



## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

**Reviewed on: 21/11/2024**

**Due for review on: 20/11/2025**

Papatango Theatre Company Ltd recognises that it is vital to deliver all elements of our work through an ecologically-responsible and environmentally-sustainable model. We acknowledge that the world is facing a climate emergency and unprecedented environmental change; in this context, every individual and every organisation must play a part in advocating for, and working towards, sustainability and equality. This policy lays out the principles we expect all staff, freelancers, volunteers and partners to adhere to. It reflects Papatango's charitable mission to create accessible opportunities for the next generation of artists and audiences.

### Our Aims

We will strive to be better advocates for environmentally-conscious and sustainable work across theatre, the arts and society more broadly. In particular, we will value our membership of Staging Change (<https://www.stagingchange.com/>) and actively contribute to a community which promotes awareness of and models best practice in responding to climate change and all other environmental concerns.

Fundamental to our role, as a theatre company devoted to new plays from emerging artists, is imagining different ways of being and examining social, economic and political debates. We therefore have a rare and precious opportunity to consider sustainability and engagement with environmental issues on an artistic as well as a logistical front, and we must embrace this.

### Our Commitments

To realise these aims, we will follow a 'traffic light' code:

**GREEN:** we will always:

- avoid carbon emissions or waste whenever possible, actively presenting all our staff, freelancers and participants with relevant guidance on sustainable practices
- operate without a central business premises, to cut down on energy usage as well as travel and transport emissions
- maintain a paperless administrative system
- do any printing that is unavoidable e.g. flyers, posters, scripts etc on recycled and recyclable materials
- encourage our creative and production teams to follow ethical procurement and sustainable practices whenever possible via:
  - 1) Prioritising materials/sources which are low-VOC or no-VOC
  - 2) Reusing or recycling materials, either via incorporating them into the company's other work or donating to other users through schemes like Set Exchange

- 3) Turning stage lighting off whenever it is not required for tech or performance
  - 4) Using LED or compact fluorescent lighting instead of tungsten lighting
  - 5) Laundering costumes on a cold wash & quick cycle
  - 6) Budgeting to offset any unavoidable carbon footprint through Climate Care: <https://climatecare.org/>
  - 7) Using public transport or asking suppliers to use sustainable delivery methods
- make assessment of our environmental impact a regular item on the agenda in meetings between trustees, staff and production teams, foregrounding sustainability in all our processes and planning
  - ask all staff, freelancers and volunteers to sign up to this policy and endeavour to follow it

**AMBER:** we will strive whenever possible to:

- incentivise audiences and participants to attend our events via public transport, or walking or cycling, primarily through our communications and public advocacy but also by being aware that sometimes a 'reward' scheme may be possible
- Obtain costumes, sets and props from reclaimed, second-hand or recycled sources
- only use public transport for touring or travel, subsidising staff to facilitate this

**RED:** we will encourage others to follow sustainable practices outside our own control by:

- asking any partner venues who do not already maintain an environmental policy for information on the following matters:
  - 1) Whether they already use or might consider using sustainable energy suppliers?
  - 2) Whether they can track their carbon footprint and if there are any opportunities to offset some or all of this?
  - 3) Whether it is possible to use sustainable couriers/transport?
  - 4) Whether there are recycling bins we could use?
  - 5) Whether the venue uses reusable cutlery and materials in its cafes or kitchens, or if we should provide these to our team directly?
  - 6) Whether a paperless ticketing system, or at least printing tickets on recycled paper, is possible for the production?
  - 7) Whether the venue makes use of solar panels, rainwater butts and water-saving measures?

Through these questions, we will encourage our partners to build sustainability into their operating model where possible.

Through this code, Papatango should render both ourselves and others more conscious of the environmental impact of our activities and better equipped to work more sustainably and responsibly.