

# PENTABUS

## **Environmental Policy and Action Plan**

Pentabus is the nation's rural theatre company. We tour new plays to new audiences in village halls, fields, festivals and theatres – telling stories with local relevance and national impact. We are committed to green theatre practice, ensuring that environmental awareness is at the heart of our work and that we remain an environmentally responsible organisation.

The company operates from a former Farm Estate School Building and a large shed store. The main building is Victorian. Our offices are draughty and poorly insulated. As tenants on the site we are reliant on our landlord to instigate structural change whilst we control internal suppliers and systems. The company tours productions all over the country. Our travel costs are significant, but we have considerable storage space which makes possible our longstanding culture of repair/reuse/recycle at the heart of our theatre-making practice. Based in a rural landscape and producing theatre that examines the place of the rural world in today's society, we believe Pentabus has a responsibility to be at the forefront of green theatre practice. We are starting from a position of strong values on environmental impact and have had a commitment to making best use of our resources for a long time. We put in place our first Environmental Policy in 2015 with an Action Plan for the 2015-2018 period. We made great strides during this period to; monitor and benchmark travel, energy use and waste, to reduce travel, energy use and waste across the board, to convert to low energy light bulbs at our base and invest in cutting edge LED theatre lighting for touring (moving away from Tungsten and significantly reducing energy use on the road). This policy builds on the steps taken since 2015.

The Co-Directors will be responsible for reviewing the environmental policy, and the Executive Director will be our green champion and monitor energy use and progress. We will continue to use Julie's Bicycle's Creative IG Tools and remain closely affiliated with Julie's Bicycle as an organisation.

### **Our main impacts on the environment are:**

- **Office:** electricity usage, supplies and services, printing, general waste
- **Productions:** use of materials, waste, transport
- **Business and Audience Travel:** fuel use and carbon emissions, coupled with poor public transport options
- **Touring:** fuel use and carbon emissions

### **Environmental Data Collection**

We will undertake data collection in relation to improving environmental performance and reducing carbon emissions in the following areas:

- Energy
- Water
- Waste
- Travel – Business
- Travel – Production
- Touring

### Key commitments and ambitions

- To accurately map our carbon footprint and aim to achieve a year on year reduction in our carbon footprint across the board
- Greening our productions and tours and procurement of supplies and services where possible
- Making recycling the norm, and waste the exception
- Reducing business travel (i.e. increased use of Skype)
- Opting for lower carbon transport modes when touring, where possible
- Ensure compliance with minimum environmental legislation and seeking to exceed this
- Communicating with and engaging our staff, our board and freelancers on environmental issues
- To lead a paradigm shift in our approach to theatre making, putting sustainability at the heart of our producing and touring agenda
- To become a flagship organisation in the region with a creative approach to environmental sustainability
- To conduct a full review of our energy use, set ourselves regular internal targets and publish our progress on our website

### PENTABUS THEATRE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN 2018-2022

Area of focus	Objectives	Date to be achieved by	Led by
Office	Review our current utilities suppliers in terms of their green policies	Review suppliers annually and seek competitive quotes (financial and in terms of environmental package).	Executive Director
	Recycle printer cartridges, batteries, paper, glass, plastic and tins	In place – continue	Executive Director
	Use Fairtrade tea and coffee and compost our waste	In place - continue	Executive Director
	Print only when we need to, print double sided and reuse envelopes.	In place – continue	Executive Director

	Make sure no light, heating or equipment left on when not in use.	In place – continue	Executive Director
	Use washable towels in bathrooms rather than hand-dryers or paper-towels	In place - continue	Executive Director
	Order materials online and send invoices and purchase orders by e mail	In place – continue	Executive Director
	Recycle all old IT equipment and use green cleaning products	Research and identify IT recycling providers in Year 1. All cleaning products Ecover or equivalent (bought from Myriad Organics)	Executive Director
	Travel by train where possible for business trips or use Skype for meetings.	Re-benchmark in Year 1 and reduce year on year over years 2 to 4	Executive Director
	Reduce use of plastic, working towards zero plastic policy in 2022	Year 1 – carry out audit of plastic use, reduce over Years 2 – 4,	Executive Director
	Updated our loo roll – ‘who gives a crap’ – reducing our plastic footprint, and using recycled and environmental sources.	On-Going	Executive Director
<b>Production</b>	Continue to catalogue our costume and props store so items can easily be reused	On-going	Producer
	Sell on or donate unwanted costumes or props via ebay, freecycle and charity shops as appropriate	On-going	Producer
	Encourage a mindset of alteration and repair rather than buy new	Specific line in creative team contracts in place. On-going	Artistic Director/ Producer
	Encourage local sourcing of materials and use company Freecycle account	Ongoing	Producer and Creative Teams
	Use FSC certified timber for all set and staging construction	Specific line in creative team contracts in place. On-going	Producer/ Production Manager
	LED lighting technology purchased, used by all lighting designers. Make plan for disposal or selling/donating on old tungsten lights	Research schemes and pass on old lights in year 1.	Executive Director

	Encourage cast and crew to travel by public transport	Line included in contracts. All train travel booked directly by the company. On-going	Producer
	Provide jugs of tap water in rehearsals to discourage bottled water	Ongoing	Producer and Stage Manager
	Use Scenery Salvage to recycle our old sets and dispose of materials responsibly	Ongoing	Producer/ Production Manager
	Remain a partner company with Julie's Bicycle. Complying with all Julies Bicycle requirements.	Continue to use IG tools monthly.	Executive Director
	Use non-PVC materials for banners and choose corrugated plastic board over foam-core	Ongoing	Producer/Audience Development Manager
	Minimise or prevent the use polystyrene in props	Ongoing	Producer/ Production Manager
	Our say no to plastic welcome package. Includes reusable coffee mug, a book called No. More. Plastic. by Martin Dorey, information on cycle and walking routes to the office.	Ongoing	Producer/ Production Manager
<b>Audience</b>	Encourage the use of news and updates via e mail rather than post. Only one postal mail out between 2015 & 2017.	Ongoing	Executive Director
	Make the public fully aware of our environmental policy and progress through our online activities.	Website overhaul and update to take place in Year 1, more options to promote Environmental work	Audience Development Manager
<b>Monitoring</b>	Support company green champion. Development Manager attended Julies Bicycle Event in November 2017.	Identify opportunities and carry out training year 1.	Executive Director
	Instigate reporting cycle	Continue to use Creative IG Tool and report to the Board annually on company position and progress	Executive Director