



Sheffield Doc/Fest Environmental Policy

Sheffield Doc/Fest is a world leading documentary festival, celebrating the art and business of documentary through a six day festival experience in Sheffield each June, and touring and training programmes throughout the year nationally and internationally.

With one third of Sheffield nestled within the Peak District National Park, and less than 1% of the city's household waste being sent to landfill each year, the UK's Outdoor City has excellent green credentials and is a beautiful place to live, work, and visit.

Welcoming over 32,700 Festival goers, including 3,500 industry delegates from 60 countries, Sheffield Doc/Fest brings new and returning audiences to the city each year from all over the world. We recognise that hosting such an event in the city has significant environmental impact, and we are committed to monitoring, reviewing, and reducing the scale of that footprint.

Our Policy

We are committed to embedding sustainability into our organisation, across all departments and activities. Within our organisation we identify roles and responsibilities, policy and process, in relation to our environmental action plan. We encourage and engage in open dialogue with stakeholders and communicate our environmental sustainability policies to all staff, audiences, and suppliers. We aim to improve our energy efficiency, use zero carbon sources and transport, sustainably sourced materials, local providers, and reduce waste across all aspects of our activity. We continually seek to better understand, through monitoring and reporting, our environmental impacts in our office, as part of our all year activity, and during our annual festival in Sheffield. We will share our environmental impacts and performance over time.



We recognise our main areas of impact as:

- All year round:
 - Travel – staff
 - Office – energy use, recycling, waste

- At the Festival:
 - Travel – guests and audiences
 - Waste, materials, and recycling
 - Water and food
 - Film transportation

The areas we are currently focusing on are:

Greening the office

The Sheffield Doc/Fest office is now powered by 100% renewable electricity.

We ensure all our staff are inducted and are aware of office policies on recycling and energy saving, such as turning off lights and computers overnight, and monitoring heating and air conditioning levels. Recycling facilities are always available and easy to use.

We monitor our staff travel year round, and use conference calls to minimise travel where possible. We have updated our procurement policy to reflect our sustainable goals, we use green/ethical options when purchasing new equipment, and locally-based suppliers wherever possible.

Catering and Water

We work closely with local experts to provide catering for our festival – and year-round events – that use organic, free range, regional and seasonal ingredients. This year at the Exchange, our festival hub, the focus is on vegetarian and vegan cuisine. Serve ware is recycled, recyclable and/or compostable and we work closely with our suppliers to establish the best waste management and recycling plan. We also welcome Oatly who will offer a range of oat-based drinks and food. We are working our partner venues to provide a catering solution for staff and crew that minimises food waste and packaging. Single use plastic bottles or straws



will not be made available by the festival to audiences or staff. Please help us achieve this by bringing your own reusable coffee cups and refillable water bottles (you can find places to fill up on our festival [map](#)).

Materials

We try to reduce waste in this area by designing our signage and merchandise so we can reuse it each year. Our paper promotional publications use FSC approved paper from sustainable sources, vegetable printing inks and chemical free printing plates, and we consider print runs carefully so we don't over order. We work with local suppliers to source our delegate bags which are Organic, Fairtrade, and vegan friendly.

Guest Travel

Train is by far the easiest method to arrive at the festival, as the train station is minutes away from our main venues. For anyone driving, please consider carpooling sites like [BlaBlaCar](#) or [Liftshare](#). As an international festival we do have guests from around the world but we always try to minimise flights, avoid any internal connections, and use trains for travel within the UK. We monitor all audience and guest travel to the Festival, which helps us calculate our carbon footprint. Please help us assess this by filling out our audience survey at and after the festival. Once here, we encourage visitors to walk everywhere as almost all our venues are situated within the city centre ring road. For those few venues further afield we suggest public transport. Click [here](#) to see our venue pages for travel information.

Film Transport

Traditionally, a significant part of a film festival's carbon footprint comes from shipping films on physical drives or prints around the world. We are working with print traffic platform [Festily](#) to substantially reduce the amount of physical shipping we have to do, moving to digital transfers via the internet. In 2018, over 90% of our films were sent to us through this service.

We welcome feedback and ideas on how we can continue to improve on our environmental policy. For questions and suggestions, please email production@sheffdocfest.com