



# Scottish Culture and Traditions Policy Document

<b>Policy name</b>	<b>SC&amp;T Environmental Policy</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>To monitor and control our environmental impact</b>
<b>Owner</b>	<b>SC&amp;T Board -</b>
<b>Contact</b>	
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# Scottish Culture and Traditions Environmental Policy

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# Introduction

At Scottish Culture and Traditions we understand that we have a responsibility to conduct our operations in an environmentally sustainable manner and to support Scotland's drive to Net Zero emissions<sup>1</sup>. We will consider the environmental impact of our activities and strive for continuous improvement. We will ensure that we have knowledge and data concerning our own environmental impact and that of our partners and suppliers. We will use this information to inform and improve our environmental performance.

We are a relatively small organisation run by volunteers. We don't have our own premises or vehicles. Our employees are generally part time and contracted to us. However, the activities that we run do have some effects on the environment. This policy identifies the areas where these impacts are generated and seeks to guide our approach towards a less environmentally harmful way of working.

We will actively encourage our employees, tutors, volunteers, participants and suppliers to consider the impact of their activities on the environment and to work with us as we strive to reduce the environmental impact of our activities.

We have recently joined the Green Arts Initiative<sup>2</sup>, an accreditation scheme that assists us to become more environmentally aware in our activities, and have become part of a growing network of arts and culture organisations working to reduce their environmental impact.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/policies/climate-change/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.creativecarbonscotland.com/green-arts-initiative/>

## Buildings - classrooms, halls and facilities

We are a relatively small charitable organisation and do not have our own premises. Our activities are mainly based in buildings and rooms rented to us by our partners. We are therefore reliant on the measures taken by Aberdeen University and other host organisations to provide us with the facilities we require in order to operate in an environmentally sustainable manner.

### Aberdeen University

Our main facilities partner, Aberdeen University, has a comprehensive Environmental Sustainability Policy available on their website<sup>3</sup>

#### Key points

- Heating - During the heating season classrooms in the University are heated to a maximum of 20 degrees C.
- Lighting - Tutors and participants are encouraged to turn off any lighting and other equipment when not required. For example, during breaks and at the end of class.
- At the end of any evening provision classrooms are checked by university staff who will also ensure that lights and other equipment is switched off.
- Recycling - recycling facilities are available throughout all the buildings we use and we encourage our participants to use them.
- We will work with the University to gain an understanding of our use of energy during our activities with a view to reduction.

## Travel - journeys we create

Travel represents a significant area of our environmental impact. It is also an aspect of our activity over which we have significant control. We will work to gather data about

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/documents/policy-zone-sustainability/SSR-EnviroSustainPolicy.pdf>

travel associated with our activities and utilise this information to evaluate and reduce our environmental impact.

## Tutor Travel

- We will favour the use of local tutors for our in-person delivery and may utilise tutors who live further away for our online workshops.
- We encourage our tutors to utilise walking, cycling and public transport in preference to car journeys where feasible.
- We will monitor and record expenses for travel to control and reduce carbon emissions
- We are considering using a carbon calculator to highlight emissions arising from travel - eg. <https://www.claimexpenses.com/>

## Board member travel

- Board meetings are held in locations where the majority of members travel relatively short distances and car sharing is encouraged.
- Video conferencing is used extensively for meetings.
- We do not pay expenses for travel to board meetings

## Participant travel

- We will ensure that our regular classes and workshop activities are accessible by public transport.
- We hold outreach activities for targeted communities in locations that are easily accessible which reduces travel for our participants.
- We encourage car sharing.
- We will survey participant travel

## Audience travel

- Access by public transport is a significant consideration when selecting venues for performances.
- Many of our performances are part of a wider festival or event. Audiences are therefore not always making additional journeys.

- We will survey audience travel at selected events to gain an understanding of impact

## Digital services

We are significantly reliant upon digital technologies to deliver our services. We are aware of the very large amounts of energy required to provide many of these cloud based services and are working to ensure that our digital carbon footprint is kept to a minimum.

### Website

Our web hosting platform - Krystal<sup>4</sup> is powered by 100% renewable energy

### IT Administration

Our IT administration platform is Google Workspace. This provides all our file storage including media. It also facilitates video conferencing and email. Google makes the following statement on their environmental impact<sup>5</sup>.

*At Google ... Our goal is to run on carbon-free energy, 24/7, at all of our data centers by 2030*

- We are able to monitor the environmental impact of our digital activity in Google using the recently introduced “Carbon Footprint for Google Workspace” dashboard in our Workspace admin panel.
- The largest contributor to carbon emissions in our digital activity is the long term cloud storage of very large files such as video. We will work to reduce our storage of such content by adopting efficient file management processes.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://krystal.io/green>

<sup>5</sup> <https://sustainability.google/progress/energy/>

## Zoom

We use the Zoom video conferencing platform to host online classes and workshops due to its superior quality for musical performance. Zoom has the following environmental statement.

*We are continuing to commit to achieving 100% renewable electricity in our direct operations (Scope 1 and Scope 2) by 2030.*

## Purchasing and procurement

SC&T are not significant purchasers of materials and supplies. However, we will ...

- We will explain that we are an environmentally aware organisation and will set high expectations of our suppliers, contractors and partner organisations.
- We will prefer to use suppliers who are local to us and prefer products that are locally sourced with a sustainable and environmentally responsible supply chain wherever possible.
- We will ask our suppliers to provide information about their environmental policies and performance

## Food and Drink

We provide a regular half-time hot drinks service for our adult classes. This is staffed by volunteers. We occasionally provide externally catered food and drink during whole-day workshops and at the Youth Camp.

- Free drinking water is provided at all our venues
- Participants are encouraged to bring their own drinking vessels
- All single-use items are recyclable and are recycled.
- All food waste is recycled/composted.
- See Procurement above.

## Recycle/Reuse

- Recycling facilities are available in all the venues we use and everyone is encouraged to use them
- We have a bank of instruments for loans that are mainly sourced from donations of second hand equipment. This reduces waste and benefits our participants.

## Printing and paper

We have significantly reduced the amount of printing and paper produced by the organisation. We have achieved this by ...

- We have withdrawn all photocopy facilities for tutors.
- We provide an online learning environment which manages administrative and learning activities such as registration, the distribution of class materials, collection of feedback data etc.
- Our communication with parents, participants and the general public is almost entirely digital.

## Influence and communication

Scottish Culture and Traditions recognises that we are in a good position to have a positive influence over those with whom we interact. To that end, we will regularly engage with our participants on matters of the environment and in our work to be more environmentally sustainable in our activities. We will let people know what we are doing to reduce our environmental impact and we will also collect information to inform our progress.

- Newsletter items.
- Social media posts
- Tutor contracts
- Class, workshop and concert advertising.
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## Actions

- Conduct surveys and information requests to gain an understanding of our environmental impact
- Raise awareness of environmental matters and encourage everyone to play an active part in addressing them
- Reduce our environmental impact by addressing the key elements identified above.
- In particular we will work to reduce energy consumption in our use of buildings and travel.
- Seek and appoint a “Green Champion” from our volunteer bank to support this policy
- Communicate our commitment to improving our environmental performance to everyone involved with our organisation.
- Review and report on our environmental performance at least once each year.