

Guide to a Sustainable Studio 2026

Introduction

Please use the following guidance to inform your sustainability journey. It contains key opportunities for your studio to become more sustainable and is structured around the key themes, objectives and KPIs in the scorecard

Drive the industry transition towards Net Zero carbon and to becoming more resilient to climate change

Quick Wins

Energy Efficiency Savings

- Install studio and stage LED lighting
- Install a water leak detection system and low flow fittings
- Install time-controlled studio systems for lighting, heating and air-conditioning
- Monitor resource consumption relating to studio water and energy use including studio offices, welfare and sanitation, catering and stages)
- Undertake a Climate Change Risk Assessment for the Site

Reduce Carbon Footprint

- Procure renewable electricity through a local utility or energy supplier (e.g.green tariffs see RE100, community solar)
- Community solar is a large central solar farm that supplies multiple buildings. A studio could sign up to if there is one nearby
- Offset any residual emissions (see Offset Guide, UKGBC Guidance)
- Install on-site Electric Vehicle charging

Long Term Investments

Energy Efficiency Savings

- Maximise on-site water recycling (e.g. rainwater collection/connection to a municipal recycled water system)
- Monitor resource consumption relating to studio water and energy use including studio offices, welfare and sanitation, catering and stages)
- Heat recovery for studio house ventilation Install heat recovery units (e.g. thermal wheels, heat exchanger) on studio house ventilation systems

Reduce Carbon Footprint

- Eliminate on-site non-renewable fuel generators
- Install renewable energy projects on-site (e.g. solar installations on rooftops or carports)
- Develop a transition plan to an all-electric operation (eliminate fossil fuels from your operations)

Services to Productions

Energy Efficiency Savings

- Provide services so productions can reduce their energy and water demands
- Offer LED lighting rental
- Offer LED Lighting Tower Rental powered by solar/electrical battery energy

Reduce Carbon Footprint

- Provide or incentivise the use of renewable fuel generators or batteries
- Encourage zero emission/ low emission vehicle UXD
- Provide or incentivise use of solar-powered trailers
- Ask productions to power toilet trailers, set dressing trucks and production trailers with on-site renewable power instead of fossil fuel generators

Circularity

Supporting the transition to a circular economy through minimising waste and use of Materials

Quick Wins

Resource Management

- Ensure comprehensive waste data for studios is available
- Ask for a monthly waste data update on total waste volumes and recycling rates by waste contractors
- Develop a site-wide policy for Zero Waste to Landfill Segregate recyclable waste streams (which includes recycling)

Responsible Consumption and Production

- Minimise the environmental impact of material procurement through low VOC content for all paints and solvents
- Develop a Sustainable Procurement Policy that includes a requirement for 100% Sustainably Sourced timber to be used.
- Ban single-use plastics in studio-provided catering facilities
- Use reusable dishes and cutlery

Long Term Investments

Resource Management

- Provide services for studios to manage production waste Put measures in place and incentivise the studio waste contractor to handle production waste
- Contract with a production waste supplier who offers a minimum of 3 segregated waste streams for collection

Responsible Consumption and Production

- Eliminate single use plastics and encourage responsible consumption behaviours
- Install water fountains and/or filtered water dispensers on-site

Services to Productions

Energy Efficiency Savings

- Ensure comprehensive waste data for productions is available
- Incentivise services for waste management

- Create incentives for productions to adhere to Zero Waste to Landfill Policy

Responsible Consumption and Production

- Create and share an approved list of sustainable suppliers for construction materials
- Promote and incentivise on-site sharing services between studios and productions
- Create rental and reuse services for sets and props as well as office and kitchen equipment, e.g. cama.co.uk
- Share a list of local charities for productions to donate to
- Minimise the environmental impact of material procurement Only use low VOC content for all paints and solvents

Nature

Protect and enhance green space and nature, improving resilience and providing connections for people and broader ecosystem networks

Quick Wins

Responsible Food Sourcing

- Minimise the environmental impact of catering Partner with a food donation service for all surplus food generated on-site
- Develop initiatives to promote local sourcing, organic agricultural methods, and plant-based food options across all site catering, (e.g. vegetarian,
- Vegan options or certified produce)

Green Space

- Enhance green space and biodiversity value
- Monitoring and implementation of planting and maintenance regimes to deliver multi-functional value such as biodiversity, microclimate and wellbeing benefits
- Monitor and maintain site planting to ensure biodiversity, microclimate and wellbeing benefits are retained

Long Term Investments

Responsible Food Sourcing

- Include a requirement for zero air miles in all on-site catering provision

Green Space

- Maximise both quantity and quality of green features on the site
- Increase the proportion of the site area attributed to green space
- Incorporate more biodiversity within existing green spaces

Services to Productions

Responsible Food Sourcing

- Provide and incentivise on-site catering services for production staff
- Provide on-site catering services for production staff
- Create incentives for productions to use these services

Green Space

- Enhance wellbeing and social engagement through access to nature
- Create seating areas for social engagement
- Sensory planting, blue/green features for sound and movement (e.g. ponds, water features with trickling water, green pathways to walk through, green walls to interact with)
- Create accessible green spaces for informal recreation, sport and exercise

People

Support for the care and wellbeing of visitors, workers, local communities, as well as supply chains.

Quick Wins

Workers Wellbeing

- Promote mental health and emotional wellbeing Provide mental health assistance programmes, policies, and resources to staff
- Promote active movement Create segregated walking routes around the studio site and to amenities
- Conduct an access audit to identify barriers to inclusive design, identifying quick wins to improve access to and experience of the space for all (visitors and workers)

Community Outreach

- Proactively support and enhance local community development
- Invest in community schemes and programmes to support local development (e.g. in person or virtual volunteering, tree planting, food bank donations)
- Actively support employment, training and skills opportunities for all
- Develop an ethical studio employment policy

Long Term Investments

Workers Wellbeing

- Employ Mental Health First Aiders on-site (for studio employees)
- Offer wellbeing amenities for studio staff (e.g. showers, lockers, online shopping deliveries, on-site childcare)
- Promote active travel, health and wellbeing
- Offer secure cycle parking, showers and changing facilities (appropriate to the proportion of cycle parking)
- Implementation of medium and long term remedial actions from the access audit to improve access to and experience of the space for all (visitors and workers)

Community Outreach

- Work with schools to provide placement opportunities and further educational outreach.

Services to Productions

Workers Wellbeing

- Provide and incentivise the use of wellbeing amenities for production staff (including showers, lockers, online shopping deliveries etc.)

Community Outreach

- Put measures in place to ensure productions are able to provide and engage with outreach/employment opportunities with the local community, particularly for hard to reach or vulnerable groups within the community

Management

Ensure a robust and coherent approach towards management, governance, and training to drive sustainability performance improvement

Quick Wins

Management and Governance

- Ensure robust management and governance is in place
- Establish an environmental/sustainability management policy and strategy (which includes targets, roles and responsibilities)

Sustainable Culture and Behaviours

- Promote a culture of learning and best practice/knowledge sharing
- Run a sustainability induction for all studio employees

Long Term Investments

Management and Governance

- Ensure robust management and governance is in place
- Create a management strategy with clear targets in place to improve sustainability performance
- Develop a Carbon Management Plan Regularly monitor and review progress, including pursuing third-party auditing
- Implement a Supply Chain Management process including sustainability criteria within the selection process (e.g. human rights and labour including Modern Slavery and requirements for sustainable procurement) [More on this here](#)

Sustainable Culture and Behaviours

- Develop initiatives to promote sustainable behaviours amongst employees, staff, and the wider community (including training) [More on this here](#)
- Partner with local, regional and global bodies to support the delivery of sustainability outcomes

Services to Productions

Management and Governance

- Communicate progress and outcomes of the management strategy to key
- stakeholders (including productions)

Sustainable Culture and Behaviours

- Offer Sustainability Induction and Training to Productions (including incentives
- for productions to employ inductions)
- Create incentives for productions to undertake inductions
- Ask for feedback from production staff and visitors to continue to enhance
- inclusion within the space