

Climate Actions Checklist for Live Outdoor Events



30 Climate actions for Events of all Types and Sizes

As part of the 'Show Must Go On #3 Industry report and Climate Transition Plan 2030 for the UK Live Outdoor Events Industry,' the **Vision for Sustainable Events Pledge for Festivals and Events** has been updated with a practical list of actions aimed to be realistic for events of all types sizes to implement. This work is rooted in the acknowledgement that micro and small events make up 91% of the festival industry, as shown by the research published by the Association of Independent Festivals (2025).

Events are unique in their type, size, location, audience profile etc. and so there is no one-size-fits-all approach. Over 70 practical climate actions have been reviewed using a 'feasibility filter methodology,' which considers affordability, availability in the supply chain, and how easy the actions are to implement without specialist knowledge or resources.

This process has produced this list of 30 practical sustainability measures that most events can put in place to take climate action. Note that this list is being released as a beta version; i.e. we will be actively seeking feedback throughout 2026 to relaunch in early 2027.

Alongside this list, the recently reviewed and published national **Green Events Code of Practice**, provides a framework for action for events and the sector, including targets for 2030.

**DOWNLOAD THE GREEN EVENTS
CODE OF PRACTICE [HERE](#)**



The Vision 2030 Pledge asks events to:

- Use the climate action checklist to adopt as many new practices as possible, as soon as achievable, and by 2030 at the latest.
- Use the Climate Actions Checklist and the Green Events Code of Practice to inform a 5-year strategy and action plan to 2030 (for larger events and organisations).
- Be part of our community of events taking action, sharing knowledge, and being the change.

**SIGN UP TO THE
2030 PLEDGE
FOR ADDITIONAL
RESOURCES AND
SUPPORT [HERE](#)**

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Climate Actions Checklist 2030 for Live Outdoor Events

Impact Area	Action / Measure / Practice or policy	Potential % emissions reduction (within impact category)	Current feasibility - comments	Additional benefits	Challenges
Energy Generation	Work with your onsite supplier to reduce fuel use through efficiency savings e.g. better system design or battery use	20-40%	Available to all events, but requires working with contractors	Reduced fuel costs	Reskilling suppliers and production professionals
	Use a grid connection for onsite electricity wherever possible	90%+	Limited availability, but easy if the event has access to connections	Reduced costs, and deliveries. Quieter and less polluting onsite	Lack of connections available at UK greenfield and many urban events sites
	Replace diesel with HVO fuel (interim medium-term measure while on a journey toward renewables and grid connection)	15%	UK-wide access		Issues around certification and provenance

Materials	Reduce new materials purchased for creative builds	Not yet estimated	Available and easy for all	Helps create a new culture.	Additional work for the production team
	Increase rate of recycling from drinks packaging	Not yet estimated	Available and easy for all	Highly recyclable material	Using disposable packaging increases risk of litter onsite.
	Provide water points and encourage use of reusable bottles	Not yet estimated	Available and easy for all	Supports the adoption of reusables	Clear signage and water points marked on site maps is required
	Reduce waste related emissions by using more sustainable alternative materials (paper cups, rPET plastic)	75%	Available and easy for all	Highly recyclable materials	The site is less clean and disposable usage is encouraged
	Reuse merchandise items or find sustainable alternatives	Not yet estimated		Supports audience participation. Can enhance an event's reputation.	Finding sustainable, reusable and/or reused alternatives. Potential loss of income if no suitable merch can be sourced.
	Reduce single-use plastic by using reusable cups at the bars	50%	Cost factor for smaller events	Cleaner site	Cost and limited infrastructure for smaller events. Limit breakage and achieve. High collection rate

Waste Disposal	Reduce general waste by maximising recycling	Not yet estimated	Available, but requires audience, crew and production participation	Cleaner site and nicer environment. Can enhance an event's reputation. Creates a positive culture and encourages desired behaviours.	Reducing non recyclable items. Understanding materials (Life Cycle Analysis). Lack of control. Greenwashing, i.e. products deemed recyclable/ compostable.
	Reduce artist-related single-use plastics and waste with Green Riders	Not yet estimated	Available and easy for all	Supports transition to greener practices for artists	Pre-show communication with artistic teams
	Implement a Deposit Return Scheme for items such as bottles or cans	Not yet estimated	Available and easy for all	Supports audience participation. Can enhance an event's reputation.	Additional staff and resources needed

Waste Disposal	Engage audiences with clear initiatives & incentives to reduce waste brought to site and engage in recycling	Not yet estimated	Available and easy for all	Supports audience participation. Enhances the events' reputation	Additional staff and resources needed
Audience Travel	Promote car sharing to increase occupancy and reduce number of cars	Up to 32% emissions reduction from audience travel from a variety of initiatives	Available and easy for all	Supports audience participation and community building	Finding the correct platform to organise it
	Reduce audience travel distances by prioritising early access to local ticket sales	Up to 32% emissions reduction from audience travel from a variety of initiatives	Successfully trialled by events. Requires working with ticketing contractors.	Supports the local economy and local access to culture	Finding the correct ticketing platform to manage the operation

Production Travel	Introduce low emissions onsite transport using electric buggies / cargo bikes	Not yet estimated	Available	Supports the local economy. Supports employment for parents, carers or workers who have difficulties travelling.	Creating new networks, and the outreach process
	Work with local suppliers and traders to reduce travel distances	30%	Available	Supports the local economy. Brings businesses into the journey. Supports local resilience and growth.	Establishes connections with local businesses. The economic landscape is difficult for traders.
	Consolidate food deliveries with a centralised ordering system and/or wholesalers onsite for traders	60-100%	Available	Reduces onsite noise pollution	

Production Travel	Implement an efficient production delivery schedule to reduce build and derig travel	Not yet estimated	Available	Creates a positive culture within the organisation. Reduces unnecessary trips and vehicle movements.	Contractors' timelines during the summer going from festival to festival might be a challenge
	Consolidate food deliveries with a centralised ordering system for traders	Not yet estimated	Limited availability. Requires audience, crew and production participation.	Supports local businesses	Additional facilities and staffing to manage the operation
	Implement a strict no idling policy to reduce unnecessary onsite emissions	100%	Available	Reduces onsite noise pollution	Challenging people onsite, especially for one-off deliveries
	Use local storage facilities for equipment, build and design materials	Unknown	Available	Supports local businesses	Involves redesigning creative/build schedules Avoid re-ordering

Artists Travel	Avoid exclusivity clauses from artist contracts to maximise dates on touring schedules within regions	Unknown	Requires shift in industry practices	Supports the grassroots scene. Potential to support overall reduction in audience travels for the sector.	Change in booking culture required from agents, artists & programmers
	Increase programming of local or regional artists to reduce artists travel emissions.	Not yet estimated	Available	Supports the grassroots scene. Nurtures talent growth. New networks and partnerships.	Specialist music events may struggle to source locally or regionally which may affect their brand or audience experience

Food	Move to a 100% plant based menu	80%	Any event could do this in principle, but a phased or partial approach may be best	Nutrition, health and mental health benefits	Respecting cultural practices and providing for all dietary needs and preferences
	Remove red meat from menus	46%	All events can achieve this	Nutrition, health and mental health benefits. New menus create new skills.	Audience expectations and profit margins. Availability of non-meat concessions.
	Reduce the proportion of meat in (e.g. 50/50 meals) and /or increase the % of vegetarian food onsite	Not yet estimated	All events can achieve this	Nutrition, health and mental health benefits. New menus create new skills.	Coordinating all traders and finding adequate replacements for their recipes

Beverages	Work with local drink suppliers to reduce travel distances	Not yet estimated	Available	Supports local businesses	May be limited by the local suppliers able to provide the scale/amount required. The number of suppliers will be higher. More admin is required.
	Work with sustainable drinks suppliers such as B Corps to reduce impacts of brewing	Not yet estimated	Available	Supports ethical businesses. Creating new networks and partnerships.	
Water	Implement water efficiency measures to reduce water usage	Not yet estimated	Available		