



ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Last reviewed on: 27/04/2026

Executive Summary

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, informed by the Theatre Green Book ([Theatre Green Book](#)). It reflects Papatango's charitable mission to create accessible opportunities for the next generation of artists and audiences.

Our Aims

We will strive to advocate for environmentally conscious and sustainable work across theatre, the arts and society more broadly. We will try to contribute to a community which promotes awareness of and models best practice in responding to 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 both an opportunity and an obligation to engage with environmental issues on an artistic as well as a logistical front.

Theatre Green Book

The Theatre Green Book identifies core principles for theatre to be environmentally sustainable, across a) productions, b) operations, and c) buildings. As a touring company whose staff work remotely, our particular focus is on the first two categories, though we remain mindful of our ability to influence and inform venue partners. The core principles identified by the Theatre Green Book are:

- Reuse and recycle everything we can
- Reduce how much energy or resources are used
- Source what we use sustainably
- Use renewable energy
- Minimise energy and water loss with more efficient buildings

These are not absolutes; the Theatre Green Book recognises that progress towards net zero is achieved in phases, which it defines as 'Basic', 'Intermediate' and 'Advanced'. Papatango, as a relatively small charity with no core funding and no Arts Council England subsidy, is currently working to the 'Basic' targets, though with an ambition – and often achieving – higher targets.

To achieve these targets, the Theatre Green Book recommends that organisations create a 'Green Committee' to set an action plan, monitor impact, and communicate with stakeholders. As a small charity with only three full-time staff members, Papatango's 'Green Committee' is the entire staff team, who report quarterly to the Board of Trustees including on environmental action and achievements.

Our Action Plan

To realise these aims and work to the Theatre Green Book principles and targets, we have devised an action plan structured into 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 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) Using public transport or asking suppliers to use sustainable delivery methods
 - 7) Make assessment of our environmental impact a regular item in production team meetings, foregrounding sustainability in all our processes.

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;
- 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:
 - 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?
 - 6) Whether a paperless ticketing system, or at least printing tickets on recycled paper, is possible?
 - 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 and buildings model wherever possible.

Through this action plan, 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, informed by the Theatre Green Book.