

Checklist

Touring Energy Efficiency

Greener Live Performances
through energy efficiency



The core element of touring is the movement of people and production elements to allow a live performance to be presented in different locations. Even when a touring itinerary is designed as efficiently as possible, the transport and travel involved have a carbon impact. The purpose of this checklist is to provide practical advice on designing tours with a minimal environmental impact.

This checklist will encourage you to:

1. Quantify the total greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) impact for a tour or proposed tour
2. Identify practical actions through industry engagement and business supply chains

Key Definitions

Tour: is defined to be one or more performances away from home base (i.e. not in the town or city in which the production company or artist is located).

Emissions : There are three main areas of GHG emissions associated with live performance touring

1. those produced directly (in control of the organisation)
2. those produced indirectly (not in control of the organisation)
3. those embodied in the cumulative emissions of the supply chain of the goods and services on the tour

The areas of tour activity for which GHG emissions can be calculated include:

- Transportation of all performers and accompanying crew
- Hotel accommodation
- Freighting of all production equipment
- On-site electricity generation

It is sometimes difficult to determine show power demand and it will depend entirely on the capability of the performance venue.

Our Message to You

We must better understand what we are doing now so that we can determine what we must change.

For most organisations taking part in the Greener Live Performances project, this has been the first attempt to quantify the GHG emissions generated from touring their work. We believe that you can't manage what you don't measure, and by participating in this project you will be taking the first steps towards gaining the knowledge that will allow you to better manage the impact of your touring.

It's not just about greening what we do, it's also about doing what we do differently. We need new approaches, new skills and a shared commitment to taking this issue forward.

Though the economic climate is challenging, the cost of not acting is too great.

What we know already

- Touring is fundamental to the live performance industry: it extends audience reach and builds the profile of work locally and internationally
- Capital city tours have a higher potential to generate GHG emissions, due to larger touring parties and the scale of production. However, these tours perform in fewer locations than a tour of regional Australia
- Subsidised companies, especially from the small to medium sector, are likely to be contributing a substantial proportion of emissions from all touring due to the high proportion of work being presented internationally
- Most touring companies have not considered the environmental impact of their touring activities. To date this has not been a business priority, nor a requirement of government funding
- The relationship between a touring company and venue is very important in determining what work is presented and when. The venue typically has more say in when a small-scale production can be presented in the venue
- Reducing environmental impacts from touring will require the development of new touring models, which might involve elements of logistics (performer travel and freight), as well as a philosophical shift towards “longer, slower, deeper” touring
- We need to pilot new touring models that reduce environmental impacts whilst still growing audience reach, maintaining economically viable touring and retaining artistic quality.

It is timely to take stock of touring practices. Dealing with these issues now will give the touring sector a greater ability to respond to future challenges posed by environmental issues and help to determine its own future.

Environmental leadership takes commitment, time and resources but there is a clear opportunity for the industry to embrace this issue with confidence. As cultural influencers, the touring sector can inspire wider systemic shifts towards a society that embed environmental sustainability as a guiding principle.

Detailed Recommendations for Key Touring Stakeholders

Producer, Production Managers, Tour Managers and Touring Coordinators

Your Actions

Where we want to be

How you do it

Tour Planning

Take energy efficiency issues into consideration when planning a tour.

Energy efficiency considerations are embedded into all tour planning and decision-making.

Include responsibility for energy efficiency actions in job requirements of those involved in planning a tour.

Ensure creative staff on short-term contract are aware of energy efficiency objectives.

Increased awareness of energy efficiency opportunities.

Ensure contractual discussions encompass energy efficiency concerns.

Maximise the usefulness of all travel and minimise tour gaps.

Touring companies visit regions for longer periods.

Discuss opportunities for residencies, workshops, seminars, etc.

Emissions Measurement

Commit to pre and post GHG emissions measurement of each tour.

All tours are measured for GHG Emissions at the planning stage and upon completion of each leg.

Use the free web-based LPA IG Tool to measure and track the emissions of tours by leg.

Tour Scheduling

Assess the energy impacts of your routing options.

All tours use a schedule that will minimise GHG emissions produced from travel.

Calculate travel distance between performance dates and use the free web-based LPA IG tool to work out GHG emissions of different schedule options.

Encourage the development of a consortia approach amongst the producers with whom you regularly network.

Producers and presenters work with each other in geographically bound consortia to share incoming work.

Take responsibility for developing new relationships and for introducing your contacts to each other.



Detailed Recommendations for Key Touring Stakeholders

Producer, Production Managers, Tour Managers and Touring Coordinators (continued)

| Your Actions | Where we want to be | How you do it |
|---|--|---|
| Venue Engagement | | |
| Use a green rider to ask venues for information about their energy efficiency program. | Venues with strong energy efficiency credentials become market leaders and touring venues of choice. | Ask for venue energy efficiency information in your green rider. |
| Travel Logistics | | |
| Use low emission transport options where commercially competitive and convenient. | All tours make travel choices to minimise the GHG emissions from moving production equipment and personnel on tour. | Avoid flying where possible. Use fuel efficient (or bio-fuel) vehicles and drivers with eco-driving training. For international touring, use sea freight when possible rather than air freight, or consider building the set at the touring destination rather than transporting it from Australia. |
| Emissions Reporting | | |
| Report tour GHG emissions results to LPA, funding agencies, touring staff, suppliers and audiences. | All tours report their GHG emissions to assist with benchmarking and tracking of the live performance sector. | Use the free web-based LPA IG tool to report emissions for confidential sector analysis. |
| Costing the Environment | | |
| Make energy efficiency a budgetary consideration. | All tours make energy efficiency a budgetary consideration. | Allocate time and resources for staff and contractors to assess energy efficiency options. |
| Apply a carbon price to tour emissions results to help inform decision-making. | A total price of carbon is applied to all tour emissions results. This amount is invested into schemes supporting climate mitigation and adaption. | Use the free web-based LPA IG tool to calculate the GHG emissions and calculate a carbon cost. Costs could be compensated for by contributing funds to reduce environmental impacts and support adaption of the performing arts sector or by funding carbon offset projects. |

Detailed Recommendations for Key Touring Stakeholders

Touring Venues Including Venues Managers and Programmers

Your Actions

Where we want to be

How you do it

Tour Company Engagement

Communicate what steps you are taking to embrace energy efficiency.

There is strong communication between venues and incoming on energy efficient considerations.

Issue a report outlining aspects requested via the green rider.

Provide incoming productions with information about energy efficient equipment available on-site or locally available.

The amount of equipment needing to be moved from venue to venue is reduced.

Make available information about in-house production and local suppliers.

Ask incoming productions what steps they are taking to reduce their energy impact.

There is strong communication between venues and incoming productions on energy efficiency considerations.

Ask for this information via the tour coordinator or ask the production team directly.

Emissions Measurement

Measure the GHG emissions of your venue

All venues measure their GHG emissions

Use the free web-base venues GHG calculator via the LPA website.

Emissions Reporting

Report venue GHG emission results to staff, suppliers and audiences as well as for industry tracking.

All venues report their GHG emissions to assist with benchmarking and tracking of the live performance sector.

Use the free web-base venues GHG calculator via the LPA website, for confidential sector analysis.



Detailed Recommendations for Key Touring Stakeholders

Touring Venues including Venues Managers and Programmers (continued)

Your Actions

Where we want to be

How you do it

Costing the Environment

Invest in building staff capacity to address environmental issues, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Apply a price of carbon to venue emission results to help inform decision-making.

All venues are investing in reducing building energy use and support renewable energy development.

A total price of carbon is applied to all tour emission results. This amount is invested into scheme support climate mitigation and adaption.

Ring-fence money from energy saving efforts to further improve your venue's environmental performance.

Use the free web-based LPA Venues calculator tool to calculate and benchmark your GHG emissions and energy costs and then calculate a carbon cost. Costs could be compensated for by contributing funds to reduce environmental impacts, supporting the adaption of touring companies or by funding carbon offset projects.



Detailed Recommendations for Key Touring Stakeholders

Artistic Directors, Lighting Designers & Technicians, Production Designers & Tour Managers

| Your Actions | Where we want to be | How you do it |
|---|---|---|
| Show Power Demand | | |
| Learn about the energy efficiency opportunities in lighting design. | Sector specific information about energy efficient lighting widely available. | Refer to the LPA Lighting Designers Energy Efficiency Checklist. |
| Minimise show power demand. | All tours have minimised show power demand. | When designing the show calculate the total show power demand and identify design and technologies that will reduce the power demand. |
| Communicate to suppliers and technicians that you want show power demand to be minimised and equipment used efficiently in set-up and rehearsals. | There is strong communication and cooperation between tour production and suppliers about opportunities for minimising energy impacts cost effectively. | Talk to your suppliers about what energy efficient products and services they offer and are available on the market. |
| Production | | |
| Freight only essential production elements. | Sector-wide freighting of lighting and set materials is minimised. | Contract venues upfront to ensure that you have information on all equipment and materials available in presenting venues. |
| Adopt a sustainable procurement policy to use environmentally responsible suppliers where possible. | All tours use sustainably sourced materials, equipment is sourced locally (where possible) and lighting has low energy demand. | Gather intelligence on best suppliers by asking them to provide you with information about their sustainability credentials including accreditations. |
| Re-use and recycle production equipment, staging and properties where possible. | National and regional stage storage hubs with searchable web-based database are created for the sharing of set materials. | Identify agencies that rent and recycle set materials. |
| Try to locally source set and properties where possible. | An available database of recommended suppliers, craftspeople and technicians. | Ask host venue for detailed lists of local suppliers and craftspeople (including environmental credentials), sharing information with other tours. |



Detailed Recommendations for Key Touring Stakeholders

Artistic Directors, Lighting Designers & Technicians, Production Designers & Tour Managers (continued)

Your Actions

Where we want to be

How you do it

Merchandise, Accommodation and Consumable suppliers

Adopt a sustainable procurement policy to use environmentally responsible suppliers where possible.

The mainstream use of goods and services with strong environmental credentials.

Gather intelligence on best suppliers by asking them to provide you with information about their sustainability credentials including accreditations.

Acknowledgement:

Inspiration, information and aspects of Julie's Bicycle Moving Arts Report were replicated in the development of this resource. Reproduction under the Creative Commons License Attribution – Non-commercial – ShareAlike.

Information provided in this checklist is underpinned by The Moving Arts research project undertaken by Julie's Bicycle in 2010. The project included assessing the carbon impact of UK performing arts companies to identify opportunities for improvement in planning, measurement, action, operations, supply, membership, training, innovation and statistics.

