

Lowry

Green Rider (for Visiting Companies)

Collated by Lowry EAST (Environmental and Sustainability Team)
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1. Introduction

The Theatre Industry has a substantial impact on the environment. The Lowry is committed to doing what we can to minimise this where possible – but we can't do it by ourselves. We know that we can't dictate the way you create and tour your production or run your performance or event, but we do have green aspirations that we would love for you to consider.

With that in mind we have created this document - a 'green rider' that sets out our aims around environmental sustainability and what we are committed to over the short and long term. Similarly, it details how we think visiting producers and productions can support our aims and contribute to creating a more sustainable theatre industry. We work with companies of all sizes and understand that you will all be at different stages of the green journey. We just encourage you to read this rider and commit to doing as much as you can.

If you have any queries or would like any more information, please do let us know. In the first instance, please contact either Matthew Eames (Head of Theatres: Contemporary and Commissioning) Matthew.Eames@thelowry.com

Language used in this Rider:

- Visitor: artist, band members, visiting company, creatives, crew, and self-employed. Anyone who is required to sign in via Stage Door.

- Lowry: all members of staff, including self-employed and contractors that are directly employed by Lowry.
- EAST: (Environmental and Sustainability team) Lowry has a committee who collectively agree on the Environmental Policy and Action Plan and ensure that Environmental Best Practises are kept by all members of the venue. EAST is led by the Commercial Director Tony Smith so has representation at executive level.
- Best Practice: Actions that ensure the Environmental Policy and Action Plans of both Lowry and Visitors are kept. Environmental Best Practise will be updated regularly in line with changes and improvements in the Arts Sustainability Sector.

How to use this rider:

- In this Rider we ask that you (the Visitor) consider all aspects of your visit: before your visit, during your stay and after you leave
- We will outline what the venue commit to doing and what we ask of you.
- The Rider details our commitments, so visitors may find that many commitments are already being actioned in their environmental policy
- The Rider also details out aspirational commitments. All commitments are therefore to be seen as suggestions or requests rather than orders and necessities

2. Lowry and Environmental Sustainability

Lowry is one of the largest and busiest arts centres in the country. Based in Salford, it is named after the early 20th century painter L. S. Lowry, known for his paintings of industrial scenes in North West England. Opening on 28 April 2000, it attracts over 850,000 visitors a year to its three theatres, two galleries, studios and public event spaces. The building sits at the heart of one of the most successful redevelopment projects in the country – Salford Quays and MediaCityUK.

Achievements so far

Sustainability is already a key commitment for Lowry with the following examples of work, change and investment already carried out:

- internal Environmental and Sustainability Team (EAST) launched across the organisation
- significant investment in LED energy efficient lighting across the building
- investment in energy efficient plant systems
- removal of all single use plastics bottles across our public catering operation
- stopping the production of print season brochures and flyers in the building
- engaging industry experts Buro Happold to conduct a review of our environmental practices and create a new sustainability policy
- appointing a lead Trustee for environmental sustainability
- creating an organisation-wide environmental sustainability ‘code of practice’
- publishing our environmental policy on Lowry website

- 20 theatre-makers engaged in our artist development have experienced carbon literacy training including all 6 artists making production through a Developed With programme
- Achieved Theatre Green Book Sustainable Operation and Sustainable Buildings Baseline
- In our mid-scale Quays Theatre, the auditorium and stage working lights have been updated from incandescent light fittings to more energy efficient and sustainable lighting. We also updated the infrastructure to allow us to replace the tungsten stage lighting with LED alternatives. <https://theatregreenbook.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Theatre-Green-Book-Case-Studies-The-Lowry.pptx.pdf>

3. Rider

For all operations and Buildings, Lowry has achieved 'Baseline Standard' in the Theatre Green Book : Sustainable Operations, available at: <https://theatregreenbook.com/operations-resources/>

Sustainable Buildings, available at: <https://theatregreenbook.com/building-resources/>

The Visiting Company should familiarise themselves with the Standard and inform Lowry of any contradictions between the Standard and the fulfilment of this Agreement, so that appropriate mitigation can be implemented.

Specifically, **Lowry** commits to the following:

- providing carbon literacy training to all contracted members of staff; 75% of staff Carbon Literacy trained by end of 2024, with 100% completion within 2 years.
- asking all members of staff to use reusable cups and water bottles
- programming productions that raise awareness of environmental issues
- all commissioned productions to contribute positively to Lowry's environmental aims; considering the Baseline Standard of the Theatre Green Book Second edition: Sustainable Productions
- providing Creative Climate Action training for all artists engaging in the artist development programme - using Theatre Green Book and creating Green Riders
- using the most environmentally friendly stage craft methods where possible, e.g., using sash and rubber bungies to fix cables to lighting bars
- insisting that our cleaning contractors use the most environmentally friendly products
- regularly auditing our waste streams
- initiating a new procurement policy with a focus on environmental sustainability
- Implement a no idling policy on the service road and loading bay
- At Lowry Restaurant, we're all about keeping things local, seasonal, and sustainable. Every choice we make is designed to care for our planet, support local farmers, and create delicious food you can feel good about.

In return we ask that the **Visiting Company** shall:

- work with Lowry to identify opportunities to increase innovation, reduce cost and waste throughout the duration of this Agreement
- ensure that they consider the relevance of sustainability at all lifecycle stages of the production provided under this Agreement. This includes consideration of Lowry's requirements, minimisation of negative impacts and the maximisation of positive impacts on society and the environment
- comply with Lowry's Sustainability Policy for the duration of this agreement

In particular, we ask Visitors to consider the following:

- consider using the Theatre Green Book 2: Sustainable Productions when planning and producing your productions
- how you arrive at Lowry - using public transport, car sharing, cycling or walking wherever possible
- if you or your team are staying in digs or a hotel, please consider accommodation that is within walking distance
- be mindful of lighting and equipment in dressing rooms and backstage areas, turning off lights and unplugging equipment when not in use
- be mindful of the logistics of your tour, using the correct size vehicles and reducing the mileage of those vehicles so they use the shortest route possible and to ensure a 'no-idling' procedure is followed by all drivers
- use the most environmentally friendly equipment and methods possible, from energy efficient lighting systems to eco-friendly wardrobe chemicals - switching off equipment when not in use and overnight
- when marketing productions use more sustainable marketing methods and less print
- environmental impact when selecting merchandise for sale
- using reusable cups and water bottles where possible

4. Information for your visit

- Our Environmental Policy and other information can be found here: <https://thelowry.com/pQGakcK/sustainability-at-lowry>
- We provide self-catering facilities (microwave, toaster, fridge) in our Village green room and vegan/vegetarian food options in our Tower Coffee shop, Pier Eight bar and restaurants
- We provide drinking water fountains around the building for refillable bottles
- We encourage you to use the kit in our theatres in order to avoid touring unnecessary equipment – you can find our tech specs here: <https://thelowry.com/pQr51FY/visiting-company-information---lowry>
- [Visiting Companies | Technical Information | The Lowry](#). Please be aware that this is shared across our theatres and will need to be booked in advance.

- We provide clearly labelled recycling facilities front-of-house, back-of-house and in dressing rooms
- Dressing room lights are on local control so it is important they are switched off when not in the dressing rooms. Dressing room corridors are controlled by our Building Management System and switched off automatically when not in use.
- Unfortunately, at the moment we do not have the ability to track power usage across our theatres. Submetering would be a significant investment and we are currently completing a feasibility study to install sub meters on The Lyric, Quays and Studio stages.
- The nearest facility for charging small electric domestic or commercial vehicles is in the Quayside Shopping Centre multistorey car park. There are charging units for larger vehicles at local refuelling stations on Trafford Road (about a mile away)
- The nearest Green Key accredited hotel accommodation is Manchester Marriott Victoria & Albert Hotel [Manchester Marriott Victoria & Albert Hotel, Manchester, United Kingdom - Lowest Rate Guaranteed! \(hotelsone.com\)](#); the nearest hotel by walking distance is Holiday Inn Media City [Holiday Inn Manchester-Mediacityuk, an IHG Hotel - Guest Reservations](#)

5. Resources

This list of resources will continuously be updated with any new findings and guidance discovered via EAST. We invite you to share these resources freely with your partners and would appreciate greatly any contributions.

1. <https://theatregreenbook.com/>
2. <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/letscreate>
3. <https://juliesbicycle.com/resources/>
4. <https://thelowry.com/enviromentalpolicy>

Policies, Action Plans and Reporting:

5. https://juliesbicycle.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Env_Policy_Action_Plan_Guidelines_2017_JB.pdf
6. https://juliesbicycle.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Environmental_Policy_and_Action_Plan_Creation_template_-_no_branding.pdf
7. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/850130/Env-reporting-guidance_inc_SECR_31March.pdf
8. <https://info.eco-act.com/en-gb/the-big-ebook-of-sustainability-reporting-frameworks>

Procurement:

9. [Buying-Green-Handbook-3rd-Edition.pdf](#)
10. <https://www.iso.org/standard/63026.html>

Carbon Calculating and Offsetting:

11. <https://ig-tools.com/login>
12. <https://www.websitecarbon.com/> (check your company's website carbon)
13. http://www.offsetguide.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Carbon-Offset-Guide_3122020.pdf
14. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversion-factors-2021>
15. <https://info.eco-act.com/en/homeworking-emissions-whitepaper-2020>

Building management:

16. <https://www.breeam.com/>

Freight and Travel:

17. <https://www.creativecarbonscotland.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/CCS-Audience-Travel-Guidelines-Template.pdf>
18. <https://www.creativecarbonscotland.com/resource/measuring-audience-travel-guide/>

Education and Outreach:

19. <https://carbonliteracy.com/>

Theatre based recycling:

20. <https://www.set-exchange.com/index.php>