

## Improvised Music Company (IMC) Climate Action Policy & Plan

### Introduction

Improvised Music Company (IMC) is a resource organisation for Irish and Irish-based jazz musicians, and a specialist promoter of jazz, improvised, and ethnic music in Ireland. Established in 1991, IMC actively supports and promotes the Irish jazz scene through festival programming, concert promotion, touring, education, and audience development.

Recognising the critical importance of environmental sustainability, IMC is committed to integrating climate-conscious practices into our operations and activities. This policy outlines our commitment to environmental responsibility and the steps we will take to minimise our ecological footprint.

### Our Environmental Commitment

IMC acknowledges the environmental impact associated with the performing arts sector and is dedicated to adopting sustainable practices that reduce our carbon footprint. We believe that the arts have a vital role in inspiring collective action towards a more sustainable future.

### Objectives

1. **Lead by Example:** Incorporate sustainable practices into our operations and events, setting a standard within the Irish jazz community.
2. **Measure and Reduce Environmental Impact:** Develop processes to assess and monitor our carbon footprint as far as feasible, and identify and implement effective reduction strategies.
3. **Promote Environmental Awareness:** Engage with artists, audiences, and partners to foster a culture of environmental responsibility within the music community.
4. **Collaborate for Sustainability:** Work with local and international partners to share resources and strategies for environmental sustainability in the arts.

## **Action Plan**

### **1. Sustainable Event Management:**

- **Partner Venue Selection:** Prioritise partner venues with established environmental policies and practices, such as energy efficiency and waste reduction programs.
- **Resource Efficiency:** Implement measures to reduce energy consumption, water usage, and waste at all IMC events.
- **Sustainable Materials:** Utilise recycled, recyclable, or reusable materials for event production and marketing.

### **2. Sustainability Assessment:**

- **Data Collection:** Regularly collect data on energy usage, travel, and waste to assess our environmental impact.
- **Benchmarking:** Establish baseline measurements to track progress in reducing our carbon footprint.

### **3. Artist and Audience Engagement:**

- **Awareness Campaigns:** Incorporate environmental themes into our programming where possible to raise awareness among artists and audiences.
- **Green Initiatives:** Encourage artists and audiences to adopt sustainable practices, such as using public transport and reducing single-use plastics.

### **4. Collaboration and Advocacy:**

- **Partnerships:** Collaborate with peer organisations to stay informed on best practices and contribute to sector-wide sustainability efforts.
- **Policy Advocacy:** Advocate for policies that support environmental sustainability within the arts sector.

### **5. Continuous Improvement:**

- **Training and Education:** Provide staff and volunteers with relevant training on environmental sustainability relevant to their roles.
- **Policy Review:** Regularly review and update our Climate Action Policy to reflect advancements in sustainability practices and technologies.

## **Monitoring and Reporting**

IMC will monitor the implementation of this policy through regular assessments of our

environmental impact. We will report our progress annually as appropriate to our stakeholders, including staff, board members, artists, and funding bodies. Feedback will be sought to continually refine our approach to environmental sustainability.

## Conclusion

IMC is committed to embedding environmental sustainability into our organisational culture and activities. By taking proactive steps towards reducing our environmental impact, we aim to contribute positively to the global effort against climate change and inspire others within the arts community to do the same.

## Action Plan Example Outline

IMC strives to implement these principles in all of our ongoing and changing areas of work. Examples of these implementations based on our current programme of work are outlined below, and indicative of the practical measures that will be taken with each subsequent activity in our programme

Action Point	Example
<b>1. Sustainable Event Management</b>	
Venue Partners	As resident organisation at The Complex Arts Centre, we incorporate and work within both of our sustainability goals to manage waste effectively, reduce print materials, prioritise energy efficiency, etc.
Resource Efficiency	In our operations at The Cooler prioritise energy-efficient equipment where possible, such as LED stage lights. We incorporate timers to reduce excess energy use, and separate waste to encourage recycling and minimise landfill waste.
Sustainable Materials	At The Cooler, we prioritise using existing materials where possible to reduce waste, such as second-hand good-quality furniture
<b>2. Sustainability Assessment</b>	
Data Collection	Through the Better Live project, collecting and measuring carbon footprint data for model tours.
Benchmarking	Collaborating with our partners in the Better Live programme to assess average benchmarks against which to measure and improve our carbon footprint.
<b>3. Artist and Audience Engagement</b>	
Awareness campaigns	Platforming works with environmental themes such as 'All Earth Once Drowned' by Ed Bennett, featuring Cherry Smyth & Decibel Ensemble in 2025

Green initiatives	For artists, providing Cooler Clinics and resources on green touring and performance considerations. For audiences, including transport and sustainability questions in surveys, and details around sustainable options in our communications.
<b>4. Collaboration and Advocacy</b>	
1.Partnerships	Working as part of the Irish Jazz Forum, Music Alliance Ireland, Europe Jazz Network, and Performing Arts Forum's Festival Working Group to share and engage with peer knowledge and experience.
2.Policy advocacy	Participating in advocacy for sustainable policies with our peers in the above organisations.
<b>5. Continuous Improvement</b>	
Training & Education	Participation in Better Live sustainable music training with expert facilitators in 2024/25
Policy review	This policy will be reviewed by staff and Board of IMC once annually and the minutes of those reviews recorded. Updated policies will be ratified by the Board and implemented by the staff.