

FIRST LIGHT FESTIVAL

Environmental Policy

Version review history

First Light Festival C.I.C. undertakes to review and update this Policy annually unless there are significant changes in legislation, operations or responsibilities, in which case a revised statement will be issued immediately to all First Light Festival Personnel.

	Date reviewed	Reviewed by (name and role)	Approved by (Director name)
Version 1	22 nd August 2018	Lizzie Hall, Project Manager	Genevieve Christie, Director
Version 2	1 st December 2019	Lizzie Hall, Project Manager	Genevieve Christie, Director
Version 3	22 nd August 2020	Lizzie Hall, Project Manager	Genevieve Christie, Director
Version 4	22 nd November 2021	Lizzie Hall, Project Manager	Genevieve Christie, Director
Version 5	12 th July 2022	Lizzie Hall, Project Manager	
Version 6	24 th April 2023	Jo Leverett, Project Manager (Maternity Cover)	
Version 7	13 December 2024	Lizzie Hall, Project Manager	

Context

First Light Festival C.I.C is a Community Interest Company responsible for management and delivery of First Light Festival and affiliated activities.

First Light Festival is a unique weekend of arts, creativity and community that celebrates the first midsummer sunrise in England's most easterly town. Taking place across Lowestoft's beautiful South Beach, Kensington Gardens, and surrounding promenades, the festival centres around a dawn gathering by the shore.

With a hugely diverse programme that encompasses world-class music, new performance, hands-on science activities, comedy, sports, workshops and talks, the festival is free-access and unticketed, with 30,000+ and 35,000+ attending in 2019 and 2022, respectively. With a key focus on shining a spotlight on Lowestoft's talented communities, the festival is deeply rooted in the town, with strong connections to all local schools and colleges, and many of the major community centres, arts venues, business organisations and civic buildings.

Since Summer 2022, First Light Festival C.I.C has been resident at the newly renovated East Point Pavilion, an imaginatively redesigned space within a stunning Victoriana-style glass pavilion

overlooking the sea, offering delicious food and drinks from an assortment of independent traders and a varied a year-round schedule of live music, DJs and performances, artisan markets and community-led activity.

First Light Festival C.I.C also delivers various projects that promote arts and creativity across East Suffolk, which currently include Framingham Town Youth Challenge.

Roles for the Creative Industries as part of the Net Zero transformation.

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Decarbonisation	Tangible contributions activities towards Net Zero transformations	Intangible contributions towards Net Zero transformations
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions directly and indirectly caused by creative industry operations and business activities in line with UK and global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions targets.	Ways in which Creative Industries skills, outputs, and work will directly shape Net Zero communities, products and infrastructure (such as architecture, design, digital technologies).	Ways in which Creative Industries will influence cultural shifts, attitudes, behaviours, education and engagement linked to societal Net Zero transformations.

Source: Creative-Industries-and-the-Climate-Emergency-The-Path-to-Net-Zero-PEC-Research-Report.pdf

Statement of Intent

First Light Festival CIC is inspired by Lowestoft’s natural environment – the beach, sun, sea, sky and stars. Our aim is to be the most ‘net-positive’ gathering we can be, by ensuring we work to high environmental standards through our production practices and partnerships. We recognise that as a large-scale cultural event we hold influence over audience behaviours and attitudes, which we will address through strong programming and clear communications.

We will continue to work both independently and collaboratively with stakeholders, service providers and audiences to do be as environmentally responsible as possible, through both practical and holistic actions.

Vision: 2025’s annual Festival Industry Green Survey repeatedly identifies three main barriers to change for the festival sector: cost, lack of time to implement change and 'inability of contractors to deliver sustainable options.' The live industry, including its supply chain, is still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, which has significantly impacted on its ability to invest.

Our main environmental impacts:

First Light Festival

- Energy use and carbon emissions
- Catering
- Staff, contractor, artist and audience travel: fuel use and carbon emissions.
- Waste and litter

East Point Pavilion

- Energy use and carbon emissions
- Catering
- Office activities: printing, IT, supplies and services

- Waste
- Water

Our intentions for the next 3 years are:

- To comply with the requirements of environmental legislation and approved codes of practice.
- To regularly review our approach and embed environmental learnings as a key tenet of our organisation.
- To institute a task force comprised of members of our Steering Group to oversee the enacting of our action plan.
- To benchmark our environmental outputs at the festival (power, waste, water etc.) against which we can assess our progress.
- To ringfence budget towards environmental planning
- To sustainably manage the use of all resources, including waste, power, water and procurement, to reduce energy use and related emissions.
- To advocate for and expect high environmental standards from all suppliers and contractors
- To encourage audiences, artists and crew to use more sustainable forms of transport, and to participant in the festival in an environmentally-conscious way
- To foster awareness and encourage participation in environmental matters more widely through creative programming
- To convey our learnings and challenges to audiences, partners and peers in a transparent and accessible way

The board of Directors will endorse this policy to demonstrate the festival's commitment.

We have created Environmental Action Plans for First Light Festival and East Point Pavilion outlining practical approach to achieving the above.

Responsibilities

Core team

Overall responsibility for environmental sustainability of the organisation is *Genevieve Christie, CEO*.

Responsibility for environmental sustainability on behalf of the Directors is *Mary Graham*

All staff are responsible for ensuring this policy and First Light Festival CIC's Environmental Action Plan is implemented across their work.