

LIVING BODY/IES CHARTER



CIRCOSTRADA CHARTER FOR ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY

Introduction

Updated version 25/01/2024

The Circostrada Charter for Ecological Sustainability is the result of a collaborative process between members of the Living body/ies internal committee, with support from the Circostrada coordination team, and in consultation with outside experts working at the intersection of arts and climate.

Developed over the course of 2022, the Charter sets the initial parameters for the network - as well as its affiliate members and any actor engaged in its activities - to take concrete, measurable actions that improve the sustainability and ecological impact of Circostrada's programming. In doing so, the Charter lays the foundation for an ongoing, open dialogue on the interdependencies that define the notion of ecology - with ramifications for the network's role as a promoter of cross-cultural exchange, as well as for our shared responsibility for environmental stewardship.

The suggestions and best practices presented in this Charter shall be recognized and approved by all members, artists, festival organisers, participants and other guests involved in Circostrada's programme of activities. As a European network, however, Circostrada appreciates the great diversity of political environments and cultural contexts that its members operate within. In recognition of the ongoing injustices and disparities inherited from colonial and geopolitical history, the network is vigilant to not reproduce harmful power relations in its international collaborations. This commitment also implies an understanding that its members have varying levels of access to information and necessary public infrastructure, and that meeting our defined ecological goals carries an unequal burden for some actors.

The network strongly stands in favour of shared-responsibility between all players from the field and will strive to foster solidarity, mutuality, and reciprocity within its international ecosystem. Rather than imposing an overly prescriptive approach to each actors' sustainability practices, the network will encourage solutions that arise democratically, recognizing that these will be necessarily tailored to the differing responsibilities and capabilities of each individual, collective and organisation.

The Circostrada Charter for Ecological Sustainability is a work in progress. The internal Living body/ies Committee will meet annually to assess the network's progress according to the stated objectives, and to enrich the content of the Charter.

Finally, Circostrada belongs to a consortium of European cultural networks organised around the SHIFT (Shared Initiatives for Training) initiative and will strive to meet the criteria of its eco-label.

1. Working outdoors

What to focus on:

- Culture and the Natural Environment: Outdoor arts can help people appreciate and value the ecosystems they are part of.
- Decentralisation in Cultural Programming: Promote local empowerment and help address systemic inequalities and social isolation.

What Circostrada network is doing/will do about it:

- » Prioritise opportunities to engage local cultural professionals and artists.
- » Address access and accessibility conditions when organising events in rural areas.
- » Strive to decentralise Circostrada events and visibilise non-urban spaces.

2. Audience and community engagement

What to focus on:

- Diverse Audiences: Use fair outreach and build lasting relationships to engage a wide range of people.
- Engaged Audiences: View audiences as partners and co-creators, not just consumers.
- Local Economic Benefits: Support local economies by collaborating with local artists and cultural professionals.
- Internal Culture Shift: Change internal practices and increase awareness within our teams.

What Circostrada network is doing/will do about it:

- » Deepen the network's internal understanding of structural barriers that limit how inclusive current programming and activities are for diverse communities.
- » Identify opportunities and develop specific strategies to make these measurables more inclusive and inviting.
- » Create resources on these topics to be incorporated into programming contents.

3. Mobility

What to focus on:

- Value of In-Person Meetings: Recognize the benefits and necessity of travel for cultural professionals.
- Travel Discernment: Differentiate between necessary and unnecessary travel, considering ecological impacts.
- Green Mobility Options: Explore eco-friendly travel options, considering infrastructure differences in various locations.
- Benefits of Slower Travel: Promote the cultural and professional benefits of slower travel, such as better local networking and deeper artistic engagement.
- Green Mobility Grants: Increase awareness and simplify the application process for green mobility grants.
- Ecological Impact of Touring: Understand and consider the environmental impact of touring with large-scale sets, especially internationally, during the artistic creation process.

What Circostrada network is doing/will do about it:

- » Calculate its own carbon footprint and identify opportunities to measurably reduce it each year, with an objective of 5% reduction per year.
- » Gathering annual numerical data on travel modes used by event participants in spreadsheets.
- » Share resources on existing green mobility grants.
- » Develop new green mobility grants that aim to level access to mobility and international connection for transportation-disadvantaged applicants, considering the infrastructural inequalities within the EU.
- » Invest in measures that would ease barriers for artists to participate in longer residencies, with slower travel (e.g. family-friendly residences).
- » Create internal sustainable travel guidelines for the coordination team and the steering committee.
- » Encourage the use of public transportation and bikes wherever possible in association with the network's events.
- » Propose lists of sustainable hotels and accommodation for all events, with the objective of 50% of hotel booking being eco-labelled.
- » Try to find a way to offset your carbon footprint (e.g. Ecosia).

4. Digital footprint

What to focus on:

- Digital Stewardship: Participate responsibly in managing the digital space as a shared resource.
- Digital Sustainability: Promote sustainable digital practices for organisations and individuals by minimising digital footprints.

What Circostrada network is doing/will do about it:

- » Share resources and provide trainings on reducing digital impact
- » Select greener, more ethical banks, sponsors, insurance providers
- » Shift your focus to producing less new content by prioritising the recycling and upcycling of existing content.

5. Materials and waste

What to focus on:

- Supplier Selection: Choose suppliers with a clear understanding of their environmental impact and supply chain issues.
- Sustainable Materials: Use eco-friendly and reused materials for events, prioritising sustainable innovations and local providers.
- Recycling: Recycle equipment, tents, decorations, and set designs.
- Sector Accountability: Advocate for greater accountability in the cultural sector.
- Greenwashing Awareness: Be cautious of misleading environmental claims in marketing.

What Circostrada network is doing/will do about it:

- » Redefine its communication strategy in order to produce less waste, shift to sustainable communication materials and modalities, and shorter supply chains. The objective is to have 100% of printed material with recycled paper, and 0% of goodies using plastic.
- » Create an environmental sustainability framework to be included as a term of partnership with event hosts
- » Provide space for members to share information and resources on best suppliers and recyclers of specialty materials

6. Water, soil, and food:

What to focus on:

- Local Biodiversity Celebration: Celebrate and honour local biodiversity through site-specific art and responsible land and water management practices.
- Symbiotic Relationship Restoration: Restore the connection between human culture and the environment, aiming for a sustainable and just food system.

What Circostrada network is doing/will do about it:

- » Propose sustainable menus for catering, including vegan and vegetarian options and biodegradable utensils, with the objective of at least 50% of vegetarian catering each year.
- » Ensure availability of on-site recycling options for catering
- » Seek out local suppliers and partners wherever possible
- » Provide space for members to share feedback and resources on best sustainability practices at festivals

7. Energy

What to focus on:

- Energy-Efficient Climate Control: Promote energy-efficient heating and cooling options for circus tents.
- Energy-Efficient Lighting: Test and share information on energy-efficient lighting and recommended suppliers.

What Circostrada network is doing/will do about it:

- » Petition owner of the network's office building to retrofit its energy systems

Circostrada sustainable action plan

Sustainable actions 25/01/2024

N r	Activity	Achieved
1	Creating travel guidelines for the coordination team and the steering committee of the network	yes
2	Creating guidelines to encourage green accommodation when travelling	yes
3	Gathering annual numerical data on travel modes used by event participants in spreadsheet	no
4	Reduce goodies to the minimum (visibility required by the EU)	yes
5	Reduce printing to the minimum (for essential information during events)	yes
6	Prioritise opportunities to engage local cultural professionals and artists	
7	Create resources on sustainability to be incorporated into programming contents	yes
8	Calculate its own carbon footprint and identify opportunities to measurably reduce it each year	yes
9	Share resources on existing green mobility grants	
10	Develop new green mobility grants that aim to level access to mobility and international connection for transportation-disadvantaged applicants, taking into account the infrastructural inequalities within the EU	
11	Ensure availability of on-site recycling options for catering	
1	Invest in measures that would ease barriers for cultural professionals and artists to participate in longer residencies, with slower travel (e.g. family-friendly residences)	
2	Encourage the use of public transportation and bikes wherever possible in association with the network's events	
3	Share resources and provide information on reducing digital impact	
4	Select greener, more ethical banks, sponsors, insurance providers	
5	Provide space for members to share information and resources on best suppliers and recyclers of specialty materials	
6	Petition owner of the network's office building to retrofit its energy systems	

Sustainable goals

N r	Goal	Baseline Year / Time Frame Reference	Achieved
2024			
1	5% reduction of the emissions per kilometre of transport to meetings and events in relation to baseline year	2023-2024	
2	50% of hotel booking are hotels with an eco-label	2024-2025	
3	50% of our catering are vegetarian - short supply chain	2024-2025	
4	100% of our printed material is with recycled paper	2022-2025	
5	0% goodies are using plastic.	2022-2025	

8. Includes resources, guides and toolboxes

- [Circostrada Handbook to Navigate Ecological Transformation](#)
- [Green Art Lab Alliance](#)
- [On the Move](#)
- [SHIFT \(Shared Initiatives for Training\) - Sustainability Guidelines](#)
- [The Green Room](#)
- [THE SHIFT PROJECT \(The carbon transition think tank\) - Decarbonise the Economy](#)

9. Checklist for more sustainable practices: [HERE](#).

Internal Living body/ies Committee members

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