

SMOKING APPLES

**Environmental and
Sustainability Report
for Kinder Tour & SYT
23/24**



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

First Steps

This snapshot report refers to a UK Tour of Kinder to 14 venues and 3 x SYT Residences at Little Angel Theatre in London, Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot and The Marlowe in Canterbury.

The first part of our journey in evaluating our Environmental impact of our work was to meet with a sustainability consultant. With their guidance we put together some targets for the tour:

- Make sure at least 50% of materials come from reused or recycled sources
- Make sure at least 65% of materials go onto future lives, through storage or reuse
- Avoid harmful and unsustainable materials
- Run technical systems sustainably
- Reduce journeys and deliveries

We knew that there were multiple resources that we could use, to aid us in our targets and reporting, and so, we chose to work with the resources provided by Julies Bicycle and Theatre Green Book (TGB). Both provide useful excel sheets that you can work from, however, we found 2 stumbling blocks when it came to using their resources:

- 1.They were supposed to be used at the very early stages of the creation of a show
- 2.They were more suitable for larger touring companies or venues.

We decided to use elements of each, and determined there were 3 areas we needed to gather data from

- 1.The venues
- 2.The touring company members
- 3.The audiences



Data Collection

We decided to start by gaining a snapshot of how we are currently working now as a company, so that we could use the data collected to highlight what areas need to change as a high priority, rather than making changes from assumptions on “what is green?” or “reduces our carbon footprint”. Otherwise, you may end up over stretching your budget just to fix a minor part. Whereas, making a small adjustment to a practice elsewhere could reduce your carbon footprint dramatically without ‘breaking the bank’

Most importantly, any green and environmental changes, need to be sustainable for us as a company to maintain and develop.

Our first step was to identify the simplest way of gathering the data we required to effectively evaluate our environmental impact. We decided that the best way for our first 2 sources (Venues and company members) was to use an online form.

We sent out a green rider, to venues, which contained a link to the questions, so that we could gain an insight into what steps they had already taken to reduce their buildings carbon footprint. If they hadn’t made any steps, we wanted it to be used as a catalyst for conversation. This was sent alongside our company riders.

For the company we had tailored questions in regards to accommodation, travel and what they observed at the venues they visited. This was a Google form that they could fill out after visiting a venue on their way home or onto the next one.

For the audiences we found that from previous experiences using a physical feedback sheet was the best way to engage them after shows. We added a couple of questions for our Green reporting at the end of our standard feedback form.



Venue Reporting

Looking into the resources available to us from Julies Bicycle and TGB, we decided to send a Green Rider over to venues. This was a document that we adapted from a resource from TGB, but one that made less demands of the venues, and raised questions for the venue to consider. Our aim with this rider was to see where the venues were at with their environmental sustainability, ask what plans they have in the future, and start a dialogue.

In order to gather the information requested from the Rider, we extracted the questions we asked within the rider and placed them into a Google form for the venues to fill out and report back to us.

Of the 14 venues that received our Green rider, we had 8 responses: 57%

As Part of our rider we asked if the venues:

- had their own environmental policy? **50%** of venues that responded said they did have one.
- Used low-carbon renewable energy? **37%** said they did, whilst another **37%** said they were planning to switch in the near future
- Have an electric vehicle charge point? **12.5%** had one on site, however **62.5%** knew where their nearest one was located
- Provide clearly labelled recycling facilities backstage? **62.5%** said yes. This was something that we could check on when we arrived, and so as part of our reporting, we asked the company to let us know if it was clear - **50%** of our venues had clearly labelled recycling bins.

Recommendations for future:

Try discussing the green rider with venues when you arrive. This would prompt those who haven't responded to do so, and creates a dialogue.

We are eager to use electric vans in the future, but the lack of charging points and low range for the vans means that currently, it is not viable.



Internal Reporting

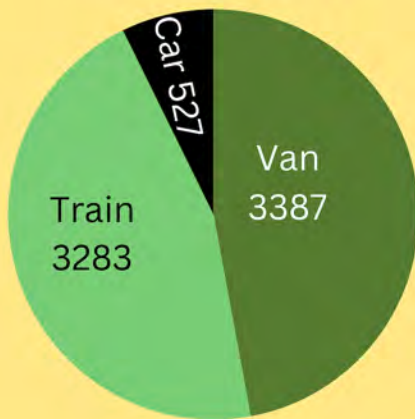
Part of Julies Bicycle's reporting model requires us to report on the co2 emissions of travel and accommodation. As we had the company reporting back on what they found at the Venue, we combined all of this information, gathering it into one Google form that a nominated member of the cast filled out between venues. However, all of the responsibility was not on only one member. Each member of the cast agreed to 'green tasks' where they would be responsible for turning off lights when not in use, or checking the recycling situation at the venue or accommodation, for example. This then meant that we had created a digital report of not only environmental factors, but also an opportunity to get ahead of low equipment/ replacements to the set, cutting out the need for emergency deliveries.



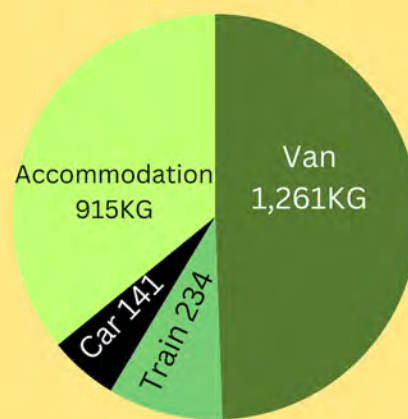
Our CO2 emissions amounted to the same weight as an adult Giraffe!



Miles Travelled



KG of CO2e



Key successes:

Using the van to transport the set and the company meant that we had no separate freight travel. We had a small company of three on the road, which meant that 50% of all of our travel included more than one company member in the van, the remaining travel was taken by train.

Travelling by Train produces approximately 10x less CO2 than driving to the venue. Travelling by train where possible has saved a tonne of CO2 over travelling by car or van



Fun environmental facts about Kinder

It takes less energy to run Kinder than it takes to boil a kettle - Average Kettle is 3kwh, the show is 1.6kwh - About the same as running 2 rings on an electric hob for 30 mins.



We do not have physical copies of our programme! Instead we have gone digital, using QR codes saving 10 litres of water and 10g of CO2 per page. We have NOT printed 2,080 programmes saving 20,800 Litres of Water and 20.8KG of CO2.



When designing and building our immersive set, Matt used recycled and reused materials rather than buying brand new, in particular the wood that forms the main structure. Reusing the wood alone saves 280kg of CO2 per tonne of wood!



If you are interested in developing your sustainable practice, Smoking Apples have developed a training course which is available to book alongside lots of resources to get you started on your environmental journey!

Please email matt@smokingapplestheatre.com

