

BAFTA ALBERT SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION GUIDE

Costume Department

Every department in our industry has a part to play in the journey toward a low-carbon future. The Costume Department plays a key part in the production's success. From fabric choices to laundry practices, the way we design, source and care for costumes can make a real impact.

This guide includes general considerations as well as a checklist your department can use to create its own action plan that will help the production achieve BAFTA Albert certification.

General Considerations

General Considerations for ALL Departments
Start early. The sooner you plan for sustainability, the bigger your impact. Build it into your production from day one, so it's not an afterthought, but the foundation.
Define and communicate your intentions. Use the checklist below to create and own a department specific action plan during pre-production. Make sure to share it so everyone prior to the start of filming so everyone has the opportunity to know and join in.
Attend BAFTA Albert sustainability training and workshops.
Source locally to minimise transport emissions. For UK filming and productions, check out BAFTA Albert's supplier directory .
Eliminate single-use items wherever reusable alternatives exist.
Use recycled, certified sustainable, or biodegradable materials.
Engage with your suppliers by sharing your sustainability goals and choosing suppliers with sustainability credentials, or by using the BAFTA Albert Suppliers Directory .
Ensure recycling bins are available and labelled clearly.
Turn off unused appliances , lighting, and electronics.
Promote sustainable practices in briefings and meetings.
Reduce the materials used. Reuse props, costumes, sets, etc. Recycle materials correctly to avoid landfill.
Default to digital paperwork ; print only if requested.

Costume Department Sustainability Checklist

Each action below is tagged with the Certification Question code(s) it supports. This shows how day-to-day department activity feeds into the certification. The checklist itself isn't evidence, but working through it will help ensure you're supporting the production as a whole, in the right direction on its sustainability journey.

The actions in this document correlate with Certification Question codes 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 2.6, 2.7 and 2.9

Awareness & Engagement (1.4 and 1.5)

- ☐ Encourage department to sign up for BAFTA Albert's [Sustainability Workshop: Costume, Hair & Make-up Departments](#). Certificates for this type of training are accepted as production training when applying for albert certification.
- ☐ Recognise your success by requesting a special feature in the green memo or create your own green board.
- ☐ Actively encourage participation in reuse, recycling, and other eco-conscious initiatives.
- ☐ Create a fun 'low-impact look' challenge to see who can create the best costume using. reused, rented, or sustainable materials. Share your results on a green board or green memo
- ☐ Use your department's influence to influence sustainability throughout the production. If you are visibly making sustainable swaps, others might stop and follow suit.
- ☐ Document your sustainability efforts on the costume department's internal comms or crew WhatsApp. A before/after of a reworked costume or a "behind the seams" video can inspire and educate in one go. This could even be audience facing comms to show off your hard work.

Pre-Production & Sourcing (1.3, 2.6)

- ☐ Clearly communicate sustainability goals to the Costume team to foster shared responsibility from as early on as possible.
- ☐ Commit to sourcing second-hand garments before considering new purchases, helping to set a sustainable, pre-loved precedent.
- ☐ For large costume departments, do a full inventory check before purchasing to see if anything can be reused or upcycled and reduce overbuying.
- ☐ Prioritise renting or reusing costumes from other productions or professional costume houses.
- ☐ If costumes have to be bought, use second-hand first (think charity shops, Vinted, eBay, etc.) and avoid high-street and fast fashion.
- ☐ Choose local manufacturing and sourcing where possible.

- ☐ Ensure any new costume purchases meet recognised ethical and environmental standards, such as Fairtrade, Organic, OekoTex or EU Ecolabel. [Good on You](#) is a great app you can use to check the sustainability credentials of clothing brands.
- ☐ Avoid synthetic fabrics when designing costumes; choose natural or biodegradable materials.
- ☐ Use natural dyes, organic cotton, recycled fabrics, and haberdashery.
- ☐ Source locally when filming away from base to reduce travel/excess baggage.
- ☐ Invest in reusable supplies (shopping bags, hangers, calico garment bags).
- ☐ Avoid using new animal products (e.g. fur, leather).

Costume Care and Cleaning

- ☐ Minimise machine washing and drying. Use full loads only, cold washes and air dry where possible.
- ☐ Avoid over washing. Consider spiritizing instead of washing when appropriate. This will also help extend garment life.
- ☐ Turn off unused appliances (irons, steamers, computers, lights) to save energy.
- ☐ Use energy-efficient and water-efficient machines.
- ☐ Avoid toxic dry cleaning (no PERC). We recommend using services that use PERC-free or green alternatives like Ozone treatment or GreenEarth.
- ☐ Use microplastic filters or Guppyfriend bags in your washing machines for synthetics to reduce water pollution.
- ☐ Refill detergent and cleaning containers to avoid packaging waste.
- ☐ Use non-toxic, eco-friendly cleaning products.
- ☐ Invest in reusable garment/shoe bags for transport.

End-of-use and Waste Management (1.3, 2.7)

- ☐ Create an end-of-life plan for all materials before production ends.
- ☐ Plan for costumes to be reused, returned, or donated after production to minimise waste.
- ☐ Recycle fabric scraps through appropriate textile recycling programs.
- ☐ Set up dedicated recycling streams for packaging materials and damaged clothing items.
- ☐ Return hangers/garment bags to dry cleaners, put in storage to use for other productions, or donate.
- ☐ Organise costume sale for fundraising activities (this could be for an environmental cause, or a charity of your choice).