

# Film Festival Code of Sustainability of the Short Film Conference (SFC)

How can film festivals contribute to climate protection? The starting point of the measures outlined in this document is climate protection with the goal of reducing greenhouse gases. However, climate protection, nature conservation and fair trade must be pursued together and should therefore be considered in all decisions and with ambitious goals. The main point is a transparent and collaborative approach so that goals can be achieved objectively and as quickly as possible. It is not intended as a competition among festivals and cultural institutions or as a marketing tool.

# What to do?

1. Avoidance and reduction
2. When all measures of avoidance and reduction have been exhausted: Compensation
3. Transparency and stimulation: Communication

## Avoidance and Reduction

1.1 Mobility: the area where festivals cause most harm to the climate.

Measures:

- a) Switch from airplane and car (solo trips) to train and long distance buses:
  - Short-distance flights for ourselves and our guests are ruled out.
  - Flights for trips where a short-distance connecting flight can also be replaced by a train trip will no longer be paid.
  - Flights are booked only for trips that take more than eight hours by train (or more, depending on the train system and the location of the festival).
  - Airlines with a better carbon footprint are chosen;
  - Guests are encouraged to carpool (a 500 km trip in a car occupied by one person releases more emissions than a flight in a well-occupied plane covering the same distance: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/motorised-transport-train-plane-road>). Guests who make their own travel arrangements are asked to use these criteria as a benchmark.
- b) If guests need to be flown in they are assigned various roles at the festival rather than just one, if possible, to save flights..
- c) When inviting guests, the necessary travel requirements are included as an important criterion in decisions.
- d) Cooperation with bicycle rentals, bicycle offers for guests.

e) Within the city/region the preferred means of transportation are on foot, by bicycle, or by public transport

f) Shuttle services are reduced to a minimum and are the exception. If possible, they are carried out using low-emission vehicles.

g) All shipping needs are planned in such a way that shipping is as effective as possible. Low-emission transportation (bicycle couriers, non-fossil fuel cars, etc.) is preferred.

g) Audience:

- Cooperations with local and regional public transport providers are pursued to offer festival tickets that include public transport;

h) When choosing accommodation, providers that pursue sustainability goals are preferred, if available.

## 1.2 Material consumption:

- All materials, whether for office needs, public relations, the festival venues or other areas, are avoided, reduced or reused and purchased in a climate-conscious manner.
- Local and regional suppliers are preferred. If possible, sharing is given precedence over buying.
- Year-specific products are to be avoided.
- Merchandise is reduced to a minimum. If merchandise is used it is produced in a fair and sustainable manner.
- Waste Management in the office and the festival venues is part of the strategy.

## 1.3 Energy (consumption):

- In-house: if possible, switch to green electricity providers, otherwise exert political influence so that green electricity can be purchased.
- Energy consumption (incl. heating, standby, etc.) is checked and optimized by specialists.
- Own surfing and mail behaviour is reviewed. ;
- Own applications, databases and websites are reviewed and improved with regard to energy consumption.
- The sustainability of the servers and the energy used by them is checked and improved.

- The entire technology of the events during the festival is designed for energy efficiency.

## 1.4 Catering (guests):

- Complete conversion to reusable and BYO of tableware.
- Purchasing as low in packaging and as regional as possible.
- Food is regional and thus seasonal and from certified organic production sources and, as far as possible, fairly produced and traded;
- Reduction of meat consumption, using only meat from regional and certified organic production.
- or: conversion to organic vegan food;
- Waste disposal (leftovers) as sustainable as possible. Fully circular catering is the goal.

## 1.5 Money:

- Financial institutions are crucial players in the transformation of society and industry towards more sustainability and therefore need to be focused on.
- Own financial institution are checked for sustainable and fair business practices, possibly switch to a sustainable institution. If this is not possible, political influence is exerted on the policy of the financial institution.
- Providers for money transfers are selected taking into account the criterion of sustainability.

# Compensation

Offsetting is always a stopgap measure and should only be chosen when avoidance and reduction options have been exhausted. In principle, there are two options here: Compensation of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, or, even better, of all greenhouse gases, or buying CO<sub>2</sub> certificates, which are thus withdrawn from the market and help prevent "dirty industry" or put pressure on it.

Decisions need to be made as to which areas will be compensated. The easiest area for everyone to consider is mobility, especially flights.

## 2.1 Compensation of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions:

Here a decision is made about the provider. It is not advisable to use providers that are very cheap, because often their calculations are faulty. Preference is given to providers that operate according to standards that apply to all providers. It is crucial that the money does not flow into projects that would be financed anyway. Providers such as Atmosfair, Klimakollekte, PrimaKlima, for example, support projects in the countries of the global South that reduce emissions, projects that would otherwise not be financed. A very effective choice are providers in different countries that support or are active in the rewetting of peatlands. Unlike reforestation, the rewetting of peatlands has a very rapid positive climate effect and at the same time protects species.

## 2.2 Certificate purchase:

Donations are made to a provider who then buys certificates in return, which are thus removed from the market and no longer available to others. This increases the pressure on the industry to change and not simply rely on certificate purchasing.

# Communication

For transparency and to encourage others, there should be ongoing public communication about the criteria and measures:

- Staff are informed and trained.
- Strategies are published online.
- Strategies are communicated to guests in advance and at the festival.
- Exchange with other festivals and cultural institutions on the topic is launched.
- Strategies and positions are communicated to business partners and suppliers; those that act most closely in accordance with the strategy outlined here are chosen, existing partners are encouraged to follow this strategy.

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