transport. Catching people at point of purchase will help them to make a decision and plan their journey in advance.
- We will provide clear travel information in advance via our website, e.g. a map of the site and the locality with the nearest bus stops and other local transport links clearly marked, e.g. links to bus timetables or shuttle bus options.
- All sustainable travel options will be promoted as part of our communications strategy.
- The use sustainable travel methods will be incentivised by offering festival attendees early entry, VIP passes etc.
- We will explore business development options for raising money for travel initiatives such as subsidised buses and discounts for public transport.

Contact

For feedback, partnerships, or further information, please feel free to contact us.

NIGHT & DAY

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