

**Silhouette Environmental Policy**

The planet is on track to reach a global temperature rise of 3˚C before the end of the century. The evidence of catastrophic environmental collapse is growing ever clearer, from extreme weather events to widespread extinction of species.

Theatre, like all industries, has an impact: we create work that is inherently temporary; that makes use of raw materials, of heat, light and sound; that asks people to travel to a particular location at a particular time.

**However, we believe theatre can be part of the solution**. We tell stories, shape culture and encourage empathy and understanding. Our industry is made up of creative and inspiring people who are motivated to make change.

**We have already made significant progress towards reducing the carbon impact of Silhouette Youth Theatre.**

**But we believe this is a climate emergency - and it is our responsibility to aim for a carbon neutral National Theatre faster.**

Our commitments

* To embed environmental sustainability at the heart of Silhouette’s practice.
* To set year-on-year targets.
* To report on our progress annually.
* 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 by our Board and updated as necessary. Our operations board led by young people will form part of this review and will be pivotal in reviewing and reflecting the impact that we have made.

**Our areas of focus:**

**People**

* **Audiences and staff**
We want staff to feel empowered to examine their own practice and decision making, with ideas for change filtering throughout Silhouette Youth Theatre. We must enable audiences and visitors to understand and minimize their pollution and carbon footprint when visiting us.

**Place**

* **Our building**
We have significantly improved the efficiency of our building, reducing energy, waste and water carbon impact. We will continue to set ambitious targets to move towards net carbon zero on site.
* **Transport**
We believe it is very important to tour across the UK. We’re actively assessing the impact of our touring and will work to minimise carbon impact; however, the truth is that radical changes to national and international transport infrastructure are needed to reach carbon neutrality.

**Production**

* **Our programme**
As part of our mission to tell resonant stories and to galvanise positive change, climate and ecological concerns will be reflected prominently in our programme.
* **Making theatre**
We are working with production teams to examine every step of the process of bringing shows to the stage and understand how to reduce their environmental impact. We will share what we learn with the theatre sector and encourage the exchange of ideas.

**What will we be doing?**

* All staff will be aware of our approach to becoming Environmentally friendly and this will include our use of single use plastics, recycling on site, electricity consumption, water consumption and transport.
* All our young people will be made aware of our environmental responsibility through the work of the operational board. They will put out a letter to all parents and young people that attend Silhouette.
* We are currently working on a piece that looks at climate change and the impact it is having. The young people are going to be contacting local school to invite them to come along to the performance. We will provide material for them to take away that speak about how they can be the change!
* We are going to review our venue on a termly basis to see if we are making the right decisions and reducing our carbon footprint. The fact that we share many of the spaces with other users means that we are beginning to drive change in our organisation.
* We will report to the trustees at every meeting on how we are meeting the goals of our environmental policy.