

# Manchester International Festival/The Factory - Environmental Sustainability Policy

## Scope

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

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, MIF21 reached over 1.4 million people, while 1.2 million people accessed the festival's digital content<sup>1</sup>. MIF/The Factory has an incredibly rich year round creative engagement programme, which supported close to 6,000 people to participate in MIF21 and facilitated a cohort of 440 volunteers to support the delivery of the festival.

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)

## Vision and Values

MIF/The Factory's vision is to invent tomorrow together; for environmental sustainability this means collaborating creatively to build an equitable future.

In line with our foundational belief - through conversation, challenge and co-creation, our environmental sustainability work will help deliver our mission to create the meeting points between imagined futures and real lives. Our values guide us as we progress towards our vision; MIF/The Factory strives to always be: Open, Inventive, Equitable, Determined, and International. The following reflections show how our environmental sustainability work connects with these values:

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

**INVENTIVE:** We are not afraid to rethink models, processes and approaches, applying learning from different sectors to our sustainability journey

**EQUITABLE:** We must address the disproportionate effect of environmental degradation on poor and marginalised communities. There is no climate justice without racial justice.

**DETERMINED:** We are committed to working towards creating a world centred on climate justice and ecological regeneration

**INTERNATIONAL:** The climate crisis is global; we will use our worldwide networks and connections to effect change globally

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<sup>1</sup> "A socially distanced festival due to COVID-19 meant a limited number of tickets available compared to previous festivals. However, with the large number of free and online events it was possible to reach a record number of audiences locally, nationally and internationally (MCC report on MIF21; November 2021)

## Commitments and Aims

MIF aims to support seven of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs). Whilst much of this is outside the scope of the environmental sustainability policy it is referenced here as reminder that all three pillars of sustainable development 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>2</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 (2008), and as part of GMAST (the regional creative and cultural sector network) we are committed to working collectively to deliver regional climate target targets - for the city region to be carbon neutral by 2038, as set out in the Manchester City Council (MCC) and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) environmental strategies.

GMCA 2019-2024 aims:<sup>3</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 strategic objectives are included in MIF/The Factory's business planning, shaping activity across the organisation in 2022-25. We are committed to:

- Developing and embedding environmental responsibility best practice and innovation into models and processes for developing and distributing work (**invent**)
- Equipping the creative workforce of the future with environmental responsibility understanding and skills (**tomorrow**)
- Making The Factory an extraordinary building for environmental responsibility and to communicate this to audiences in a manner that inspires them to think and act more sustainably (**together**)

Progress with these objectives will be monitored and reported on a quarterly basis.

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<sup>2</sup> Accessed through <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>. Assessment of the SDGs was carried out by the Environmental Sustainability Manager. Commitments are reviewed and updated as required on an annual basis

<sup>3</sup> 5 Year Environmental Plan for Greater Manchester, Executive Summary 2019-24, p7

## Key activities and impacts

MIF/The Factory's key areas of activity are:

- Developing and staging large-scale creative projects in physical and digital spaces for global audiences
- Developing and delivering a range of creative engagement, learning, and training programmes
- Presenting work internationally, in partnership with other cultural organisations

Key impacts include:

- Materials / resource consumption
- Carbon footprint from travel and transportation
- Utilities use (gas / electricity / water)

Work is on-going to ensure effective data gathering and monitoring. A key aim is to establish systems and monitoring to enable the capture of an accurate Y1 operational carbon footprint in the new venue. This will be invaluable for establishing a benchmark for robust and realistic reduction targets in a net zero carbon pathway.

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 publicly on progress towards our commitments and aims on an annual basis.

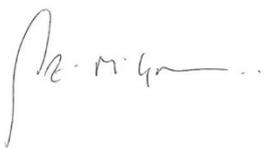
## Responsibility and Accountability

This policy is the foundation of MIF/The Factory's environmental sustainability action plan which addresses all areas of the organisation's activities with clear targets, milestones and KPIs, roles and responsibilities.

Delivering the ambitions of this policy is the responsibility of everyone at MIF/The Factory. Setting goals and monitoring progress, coordinating, and embedding good practice around sustainability across the organisation is the responsibility of the Sustainability Working Group – led by the Environmental Sustainability Manager, reporting to the relevant Executive Director.

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

Signed:



John McGrath, Artistic Director and Chief Executive