

edinburgh climate festival 2025

ROOT & RISE



sustainability policy



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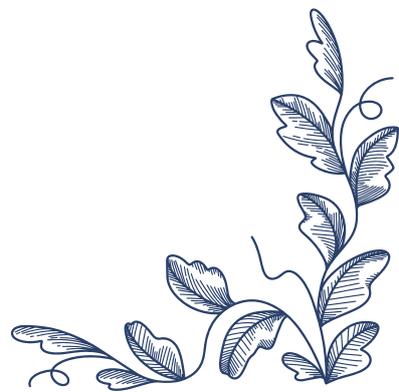
about

The Edinburgh Climate Festival aims to raise awareness about climate change while encouraging the adoption of sustainable, eco-friendly lifestyles. By creating an inclusive and engaging space, the festival not only educates the public but also empowers individuals and communities to take meaningful action in response to the climate crisis.

Our festival plays an important role in promoting sustainable living to a wide audience in Edinburgh, and we recognise that we are always working on reducing the impact of the event. We are committed to reducing our impact by reviewing our working group action plans, coming up with innovative ways to make change and setting goals for future festivals based on previous experience.

Using the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework for our policy, we reviewed our working groups' actions, present and future, to see how we are contributing to a more sustainable world. Through this framework, we identified key areas where our efforts align with global priorities, recognised opportunities for greater impact and committed to refining our strategies to support long-term sustainability.

This process not only reaffirmed our dedication to responsible practices but also provided a clear roadmap for how we can contribute meaningfully to global development goals moving forward.



sustainability commitment

The Edinburgh Climate Festival is committed to supporting Scotland's journey towards becoming net zero by 2045, in line with the Scottish Government's climate targets.

As a community-led event, we are actively working to reduce our carbon footprint and improve sustainability across all aspects of the festival. Within the resources available to us, we are taking meaningful steps to lower emissions, minimise waste, and promote environmentally responsible practices.

We invite and encourage all stallholders, food vendors, performers, staff, volunteers, and festival attendees to join us in this effort. Whether it's by choosing sustainable materials, reducing single-use plastics, cycling or taking public transport, or simply being mindful of energy use, every action contributes to a greener future.

Together, we can celebrate climate action while building a more sustainable and resilient community.



stallholders

The Stallholders group is committed to minimising environmental impact from our stallholders by supporting them in reducing waste, sourcing sustainable materials, and providing meat-free and often plant-based options. We continuously explore innovative ways to improve sustainability, from compostable packaging to transparent sourcing.

current actions

All stallholders, workshop facilitators, and performers are asked to reduce waste and use reusable materials	SDG 12
Registration forms require details about sustainability practices	SDGs 12, 13
Energy is not provided, promoting low-impact setups	SDGs 7, 13
All food stalls are meat-free	SDGs 3, 12, 13
Encourage festival goers to bring their own cups, containers, and cutlery to minimize single-use waste	SDG 12

in-progress and future actions

Trial charging extra for takeaway cups/boxes rather than offering discounts for bringing reusables.	SDG 12
Explore using sustainable energy sources	SDGs 7, 13
Fully plant-based food vendors	SDGs 2, 12, 13
Increase transparency on food and non-food stalls product sourcing to track impact	SDG 12
Consider requiring proof of sustainable sourcing where feasible	SDGs 8, 12
Develop a framework for food vendors outlining sustainability goals and recommended practices	SDG 12
Promote creative solutions like edible or reusable cups and plates	SDG 9, 12
Implement a TooGoodToGo-style system to reduce food waste	SDGs 2, 12
Require informal assessment of stalls' Environmental Impact Ratings (EIR)	SDGs 12, 13
Launch a Sustainable Stall Award	SDGs 12, 13

logistics

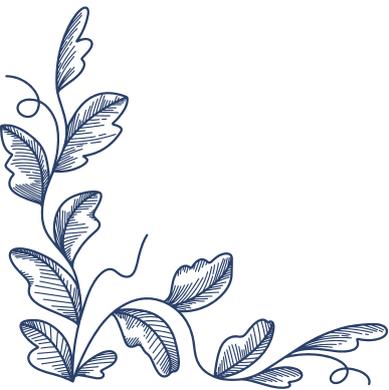
The Logistics team ensures the festival runs efficiently with minimal environmental footprint by prioritising low-energy infrastructure and responsible waste management. We actively seek new low-carbon solutions to reduce the festival's overall impact including sustainable transport.

current actions

Choice of waste removal company ensures a high rate of recycling with a close location (to reduce travel footprint)	SDGs 12, 13
Ensuring food vendors use compostable packaging	SDG 12
Providing compost bins (Anaerobic Digestion at facility)	SDGs 9, 12, 13
Reaction Bike Power to power the stage	SDGs 7, 12, 13
Stage and decorations are provided by Re-Set Scenery who reuse parts of sets that quite often end up in landfill	SDGs 12, 13

in-progress and future actions

Provide reusable cups instead of single-use	SDGs 9, 12
Provide solar pod batter hybrids instead of fully diesel generators	SDGs 7, 9, 13
Utilise cargo bikes instead of cars/vans for transport	SDGs 3, 11, 13



communications

The Communications team promotes sustainability through thoughtful messaging, sustainable printing and reusing materials as much as possible. We are dedicated to finding better ways to engage audiences with climate-conscious practices.

current actions

Repurpose leftover printed material from previous festivals as notepads/scrap paper	SDGs 12, 13
Partnered with a local printer to produce materials using RISO printing method	SDGs 9, 11, 12
Use of non-dated printed banners that can be reused for multiple years	SDGs 12, 13
Further incentivising the public to bring their own containers for food & helping	SDG 12

in-progress and future actions

Ensuring promotional materials create minimal unnecessary waste and are created using sustainable materials	SDGs 12, 13
Collect printed materials after the festival to reduce waste and ensure they're recycled	SDGs 12, 13
Learning more about digital footprint and how we can work to reduce it	SDGs 9, 13



volunteers

Volunteers support and embody sustainable practices by using low-impact travel, eating plant-based meals and helping with waste reduction efforts like litter picking. They also take part in community education around sustainability and are key drivers in fostering an eco-conscious culture.

current actions

Offering our working group volunteers a sustainable travel subsidies when visiting the ELREC office	SDGs 10, 11, 13
Encouraging volunteers to bring food with them	SDGs 12, 13
Encourage volunteers to take sustainable travel to the festival with sustainable travel subsidies for volunteers who take the bus	SDGs 11, 13
Provide volunteers with vegan food	SDGs 3, 12, 13
Ensure there's litter picking coordinated to ensure our impact on the physical site is further minimised	SDGs 11, 15
Offer community activities that instill a focus on sustainable living with our volunteers	SDGs 4, 13



individual action

Individual action plays a vital role in achieving our sustainability goals, with participants, volunteers, and attendees encouraged to make conscious choices –such as using active or public transport, bringing reusable containers, choosing plant-based options, and minimising personal waste. These everyday decisions collectively contribute to reducing the festival's environmental footprint and fostering a culture of shared responsibility.

Individuals on our team follow one or more of these actions.

current actions

Cycling or taking public transport to work	SDGs 3, 11, 13
Following plant-based diet/reducing animal products in diet	SDGs 3, 12, 13
Dedicated in-office working day to reduce impact of in-person work	SDGs 11, 13
Reuse printed materials as notebooks/scratchpaper	SDGs 12, 13

