Environmental Sustainability Policy

Updates:

- Updated carbon emissions performance data to 2025-26.
- Revised Net Zero ambition to 2050.
- Added references to climate resilience and extreme heat planning.
- Updated sustainability priorities, renewable energy ambitions and future infrastructure improvements.
- Streamlined policy for clarity and alignment with the Strategic Plan 2024-29.

Previous Update	Sep 2024
Current Update	Sep 2026
Next Update	Sep 2028
Review Cycle	2 Years
Lead Contact	Sanjay Dasani, Head of Operations
Approval by	Finance and General Purposes Committee (Via Rep)

Environmental Sustainability Policy

1. Policy Statement

As London's creative powerhouse for dance development, The Place has been leading the way in dance training, creation and performance for over 50 years. Our vision remains to power imagination through dance by championing new ideas, embracing risk, supporting artists and ensuring future generations can thrive within a sustainable and resilient organisation.

Alongside our artistic ambitions, we recognise our responsibility to minimise our environmental impact and contribute positively to the transition to a low-carbon future. We are committed to continuously improving our environmental performance and embedding sustainable practices across all aspects of our work.

This commitment is reflected within our 2024-2029 Strategic Plan through the strategic aim **Moving with Care**, which seeks to ensure environmental responsibility is at the centre of how we work whilst progressing towards Net Zero Carbon emissions by 2050.

Strategic Aim: Moving with Care
Outcome: Ensure environmental responsibility is at the centre of how we work.
Output: Annual carbon reduction and climate resilience actions monitored and reported through organisational governance processes.

During this period, we will continue reducing our carbon footprint across our buildings, programmes, operations and supply chain. We will support students, artists, audiences and partners to adopt more sustainable practices and invest in measures that improve environmental performance, operational resilience and long-term sustainability.

This document outlines:

- How we measure environmental impacts.
- Our strategic and operational commitments.
- Accountability for environmental performance.

2. Policy Scope

This policy applies to all staff, contractors, artists, visiting companies, students, volunteers and Trustees, together with all operational aspects of the organisation.

This includes areas of direct control such as buildings, equipment and resources, as well as areas where we can influence positive environmental change including audiences, suppliers, partners and stakeholders.

3. Context

We support the ambitions of the Paris Agreement, align our work with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and seek to contribute positively to the UK's transition to a low-carbon future.

The Place recognises the important role that arts, culture and education can play in promoting environmental awareness and encouraging positive behavioural change.

In September 2021, The Place joined others across the cultural sector in declaring a Climate Emergency. Since then, we have strengthened our environmental performance through participation

in the Mayor of London's Business Climate Challenge, annual reporting through Julie's Bicycle and investment in sustainability initiatives.

We recognise that climate change presents both environmental and operational challenges. Alongside reducing emissions, we are committed to adapting our estate and operations to increasingly frequent extreme weather events, including periods of extreme heat. Our Extreme Heat Operational Policy.docx and Heatwave Response Framework support the wellbeing of students, artists, audiences, staff and visitors, whilst helping maintain business continuity and informing future estate planning and capital investment decisions. [Extreme He...nal Policy | Word]

Our actions and targets are supported through the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 2026-2030 and reviewed annually.

4. Our Environmental Impacts

The organisation's key environmental impacts include:

- Energy consumption
- Waste generation
- Water consumption
- Procurement
- Business travel and commuting
- Programme and production activity

We began measuring our environmental performance in 2012 and use Julie's Bicycle Creative Climate Tools as our primary reporting framework.

Carbon Emissions Performance (last 4 years)

Financial Year	Total Emissions (tCO_2e)	Annual Change
2022-23	217	-21.9%
2023-24	228	+5.0%
2024-25	234	+2.6%
2025-26	196	-16.2%

Our environmental approach considers:

- **Scope 1:** Direct emissions including gas consumption and onsite energy use.
- **Scope 2:** Purchased electricity and energy supply.
- **Scope 3:** Wider emissions arising from procurement, travel, production activity, suppliers and other indirect activities.

We will continue to improve our understanding of Scope 3 emissions and expand reporting where practical.

During 2025-26, The Place recorded total carbon emissions of **196 tCO_2e**, representing a reduction of **38 tCO_2e (-16.2%)** compared with the previous year. This improvement was driven primarily by lower energy consumption, improved operational efficiency and continued investment in building infrastructure and sustainability initiatives.

The Place continues to procure 100% renewable electricity tariffs where available and remains committed to reducing emissions year-on-year whilst working towards Net Zero Carbon emissions by 2050.

Whilst reducing emissions remains a priority, we also recognise the increasing risks associated with climate change, including overheating and extreme weather. A key climate resilience priority is managing the impact of extreme heat on teaching, rehearsal, performance and public spaces through estate improvements, operational planning and investment in cooling, ventilation and thermal comfort measures.

5. Our Commitments 2026-2030

To support our Strategic Plan and Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 2026-2030, our environmental priorities are:

- Develop our pathway towards a Net Zero Carbon building by 2050.
- Inspire, equip, engage and empower staff to drive environmental change.
- Upskill, enable and support the next generation of artists to adopt sustainable practices.
- Work in partnership to increase our environmental impact and communicate our progress.
- Expand carbon reduction and sustainability initiatives across all organisational activities.

Strategic Commitments

We will:

- Work towards Net Zero Carbon emissions by 2050.
- Embed environmental responsibility within organisational planning and decision-making.
- Use data and evidence to set targets and measure progress.
- Invest in infrastructure and technologies that improve environmental performance.
- Reduce emissions across Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 activities.
- Integrate climate adaptation and resilience into estate management and future capital investment.
- Work with students, artists, audiences, suppliers and partners to promote sustainable practices.
- Seek external funding opportunities to support environmental improvement and long-term sustainability.

Operational Commitments

We will:

- Reduce energy, water and resource consumption.
- Minimise waste through reduction, reuse and recycling.

- Maintain renewable electricity procurement wherever possible.
- Improve environmental performance through sustainable procurement and operational practices.
- Continue investing in energy-efficient infrastructure, including LED lighting, building systems and renewable technologies.
- Reduce dependence on fossil fuels through building optimisation and exploration of low-carbon heating technologies.
- Monitor and respond to climate-related risks, including periods of extreme heat.
- Maintain and regularly review our Heatwave Response Framework and Extreme Heat Operational Policy

Future Priorities 2026-2030

During 2026-2030 we will prioritise:

- Delivery and expansion of solar photovoltaic projects.
- Completion of LED lighting upgrades across the estate.
- Assessment of air-source heat pumps and other low-carbon heating technologies.
- Reduction of gas consumption through operational improvements and infrastructure renewal.
- Delivery of heat resilience measures identified through the Heatwave Response Framework.
- Improvement of ventilation, cooling and thermal comfort within teaching, performance and public spaces.
- Expansion of environmental reporting to improve understanding of Scope 3 emissions.
- Continued development of staff engagement, environmental awareness and Green Team initiatives.

6. Accountability

The Board of Governors and Chief Executive have overall responsibility for environmental performance and will review progress annually.

Directors are responsible for ensuring environmental responsibility is embedded within departmental plans, activities and decision-making.

The Green Team is a cross-organisational working group that supports delivery of the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan, generates ideas for improvement and promotes sustainable behaviours across the organisation.

The Green Team reports through the Resource, Environment and Projects (REP) meeting structure, Directors' Meetings and Trustee reporting processes.

Progress against targets will be monitored through the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan, annual Julie's Bicycle reporting and regular reporting through organisational governance structures.

We will communicate our environmental performance publicly and report progress against the commitments set out in this policy.

7. Related Documents

Internal

- Environmental Sustainability Action Plan 2026-2030
- The Place Strategic Plan 2024-2029
- Climate Emergency Statement
- Extreme Heat Operational Policy
- Heatwave Response Framework & Workplan
- Business Continuity Plan
- Annual Julie's Bicycle Environmental Sustainability Report

External

- Julie's Bicycle Creative Climate Tools
- Arts Council England Environmental Responsibility Guidance
- Theatre Green Book