



March 2025

Watergate Theatre Environmental Policy

Introduction

At Watergate Theatre, we are committed to playing our part in addressing the climate crisis. As a vibrant cultural hub, we recognise our responsibility to reduce our environmental impact and to inspire our community to embrace sustainability. Our policy is guided by national and international frameworks, including Ireland's [Climate Action Plan 2024](#), the [Green Arts Initiative in Ireland's Guide to Energy](#), and the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#).

Our Vision

We strive to be a leader in environmental responsibility within the arts sector, embedding sustainability into every aspect of our operations and programming. Our goal is to reduce our carbon footprint, conserve resources, and foster a culture of environmental awareness among staff, artists, and audiences.

Why This Matters

Climate change is a global challenge with local consequences. The Climate Action Plan 2024 sets ambitious targets for reducing emissions and building resilience in Ireland. The arts have a unique role to play in raising awareness and driving change. By aligning our actions with the SDGs, we contribute to a fairer, healthier, and more sustainable future for all.

Our Commitments

- Integrate environmental sustainability into all decision-making and planning.
- Develop and implement a robust Environmental Action Plan, reviewed annually.
- Set and monitor measurable targets for reducing energy use, waste, and emissions.
- Engage with staff, artists, and audiences to promote sustainable practices.
- Report transparently on our progress and challenges.

Key Areas of Focus

1. Energy Efficiency

- Follow best practices from the Green Arts Initiative in Ireland's Guide to Energy.
- Invest in energy-efficient lighting, heating, and equipment.
- Monitor and reduce energy consumption, aiming for continuous improvement.

2. Waste Reduction

- Minimise single-use plastics and promote reusable, recyclable, and compostable alternatives.
- Implement clear waste separation and recycling systems throughout the venue.
- Track and report on waste generation and diversion rates.

3. Water Conservation

- Install water-saving fixtures and promote mindful water use.
- Phase out single-use plastic bottles and provide water refill stations.

4. Sustainable Travel

- Encourage staff, artists, and audiences to use public transport, cycle, walk, or carpool.
- Consider the environmental impact of travel in our programming and partnerships.

5. Responsible Procurement and Catering

- Prioritise local, seasonal, and sustainable suppliers.
- Increase plant-based menu options and reduce food waste.

6. Artistic Leadership

- Support and present work that explores environmental themes and solutions.
- Collaborate with artists and organisations committed to sustainability.

7. Community Engagement and Education

- Share our sustainability journey with our community.
- Offer workshops, talks, and resources to promote environmental awareness.

8. Alignment with National and Global Goals

- Ensure our actions support the objectives of the Climate Action Plan 2024 and the UN SDGs, particularly Goals 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and 13 (Climate Action).

Looking Forward

We are committed to ongoing learning and improvement, seeking expert advice and collaborating with local and national sustainability networks. Each year, we will review our policy and action plan to ensure we are meeting our goals and responding to new challenges and opportunities.

References

- [Climate Action Plan 2024 \(gov.ie\)](#)
- [Green Arts Initiative in Ireland: Guide to Energy](#)
- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#)

Conclusion

By placing environmental responsibility at the heart of our operations and programming, Watergate Theatre aims to be a catalyst for positive change—within our walls and throughout our community.