

BAFTA ALBERT SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION GUIDE

Sound Department

Every department in our industry has a part to play in the journey toward a low-carbon future. The Sound Department is no exception. From equipment choices to smart power usage, the way sound teams capture and manage audio can make a real impact on building more sustainable productions.

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.
Understand your impact and redirect. If you want to reduce your environmental impact, you have to know what it is. Encourage your productions to use BAFTA Albert's toolkit to help you track emissions and decarbonise. From this, you can take clear and direct action on the largest areas of your environmental impact.
Define and communicate your intentions. Once you've got a plan, make sure to share it so everyone has every opportunity to know and join in.
Attend BAFTA Albert sustainability training and workshops.
Source locally to minimise transport emissions.
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.
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Sound Department Sustainability Guidance

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 correlate with Certification Question codes 1.2, 1.4, 2.1, 2.3 and 2.7

Awareness & Engagement (1.2, 1.5)

- ☐ Track power usage (Types / amounts) of sound equipment for sustainability reporting.
- ☐ Sound teams often move between projects, sharing sustainability wins helps improve practices across the industry.
- ☐ Quick daily reminders to reduce energy waste and unnecessary charging.

Pre-Production & Sourcing (1.2, 1.5)

- ☐ Create a stock inventory of equipment to avoid purchasing new equipment.
- ☐ Communicate between departments to plan power distribution, aiming to connect to mains energy before generators.

During Production (2.1, 2.3)

- ☐ Hire or buy second hand equipment before purchasing new.
- ☐ Commit to using rechargeable batteries in all equipment including headsets, comteks, microphone transmitters etc.
- ☐ Use a battery voltage tester to repurpose partially depleted batteries for less critical uses.
- ☐ Work with other departments (e.g., Camera, Video Assist) to share power distribution systems, chargers, or battery stations, reducing duplicate gear.
- ☐ Minimise travel for voiceover or ADR sessions to reduce environmental impact.
- ☐ Use VOIP technology to reduce travel and inform production about broadcast-quality remote recording options.

End-of-use and Waste Management (2.7)

- ☐ Recycle expired batteries properly and responsibly.
- ☐ Sell unused equipment.
- ☐ Repair broken equipment or sell parts on before disposing.
- ☐ Donate equipment to local charities, organisation or productions.
- ☐ Disposing equipment should be a last resort, look to dispose of electrical equipment correctly.