

Teatre Lliure Environmental Sustainability Policy 2020-2023

Actions in place March 2020-May 2021

Since Spring 2020, Teatre Lliure has adopted an environmental policy, which supplements and re-contextualizes the Fundació Teatre Lliure's Mission Statement, towards contributing to a more sustainable future.

We wanted to understand Teatre Lliure's environmental impacts, to implement new policies and modes of operation, with the aim to reduce the theatre's carbon footprint. Moreover, we interpret sustainability as a mission to enhance and enrich our positive impact on the community we serve, by demonstrating through our example how the arts and culture can assume a leading role in the fight against climate change and environmental degradation.

Our introductory Action Plan for the first year was to a large part realized, with the exception of a few initiatives which we shall have to move forward in time, due to the particular circumstances imposed by the pandemic and the periods of lockdown.

The introductory 2020 Action Plan, as was presented a year ago, included the following actions and initiatives – progress of which is reported below:

- Drafting and adopting a mission statement, which will constitute the Teatre Lliure's environmental policy. (*Adopted in June 2020*).
- Designing a general Action Plan from 2020 to 2023 (*Drafted in June 2020*).
- Creating a Green Team (*Formed in March 2020*).
- Commissioning an energy audit for our venues, with relevant recommendations (*Audit commissioned and conducted, final assessment report submitted in December 2020*).
- Collecting, assessing and understanding available data on various areas of our operations from previous years (energy, water, waste management, use of paper and plastics, travel etc); identifying weaknesses and opportunities, taking first steps towards improvement, where possible. (*First stage of data collection, analysis and identification of priorities was realized through the auditing process*)
- First phase of analysing our suppliers' operations and identifying where "green" procurement alternatives can be adopted (*Preparation work and initial research has been conducted and is still in progress*)
- Running a staff attitudinal survey. (*Postponed until regular operations are fully resumed*)
- Introducing first actions towards a single-use-plastic free Lliure (autumn 2020). (*Realised, with some initiative already in place*)
- Offering Workshops/Training on sustainable cultural management to staff and creatives of Lliure (October 2020). (*Realised, online*)

- Introducing guidelines for “greening” our offices (July 2020). (*Postponed until regular operations are fully resumed*)
- October 2020: Hosting a meeting of mitos21 Green Managers; offering an open workshop on Sustainable Cultural Management / Being part of the Biennale of Thought (*Realised*)

More specifically:

- We commissioned the *Club EMAS Catalunya* auditing agency to assess our two venues.
- The process began with the first contacts and visits in February 2020, but the audit began in May 2020, after the phase of strict confinement resulting from the COVID pandemic19. The final report, made as per the fulfilment of the SDGs derived from the 2030 Agenda of the UN, was approved in January 2021. The task of exhaustive review carried out by the entity, resulted in an elaborate environmental report, which analyses our performance in terms of sustainability; identifies weak areas, suggests priorities, and recommends improvements. The aim of this assessment process was to review compliance with the various environmental regulations, as well as verifying the levels of compliance with the conditions of the main environmental certifications of reference in our field. In our case, at a local level, the Distinction of environmental quality of the Generalitat de Catalunya in the category of scenic, musical and visual arts equipment. Moreover, we found it interesting to assess how we align with the international climate change agenda of the Paris Agreement.
- Also, and currently, due to a proposal by the Barcelona Tourism Board and Town Hall we are working on the *Biosphere* certification, also an official recognition of our environmental programme.
- We are now part of the *Xarxa Barcelona+Sostenible* network, organized by the Barcelona Town Hall.
- We are adopting, as widely as possible, the circular economy concept “avoid, reduce, reuse, repurpose, recycle”.
- We have begun to map the area of “green” suppliers and we are also beginning to include ecological conditions in our calls for tenders and other purchasing procedures.
- We have already switched to purchasing recycled paper for most usage across the organization.
- We have taken measures to reduce bureaucratic procedures that required the use of paper. For example, we have eliminated printed payment slips, and all such documents are now available in digital form. Likewise, we are using more widely the Lliure intranet, for internal communications, so as to avoid printed announcements and other shared information.
- We are radically revising production of printed promotional materials, either by eliminating or by reducing to the minimum production programmes, season’s brochures, flyers, posters etc.

- All in-house printers are set to eco-efficiency operation as default, and toners are recycled.
- We are reducing the use of plastic, with the aim to eventually eliminate it. We have installed osmosis-based water-fountains, to discourage the use of plastic water-bottles; only paper cups are available for potable water.
- We have identified waste-management, including chemical waste (buying ones that are less toxic) as an area of primary focus. Our long-term goal is to follow a “zero-to-landfill” policy eventually. We are working with a specialist to optimize our waste-management policies and procedures and to also to provide training and better information to our staff and the audiences in this area.
- We will establish a regular communication channel with everyone inside the organization and, gradually, also with external stakeholders and our audiences, in order to keep people engaged and to share knowledge, information and also our achievements.
- Finally, we have requested and obtained an extraordinary aid FEDER- Department of Culture of the Generalitat that will allow us to install in our roof in the building of Montjuic, a set of photovoltaic panels to generate part of the energy that we consume, as well as replacing and to replacing the lighting systems, with low-energy LED lights.

Green Lliure Action Plan – 2021 onwards

We have now developed the Green Lliure Action Plan for 2021 onwards, which will be an integral part of our overall operations and will be regularly revised and re-evaluated.

The Green Lliure Action Plan incorporates as a priority the recommendations of the auditing process and and continuous monitoring of regulatory compliance. It includes the following areas of focus:

- Optimisation of data collection and analysis
- Systematisation of regular controls and monitoring
- Reduction and correct waste management, with special attention to hazardous waste
- Adoption of a protocol of recommendations for the use of sustainable materials for the construction of sets and other elements of the productions
- Reduction of water consumption
- Reduction of energy consumption and improvement of energy efficiency
- Improvements in travel and transportation
- Controls for compliance with the various environmental certifications
- Design of a Communication Plan to keep all staff, both internal and external, informed of the implementation of the Plan in an effective and continuous manner.

Each area will be broken down into specific actions; will be assigned to a responsible person/team; will have a timeframe; and progress will be monitored.

Objectives:

The Action Plan will continue to unfold over the next 3 years, as we will strive to achieve our goals. These are:

Organisation - Governance

- Continue to engage our staff, administrative and technical; our artists and creatives; external collaborators and partners; our audience and the local community; all stakeholders, to collectively shift our mindset and to adopt a more sustainable approach in our lives and work.
- Communicate, internally and externally, our sustainability trajectory and to share any new knowledge and expertise acquired with the wider community, as well as with our colleagues in the cultural sector. In this sense, a communication plan will be designed, which should aim to encourage the entire organization in the activities done and in the future encourage the participation of the whole structure.
- Identify and build networks and partnerships, which can support our project and accelerate the systemic change necessary for a more sustainable society.

Organisation: our people, staff and creatives

- Conduct a staff environmental survey so as to identify behaviour patterns. To consult regularly with staff members and integrate their ideas in the action plan.
- Provide information and environmental training for staff members and creatives, including access to further resources, case-studies, workshops or webinars.
- Organizing special campaigns: i.e. “greening” the office, plastic-free-Lliure.
- Creation of a mailbox in order to be able to collect the demands and / or suggestions, both internal and external, regarding the sustainability plan

Environmental performance & carbon footprint

- Review, collect and systematize all available data from our operations (energy, water, waste, paper use, plastics, travel etc.) in order to regularly assess our overall environmental performance and to identify priorities and areas for improvement.
- Place special emphasis on the areas identified in the Action Plan and, to follow with areas such as scenic materials; green production; food & beverage.
- Maintain our environmental performance and progress in connection to the selected green certification scheme.

Organisational change – Operations

- Further research and eventually adopt a green procurement policy; to enhance the range and scope of our sustainable suppliers/supply chains. Train all the personnel in this matter.
- Adopt a “green office” set of guidelines.
- Research further and finally adopt a sustainable procurement policy; to improve the reach of our supply chains and those suppliers who apply sustainable criteria.
- Adopt a “green mobility plan” for the workers.
- Promoting health and sportive attitudes/chemical abuse prevention activities.
- Adopt “green riders” for our touring, as well as for incoming artist and creatives.
- Provide, where possible, additional training to our technical and creative teams towards “greening” our artistic productions.

Artistic programming

- Communicate our green project to our creative partners, to invited artists and visiting companies.
- Initiate a process of raising awareness among artistic teams about the use of materials used in theatrical productions, in order to promote sustainability, starting as recommendations and expanding, until, in the future, obligations
- Collaborate with external entities such as the scenography department of the Institut del Teatre or the Scenographers Association to promote the ecodesign of stage materials.
- Connect with artists working in areas of climate change, the environment and sustainability.
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- Create cross-sector communication channels, with thinkers, academics, scientists, educators etc., who can enrich our understanding of a sustainable future and inspire us to translate it into the art of theatre.
- Engage in projects which may combine our commitment to high artistic value and our ambition to respond to the environmental challenges of our times.

Barcelona, May 2021