



Environmental Policy and Action Plan

Statement of Intent

Sangam Festival acknowledges that the world is facing a climate emergency and that the decisions of today are the impacts of tomorrow. This means event organizers are becoming increasingly responsible for playing their part in the journey to a low carbon future.

Sangam Festival is therefore committed to minimizing its effect on the environment and recognizes its responsibility in reducing its carbon and environmental footprints.

Sangam Festival aims to spread a responsible environmental message to our audiences through our programming and events, in hope of encouraging them to reduce their own impact and to make positive changes that contribute towards creating a better future.

Sangam Festival is committed to following the best environmental practices in the day-to-day conduct of its business and management of its resources and facilities. We aim to use policies and procedures that will ensure the conservation of natural resources while minimizing any adverse environmental impact from our operations, including, but not limited to, reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, waste reduction and recycling.

We adhere to the following four principles:

- 1) Commitment to respond meaningfully to the climate change challenge.
- 2) Understanding our environmental impacts.
- 3) Acting to minimize our impacts and improve environmental performance.
- 4) Using our influence to encourage socially conscious behaviour and environmental responsibility in all those who interact with our festival.

Implementation

Sangam Festival's Environmental Policy is a statement of our commitment to help reduce the impact of our activities on the environment. The policy is supported by an Environmental Action Plan, which specifies how the policy will be implemented, complete with targets, dates and a named person responsible for delivering it.

We aim to review our environmental policies and procedures each year to improve our performance whilst seeking to comply with current environmental legislation.

All employees and stakeholders are to be made aware of this policy and their responsibilities for environmental issues. The Festival Director will have responsibility for monitoring procedures and reviewing this policy on an annual basis.

We will work with our staff, partners, suppliers, funders and stakeholder network to ensure we consider and communicate the environmental impacts of all our activities.

Scope of Policy

Sangam Festival is committed to understanding, measuring, improving and communicating our environmental performance. Sangam Festival observes existing environmental legislation and aims to set this as a minimum standard whilst seeking to out-perform environmental performances year on year.

Sangam Festival's activities have environmental impacts in the areas of:

- (a) Energy consumption
- (b) Water consumption
- (c) Waste generation and management
- (d) Materials and suppliers
- (e) Travel
- (f) Food & Beverage

We will exert our efforts as much as possible to understand, measure, improve; and to communicate our environmental performance. Our capacity to change and influence decisions may not always be within our immediate control. But we will commit to collecting data of all kinds to enable evidenced-based decision-making when it comes to improving our environmental impacts.

Part of Sangam Festival's longer-term goal is to establish a system that will allow us to carry out an audit of our water and energy consumption throughout the duration of the festival and use the Industry Green Tools to record its findings. We hope to implement this in 2023. This will allow us to identify benchmarks for future planning and potential emission and consumption reductions/efficiencies. In addition, we will be monitoring other aspects of our procurement and consumption as outlined in this document. We will continue to work alongside partners to identify further benchmarks and future measures to be taken to meet our environmental aims. These will include recording costs related to the Action Plan (where possible), event waste reduction/recycling, procurement procedures, travel and transport, finance and digital.

Key Environmental Impacts

1. Events

Sangam Festival presents a month-long multi-arts programme of events, activities and workshops that celebrate South Asian arts, culture and heritage.

In 2021 the festival proudly presented and provided commissions for 142 artist practitioners and arts organizers, that stretched across 16 venues and sites in various locations in Kirklees. This included both indoor and outdoor locations. The festival reached 1350 people through live events and online activity and a further 8000+ through Radio Sangam and other online media streams. The festival takes place during South Asian Heritage Month (SAHM), which runs annually from 18 July to 17 August.

Primary environmental impacts are:

- Energy consumption.
- Water consumption.
- Waste generation.
- Greenhouse gas emissions caused by audience transportation.
- Greenhouse gas emissions caused by staff and business travel.
- Use of materials.

2. Office

Sangam Festival employees work from the office at Radio Sangam, which is located on Miln Road in Birkby, Huddersfield. The average number of employees in each year is 12.

Primary environmental impacts are caused by:

- Fossil fuel energy consumption.
- Water consumption.
- Waste generation.
- Office supplies and services

3. Festival Hub & External Venues

The majority of the festival's activity take place at either external venues across the Kirklees area, or at the main Festival Hub within an empty unit in the heart of Huddersfield Town Centre, Piazza; a meanwhile space offered as part of the Temporary Contemporary initiative. The space increased the visibility and awareness of the festival and provides access to culture for more people.

Primary environmental impacts are caused by:

- Fossil fuel energy consumption.
- Water consumption.
- Waste generation.
- Office supplies and services
- Audience & Staff travel

4. Other Goods and Services Procurement

Print, publicity and marketing

Sangam Festival produces an annual programme brochure, posters, flyers, banners, decals, feather flags with bases, pens and t-shirts.

5000 x A5 brochures 12 pages uncoated recyclable paper
5000 x A4 folded to A6 flyers uncoated recyclable paper
2000 x A5 children's event leaflets printed double side on glossy recyclable paper
200 x A4 posters
50 x A3 posters
10 x A2 posters
6 x roller banners
2 x large window decal
1 x small window decal
1000 x cardboard pens
6 x feather flags with bases
100 x organic cotton t-shirts

Additional Print

2000 x A5 12-page brochure reprint on glossy recyclable paper, 130gsm
50 x A3 poster reprint - on 170gsm glossy recyclable paper
100 x A4 poster reprint- reprint on 170gsm glossy recyclable paper
50 x A3 posters on 170gsm glossy recyclable paper for our Norman Park event.
2 x outdoor mesh banners 2m wide by 1m deep

Primary environmental impacts are caused by:

- Paper resource consumption.
- Distribution.
- Toxicity of ink and finishes.
- Waste generation.

Office Supplies

Sangam Festival uses traditional office supplies (generic stationery, electronic equipment and furniture).

Primary environmental impacts are caused by:

- Resource use for office electronic equipment, furniture, stationery and radio transmitters.
- Toxicity of furniture and equipment.
- Waste generation.

Digital services

Sangam Festival uses a server hosting service for its website and email accounts. It also transmits a radio show from Radio Sangam.

Primary environmental impacts are caused by:

- Energy consumption.

Key Performance Indicators

We are committed to monitoring all those environmental impacts we can reasonably gather data for and control use of. By measuring these environmental impacts, we aim to put in place means of reducing the negative impacts of our event activities. We also commit to programming events that relate to spreading a positive social and environmental message.

1. Events

For events in 2022 Sangam Festival will measure and introduce:

- **Performers/artists travel**- we will collate information on artists air miles and overland mileage and look to book local performers/ artists wherever possible. For overseas artists we will look to offset their travel emission using verified carbon offsetting projects.
- **Programming**- As part of our commitment to spreading a responsible environmental message to our audiences, we will programme events focusing specifically the sustainability and the environment.
- **Education for staff and volunteers**- give training on climate change, environmental policy and recycling/ waste management.

Future event performance indicators will include:

- Energy consumption at Festival Hub and Radio Sangam throughout duration of festival
- Number of suppliers with environmental accreditation.
- Number of suppliers able to provide information about efforts to improve their environmental performance.
- Number of events presented at venues with environmental accreditation.
- Number of people using sustainable means of transport to our Events.
- Number of waste black bin bags generated
- Number of recycling bags produced
- Waste use per event.
- Fuel consumption by visiting artists and companies.
- Sustainability of materials used by Sangam Festival, artists and suppliers.

2. Office

In 2022 Sangam Festival will measure/request information on

- Number of staff using public transport or cycling to and from work.

Future event performance indicators will include:

- Water use.
- Energy use
- Waste use.

3. Festival Hub & External Venues

In 2022 Sangam Festival will measure/request information on

- Number of staff using public transport or active travel to and from work.

Future event performance indicators will include:

- Water use.
- Energy use
- Waste use.

4. Other Goods and Services Procurement

Print, Publicity and Marketing

In 2022 Sangam Festival will measure:

- Number of materials produced using recycled sources.
- Number of local suppliers used.
- Number of suppliers with environmental accreditation.
- Number of suppliers able to provide information about efforts to improve their environmental impact.

Future event performance indicators will include:

- Waste per festival.

5. Office supplies and digital services

Future event performance indicators will include:

- Number of suppliers used with environmental accreditation.
- Number of suppliers able to provide information about efforts to improve their environmental performance.
- Paper use.
- Toner use.

Environmental Action Plan

The Environmental Action Plan at the end of this document guides Sangam Festival's approach to environmental sustainability and ensures that the Environmental Policy underpins the work of the organization.

Sangam Festival recognizes that this plan is part of an ongoing process that informs all of its activities. This plan sets down the key objectives for the next three years with regards to environmental sustainability and begins to consider how best to implement the plan in terms of tasks, people involved and making it part of the organization's infrastructure. The Festival Director will be responsible for the coordinating of the Action Plan and it will be monitored as a standard agenda item at Board Meetings and will be updated annually each January.

Governance, reporting and communication

Responsibility for implementing and monitoring this Environmental Policy lies ultimately with Sangam Festival's Board of Directors, with delegated responsibility given to the executive staff in its implementation in the day-to-day running of the organization.

Training, whenever relevant and feasible, is offered to Board members and executive team members to enable them to discharge their roles and responsibilities effectively.

We will look to use the year 2022 to establish a baseline for understanding a number of Sangam Festival's environmental impacts and what decisions we can make to reduce those impacts at future events. Data collected from this year will be used to inform the setting of our goals and targets for improvement in future years.

Each year we will evaluate the scope for assessing our environmental impacts and extend the scope for understanding, measurement and action as appropriate.

The Festival Director will evaluate/create systems (in conjunction with the Sangam Festival team) in the Autumn of each year to realize the annual objectives set out in the Environmental Action Plan. These will be reviewed with the rest of the Board.

Using Julie's Bicycle as part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organization requirements, Sangam Festival will use IG Tools to report annually on behalf of the progress made, including statistical information, in the key areas of the organization's **Events** and its **Office** accommodation.

All core Sangam Festival permanent and freelance staff are made aware of this Environmental Policy and Action Plan and their responsibilities for environmental issues. Sangam Festival will publish its Environmental Policy on our own website, alongside additional reports that demonstrate progress made and support in general the progress made by the outdoor arts sector.