



Environmental Policy

Jan 2025 Update

We take seriously our responsibility to reduce the impact Bristol Old Vic has on the environment. We know this is important to our staff, the creatives we work with, our audiences and funders.

We are dedicated to tackling the climate emergency. We are committed to minimising the environmental impact of our activities, ensuring sustainability is a strategic priority so we can work towards a brighter, fairer future.

Bristol Old Vic's cross-departmental Environment Group lead us as we strive to:

1. Achieve net-zero Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions by 2030, building on the ambitions of the city of Bristol and the Culture Declares Emergency movement.
2. Consider all aspects of sustainability throughout our business, beyond just emission reductions to waste, biodiversity & climate justice.
3. Ensure our Net-zero ambitions and consequent actions align with and support our commitment to inclusion.
4. Embed knowledge to enable everyone across our organisation to act.
5. Engage our audiences in conversations around the environment and climate justice.
6. Be transparent, accountable and sharing our knowledge along the way.

Policy Aims

The aim of this policy is to ensure environmental sustainability is embedded within Bristol Old Vic's business in order to:

- minimise the negative environmental impact resulting from our activity and
- become more efficient in the use of environmental resources.

We seek to foster and maintain an ethos of environmental responsibility in our staff, freelancers and audience, in the management of its venue.

By investing in environmental sustainability, we also aim to make long term cost efficiency savings through the responsible use of resources.

To achieve this Bristol Old Vic will:

- Comply with all environmental legislation and regulations appropriate to BOV's activities.
- Commit to continued improvement of its environmental performance across the entire organisation and its activities.
- Set environmental objectives and targets that will be monitored and reviewed to achieve the best possible practice going forward through our climate action plan.
- Invest in projects and developments that will improve BOV's environmental sustainability.
- Work with artists on a programme of plays to explore the role of cultural venues in environmental sustainability and the development of that discussion.
- Minimise waste by evaluating operations and ensuring they are as efficient as possible.
- Actively promote recycling both internally and amongst its customers and suppliers.
- Source and promote produce in a way that minimises the environmental impact of both production and distribution.
- Communicate BOV's environmental policy, climate action plan and practices to staff, audiences and suppliers.
- Monitor the application and effectiveness of the policy.

Practical application of our Environmental Policy

BOV's environmental policy is applied across the entire organisation and its activities wherever practically possible, with a focus on:

- **Energy consumption** (electricity and gas): BOV uses Julie's Bicycle IG tools (via Energy Bank) to measure the environmental impact of its annual energy and water usage. The information is used to determine whether measures taken are effective in achieving the aim of minimising carbon emissions.
- **Water:** BOV maintains efficient water management and ensures this is considered throughout our building management, and future plans.
- **Food:** BOV has an ethical, sustainable approach to food. This means that ingredients sourced are fresh and locally produced. Where possible, our ingredients travel only a short distance – from plot to plate. This ethos both supports the local economy and minimises the environmental impact of our restaurant and conferencing offer.
- **Service providers:** BOV actively seeks out local providers for its services.
- **Travel:** BOV is conscious of the negative impact of transport on the environment and seeks to minimise the impact it has as an organisation.
- **Office Management:** Environmental considerations are a priority for BOV when sourcing replacement or new office equipment and furnishings.
- **Recycling:** BOV is committed to minimising waste and recycling waste products wherever possible and pursuing circular solutions.
- **Staff training:** BOV is committed to maintaining 65% of staff are Carbon Literacy Trained. Carbon Literacy Training is embedded into the onboarding process of new staff members, holding training sessions for new staff members every six months. BOV is proud to have developed a Climate Literacy Training programme in collaboration with the Carbon Literacy Project which is free for all cultural venues to use.

Climate Action

In 2019, we joined with other Bristol organisations and signed the Climate Emergency declaration, and we pledged to:

- Align with Bristol City Council's ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030.
- Attain a [BREEAM](#) rating of Very Good .
- Collectively work with other cultural organisations in the city to look at green energy and tariffs.

- Use our programme of work to focus on themes which inspire and empower individuals to make change in the world, with strong parallels to the environmental issues of today.
- Include a budget for carbon offsetting for any international touring we engage in.
- Eradicate single-use plastic from our bar and kitchen.
- Actively promote environmentally friendly travel options to staff and visitors.
- Increase the use of paperless tickets and digital and online marketing.

Beyond reducing our emissions, we recognise arts and culture have a significant role to play in addressing climate change – and we want to be part of that change.