

Carbon Management Plan 2022-23

Introduction and Background to the project

Horizon focuses on forging new relationships between artists making performance in England and international partners. It delivers a programme of artist support and development which includes artist residencies, artist bursaries and showcasing opportunities.

It is a project funded by Arts Council England and delivered by a consortium of six organisations: Battersea Arts Centre, Fierce, FABRIC, GIFT, MAYK and Transform. Battersea Arts Centre (BAC) is the lead organisation, responsible for financial management, employment, governance and carbon management.

Horizon does not own or operate any buildings. Its four employees all work from home in different locations around England and Scotland.

Horizon presents an annual showcase at the Edinburgh festivals of performance created in England. It offers subvention funding to support international touring of these works.

Horizon's most significant carbon impact is its travel and transport, with heating and power from working from home also contributing to its direct emissions. Its subvention funding for international touring also makes a significant indirect carbon impact.

Horizon exists to help artists based in England to internationalise their practice. We recognise that many established forms of international cultural exchange have a carbon cost and acknowledge the challenge of making a commitment to sustainability given that core aim. However, we believe that we can help by:

- foregrounding work which is engaged with climate justice and climate action in our programming
- supporting artists to find ways to talk about the climate emergency, recognising the power of arts and culture to change minds and suggest new ways of thinking
- engaging in sectoral conversations about how to work internationally in a responsible and sustainable way
- supporting new forms of international cultural exchange such as concept touring and online work
- making low-carbon choices in our operations and delivery: as set out below but including invitations to delegates, support of onward touring and choice of venues.

Why does Horizon need a Carbon Management Plan?

The Horizon consortium believes that it is right for the Horizon project to minimise its environmental impact whilst maximising its contribution to society and the economy.

Carbon reduction drivers for Horizon also include:

- It's the right thing to do, given the climate emergency, the depletion of the world's finite resources and our responsibility to future generations.

- As a project funded by Arts Council England, we fully support and work within their four investment principles, one of which is Environmental Responsibility.
- City of Edinburgh Council targets – although Horizon is based in England, the showcase week, a key element of our programme, takes place in Edinburgh. The city of Edinburgh has a target of becoming a net zero city by 2030, which will affect all activity in the city. Festivals Edinburgh (the collaborative organisation of all Edinburgh’s festivals) has taken on that commitment,¹ as has the Fringe Society.²
- UK Government and Scottish Government targets. Under the Paris Agreement the UK Government has set a target of 2050 for net zero, and the Scottish Government 2045.
- Participating artists and other partners expect Horizon to minimise its carbon impact and to support them to make similar commitments.

Horizon’s Performance on Carbon Management to date

Horizon began in 2021, publishing a sustainability policy (attached as Appendix 1) stating that:

- *We are committed to exploring what a lower carbon international showcase can look like and represent in the future, and to cultivating more environmentally and sustainable ways of showcasing and touring international performance*
- *We are committed to ensuring that our environmental commitments align and intersect with our commitments to inclusion, diversity and access.*

The policy also included some commitments around prioritising sustainable travel, vegetarian catering etc, which have all been rolled into this plan with some more specific targets and commitments.

The pilot showcase in 2021 was delivered online. No carbon emissions data were captured in 2021. During 2021, the consortium and showcased artists took part in Climate Justice workshops to expand their knowledge, awareness and understanding in this area. This also gave the consortium shared reference points to underpin future decisions and directions for Horizon.

Horizon monitors its carbon emissions via BAC, which is required to report on its carbon impact as part of its funding agreement with Arts Council England. This covers travel and transport which is directly paid for by Horizon.

The key issues for Horizon’s Carbon Management Plan

The key issue for the project is that encouraging international touring has a carbon impact.

Horizon does not currently have a system for monitoring carbon impact beyond the travel and transport which it pays for directly.

Horizon also acknowledges that access requirements or caring responsibilities may make it harder for some people to choose low carbon transport options (for example), and will always respect individuals’ needs.

¹ https://www.edinburghfestivalcity.com/assets/000/005/063/Taking_Action_on_Climate_Change_-_Edinburgh_Festivals_original.pdf?1634035797

² <https://www.edfringe.com/about/about-us/fringe-development-goals>

The Plan

Year 1 (Nov 21-Oct 22)

Horizon will establish baseline figures for its carbon emissions in the following areas:

- Travel/Transport
- Energy: working from home (delivery team)

We will do this by:

- Travel/Transport: Using BAC's finance system to measure carbon emissions from travel and transport.
- Energy: Using Creative Carbon Scotland's measurement tool to estimate wfh energy carbon impact

Horizon will also self-assess how well it met its published sustainability commitments and identify how it can improve next year (see below for review of year 1).

Horizon has a budget for offsetting its carbon impact; this will be invested in an appropriate project such as:

- <https://forestryandland.gov.scot/business-and-services/carbon-offset-partnerships>
- <https://treesforlife.org.uk>
- <https://www.caledonianclimate.com/peatland-projects>

Year 2

Horizon will use the baseline data gathered in year 1 and establish how it can reduce carbon emissions for the project. We will set targets for an appropriate % reduction in carbon emissions and identify how this can be achieved.

Horizon will add new sustainability commitments and create a plan for their delivery. See below for the Year 2 plan.

Longer-Term/[future funding]

Horizon is currently funded until October 2023. As a key investment principle for ACE, Environmental Responsibility will be built into our bid for continued funding. We wish to explore a 'carbon budgeting' approach so that both financial and carbon costs are part of our decision-making going forward.

Assuming funding continues, Horizon will review progress and set targets for an appropriate further % reduction in carbon emissions.

Management and Delivery of the Carbon Management Plan

The Carbon Management Plan will be led by the Programme Director with the oversight of the Horizon consortium. The full consortium will consider Horizon's sustainability and carbon management quarterly. The Plan will be reviewed annually in November. The annual review will consider:

- Progress with identified carbon reduction projects
- The financial effect of the carbon reduction projects: costs and savings
- Wider benefits
- Communications and stakeholder engagement.

Plans for Year 2 – updated commitments

Sector Conversations/Advocacy

- We will engage with other showcases and international partners to talk about how we manage international cultural exchange in a low-carbon model.
- We will engage with Horizon artists about low-carbon touring, drawing on advice from experts in this field.
- We will engage with EFFS about their and the City of Edinburgh’s commitment to net zero by 2030, what that means for the festivals, how we can help and what we can learn.
- We will share this plan with Horizon artists, Artist Leads, Associate Organisations and other external stakeholders, including our Edinburgh venue partners and EFFS.

Programming - Artists

- We will ask all shortlisted artists for Showcase 23 to answer an additional question: *What is your approach to sustainability and carbon management when working internationally?* and use this information in our decision meeting to prioritise lower carbon projects.
- We are committed to programming at least one performance work in each showcase that contributes to the conversation about the climate emergency or about climate justice through either its form or content.
- [future funding] In our next residency programme, we will specifically invite proposals from artists who wish to develop ‘concept touring’ works which can be remade with local performers, or work which can be experienced online or remotely.
- We will not programme works which require a set rebuild for the showcase or support or encourage artists to dispose of sets or props after the Horizon showcase.

Programming – Venues

- We will ensure that all venues we work with have an environmental sustainability policy in place and will collect these policies from all our partner venues by end January 2023.
- Our production managers will co-ordinate sharing resources across the Horizon programme and sharing transport whenever possible.
- Our production managers will source hire equipment locally when possible and hire local production teams.
- We will not provide single use plastic bottles.
- We will ask venues about their water supplies/refill stations and share this information in our welcome packs in advance with artists, delegates and consortium partners.

We will encourage ‘slow’ and sustainable travel for all artists, collaborators and audiences

- We will not pay for flight costs within the UK and will only cover artist transport from a UK base.
- We will provide walking, cycling and public transport directions for all showcase venues at the point of going on sale.

- We will manage delegate journeys so that they are easily fulfilled by active or public transport modes.
- We will include walking, cycling and public transport directions in our delegate and artist information packs.
- Intersecting with delegate and team care, if possible, and depending on the programme, we will seek to include some walking meetings or other outdoor activity (picnics etc) as part of the journeys between venues.
- For any showcase venues outside easy walking distance of the city centre we will accompany delegates on public transport as a first choice; if this is not feasible we will arrange a private bus hire.

Presenters

- We will prioritise support for delegates who are ‘connectors’ and influencers in their region. We will be explicit about this aim in delegate communications. We will use data collected from 2022 delegate evaluation as well as consortium intel to collate the invitation list.
- We will prioritise support for delegates who plan to travel by land or sea.
- We will support a maximum of 35 delegates to travel specifically for the showcase. We will collaborate with other showcase organisers who support delegates to attend the Edinburgh festivals and engage a further 5 delegates without the need for additional travel.
- Of these 35, we aim to support a maximum of 5 delegates from the Global South and a maximum of a further 10 in total from East Asia, North America, Australia or New Zealand.
- We aim to have 20% of our delegates (ie 6) travelling by land or sea.
- We will curate our delegate list strategically, targeting only key delegates to attend from each region.
- We will continue to run a post-showcase digital pitching event and create digital content/activities for those who don’t attend in person (more detail to follow)

Onward Touring

- We will not pay for flight costs within the UK.
- We will encourage and pay for artists to travel by land/sea for journeys where a train or bus alternative of <6 hours exists (eg London-Lyon, London-Amsterdam, Birmingham-Paris).
- For journeys where a ferry, train or bus alternative of 6-12 hours exists, we will invite artists to submit budgets which include additional paid travel days to enable them to choose to use lower-carbon travel.
- We will prioritise support for engagements which are part of wider tours with at least 3 partners in the same region.
- We will advise artists on alternative touring models e.g concept touring

We will create an offsetting strategy for the carbon emissions from the showcase to reduce our impact. We will make support available to support touring companies to create their own offsetting strategies

- We need to seek advice on how to do this.

Admin and Marketing

- We will not encourage printing of any documents. We will use online systems (Adobe Sign, Zoho) for contracts and documents.
- We will not print a Horizon brochure.
- We will not fund artists to print any marketing materials.
- We will print a Horizon postcard with QR code on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.
- We will liaise with Out of Hand/other print and distribution agencies to ask about their materials and their commitment to reusing and recycling any outdoor advertising.

Events

- We will plan events carefully, ask for RSVPs and only provide food and drinks in reasonable quantities for the planned number of attendees to avoid waste.
- We will only provide vegetarian catering.
- We will work harder with our venue partners to push for washable service ware.
- We will ask our caterers to provide food without disposable packaging.

Accommodation

- We will book accommodation within walking distance of our venues.
- We will supply artists, delegates and consortium partners with information about active and public transport options in their welcome packs.
- We will ask accommodation providers about their environmental credentials.