



Environmental Sustainability Policy 2026

Wexford Festival Trust

Wexford Festival Trust is committed to minimising the environmental impact of its activities and embedding sustainable practices across all aspects of its operations and artistic programme.

As a leading cultural organisation, Wexford Festival Opera recognises its responsibility to contribute to Ireland's response to climate change and to support the transition to a low-carbon future.

Our Commitments

Wexford Festival Trust will:

- Work towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with national climate targets
- Improve energy efficiency and resource use across the National Opera House and all operations
- Embed sustainability into organisational decision-making, procurement, and production practices
- Reduce waste and promote circular use of materials, particularly in sets and costumes
- Encourage sustainable travel and operational practices where feasible
- Engage staff, artists, audiences, and partners in climate action
- Monitor, report, and continuously improve environmental performance

Implementation

This policy is implemented through the organisation's **Climate Action Plan (2026–2029)**, which sets out measurable targets, actions, and reporting structures aligned with the Arts Council Climate Action Roadmap.



Environmental Sustainability Policy 2026, *continued*

Governance

Responsibility for this policy rests with senior management and the Board of Wexford Festival Trust, with operational delivery supported by a designated Climate Action Lead and Green Team.

Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with national policy, sectoral requirements, and organisational priorities.



Wexford Festival Trust Climate Action Plan (2026–2029)

Aligned with Arts Council Climate Action Roadmap

Executive Summary

Wexford Festival Opera (WFO), operating under Wexford Festival Trust, is committed to embedding climate action across all aspects of its artistic, operational, and organisational activity.

This Climate Action Plan builds upon the organisation’s Environmental Sustainability Policy (March 2025) and establishes a structured, measurable roadmap aligned with the Arts Council’s Climate Action Roadmap and Ireland’s national target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030.

Wexford Festival Opera is committed to playing a leadership role in climate action within the Irish cultural sector and is uniquely positioned through active participation in national and international sustainability programmes, including a pilot programme with EarthCheck and its inclusion in the Fáilte Ireland Climate Action Programme.

These partnerships support a data-driven, credible, and nationally aligned approach, strengthening both delivery and accountability.

This Climate Action Plan operationalises the organisation’s Environmental Sustainability Policy, ensuring that commitments are translated into measurable actions and outcomes.

Organisational Context

Wexford Festival Trust encompasses Wexford Festival Opera, the National Opera House, an annual festival of over 70 events, and year-round programming.

The organisation recognises that climate change presents both a challenge and an opportunity for the cultural sector and is committed to ensuring that sustainability is at the core of its activities.



Vision & Strategic Commitments

To embed sustainable practice across all aspects of Wexford Festival Opera's operations and programming, contributing meaningfully to Ireland's national climate targets while supporting best practice within the arts sector.

Deliver measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions

Embed sustainability into decision-making

Use opera as a platform for engagement

Contribute to national climate efforts

Share learning across the sector

Sector Leadership & Partnerships

Wexford Festival Opera is committed to playing a leadership role in climate action within the Irish cultural sector and is uniquely positioned through active participation in national and international sustainability programmes:

- A pilot programme with EarthCheck, a leading scientific benchmarking, certification, and advisory organisation for sustainable travel and tourism
- The Fáilte Ireland Climate Action Programme, which supports tourism organisations in integrating sustainability, reducing environmental impact, and aligning with national climate objectives

These partnerships support a data-driven, credible, and nationally aligned approach to climate action, strengthening both delivery and accountability.

Baseline & Measurement

WFO will establish a comprehensive carbon baseline in 2026 covering buildings, energy, travel, materials, and waste using EarthCheck tools.

Total emissions (tCO₂e)

Emissions per production



Emissions per audience member

Material reuse rates

Waste diversion rates

Targets (2026–2029)

Energy emissions: -30%

Travel emissions: -25%

Materials reuse: 70%

Waste to landfill: <10%

Sustainable procurement: 80%

Action Plan

Energy & Buildings:

Conduct energy audits

Transition to renewable electricity

Implement monitoring systems

LED lighting upgrade projects (2026-2027)

Prioritise lower-carbon options

Waste & Resource Efficiency

Improve recycling

Track waste streams

Introduce green procurement policy

Engage suppliers



Work toward sustainable production guidelines and use resources such as *Julie's Bicycle*, and *The Theatre Green Book*

- Introduce circular design
- Prioritise reuse
- Develop sharing partnerships
- Optimise travel planning
- Encourage longer residencies
- Reduce waste generation

Governance

A Climate Action Lead, Megan Lawson, and the WFT Green Team will work with management to oversee the implementation. Progress will be reported biannually to the Board and annually through a Climate Action Report.

Artistic Programming & Engagement

WFO will explore engaging with audiences through artistic programming and community initiatives addressing environmental themes, complementing operational actions.

Implementation Timeline

2026: Baseline and implementation

2027: Embed practices

2028: Deliver reductions

2029: Achieve and report on targets



Reporting & Review

WFO will produce annual reports, track KPIs, update the plan annually, and ensure Board oversight.



WFO Climate Action KPIs

Board-Level KPI Table (Strategic Oversight)

<u>Area</u>	<u>KPI</u>	<u>Baseline (2026)</u>	<u>Target (2029)</u>	<u>Reporting Frequency</u>
Emissions	Total GHG emissions (tCO ₂ e)	To be established	↓ aligned with national targets	Annual
Energy	% reduction in energy emissions	Baseline required	-30%	Biannual
Travel	% reduction in travel emissions	Baseline required	-25%	Biannual
Materials	% reuse of sets & costumes	Baseline required	70%	Annual
Waste	% waste diverted from landfill	Baseline required	>90% diversion	Annual
Procurement	% sustainable procurement spend	Baseline required	80%	Annual
Governance	Climate Action Plan updated	Yes/No	Annual update completed	Annual
Reporting	Climate Action Report produced	Yes/No	Annual publication	Annual



Staff-Level KPI Table (Operational Delivery)

<u>Area</u>	<u>KPI</u>	<u>Measurement Method</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Energy	Monthly energy consumption (kWh)	Metering / EarthCheck	Facilities	Monthly
Energy	% renewable electricity use	Supplier data	Facilities	Annual
Travel	Number of flights per production	Travel logs	Production Team	Per production
Travel	Avg. travel emissions per artist	EarthCheck tracking	Production Team	Annual
Production	% reused materials per production	Inventory tracking	Production	Per production
Waste	Waste volume by type	Waste contractor reports	Facilities	Quarterly
Waste	Recycling rate (%)	Waste data	Facilities	Quarterly
Procurement	% suppliers meeting sustainability criteria	Supplier review	Finance / Procurement	Annual
Staff	Staff sustainability training completed	HR records	HR	Annual
Governance	Climate Action Lead reporting delivered	Internal reporting	Climate Lead	Biannual