



M6 ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY POLICY & ACTION PLAN FY24

Version	2
Publication Date	March 2023
Related Policies	Ethical Fundraising Policy, Procurement Policy
Informed By	RBC Climate Change Action Plan, Greater Manchester Carbon Zero 2038, Theatre Green Books, Julie's Bicycle
Last Review Date	February 2023
Next Review Date	February 2024
Approved by	

1. Context

M6 Theatre Company are a children's theatre company in Rochdale. Our mission is to create and deliver dynamic, quality, and relevant work with, by and for children and young people. To ignite the imagination, nurture the heart and challenge the mind. We tour locally and nationally and have a local participatory programme. On average, we tour 2-3 productions a year locally and nationally, attracting an average of 12,000 audience members a year. 50% of our touring takes place locally. Additionally, we produce films and digital resources for schools, venues, and community groups.

We are an ACE NPO-funded arts organisation that receives in-kind funding from Rochdale Borough Council. We are a small company with 6 full-time employees & 4 part-time employees, we employ freelancers on a project basis. The M6 building is a Rochdale Private Funding Initiative and M6 are licensees/tenants.

This environmental responsibility policy is informed by current environmental best practice guidance provided by Julie's Bicycle and Greater Manchester Arts Sustainability Team and captures M6's Commitment to Act supporting Manchester becoming a zero-carbon city by 2038. The policy is supported by an action

plan which details how the policy will be implemented complete with targets, dates, and a named person responsible for delivering it. The action plan will be implemented, monitored and reviewed by staff and trustees at monthly and quarterly meetings.

We are committed to ACE's Environmental Responsibility Investment Principle and our aim in the next 3 years is to align M6 to local and regional environmental ambitions and use M6's unique position and access to young people, artists and partners to influence, educate and advocate for environmental responsibility via a mix of powerful theatre interventions, education resources and leading by example in the way we work.

By the end of FY24 we will have undertaken a green audit to increase our understanding of M6's impact on climate change. We will have trained members of our staff, board and freelancers in carbon literacy to increase our understanding and be equipped to take positive action. We will also have toured Nest which will inspire a love for the natural world in young children across the UK.

M6's Company Administrator is the Environmental Officer for the company and all staff are involved in the delivery of the action plan.

2. Environmental responsibility policy statement

We adhere to the following four principles:

- 1 Commitment to responding meaningfully to the climate emergency.
- 2 Understanding our environmental impacts and responsibility.
- 3 Acting to minimise our impacts.
- 4 Reporting and communicating our environmental impacts and our efforts to reduce them.

As well as our commitment to Manchester becoming a zero-carbon city by 2038, by:

- Acting now, including accelerating our existing decarbonisation activities, wherever possible,
- Taking responsibility for the CO2 emissions from our business activities and working to reduce them to zero by 2038,
- Supporting and influencing our customers, residents, suppliers and other stakeholders to take action,
- Defining the support we need and proactively asking for it, including asking politicians for policy changes wherever relevant.

And Rochdale's Eco business scheme accepting environmental responsibility and committing to becoming an eco-business by working towards:

- Energy efficiency
- Waste reduction
- Reduce environmental impact
- Plastic minimisation

We also recognise our unique position in being able to creatively raise awareness of the climate emergency through engaging children and young people with theatre.

Key environmental impacts

M6's environmental impact and current measures in place:

3.1 M6 Premises

M6 operates from a purpose built 90-seater Studio Theatre in Rochdale. The floorplan of the building is approximately 506.72m². The building is facilities managed by Grosvenor Facilities Management (GFM) as part of the Rochdale PFI (Private Funding Initiative) for Hamer /Springside school site. As a licensee / tenant, M6 have very limited control over the environmental impact of the building in terms of suppliers of energy and how energy efficient the building is.

However, we have identified some ways in which we can manage usage that are in our control. The primary environmental impacts from M6 premises are:

- Energy (gas, electricity) consumption
- Water consumption
- Waste Management (paper, cardboard, tin, metal, plastic & sewage)
- Office Supplies

Current measures in place to manage the primary environmental impacts from the M6 premises are:

- All shows in the M6 Studio Theatre use LEDs on the fixed lighting rig.
- All cleaning products used in the building are sustainable/eco-friendly.
- Recycling facilities on site for paper, plastic and glass.

3.2 Travel

The majority of travel carried out by staff is to meetings within the Northwest. However, staff also travel further afield to meetings, conferences, to support M6 national touring productions and to attend national & international theatre festivals. Key staff occasionally travel abroad for conferences and festivals, this is primarily flight. In addition, there are environmental impacts of staff travelling significant distances to work by car. The primary environmental impacts are:

- Fossil fuel energy consumption

Current measures in place to manage the primary environmental impacts from travel are:

- Virtual meetings on zoom are encouraged where possible to reduce travel.
- Offer staff flexible work hours to avoid rush hour.
- Offer staff the option to work from home.
- Encourage car sharing or use of public transport to work/meetings/off site visits, through our travel expense policy.
- Encourage interviewees and auditionees to use public transport by reimbursing the cost of an off-peak train ticket.
- Avoid travel by plane and opt for train ferry travel where possible.

3.3 Goods and Services Procurement

3.3.1 Print

We produce small amounts of print in the form of posters, flyers and programmes to promote shows each year and our annual impact reports. Paper is also consumed in the day-to-day business of the company. The primary environmental impacts of print are:

- Consumption of paper resources.

- The toxicity of ink used.

Current measures in place to manage the primary environmental impacts of print are:

- All computers have 2-sided printing and grey scale as standard.
- Use recycled/FSC certified paper for all printing.
- Reuse printer paper for scrap.
- Recycle all paper waste.

3.3.2 Office Supplies

The company uses a variety of office supplies to facilitate the day to day running of the business. The primary environmental impacts are:

- Use of resources for electronic equipment, furniture and stationery.
- Toxicity of cleaning products, furniture and equipment.

Current measures in place to manage the environmental impacts of office supplies are:

- Procure the most energy efficient computers and electronic devices when due to be replaced.
- Switch off policy for all electrical equipment when not in use.
- Replace white goods with an energy rating of AA or higher when due for replacement and dispose of appropriately.
- Disposal of assets via responsible WEEE-compliant recycling schemes.
- Submit larger and fewer orders with suppliers.
- Use rechargeable batteries.

3.4 Show Production

A variety of resources are consumed in the production of a show which comprises the making of set and costumes, travel and accommodation of the creative team and performers. The primary environmental impacts are:

- Fossil fuel consumption.
- Energy, water and sewage consumption.
- Resource consumption – wood, paint, cotton, wool, plastic, metal.

Current measures in place to manage the environmental impacts of our productions are:

- Reusing set, props and costumes from previous productions for new productions and Youth Theatre productions.
- Sets are stored for remounts.
- Available materials are assessed for reuse when planning new productions.
- Environmental impact of the production and touring is assessed at project planning meetings.
- Second hand, reclaimed and recycled materials are used over virgin material where possible.

3.5 Touring

The company tours nationally and occasionally internationally. Ferries and flights have been used so far for international touring. There is an environmental impact in the venues where the touring takes place and indeed in the accommodation where the touring team have their overnight stays. Audiences make an environmental impact from travelling to venues to see the show. The primary environmental impacts are:

- Fossil fuels
- Energy, water and sewage consumption

Current measures in place to manage the environmental impacts of touring are:

- Tour contracts are digital.
- Tours are planned to be geographically efficient.
- Touring in one van, the van is Euro 6 compliant.
- Designing sets that fit into one van.
- Booking accommodation with green credentials.
- The tour team travel together in the tour van, where possible.

3.6 Digital

In addition to the goods and services outlined above there are two other less visible areas for consideration of environmental impacts.

- Communications & website hosting and cloud hosting.

Current measures in place to manage the environmental impacts of touring are:

- Moved from server to cloud hosting

3. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN FY24

Aims	Actions	Timescale	Lead	Status
<p>M6 Premises Actively engage in conversation with GFM on how best to implement Manchester's Carbon Zero aims for 2038 and Rochdale's Climate Change Action Plan.</p> <p>Maintain 100% recycling on premises. Non-recyclable waste is diverted from landfill.</p>	<p>Continue to engage with GFM around environmental responsibility at operational meetings and monitor utility performance reports.</p> <p>Monitor GFM Waste Disposal Reports.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Managing Director/Company Administrator</p> <p>MD/Co Admin</p>	<p>Implemented & monitored. Currently below targeted electricity, gas and water usage.</p> <p>Monitored. Currently 100% recycling on premises.</p>
<p>Travel</p> <p>To reduce audience fuel use, state on website how to get to M6 using public transport.</p> <p>To better understand audience travel data, collect data from audience members at M6 to gain a better understanding of our travel carbon footprint.</p>	<p>Up to date public transport information is available on our website.</p> <p>Survey audience members when arriving at M6 on how far they travelled and what mode of transport they used using ACE's new audience development tool Illuminate.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>FY2024</p>	<p>Co Admin/Marketing Officer</p> <p>Co Admin</p>	<p>Implemented. Link to Google maps to plan journey.</p> <p>Implemented.</p>
<p>Office, Services, Goods</p> <p>To reduce carbon footprint, use local and sustainable printing company for marketing materials.</p> <p>To reduce indirect carbon footprint, prioritise couriers with low carbon emissions or the postal service.</p> <p>To reduce carbon footprint, switch to sustainable services and companies for office contracts.</p>	<p>Continue to assess printing company's green credentials. Research Rochdale print company.</p> <p>Research low emission couriers, use a couple of times a year for delivering print.</p> <p>Green Audit of current contractors and their sustainable and environmental credentials and research better options.</p>	<p>FY2024</p> <p>FY2024</p> <p>FY2024</p>	<p>Marketing Officer</p> <p>Co Admin</p> <p>Co Admin</p>	<p>Planned.</p> <p>Planned.</p> <p>Planned.</p>

<p>To reduce carbon footprint switch to eco web hosting.</p> <p>To reduce paper waste, promote digital marketing materials over physical and only print amount needed to avoid over printing.</p>	<p>Consult with current touring venues to understand current trends in digital vs physical marketing and adapt accordingly.</p>	<p>FY2024</p> <p>FY2024</p>	<p>Co Admin/ Marketing Officer MO</p>	<p>Planned.</p> <p>Planned. One venue from Nest tour had no physical print. Other venues had lower number of physical print than previously.</p>
<p>Productions To reduce carbon footprint, source set, props & costumes from local and sustainable sources where possible.</p>	<p>As part of the Green Audit create a sustainable procurement policy which states minimum green requirements for different suppliers, products and services with a focus on local providers.</p>	<p>FY2024</p>	<p>Co Admin/ Production & Tour Director</p>	<p>Planned.</p>
<p>Touring</p> <p>To reduce fuel usage, increase the number of residencies to reduce carbon footprint.</p> <p>Optimise touring van's efficiency by adhering to recommended servicing and maintenance schedules.</p> <p>Avoid fossil fuel usage by purchasing an electrical touring van.</p>	<p>Next van to be an electric touring van, once recharging infrastructure has been expanded nationally. Retain £40k designated reserve for asset replacement.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>FY2030</p>	<p>P&T Director</p> <p>P&T Director</p> <p>P&T Director</p>	<p>Planned. Two residencies for Nest. Tour planned geographically.</p> <p>Monitored</p> <p>Planned.</p>

Understand the environmental impact of tours. To reduce indirect carbon footprint, add sustainability clause to touring contracts.	Discussed at the project planning stage and reviewed at the end of the tour. Create a sustainability clause in touring contracts, committing venues to be sustainable.	Ongoing FY2024	P&T Director Co Admin P&T Director/ MD	Implemented. Planned.
Digital To reduce carbon footprint of M6's website. To reduce carbon footprint switch to green web hosting. To communicate our commitment to environmental responsibility, add an environmental statement to our website. To reduce carbon footprint, streamline documents on cloud and encourage staff to streamline their inboxes.	Review the carbon footprint of M6's website during green audit. Move from BT to eco web hosting. Purchase hard drive for archiving documents we don't need immediate access to but need to keep.	 FY2024 FY2024 FY2024 FY2024	 MO/Co Admin MO/Co Admin MD/MO MD/Co Admin	 Planned. Planned. Planned. Planned.
Creative Programmes Creative team engage in environmental research for Nest - an early years touring production designed to educate, inform and inspire the very young including educational resources. To support RBC's Climate Change action plan through providing cultural creative experiences for children promoting a sustainable world. To support RBC's Climate Change action plan through delivering digital sharing events linked to the climate emergency agenda in schools and through the Council's Youth Service. To support RBC's Climate Change action plan through equipping teaching workforce with awareness and understanding of the climate emergency.	Inspire a love of the natural world and an awareness of our responsibility to take care of the environment, ourselves and each other through our show Nest. Deliver digital sharing events of our climate change film The Storm along with workshop exploring the climate emergency and positive action. Deliver CPD sessions for teachers and partners to equip them to deliver workshops and discussions around our climate emergency film The Storm using our specially created resources.	22/23 FY2024 FY2024 FY2024	AD/P&TD Artistic Director Digital Officer Digital Officer	Achieved Research into crows and their habitat and how they interact with the world. Planned Nest Planned Planned

<p>Leadership, stakeholders & funders Active collaboration with Local Authority and sector partners on local climate crisis priorities and plans</p> <p>Provide Carbon Literacy training for staff/trustees and freelancers.</p> <p>Production and Tour Director to be mentored by Head of Production from Sadlers Wells re. best green practice in Theatre.</p> <p>Establish a Green Team to oversee environmental responsibility.</p> <p>Undertake a Green Audit in partnership with Rochdale Borough Culture Network.</p> <p>Board review of policy, action plan and progress.</p> <p>Capture and communicate M6 Board approved environmental impact audit, Policy & Plan to staff.</p> <p>Keep up to date with best practice & latest developments in the climate emergency.</p> <p>Upload data on energy, water, waste and travel to Julie's Bicycle annually to track and compare usage.</p> <p>Environmental Responsibility a standard agenda item at core team meetings.</p>	<p>Committed to a carbon zero Manchester by 2038. Supporting Rochdale Climate Change plan. Participating in Greater Manchester Arts Sustainability Team (GMAST).</p> <p>Carbon Literacy training with Robin Lyons from Ergon Theatre/ Climate Leadership Training.</p> <p>Schedule mentorship sessions.</p> <p>Establish following further board recruitment in Summer 2023.</p> <p>Attending webinars and training.</p>	<p>FY2024</p> <p>April 23</p> <p>FY2024</p> <p>FY2024</p> <p>FY2024</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Annually</p> <p>Monthly</p>	<p>MD/CA</p> <p>All staff.</p> <p>P&TD</p> <p>MD</p> <p>MD</p> <p>MD</p> <p>MD</p> <p>Co Admin/ MD</p> <p>Co Admin</p> <p>MD/Co Admin</p>	<p>Ongoing GMAST, working with RBC climate change plan with The Storm and Nest.</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Implemented</p> <p>Planned.</p> <p>Planned.</p> <p>Implemented Environmental policies and procedures reviewed June 23.</p> <p>Implemented</p> <p>Monitored Completed June 23.</p> <p>Implemented</p>
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