



EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

**CARBON
REDUCTION
PLAN**

The Edinburgh International Festival is an unparalleled celebration of the performing arts and an annual meeting point for people of all nations. Each summer, the festival celebrates the social enrichment that internationalism and culture provide. We recognise that travel is integral to this exchange, and that the emissions generated from this are by far our biggest impactor.

The International Festival is committed to reaching net zero carbon emissions alongside City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish and UK Government's targets to combat irreversible climate change.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*, which we have used as a framework for our Carbon Reduction Plan, recognising that the benefits of working towards these will have social and economic impact, as well as environmental.

*SDG index on page 10.

Trisha Brown — In Plain Site © Gaelle Berli



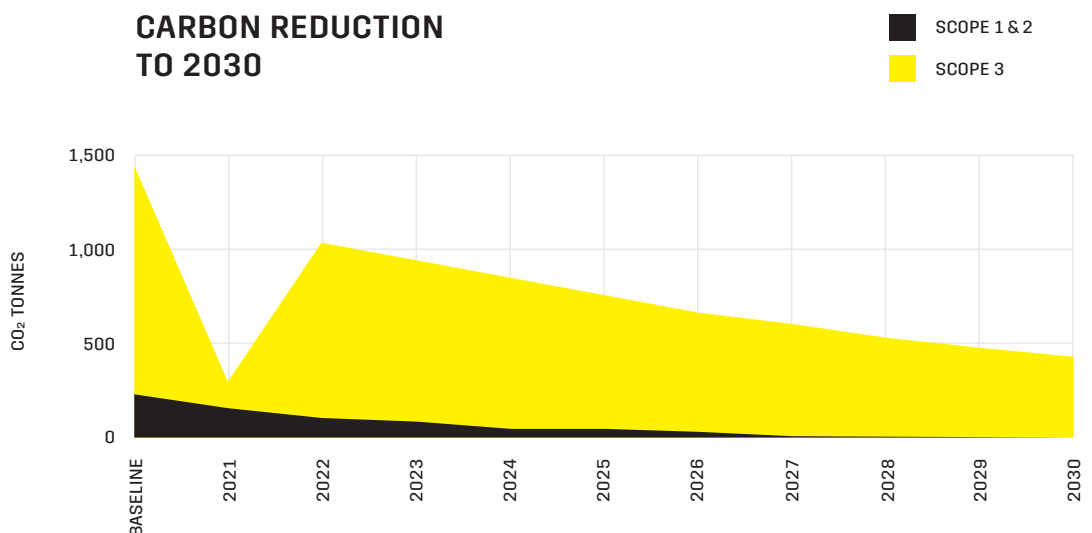
OUR TOTAL FOOTPRINT

The Paris Agreement is the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate change agreement, adopted at the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015. In December 2020, the UK Government announced a target to reduce emissions by 68% by 2030 (against 1990 levels). This target will act as a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement, which determines the required domestic action each country must take to help deliver on the global agreement.

Across both organisational operations and artistic programme, we are aiming to reduce our overall carbon footprint by 70% by 2030 in line with the UK target.

Our emissions from April 2019 – March 2020 will form the baseline from which we will measure our progress (includes the full 2019 Festival). Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we anticipate significant reductions in 2020 and 2021, because of reduced building use and scope of international artistic programming. From 2022 onwards we will see the realistic impact of our carbon reduction planning but anticipate our Scope 3 emissions will increase in this year before reducing further as our operations and artistic programming return to ‘normal’.

CARBON REDUCTION TO 2030



ORGANISATIONAL OPERATIONS

NET ZERO BY 2030

Across our **organisational operations**, we commit to being net-zero by 2030, in line with City of Edinburgh Council's ambitions.

Organisational operations comprises of Scope 1 and 2 emissions across gas and electricity consumption and Scope 3 emissions across water, waste and staff travel. 2019 is our baseline and we have set the following targets to reduce our emissions in this area:

Travel

By 2022, reduce staff travel emissions by 50% against the baseline and 20% each year thereafter.



Energy

Reduce overall energy emissions by 30% each year as well as switching to renewable suppliers in all International Festival controlled buildings.



Waste

By 2022, reduce general waste by 50% against the baseline, and 20% each year thereafter.

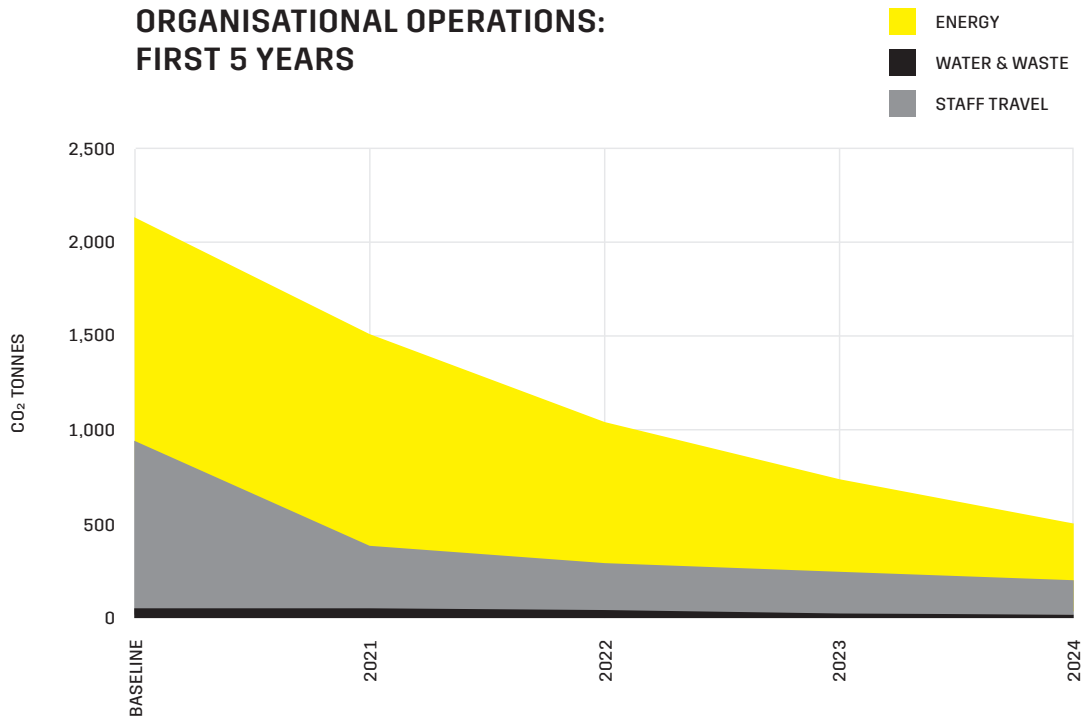


Water

Reduce emissions from water consumption by 20% each year.



ORGANISATIONAL OPERATIONS: FIRST 5 YEARS



ARTISTIC PROGRAMME

NET ZERO BY 2045

Recognising that our **artistic programme** and associated travel and freight is our biggest impactor, we are committing to being net zero across our artist travel by 2045, in line with Scottish Government goals, and in advance of UK Government's 2050 target.

Artistic programme comprises of Scope 3 emissions across artist travel and freight, and we are setting the following targets to ensure we significantly reduce our emission in this area by 2030, on the journey to be net zero in 2045.

Standard Life Opening Event *Bloom* © Lesley Martin



Travel

By 2022, reduce artist travel emissions by 25% against the baseline and 10% each year thereafter

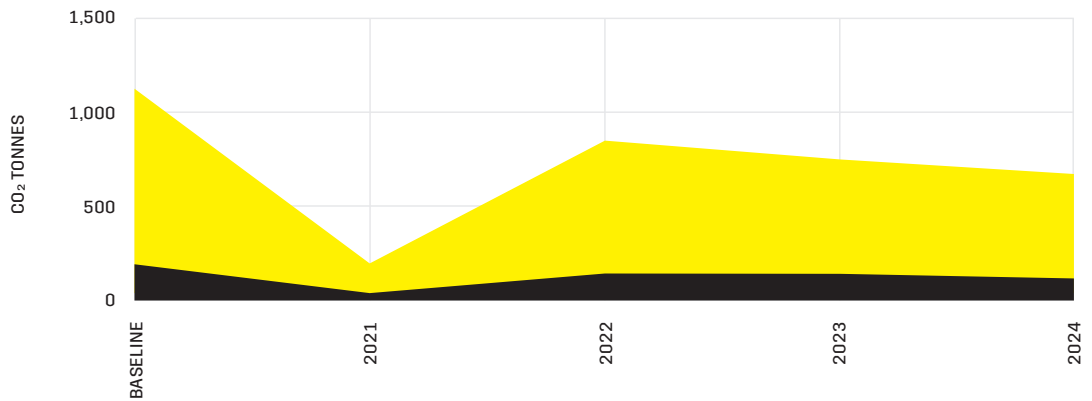


By 2022, reduce freight emissions by 20% against the baseline in 2022 and 10% each year thereafter



ARTISTIC PROGRAMME: FIRST 5 YEARS

TRAVEL
FREIGHT



OUR INFLUENCE

As the world's leading performing arts festival, we will use our sphere of influence with partner venues, companies, orchestras and individual artists to instil best practice in environmental sustainability from inception to delivery of our festival.

This will include a sustainable procurement policy, climate engaged programming, partnership working across operations and influencing our audiences where possible.

OUR PROGRAMME

International travel will remain essential to our festival programme, but we will embrace new models of working with companies and orchestras, including increased engagement activity through residencies in Edinburgh, to lower overall carbon impact and carbon intensity. This will have its own benefits for communities and audiences as well as making a significant impact in our carbon emissions.

CARBON OFFSETTING

Carbon offsetting will form a part of carbon reduction planning. While international travel remains a significant portion of our carbon emissions, in 2021–2025 we will increase our drawdown to 20% and the subsequent years will be 15% until 2030. We have selected Trees for Life which is accredited by Woodland Carbon Code. While we recognise carbon offsetting is not a fix-all, restoring biodiversity is vital to repairing natural ecosystems.

ACTION PLAN

More detail on the actions we will undertake to reach these targets is available in our comprehensive Sustainability Action Plan.

EVALUATION

The targets we have set are ambitious. We will evaluate our achievements each year, in October, in line with our reporting to Creative Scotland and City of Edinburgh Council. We report on the previous full year April – March. Each year we will review our priorities, to ensure we are making the biggest impact as quickly as possible, embracing technological advancements and increased infrastructure as enabled by City of Edinburgh and UK and Scottish Governments.

**The Edinburgh International Festival
supports thirteen of the seventeen UN's
Sustainable Development Goals:**

3 	SDG 3: Good health and well-being
4 	SDG 4: Quality education
5 	SDG 5: Gender equality
6 	SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation
7 	SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy
8 	SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth
9 	SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and infrastructure
10 	SDG 10: Reduced inequalities
11 	SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities
12 	SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production
13 	SDG 13: Climate action
16 	SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions
17 	SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

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The Edinburgh International Festival Society is a company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Scotland (SC024766) with its registered office at The Hub, Castlehill, Edinburgh EH1 2NE. Registered as a Scottish charity (SC004694).

