



Orchestra for the Earth – Environmental Sustainability Policy

Purpose

OFE exists to bring together music and the natural world. Our mission requires us to lead by example in minimising our environmental footprint and inspiring others to act.

Scope

All OFE activities: concerts, rehearsals, outreach, travel, procurement, marketing and partnerships.

Benchmarks

- ABO Green Charter
- Julie's Bicycle Creative Green Tools

Governance

- The Board appoints a Sustainability Lead (the General Manager, GM) and an Artist-Ambassador (the Artistic Director).
- An annual one-page impact summary will be published each summer, covering emissions data, progress and next year's priorities

Carbon Measurement

- Use Julie's Bicycle tools to track:
 - Travel (musicians, staff, audiences where data is available)
 - Procurement (printing, merchandise, consumables)
 - Energy (where venues provide data; otherwise sector averages)
- Data collected project by project using simple one-page forms (travel, procurement, printing, waste) completed by the Orchestra Manager or Project Lead.

Travel Policy

- Default: rail, coach, or shared car
- Flights are permitted only if:
 - No viable land option exists within 12–15 hours door-to-door, and
 - The project demonstrates significant artistic or environmental impact, and

- Trustees agree in advance.

Emergencies such as cancellations or illness are exceptions.”

- Emergencies are exceptions

Materials & Procurement

- Digital-first communications; printed programmes only where necessary, on recycled paper
- Reusable signage, hired equipment preferred
- No single-use plastics where within our control
- Suppliers with clear environmental commitments preferred

Venues & Energy

- Work with venues that demonstrate sustainability commitments
- Request energy-use information for major projects

Waste

- Separate recycling backstage wherever facilities exist
- Feedback to venues if provision is lacking

Programming & Advocacy

- All OFE events will connect music with the environment in some way, except occasional pure fundraising events
- Programmes and publicity will explain environmental themes and signpost action partners

Partnerships

- All sponsorships must meet the Ethical Partnerships Policy
- Avoid partnerships that undermine our mission

Offsetting

- Reduction comes first. Only unavoidable emissions may be balanced, using transparent, high-quality projects

Review

- Annually