

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre Environment Policy



Birr Theatre & Arts Centre is committed to ‘greening’ our organisation and will follow the guidelines as set out in:

<https://theatreforum.ie/green-arts-initiative-in-ireland/news-events/>

As environmental sustainability concerns become more prominent, the motivations and requirements for arts organisations to affect their environmental impact continues to grow. As well as meeting funding, reporting and legal requirements, improving our environmental sustainability can also save money and help staff to work more efficiently.

We at Birr Theatre & Arts Centre are committed to the principle of reduce, reuse and recycle, proactively working to minimise our environmental impact and promote more sustainable ways of working to our staff, partners and stakeholders.

We aspire to address, through our artistic programme, the ideas and questions about environmental sustainability and to help raise the profile of these ideas through productions and related events.

The following is a list of projects to reduce our carbon footprint and encourage a greener business:

Energy	A building energy audit was completed in 2010 highlighting key issues impacting the efficiency of our then 120 year-old building. Since then the following improvements have been made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of two oil fired boilers to one vortex boiler • Exit doors (drafty) have been replaced to be more efficient doors • LED stage lighting has been purchased to replace older lighting stock with plans for additional investment in 2023-2025.
Travel	Acknowledging the importance of in-person meetings, meetings through online forums (Zoom, Teams) are first consideration before travelling. This saves travel expense, time and reduces car use.
Programming	Running community projects with environment themes promotes environmental consciousness e.g. Futures Lab, Birr Skies, Plant-tastic targeted community projects along with hosting theatre performance which highlight environmental issues.
Training & supports	We will work with, the recently formed, Green Offaly who provide a green resource and training opportunities.
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No single use plastic bottles to be used – at bar or backstage

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling bins in place for paper waste • General house lighting changed to low-energy bulbs • General maintenance – environment friendly weed control (white vinegar & salt) • Biodegradable hand-towels rather than high energy use hand dryers • Biodiversity - we welcome two planters at front of building supplied by Birr Tidy Towns out front • Biodiversity - No Mow May – grass at front of building is let grow • Sensor lights in toilets – rather than being left on all day • Moving to e-tickets and scanners rather than paper tickets • Actively encourage recycling
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Plans for 2023

- Carry out energy audit / review of the building with a view to further sustainability, in particular the use of solar power for the building.
- Upgrade stage lighting infrastructure – installation of Chilli Pro units to increase DMX capacity in advance of further investment in LED stage lighting.

References / Resources

<https://theatreforum.ie/green-arts-initiative-in-ireland/news-events/>

<https://greenoffaly.ie/>

Last Review: April 2023