Climate Action Plan

Galway Film Fleadh

Greening the Fleadh

Last updated 26/08/2026

Introduction

Galway Film Fleadh (GFF) understands that presenting a large-scale international festival comes with a carbon footprint.

We are committed to actively finding ways to reduce this and spread as much awareness as we can, while also showcasing the best cinema from around the world. We aim to enhance our environmental performance across all of our activities and events while also embedding environmental awareness in all areas of our business and operations.



GFF's Climate Action Plan

Galway Film Fleadh operates a sustainable policy and is currentlybuilding a green ethos into all aspects of producing the annual festival. We have reviewed Failte Ireland's Sustainable Festivals Guidelines to inform our research and next steps for ***Greening the Fleadh***.

The festival will endeavour to...

- Be fully accountable for the monitoring of our energy use and waste systems.
- Minimise energy use & reduce, re-use and recycle as much as possible.
- Embed environmental awareness in all areas of GFF business and operations.
- GFF's Sustainability Manager will continue to oversee our sustainability policy.
- Engage directly with staff, customers, delegates and guests regarding environmental best practice, and encourage them to reduce their own environmental impacts.
- Identifying the needs of our staff in relation to sustainability and provide training and resources to build knowledge and awareness in the sector.
- Assess our carbon footprint on a regular basis to ensure sustainability across all departments in the company. Offset our carbon footprint with seed bombs and tree planting.

Venues

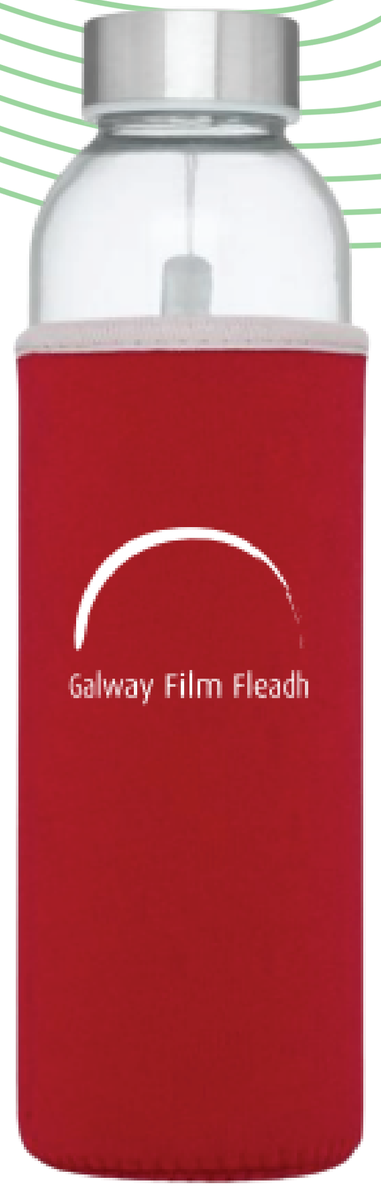
Galway is a walkable city, and the festival venues can all be accessed on foot, by public transport and by bike.

- We provide information on available cycle, parking and best public travel options on our brochure map and website.
- We ensure that equipment at our partner venues is fit for purpose and maintained to ensure energy savings.
- We encourage guests, audience, and visitors to use sustainable travel by advising on public transport, car sharing, home stay options.



Events & Partners

- We endeavour to build green principles into operation for staff, suppliers, artists, distributors, and visitors.
- We continue to partner with organisations with Eco-Merit awards such as Sound to Light and iSupply
- Encourage the use of keep-cups for hot drinks and we bring our own reusable water bottles.
- Encourage all event partners our use biodiesel for delivery of services
- Advise our food suppliers of our sustainable policy and reduce significant food waste at events that are catered.
- Ensure our waste is streamlined into recycling.
- Use local suppliers where possible.
- Reduce plastic serving ware and utensils. Use 100% biodegradable products.
- All waste food is taken home by staff or members.



Festival Guests

- We schedule a shuttle bus from Knock and Shannon Airports which operates on a three hourly rotation to reduce single care use.
- For any guests coming from Dublin Airport, we book them on public transport such as Bus Éireann, Air Coach and Iarnród Éireann.
- All out partnered hotels are located in Galway City in walking distance of all venues.
- We provide information on available cycle, parking and best public travel options on our brochure map and website.
- We encourage guests, audience, and visitors to use sustainable travel by advising on public transport, and car sharing options.



Marketing & Comms:

- The festival print a limited run of festival programmes, with a digital version available to all audiences online.
- All printed materials are made with non-coated post-consumer paper.
- Most of our marketing takes place digitally.
- We reuse marketing items such as banners and pop-up advertising by removing dates when they are produced to ensure that they can be used on an annual basis.
- We encourage sponsors and partners to spread their messages through our electronic materials and on-screen at the events to reduce the need for paper promotional materials.
- Eliminate any wasteful guest services items.
- Lanyard return scheme for staff, volunteers, and attendees to re-use annually.
- For Generation Fleadh, we plan to eliminate a full-brochure and use only a brief over-view of information on a small panphlet, the rest of the information will be available digitally.



Programming

- Through our programming, we provide a platform for films that shine a light on environmental issues, spread awareness and sparks debate about environmental issues.
- We also have curated sustainability panels & workshops which we endeavour to continue in future programmes.
- We use paperless processes for electronic surveys, film submissions, judging, volunteer applications, event invitations, tickets.
- We create paperless presentations and post-festival reports.



Digital Films

- We require all filmmakers to send their films digitally.
- We provide a cloud storage to eliminate the need for paper forms and shipping costs.
- We have upgraded our cloud storage to receive films.
- We don’t accept Blu-ray or DVD’s to minimise waste and unnecessary production.
- Only 1% of films arrived physically last year, the smallest amount ever.
- The projector in our main venue has been upgraded to a laser projector, it does not use any bulbs and draws much less power, not requiring any exhaust system.
- At the Pálás Cinema, because the venue isn’t in use when the fleadh isn’t taking place currently, our technical manager maintains the projectors and sources parts from other independant cinemas in Ireland to have them serviced and we use local service companies where possible.



Fleadh Office

Galway Film Fleadh moved to a new office space in 2023. In selecting this office we viewed sustainability as a key factor when making our decision.

- We chose a building in the heart of the city to minimise use of car travel and promote public transport.
- We utilised existing layout rather than refurbishing to reduced waste and unnecessary production of new materials.
- We upgraded to modern LED and replaced storage heaters with modern energy efficient thermostatic heaters with WiFi controls.
- We have a compost bin and designated staff members to manage it.



Fleadh Office

We will continue to:

- Ensure our communications are paperless, schedules are sent digitally. Printing will be kept to a minimum by using secure cloud storage.
- Use video options for meetings and ensure to keep 'in-person' meetings that require travel to a minimum.
- Operate a lift sharing and public transport options where possible to ensure that we avoid making long journeys.
- Encourage work from home where possible in the quieter times of festival management ensuring less travel and more productivity.

Key Targets for 2027

The festival recognises that there is more work to be done regarding sustainability in all its activities. To implement this strategy further, here are our key targets for 2027...

- GFF's Sustainability Manager will continue to oversee our sustainability policy and have regular meetings to monitor progress.
- Participate in a Green Day once a month in the office and participate in Earth Day in 2027.
- Achieved certification with Eco Merit to formalise our commitment to sustainability.
- Achieved Greentime Sustainability Certification for Galway Film Fair.
- Participate in the cycle to work scheme and continue to use public transport
- We plan to maintain and service the projectors at Pálás Cinema using parts from other projectors in the later half of 2026, working with Galway City Council and various independent Irish Cinemas.


Galway Film Fleadh
TOWN HALL THEATRE
HARCLANN NA GAILLIMHE