

DANCE CORK FIRKIN CRANE

THE FIRKIN CRANE LTD
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

JUNE 2023

Environmental Policy

Dance Cork Firkin Crane is aware that climate change is an ever-growing threat not just to the performing arts industry, but to life on this planet. The artistic industry, like all industries, has an impact on this, but we think we should be part of the solution rather than contributing to the problem.

We have already made significant progress towards reducing our carbon footprint and increasing our awareness towards our environmental impact. We are examining every part of the way we operate to reduce this further, with the aim of becoming carbon neutral.

Our commitments

- To embed environmental sustainability at the heart of Dance Cork Firkin Crane's practice.
- To set year-on-year carbon reduction targets.
- To share our experience and learn from others within the wider sector.

Monitoring and reporting

Our Environmental Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis, continuously evaluated and updated as necessary. Our first step will be to put in place action plans and environmental monitoring and measurement.

Our areas of focus and aims for the coming years include:

- Setting measurement and review criteria for Dance Cork Firkin Crane to monitor our performance regularly, and communicate the results.
- Setting yearly objectives and targets for continuous improvement.
- Promoting environmental and energy awareness in our employees, board members and collaborators through participation and training.
- Maintain efficient heating, cooling and ventilation systems.

People

Staff

We want staff to feel empowered to examine their own practice and decision making, with ideas for change filtering throughout Dance Cork Firkin Crane.

DCFC employees and Board members will be included in all aspects of DCFC's environmental policy.

The following policies are already embodied:

- Switching off all lights, monitors and other electronic equipment when not in use.
- Printing is kept to a minimum, double-sided printing and multiple page printing are used as much as possible to minimise paper usage.
- Waste recycling is organised and implemented.
- Local suppliers are always preferred, when price and production is reasonable and feasible.
- For journeys within Cork, walking or public transport, whenever time allows, is always preferred.
- For journeys within the island of Ireland, train, bus and car sharing is always chosen.
- For international flights, non-stop flights when possible are preferred to multiple short-haul stops.

Audiences

We must enable audiences and visitors to understand and minimise their pollution and carbon footprint when visiting us.

We've already put actions in place toward this goal:

- Using paperless ticketing with ticket scanners reading the tickets directly from phones.
- Street parking in the area of DCFC is quite limited due to the historic nature of the area. The venue is within walking distance from the city centre and bicycle parking is available in front of the building.
- Re-usable/washable service-ware is provided for the bar and all receptions.

Artists

We aim to work together with touring artists and crews who are working in DCFC for their stay in Cork to be as sustainable as we can.

We currently do this by:

- Offering at least 2 performances in a row.
- Supporting companies to find other opportunities in the same geographic region to optimise tour itinerary.
- Providing kitchen facilities in both DCFC and our accommodation, the Jack Lynch House, with re-usable/washable service-ware at disposal.
- Providing drinkable tap water to refill water bottles.
- Making sure that vegetarian and vegan options are available when we provide lunch/dinner or a reception.
- Providing clearly labelled recycling facilities backstage.
- Making accessible on our website and on demand all specs and equipment available in DCFC and policies that apply for artists.

Place

Our building

The Firkin Crane heritage building is a challenging element on our journey to reduce our environmental impact.

We have significantly improved the efficiency of our building, reducing energy and waste.

Our main achievement so far has been the full refit of our stage lighting for the Smurfit Theatre with LED lights, making DCFC one of the rare venues operating with a full complement of LED lighting in Ireland.

We are continuing this path by changing all the domestic and emergency lighting in the building to LED. Our key areas are also equipped with sensor lighting.

We will continue to set ambitious targets to move towards net carbon zero on site.

In the upcoming years we plan to tackle the heating, cooling and ventilation systems and the insulation of the building (especially the roof, which is a major loss of energy at the moment and causes damage due to leaks). We successfully applied to the SEAI grant for an energy audit of the building. We are looking forward to the audit, to build a plan to address these matters and raise the necessary funds for these actions.