

Environmental Policy – Business Manifesto for Achieving Net Zero Carbon



The
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Orchestra

Foreword

Over the last decade Climate Change has become a prevalent issue that can no longer be ignored without having a severe and irreversible consequence on our Planet.

Shifting weather patterns that threaten food production, rising sea levels causing catastrophic floods, and wildfires causing migration of animals are just some of the consequences of climate change that we are facing currently.

It is evident, from scientific research, that Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) are the primary cause for the destruction of our climate. These greenhouse gases are the direct result of human activity and unsustainable development.

The Climate Change Act 2008 was updated in 2019 to include a Net Zero target. This target aims to ensure that the UK's greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by 2050. This means that by 2050 the net carbon account should be 100% less than the 1990 baseline.

Although all Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) contribute to climate change and must be reduced sustainably, long-lived gases such as Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) must be reduced immediately to stabilise global temperatures.

What does the term Net Zero mean?

“The term net zero means achieving a balance between the carbon emitted into the atmosphere, and the carbon removed from it. This balance - or net zero - will happen when the amount of carbon we add to the atmosphere is no more than the amount removed.” ([What is net zero and how can we get there? - Energy Saving Trust](#))

Ways to combat Carbon Emissions:

- Electric Cars
- Implementation of the V2G Grid (Smart home charging point)
- Development of Sustainable Housing
- Sustainable Public Transportation
- Recycling, Re-using, and Repairing
- Planting Trees
- Offshore Wind Farms
- Educating and encouraging Net Zero footprint for all individuals.

The UK is the first major economy in the world to pass laws that will end its contribution to global warming by 2050.

The Peoples Orchestra (TPO) stands with the UK and champions the cause in achieving Net Zero Carbon for the protection of our precious planet.



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The Peoples Orchestra's Policies

The People's Orchestra, as a creative community and charitable organisation, recognises the importance of the climate and its relation to environmental crises such as future food and water shortages and the loss of wildlife habitats.

We believe that we all need to take responsibility for our carbon contributions. For this reason, The People's Orchestra is taking responsibility by developing policies that will offset our Carbon footprint and will work towards achieving Net Zero Carbon by 2050.

TPO is committed to reducing its environmental impact at a strategic level and to challenge both operational decision making as well as individual behaviour. We aim to encourage positive environmental thinking amongst our staff, volunteers and placements.



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TPO works to reduce Carbon Energy Consumption by:

- installing energy efficient fixtures, fittings and equipment
- encouraging staff to reduce unnecessary consumption through the promotion of energy saving actions.
- We continually work with the buildings managing agents to actively reduce energy consumption
- We are committed to ensuring energy use is kept to a minimum with office lighting monitored on motion sensors.

Sustainable Development Policies

Include:

1. Encouraging staff members to use local transport options e.g., bus/train/bicycle/ metro when possible, or support staff members to share travel
2. TPO identifies opportunities for recycling and minimising waste and implements initiatives to achieve this. The firm utilises the office facilities

for recycling for all cardboard, paper glass, plastic, and aluminium cans

3. Where appropriate, duplex printing on ink save mode is encouraged, technology utilised to reduce the production of paper-based communication.
4. TPO is increasing the use of online resources to replace paper editions. Any paper used is produced from sustainable sources and bears the FSC logo
5. The use of thermos containers to keep water hot to avoid excessive use of kettle ensuring water will not be wasted and will be only used when needed.
6. TPO ensures that environmental considerations are taken into account by supporting local suppliers and contractors wherever possible, including social enterprises and catering suppliers and their commitment to Fairtrade products.

Our Pledge

As a regional charity, the impact we have on wider, global environmental issues is limited. However, we are committed to making changes to our supplies and activities to further reduce that impact in all facets of our work, and continually improving our environmental performance as an integral part of our operation, with regular review points to assess the sustainability of our model and reassure our audiences, supporters and associates about our ethical commitments.

This environmental policy will be implemented by CEO Sarah Marshall and the board, however all staff, volunteers and beneficiaries have an additional responsibility to ensure that the aims and objectives of the policy are met within the purview of their own role.



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We pledge:

1. To ensure that all resources will be used efficiently.
2. We will buy 100% recycled and recyclable paper, along with low toxicity ink, for our printing requirements wherever possible.
3. Music scores will be sourced in electronic formats wherever possible, in preference to hard-copy scores that are currently ordered from the United States.
4. Heating will be adjusted with energy consumption in mind.
5. We will source Fairtrade tea and coffee for the office.
6. We will restrict ourselves to taking only trips which are necessary, thus reducing the need to travel. Additionally, we will promote the use of public transport among those attending concerts, making additional efforts to accommodate the needs of those using bicycles or other environmentally friendly modes of travel, and sending information and tickets in the form of a downloadable PDF.
7. The People's Orchestra as an organisation will wherever possible ensure that products and materials purchased to support our work have been produced in ways which do not harm the environment. Additionally, recycling and reusing products utilised on a day-to-day basis.
8. Easily accessible recycling facilities in our offices, will be used as often as possible.
9. Encourage all staff, volunteers and members to use reusable products, such as water bottles, to lessen the need for single-use plastics. Additionally, the use of disposable cups in the office, at rehearsals and at concerts will be minimised.
10. Wherever possible, work will be completed online, lessening the quantities of paper used.
11. We will use licensed and appropriate organisations to dispose of waste.
12. We will adopt local suppliers for bar operations during live events and ensure that empty bottles are recycled.

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13. We will convert our own transport to an electric engine and maintain it rigorously to ensure ongoing efficiency.
14. The People's Orchestra will promote best practice in addressing environmental issues in everyday life and work; and encourage staff and volunteers to take action along the lines of a healthier lifestyle through use of public transport and car sharing where possible.
15. We will observe existing environmental legislation as a minimum standard and seek to out-perform current legislative requirements where practical.

As part of our procurement plan, we promise to:

1. Source future supplies of carbon neutral printing paper, recycled notepads and pens from The Green Office (www.thegreenoffice.co.uk).
2. Use branded metal containers or recycled mugs in preference to disposable cups, from Everything Branded (www.everythingbranded.co.uk) or another suitable supplier.
3. Switch to Fairtrade tea & coffee, available locally from Tesco or Asda.
4. Contact Zero EV (www.zero-ev.co.uk) with a view to converting our transport to an electric engine.
5. Contact Sustainability West Midlands (www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk) to ascertain what support and funding may be available for reducing environmental impact within our shared premises.

The Next Steps:

We are committed to encouraging all staff across the range of services we provide to maintain an awareness of, promote and maintain an environmentally friendly, sustainable approach to the activities we undertake.

We will continue to educate and encourage our staff about implementing NetZero and we will work towards researching and updating our sustainability policies.



The People's Orchestra was founded by Sarah Marshall in 2012. After six months as an Arts Council England funded project, The People's Orchestra became the very first orchestra in the UK to become a Charitably Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

The People's Orchestra was set up to fill the gap in music provision for musicians leaving education, who wanted to continue performing to a high standard. The challenge was set to create a whole new type of ensemble, performing film, games and light popular music for a newly developing audience.

Initial auditions showed great promise for a new format of orchestra, with too many great flute players to choose only two! In true community style, the orchestra began accepting all instruments, traditionally orchestral or beyond, for those who played to the standard the orchestra was targeting.

Eight years on and whether you play the violin on the weekends, are unable to make every rehearsal or you have not picked up the trumpet for 20 years - everyone is welcome.



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