


Greener Live Performances *through energy efficiency*



Management Guide

Integrating Energy Efficiency into Production Contracts

This guide was created to help producers and their teams integrate energy efficiencies into their productions.





Australian Government
Department of Industry

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Introduction

The key to success with energy efficiency is to identify priorities and possible barriers before production begins. This means taking up the challenge of collectively embracing energy efficiency as a non-negotiable element of the production process.

When including key objectives in a Production Contract – a formalised agreement between production companies and service providers such as; venues, lighting designers and sound technicians - consider the following points of reference to get the process started

- ⊗ Make the commitment to energy efficiency and engage stakeholders early in the process.
- ⊗ Set achievable goals for yourself and your team and then lead by example.
- ⊗ Nominate a 'Green' coordinator to help cast and crew implement the sustainable practices.
- ⊗ Ensure that 'Energy Efficiency' is a standing agenda item on all production meeting agendas.
- ⊗ Create a carbon budget.

While there are a range of environmental impacts associated with productions – such as waste and water use - energy is almost always a production's largest controllable environmental impact.

When integrating energy efficiency into production contracts the following areas of impact should be considered:

- ⊗ HVAC
- ⊗ Lighting
- ⊗ Sound and Audio Visual
- ⊗ Generation

HVAC

HVAC (Heating, ventilation and air-conditioning) is one of the most energy consuming functions in a venue, especially cooling the stage area which contains many heat producing items – such as theatre lighting.

Points that might be agreed between the production company and venue in the the contract might include statements or requests such as:

- ⤵ Adjusting the HVAC parameters to allow for more flexibility in temperature controls and/or use of natural ventilation.
- ⤵ Ensuring timers are used on HVAC equipment to activate as close to door opening time as possible and only be on when the auditorium is in use.

Refer to the Retrofitting HVAC Factsheet for further inclusions.

Lighting

Stage lighting is an area that requires considerable attention from an energy efficiency perspective. It can be responsible for an average of 9% of a theatre venue's overall energy use and sometimes even higher.

Points for consideration in the contract include statements or requests such as:

- ⤵ Change out old technology lighting for new more energy efficient lamps as appropriate.
- ⤵ Dim theatre lights whenever possible to significantly reduce energy demand.
- ⤵ Turn off all lighting that is not in use.
- ⤵ Conduct rehearsals under working lights.

Refer to the Lighting Design Energy Efficiency Checklist for further inclusions.

Sound & Audio Visual

Advances in technology have meant that sound systems and other AV equipment such as projectors and LED screens have increased in output while diminishing in size, weight and energy requirements. This reduces overall energy consumption of the performance area. However, good planning can still make a difference to your energy efficiency.

Points for consideration in the contract include statements or requests such as:

- ⊗ Provision of rechargeable battery microphone systems or on-set receptacle for battery recycling, where all dead batteries can be put.
- ⊗ Sound equipment that is supported by good design and is complimentary to the performance space.
- ⊗ Low impact equipment as standard.

Refer to the Sound Energy Efficiency Factsheet for further inclusions.

Generation

Diesel-fuelled generators (gensets) often power outdoor events. Diesel is a non-renewable fossil fuel, and greenhouse gas emissions are created for every litre of fuel consumed. Energy efficient use of gensets will therefore mean reduced fuel consumption and reduced GHGs.

Points for consideration in the contract include statements or requests around:

- ⊗ Exploring alternatives to diesel generators. Consider solutions such as waste vegetable oil biofuel, portable solar, wind power and cycle power. Cycle power is becoming a regular favourite at festivals, gigs, cinema screenings and other events for its ability to engage audiences to actively participate in making an event happen.
- ⊗ If using diesel generators make sure they are used as efficiently as possible. Calculate energy demand efficiently, and plan the site so that generators run at maximum efficiency.
- ⊗ Solar cell providers offer generators that run silently suiting intimate and /or acoustic performances more so than noisier diesel generators.
- ⊗ When renting equipment, request equipment with a suitable energy rating and look for tips on using the machine efficiently.

Refer to the Outdoor Events – Temporary Power Factsheet for further inclusions.

Monitoring

When integrating energy efficiency into production contracts, monitoring the energy use of a performance moves from a 'nice-to-have' to becoming a vital part of theatre operations.

Generally, contract inserts will include a standard statement of intent but over time production companies may start to request the provision of actual energy metering data of their performance in the venue.

If touring performances and/or festivals are armed with the knowledge to compare the energy requirements of one venue or site over another – this may then become a factor in dictating their choice of venue as a venue or site that passes on lower energy costs to hirers will be more financially viable.

To assist with the capture and calculation of energy impacts, use the free carbon calculators available via the Greener Live Performances through Energy Efficiency portal.

[View some useful links on the LPA website](#)

Communications

Internally and Externally

Including energy efficiency in production contracts is a great first step. This commitment to energy efficiency should then be communicated to all internal and external stakeholders. It is important that all teams on the production understand the overall commitment being made, and the role each team has to play.

Production contracts might also include suggestions around communication such as:

- Tell success stories and share ambitions with other collaborators, suppliers, funders, artists and audiences.
- Use a blog or social media to keep audiences updated on energy efficient initiatives.
- Communicate energy efficient policies, impacts and successes on your website. Make it known that it will remain an important consideration in all future contracts.
- Invite the production team to contribute ideas on energy efficiencies within the production.
- Include environmental commitments in contracts and job descriptions for all production crew.

Be a facilitator of cultural change

- Include energy efficiency criteria in your production contracts
- Then - Tell the world you're doing it!
- Email your story to: greener@liveperformance.com.au
- Share your story on the LinkedIn Group: [Greener Live Performances](#)
- Tweet using [#greenerliveperformances](#)

Energy Efficiency

Sample Contract Insert

<Insert your Company Name> are active participants in the Live Performance Australia, Greener Live Performances through Energy Efficiency program and are committed to embedding energy efficiency practices within our operational footprint.

<Insert Description of Production or Event – an example: ABC The Musical is touring nationally from September 2014 through to December 2014 and is presenting in metropolitan and regional areas, in venues up to a maximum of 1000 seat capacity. The season is scheduled to include up to 42 performances and will tour a cast and crew of 12 people.>

We are committed to improving the energy efficiency of our productions and actively seek engagement from internal and external stakeholders to support our efforts.

Energy impacts identified for this production include:

<List identified energy impacts: refer to sector specific resources on the Greener Live Performances through Energy Efficiency web portal for detailed considerations.>

The priority for <insert the name of the contractor> providing <insert description of product or service provided by contractor> is:

<List identified energy impacts specific for this contractor –clearly communicate the identified impact and proposed improvement outcome.>

<Insert your Company Name> will be collecting related energy consumption data for analysis and archival purposes. <Insert Contractor Name> is expected to supply all relevant and applicable information, as requested and in a timely manner, to facilitate the measurement and reporting process of <Insert your Company Name>.

The <delete as appropriate: GHG Venues Calculator, LPA IG Tool or SEMS> will be used for data analysis and industry benchmarking.

<List specific data collection fields – if appropriate and if it can provide further clarification within the agreement.>

To foster a culture of sharing outcomes, <insert your Company Name> will make available generated reports and/or findings to assist <insert Contractor Name> with further demonstrating their leadership in positive energy impacts.

Outcomes achieved by engaging with <insert Contractor Name> to reduce <insert your Company Name's> energy impact may be communicated publicly in print or digital media, as appropriate. <insert Contractor Name> in signing this agreement, endorses the use of their name, as appropriate, and non-commercially sensitive information, as relevant.