

# Manchester International Festival - Environmental Sustainability Policy

## Scope

This policy refers to the work and organisation of Manchester International Festival (MIF) and covers activity up to 2025 as it relates to environmental sustainability. This includes the opening of The Factory – a world-class cultural space in the heart of the city and a year-round home for MIF. The organisation is currently transitioning from operating on a 2-year cycle centred around the 18-day festival to year-round operation and venue management.

Since it began in 2007, MIF has collaborated with over 90 commissioning partners on well over 50 different shows in more than 20 countries around the world. The latest festival, MIF19 welcomed over 300,000 people, while 1.3 million people in 199 countries accessed the festival's digital content. MIF also has an incredibly rich creative engagement programme, which is increasingly delivered year-round. There are increasing numbers of participants (from 2,450 in 2013 to 5,393 in 2019) and a cohort of 500 volunteers support the staff team in the delivery of the festival, contributing over 15,000 volunteer hours.

This policy focuses on environmental sustainability, rather than attempting to also address financial and social sustainability. These highly important, and interlinked, elements are the focus of the organisation's business plan (financial sustainability) and MIF's Equality Action Plan (social sustainability)

## Values and Vision

**EXTRAORDINARY: We step out of the everyday.** For our environmental sustainability work, this means working with no limits on imagination

**OPEN: We are generous and welcoming to everyone.** We invite people to comment on, and critique, our policy and actions. For us, sustainability is a journey and we invite everyone to travel with us

**DETERMINED: We are brave, at times, wilful. We will always do things differently.** We are committed to working towards creating a world centred on net zero carbon, climate justice and ecological regeneration

**INVENTIVE: We explore new ways of working, thinking and creating – we embrace the new and the different.** We are not afraid to rethink models, processes and approaches, applying learning from different sectors to our sustainability journey

**INTERNATIONAL: We share ideas, projects, skills and training with our peers worldwide, bringing together extraordinary teams of artists from all over the world.** Climate change is a global phenomenon and we will use our worldwide networks and connections to effect change globally

## Commitments and Aims

MIF aims to support seven of the 18 UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). Much of this is outside the scope of the environmental sustainability policy and is referenced here as reminder that all elements of sustainability are interlinked:

- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy
- Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all
- Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

- Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts<sup>1</sup>

We are committed to supporting the ambitions of the Paris Agreement of December 2015 to limit global temperature rise to below 2C against pre-industrial levels. We are committed to the UK Climate Change Act and targets set out in the Manchester City Council (MCC) and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) environmental strategies.

Through the Manchester Arts Sustainability Team (MAST), MIF is a member of the Manchester Climate Change Partnership which has produced the Manchester City Council Climate Change Action Plan 2020-25. This commits MCC to:

- Reducing CO2 emissions from homes, workplaces and ground transport by 50% during 2020-25<sup>2</sup>.
- Understanding and taking action on the things that we consume and which generate greenhouse gases through their production, transportation and disposal<sup>3</sup>.

GMCA 2019-2024 aims:<sup>4</sup>

1. For our city region to be carbon neutral by 2038 and to meet carbon budgets that comply with international commitments.
2. To improve our air quality, meeting World Health Organisation guidelines on air quality by 2030 and supporting the UK Government in meeting and maintaining all thresholds for key air pollutants at the earliest date.
3. To put us on a path to being a circular economy, recycling 65% of our municipal waste by 2035 and reducing the amount of waste we produce.
4. To protect, maintain and enhance our natural environment for all our benefit, taking steps to implement and achieve environmental net gain.
5. To be prepared for the impacts of climate change and already be adapting to the future changes from any increase in climate shocks and stresses

The following specific aims are referenced in MIF's business plan, for delivery in 2021-2025

- To develop a path to zero-carbon activity by 2025 and to put in place a plan to 'pay back' carbon expenditure on the venue
- To inspire audiences to think and act more sustainably through our artistic programme, community engagement and in-venue behaviour and innovations
- To work with industry partners to test and pilot innovative sustainability technology in The Factory.
- To develop international training programmes delivered in a number of countries across a range of fields including producing, creative engagement, digital innovation, sustainable production
- To develop models of sustainable production and transportation to support MIF's international work
- To develop modules of sustainability training through Factory Academy – developing excellence in engagement

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<sup>1</sup> accessed through <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>. Through assessment of the SDGs by the Environmental Sustainability Manager it was apparent that our work principally touches these 7. There will be consideration of the SDGs in the annual policy review and other goals may be added.

<sup>2</sup> Manchester Climate Change Framework 2020-2025, p5

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> 5 Year Environmental Plan for Greater Manchester, Executive Summary 2019-24, p7

Working to reduce our negative environmental impacts and amplify our positive impacts, we continually monitor and report on our activities to better understand and improve our performance. We will report on our commitments and aims on an annual basis.

## Key activities and impacts

An initial assessment of MIF’s activities and impacts has highlighted the following significant impacts.

Description of activity	Significant impact(s)
Procurement of materials for productions, and construction for productions	Material use
Post-production waste management	Material disposal
Artist and creative team travel	Travel carbon footprint
Communications (print/ digital)	Printing Paper use
Food and drink provision at Festival Square	Sourcing Waste Management
International travel and transportation	Travel / transportation carbon footprint
Building management at The Factory ( <i>future activity</i> )	Energy use Waste management
Staging events and productions at The Factory ( <i>future activity</i> )	Material use / disposal Transportation carbon footprint Energy use

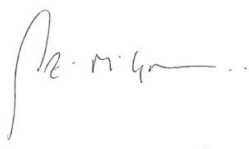
Currently, partial data sets are available to support this impact assessment. Work will be undertaken to develop robust data and effective reduction of negative impacts

## Responsibility and Accountability

This policy will underpin the development of a structured sustainability framework and action plan with clear and ambitious costed targets, milestones and KPIs, roles and responsibilities. The framework and action plan will address all areas of MIF’s activities.

The delivery of actions from the environmental sustainability policy and action plan are the responsibility of everyone at MIF. Setting goals and monitoring progress, coordinating, and embedding good practice around sustainability across the organisation will be the responsibility of the Sustainability Projects Group – led by the Environmental Sustainability Manager, reporting to the relevant Executive Director.

The policy, framework and action plan will be reviewed and updated as necessary on an annual basis.

Signed: 

John McGrath, Artistic Director and Chief Executive