

# 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 event organisers to:

- 1 Be an active member of the **Vision community** *e.g. Join webinars, use the free resources, and share case studies of your challenges and achievements to inspire & support others.*
- 2 Use the **Climate Actions Checklist** as a guide and adopt as many new practices as are relevant and achievable at your event(s) by 2030\*.
- 3 For larger events and organisations (>30,000 cap): Use the [Climate Actions Checklist](#) and the [Green Events Code of Practice](#) to inform a **multi- year strategy and action plan to 2030**.

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

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*\*This pledge invites you to be ambitious and recognises that each event is unique in type, size, location, scope of influence, and resources available.*

# 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.<br>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.<br>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.<br>Can enhance an event's reputation.<br>Creates a positive culture and encourages desired behaviours. | Reducing non recyclable items.<br>Understanding materials (Life Cycle Analysis).<br>Lack of control.<br>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.<br>Can enhance an event's reputation.                                                                     | Additional staff and resources needed                                                                                                                               |

|                        |                                                                                                                      |                                                                                  |                                                                                      |                                                                  |                                                                |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Waste Disposal</b>  | 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                          |
| <b>Audience Travel</b> | Promote low-emissions forms of transport such as public transport, coaches and shuttles from local transport links   | 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 local audiences where possible (e.g., local tickets) local tickets. | Up to 32% emissions reduction from audience travel from a variety of initiatives | Successfully trialled by events.<br><br>Requires working with ticketing contractors. | Supports the local economy and local access to culture           | Finding the correct ticketing platform to manage the operation |

|                      |                                                                                                      |                   |           |                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                    |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Production<br>Travel | Introduce low emissions onsite transport using electric buggies / cargo bikes                        | Not yet estimated | Available | Supports the local economy.<br>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.<br>Brings businesses into the journey.<br>Supports local resilience and growth.         | Establishes connections with local businesses.<br>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                                                                                      |                                                                                                    |

|                          |                                                                                      |                   |                                                                                    |                                                                                                         |                                                                                               |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Production Travel</b> | Implement an efficient production delivery schedule to reduce build and derig travel | Not yet estimated | Available                                                                          | Creates a positive culture within the organisation.<br>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.<br><br>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<br>Avoid re-ordering                            |



|                       |                                                                                                                                              |                   |                                      |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Artists Travel</b> | Avoid exclusivity clauses from artist contracts to maximise dates on touring schedules within regions where possible and commercially viable | Unknown           | Requires shift in industry practices | Supports the grassroots scene.<br><br>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.<br><br>Nurtures talent growth.<br><br>New networks and partnerships.              | Specialist music events may struggle to source locally or regionally which may affect their brand or audience experience |

|      |                                                                                                   |                   |                                                                                    |                                                                               |                                                                                    |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Food | Move toward plant-based menus                                                                     | 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  |
|      | Reduce high impact foods such as red meat and dairy                                               | 46%               | All events can achieve this                                                        | Nutrition, health and mental health benefits.<br>New menus create new skills. | Audience expectations and profit margins.<br>Availability of non-meat concessions. |
|      | Reduce the proportion of meat in meals and/or increase the % of vegetarian and vegan food onsite. | Not yet estimated | All events can achieve this                                                        | Nutrition, health and mental health benefits.<br>New menus create new skills. | Coordinating all traders and finding adequate replacements for their recipes       |

|                  |                                                                                     |                   |           |                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Beverages</b> | 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.<br>The number of suppliers will be higher.<br>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.<br>Creating new networks and partnerships. |                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Water</b>     | Implement water efficiency measures to reduce water usage                           | Not yet estimated | Available |                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                        |