

Where to Get Started with Sustainable Filmmaking

How Does Filmmaking Relate to Climate Change?



BAFTA



IDEA AND DEVELOPMENT



Imagination is emissions free!

But you can still think about how you could portray sustainability and the environment in your story, even if it's not about the climate. How does it affect your characters' daily lives, what effect does their lifestyle have on the planet, and how can you show sustainable lifestyles as normal in your representation of the world?



PRE-PRODUCTION



The [Screen New Deal Report](#) found that road and air travel were the largest contributors to a production's carbon footprint

If you're scouting locations, look locally and encourage your team to use public transport. Maybe do Zoom auditions, and source props and costumes second-hand. Now is the time to get everyone in your team on board with making sustainable decisions in their work.



PRODUCTION

The most intensive time for sustainability considerations is during production, with cast and crew together shooting footage. But there's still lots you can do to work sustainably. Try using LEDs which use less energy than other lighting. Encourage your team to bring reusable water bottles, reduce meat-based meals on set, and consider how your presence on location might impact the local wildlife and what you can do to defend natural biodiversity.



POST-PRODUCTION



Ask whether the power you're using is on a 'green' tariff

Post has a smaller impact than other parts of the production timeline, but it can still use lots of electricity, which in turn generates emissions. Ask whether the power you're using is on a 'green' tariff and make an effort to turn off lights and machines when not in use. This is also the chance to finalise spotlighting sustainability on screen - for example, choose a shot that shows solar panels, a wind farm or an electric vehicle in the background to open your scene.



RELEASE

Congratulations, you've finished your production! Celebrate the successes in sustainability you achieved for your film, and learn from the experiences that were more challenging. All lessons are positive!



You can find out more about how film distribution presents sustainability challenges in the [Julie's Bicycle Hub](#) – have a look in [Where to Next?](#)

Where to Get Started with Sustainable Filmmaking

Top Five Keywords

Confused about the terminology around climate change, sustainability and all things green? We know it can get a little overwhelming – fear not, we've picked out top five keywords to know to help you out.

Climate Change

The long-term changes in the Earth's climate, or a region on Earth, including variations in sea levels, snow and sea ice. This leads to other direct and indirect changes to temperatures, weather, seasons and more across the globe

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The cumulative name of the 7 main greenhouse gases that are recognised as contributing to global climate change. These can be generated naturally but also directly from human behaviour such as transport, electricity production or landfill disposal

Carbon Footprint

The total amount of greenhouse gases generated by our actions. They are calculated using emission factors that tell us the amount of emissions associated with a set unit of activity e.g. travelling 1000km in a train in the UK emits 44kgCO₂e

Climate Content

Content and themes that touch on the environment and/or sustainability in stories, helping audiences understand and inspiring them to make greener choices

albert Certified Production

A production that has completed a carbon footprint calculation and successfully implemented positive sustainable actions, to be awarded BAFTA albert Certification. This certification has evolved over the years, but can now be identified with the BAFTA albert footprint stamp on their end card after the credits saying 'albert Certified Production'



Where to Get Started with Sustainable Filmmaking

Sustainability in Action

Now that you know how sustainability comes into filmmaking, have a look at some real examples from the screen industries with BAFTA albert's case studies.

[SEE CASE STUDIES](#)



What About Eco-Anxiety?

Sometimes looking at how sustainability affects the world can be tough! It reaches into every part of our lives, even our work, and we can feel powerless – this is called eco-anxiety. Here are some free resources to help you manage these feelings.



Natural History Museum

ECO-ANXIETY: HOW TO COPE AT A TIME OF CLIMATE CRISIS

from the Natural History Museum helps people find ways to cope with eco-anxiety and channel it into action for the planet



CLICK TO READ



FORCE OF NATURE

is an organisation that helps young people turn climate anxiety into action, and works with leaders to drive intergenerational solutions



CLICK TO READ



ECO-ANXIOUS STORIES

is a creative collaborative space that aims to normalise eco-anxiety and build capacity for change through the lens of story



CLICK TO READ

Where to Get Started with Sustainable Filmmaking

Where to Next?

Excited about the opportunities for sustainability in the screen industries and want to learn more?



Keep finding new ways to tell climate stories with your creative work



Complete the [ScreenSkills Passport for Sustainability](#) online module



Find out more about [how the BFI supports sustainable filmmaking](#)



Have a wander around the [Julie's Bicycle Sustainable Screen Resource Hub](#)



Think about studying at one of [BAFTA albert's Education Partnered Universities](#)

This resource was made possible with funding from the BFI National Lottery Sustainable Screen Fund which supports all BFI National Lottery awardees in building understanding and action on making positive environmental change, and sharing information to benefit the wider sector.

